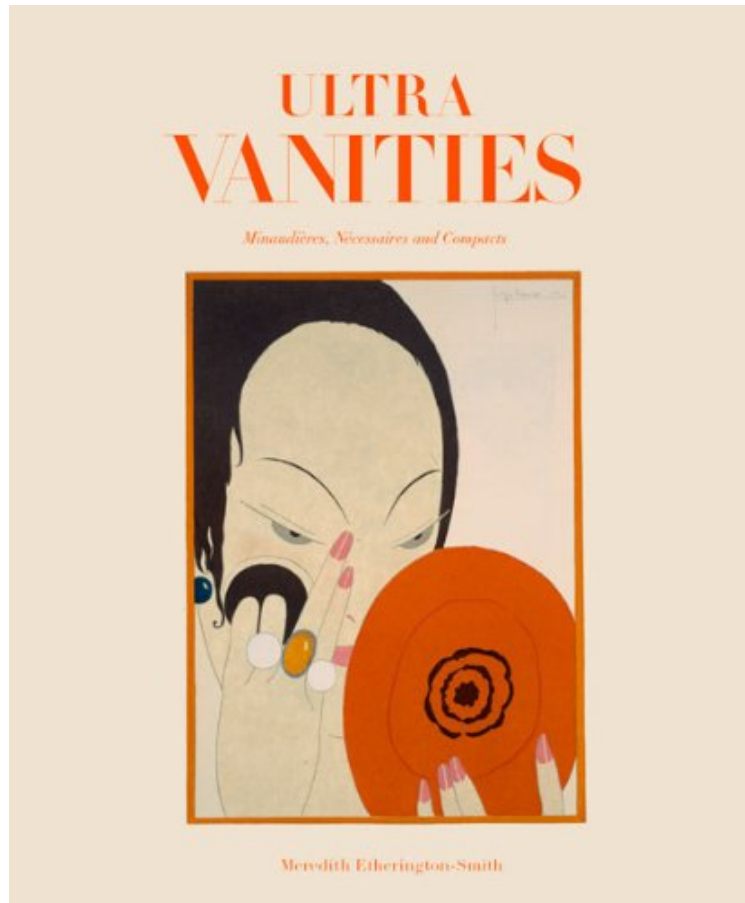


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## Ultra Vanities: Minaudieres, Necessaires, and Compacts

**Meredith Etherington-Smith, Xavier Narbaitis : Ultra Vanities: Minaudieres, Necessaires, and Compacts** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Ultra Vanities: Minaudieres, Necessaires, and Compacts:

A lush book of photos shines a light on the luxurious bejeweled make-up boxes that quickly became covetable accessories with the advent of beauty products. Exquisite jeweled minaudieres, necessaires, and compacts from the 18th to the 21st centuries are photographed and displayed here in great detail and set within the social and fashion contexts of their creation. Original archive photographs showcase the social leaders, stage and cinema stars, and fashion leaders who carried these exquisite little accessories as indispensable adjuncts to their glamorous lives. These triumphs of the jewelers art were designed to rest glittering on cocktail bars and grand dining tables. They were tiny but also extremely useful as is revealed in detailed photos of their highly engineered interiors. These little boxes were capable of carrying everything a woman might need during the course of an evening which might start at the Ritz and end at Bricktops Jazz Club. Everything from a lipstick, to a powder compact, to a comb, even a cigarette and lighter, hence their generic

name of necessity.

About the Author Meredith Etherington-Smith is the author of many books on art and taste, including *Axel Vervoordt: The Story of a Style* and *The Most Fabulous Jewels in the World*, and editor in chief of *Christie's Magazine*.