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# The Little Book Of Tom Of Finland: Military Men



## Synopsis

Nothing like a man in uniform: Tom of Finland's iconic images of hypermasculine military men When we think Tom of Finland we first picture muscular, macho young men in military gear.

Tom of Finland's vision of masculine perfection was formed during his service as an officer during World War II. Though he served in the Finnish air force, it was the German troops, stationed in Finland to help the country repel invading Russian forces, which served as inspiration. After all, only the Germans had uniforms created by Hugo Boss, tightly tailored, replete with designer touches, and complimented by high, shiny black leather boots. Tom, at 19, was smitten, an obsession that deepened following his first sexual experiences with German officers in the blackout streets of Helsinki. Tom began putting his military fantasies on paper in 1945 to memorialize his thrilling nighttime encounters when the war ended. At first the Hugo Boss uniforms dominated, but as the years and then decades passed he included American naval uniforms as well, and then his own hybridized designs of black leather, jodhpurs, boots, and peaked caps, with military insignia replaced by Tom of Finland's Men patches. As Tom attracted an army of loyal fans, he created, with pencil, pen and gouache, an army of free, proud, masculine fantasy men committed to pleasure and male camaraderie. The Little Book of Tom of Finland: Military Men explores Tom of Finland's fascination with militaria through a mixture of multi-panel comics and single-panel drawings and paintings, all in a compact and affordable 192 pages. Historic film stills and posters, personal photos of Tom, sketches, and Tom of Finland's own reference images explore the cultural context and private inspirations behind the ultimate Tom of Finland hero. Text in English, French, and German

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Touko Laaksonen, the boy who would become Tom of Finland (1920-1991), began drawing cartoons at age five. His favorite subjects were the rough manly men of his native Finland, as Touko knew from an early age that men interested him more than women. His talents were further honed by art study in Helsinki. He found success in the Finnish advertising industry but secretly continued creating his increasingly erotic drawings of hyper-masculine men. In 1957 he submitted some drawings to the American magazine *Physique Pictorial* and the "Tom of Finland" legend was born. By the late 60s Tom's "dirty drawings" became the standard for gay art, and Tom's *Men* a template for a new gay masculinity. Tom's art continues to play an important role in promoting self-confidence, positive self-image and openness in the gay community. Dian Hanson produced a variety of men's magazines from 1976 to 2001, including *Juggs*, *Outlaw Biker*, and *Leg Show*, before becoming TASCHEN's *Sexy Book* editor. Her 60+ books for TASCHEN include *The Art of Pin-up* and *Psychedelic Sex*. She lives in Los Angeles.

i thought it was a kids book at first...ooops

Product was as described. Book dimensions were a good size.

Thank You for TOM!

Great book as described. Packed safe

Everything was great.

Tom of Finland is simply the best, and this collection shows off much of his amazing work. I have several volumes of Tom of Finland art and comics, and this book is a great addition. It's small, so it's easy to hold, the book is well made, and the printing is topnotch.

Tom of Finland was an amazing artist and this little book is a must have!~

takes the mind on a trip that you wish was reality.

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