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The Metropolitan Museum Of Art: Masterpiece Paintings



Synopsis

This monumental new book is the first to celebrate the greatest and most iconic paintings of one of the largest, most important, and most beloved museums in the world. This impressive volume's broad sweep of material, all from a single museum, makes it at once a universal history of painting and the ideal introduction to the iconic masterworks of this world-renowned institution. Lavish color illustrations and details of 500 masterpieces, created over 5,000 years in cultures across the globe, are presented chronologically from the dawn of civilization to the present. These works represent a grand tour of painting from ancient Egypt and classical antiquity and prized Byzantine and medieval altarpieces, to paintings from Asia, India, Africa, and the Americas and the greatest European and North American masters. This unprecedented book includes an introduction and illuminating texts about each artwork written by Kathryn Calley Galitz, whose experience as both a curator and educator at the Met makes her uniquely qualified. European and American artists include Duccio, El Greco, Raphael, Titian, Botticelli, Bronzino, Caravaggio, Turner, Velázquez, Goya, Rubens, Rembrandt, Brueghel, Vermeer, David, Renoir, Monet, Van Gogh, Gauguin, Cézanne, Degas, Sargent, Homer, Matisse, Picasso, Pollock, and Warhol. For those wishing to experience the Met's unparalleled collection or to study masterpieces of painting from throughout history, this important volume is sure to become a classic cherished by art lovers around the world.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The Metropolitan Museum of Art is considered to be the largest encyclopedic museum in the world. This landmark book is the first to solely focus on the museum's greatest and best known

paintings. This heavy volume illustrates approximately five hundred works from Europe, Asia, the United States, Africa (especially Ethiopia), Latin America, and Oceania dating from antiquity to today. In Kathryn Galitz's introductory essay, she stresses that paintings can come in many forms besides the usual notion of a flat two-dimensional object. It is for this reason that she decided to include excellent examples of Egyptian coffin boxes, stone reliefs, Greek vases, Roman frescoes, ceramic vessels from pre-Columbian Peru and Mesoamerica, hand and hanging scrolls from China, Japan, and Korea, illuminated medieval manuscripts, album folios from India and the Middle East, Japanese folding screens, and tree bark paintings from Papua New Guinea and Australia. The artworks are then presented in four chapters- before 1450, from 1450 to 1750, from 1750 to 1900, and after 1900. The works are first reproduced in large clear color photographs and at the end of each section they are illustrated again in thumbnail format accompanied with brief but interesting commentaries. Unlike most museum catalogues, Galitz uses a cross-cultural approach in arranging the works of art rather than by geographical location or national school. Throughout you will see works from different continents on the same page spreads. I found that the works were photographed beautifully, but unfortunately several of the Chinese and Japanese handscrolls were so long that only details could be highlighted.

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