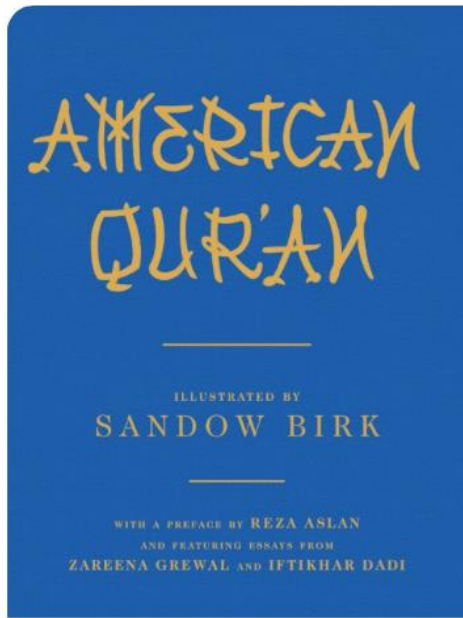




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## American Qur'an

Sandow Birk (Norton/Liveright)

Illustrator and graphic artist Birk sets the Islamic sacred text in a graffiti-inspired handwritten font against scenes of contemporary American life. Accessible and enjoyable, it is a great introduction to the Qur'an for non-Muslim Americans, but even for others, it invites a reconsideration of sacred tenets in the context of ordinary American lives.

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### American Qur'an

*Sandow Birk, Illustrator, Reza Aslan, Preface by*

Birk, an American illustrator and graphic artist, dedicated nine years to studying traditional Qur'anic manuscripts and working on this modern homage. He sets the text in a graffiti-inspired handwritten font against scenes of contemporary American life drawn in sharp and loving detail. From the opening page, Birk's art stuns as it depicts a diverse American story with a Midwestern farm, a strip mall, and iconic monuments, each rendered in a distinctive and visually impressive style that begs for close attention. Meanwhile, the juxtaposition of words and images prompts the reader to engage deeply with the text, discovering resonances such as a chapter on charity illustrated with an urban scene where passersby ignore a panhandling homeless veteran. This masterpiece is important as an accessible and enjoyable introduction to the Qur'an for non-Muslim Americans, but even for Muslims and others familiar with the Qur'an, it bears weighty messages, inviting a reconsideration of sacred texts in the context of ordinary American lives. (Nov. 2015)