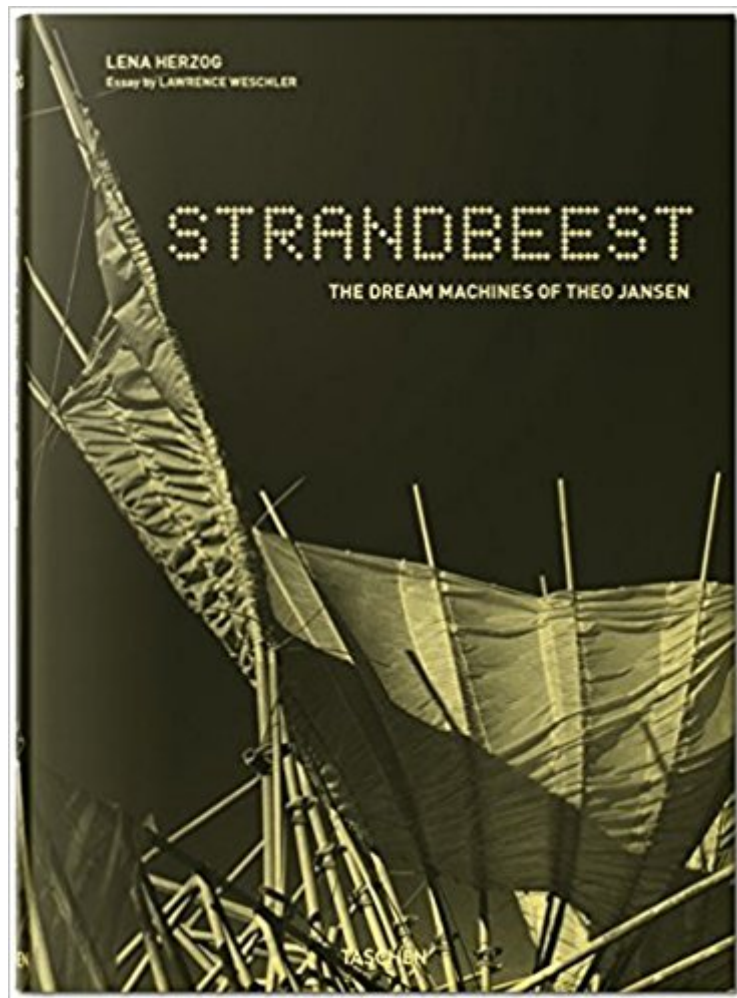




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# Strandbeest: The Dream Machines Of Theo Jansen



## Synopsis

Sculptural species: A new life-form in its own right? Lena Herzog captures the uncanny sculpture-creatures of Theo Jansen. For the past seven years, photographer and artist Lena Herzog has followed the evolution of a new, kinetic species. Intricate as insects, but with bursts of equine energy, the "Strandbeests" or "beach creatures," are the creation of Dutch artist Theo Jansen, who has been working for nearly two decades to develop a new life-form that moves, and even survives, on its own. Set to roam the beaches of Holland, the Strandbeests pick up the wind in their gossamer wings and spring, as if by metamorphosis, into action. As if it were blood, not the breeze, running through their delicate forms, they quiver, cavort, and trot against the sun and sea, pausing to change direction if they sense loose sand or water that might destabilize their movement. Coinciding with a travelling exhibition, Herzog's photographic tribute captures Jansen's menagerie in a meditative black and white, showcasing Jansen's imaginative vision, as well as the compelling intersection of animate and inanimate in his creatures. The result is a work of art in its own right and a mesmerizing encounter not only with a very surrealist brand of marvelous, but also with whole new ideas of existence. Text in English, French, and German

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Born and raised in Russia's Urals, Lena Herzog studied languages and literature at St. Petersburg University, before emigrating to the United States in 1990 where she studied philosophy. She began taking pictures in 1997, and has since authored the photography books *Tauromaquia*, *Flamenco*, *Pilgrims* and *Lost Souls*. Her work has been published in *The New York Times*,

Harper's Magazine, The New Yorker, The Paris Review, and Vanity Fair and exhibited in Europe and the United States. Dutch visual artist Theo Jansen studied science at the University of Delft. He spent his early career painting, before deciding to strike out on a new course by making a real flying saucer which flew over Delft in 1980. Since then he has been working on the creation of the Strandbeest species. Jansen's work has been featured in several television programs, as well as in The New Yorker, The New Scientist, and Wired. Lawrence Weschler is Director Emeritus of the New York Institute for the Humanities at NYU. A former staff writer at The New Yorker, he is the author of over fifteen books, include the Pulitzer-nominated Mr Wilson's Cabinet of Wonder and Everything that Rises: A Book of Convergences, winner of the 2007 National Book Critics Circle Award for Criticism. He is a contributing editor at Threepenny Review, the Virginia Quarterly Review, and McSweeney's.

This is a big and heavy book - great slick thick paper that works wonderfully for big pictures. Some images spread on longer pages that fold to match the standard page size. Writing is in different languages - this is mostly a visual book. A beautiful compendium of the works of a great artist. It is a truly inspiring book.

I really enjoyed reading all about the Strandbeests! I had the opportunity to attend and see Theo Jansen and Lena Herzog speak about the Strandbeests at the Peabody Essex Museum. After moving one of the Strandbeests at the museum, I wanted to read more about them, so I got the book.

I ordered this after seeing the Strandbeest exhibit at the Peabody Essex Museum in Mass. The exhibit was very cool. The book is also excellent. I recommend it highly.

Problematic. The pictures are great, but the content is scant. I had hoped for more than a picture book.

I wanted the how to....

It came just as described: brand new. You can't beat the price although I do hope it doesn't affect profits for the artists Lena Herzog and Theo Jansen at all. I paid \$60 for this book at the Exploratorium in SF when the exhibit came through and then bought this copy for a friend because

of the great price here and there's no mistaking that these books are the exact same quality.

This book is a STEAL for \$5. As others have mentioned, I hope that the author and Theo Jansen are not getting ripped off on this price somehow. I would expect this book to retail for \$50-70, and I would have paid that much. It's very picture heavy with some pages folding out for huge photos. I wish that it was a little heavier on content and text, but I can overlook this, especially this ridiculous price. I love Strandbeests and have made every model that I can find. This book is an excellent companion to understanding Jansen's work.

Having seen the photography with the exhibit I had high hopes for this book - was not presented, or printed in the same quality and manner of the exhibit.

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