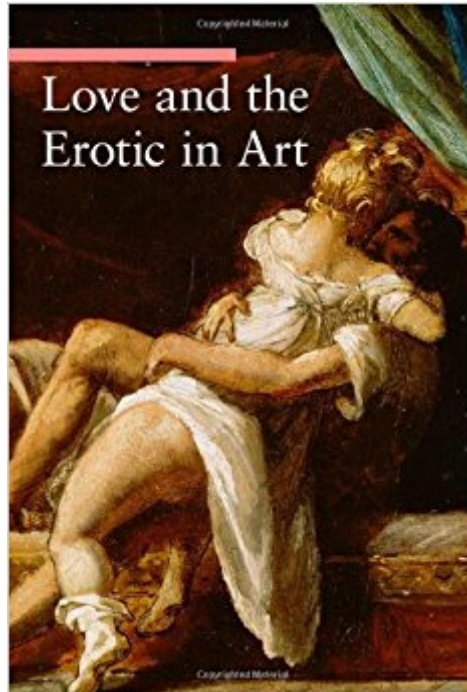


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# Love And The Erotic In Art (A Guide To Imagery)



## Synopsis

Even in the Western world, which seems completely accustomed to a widespread appearance of risqu  images, an erotic painting from five hundred years ago can still manage to create a sensation. This book, the fifteenth title in the popular Guide to Imagery series, is a delightful romp through the portrayal of love and sexuality in art--age-old subjects depicted in all cultures. The volume surveys Western artworks illustrating more or less explicitly delicate or amorous subjects. The gamut of possibilities is vast, ranging from chaste tenderness to overwhelming frenzies of the senses, from Classical allusion to sexual fantasy. A series of general themes is presented, with a detailed reading of the significance and symbolic content of the individual works illustrating each theme. In the paintings of the past, the reader will encounter gestures, objects, places, and situations that seem familiar and that offer the traditional setting of "love scenes" from every epoch. The volume closes with a chapter highlighting some of the most famous couples of all time.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I came across this book while waiting for the guided tour in Villa Medici; the book shop had a whole shelf of these series, wonderfully illustrated, and of course such a title required some browsing. I noticed that Domenichino's "Diana's Hunt" was there, and then later in the day, when I gazed at it in Palazzo Borghese, I remembered the book and resolved to get it, since the story on Domenichino's picture is quite convoluted. Stendhal poured more oil on the inflamed syndrome when he described at length the ardent desire Cardinal Scipione Borghese had for this picture, and how he finally

obtained it by force. Such was the erotic power of his love for art! Coming back to Puritania, I found it easily on Google books; I was glad to see the aforementioned Domenichino picture nicely annotated, although the story is not as full as Stendhal tells it in his *Promenades dans Rome*. And here comes a shortcoming of this volume - although colorful and rich of images, the descriptions are not as detailed as I would wish. It is a pleasant guide to browse through erotically inclined pictures, but if you are interested in learning more about each work of art, especially anything before 18th century, you'll have to use other sources. The book is divided in chapters, and I am not sure about its target audience. It has separate chapters for Prostitute and Brothel, with the latter taking more pages than the chapter Triumph of Love. The author is certainly attracted to the former subject, as he placed another courtesan in the Bed chapter. I definitely would prefer to see more space given to Venus and Mars or Venus and Adonis in the "Famous Couples" section.

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