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# Reviews & Previews

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## Milstein's Magic

An artful photographer creates the illusion that capturing airliners at 200 mph is easy.



### *AirCRAFT: The Jet as Art*

by Jeffrey Milstein. Abrams, 2007. 104 pp., \$29.95.

**IF YOU'RE OVER** five feet tall and you've flown in economy class for longer than three hours, you're likely to view airliners as torture chambers. Not Jeffrey Milstein. His book of large-format photographs glorifies airliners in motion, specifically the landing-gear-deployed, flaps-fully-extended beauty the craft reveal during final approach.

"Jeff's airliners remind me of butterflies pinned to a museum wall," says Chad Slattery, who has photographed more than



20 *Air & Space/Smithsonian* covers. "The photos look simple, but are very

**Top: An Alaska Airlines Boeing 737-400 on final approach. Above: A Philippine Airlines Boeing 747-400 prepares to touch down.**

difficult technically—the airliners scream over at 140 to 150 knots. They're in his viewfinder a split second, yet he gets them in focus and perfectly symmetrical."

Back in the days before airline deregulation, airliners seemed a fairly colorless lot, with just a logo painted on a fuselage of bare aluminum or muted white (except rainbow-palette Braniff, which mounted an "End of the Plain Plane"

campaign). Milstein includes one legacy carrier with a Plain Jane paint scheme, but most explode with color. I give first prize to Southwest Airlines, for a Boeing 737 painted like the Maryland flag. All Nippon Airways receives first runner up for a Pokémon-theme 747. Now if only carriers would pay as much attention to their passengers as they do to paint jobs.

PHIL SCOTT IS AUTHOR OF *HEMINGWAY'S HURRICANE*.

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