

(Read free ebook) How to Read a Painting: Lessons from the Old Masters

How to Read a Painting: Lessons from the Old Masters

Patrick De Rynck

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#86848 in Books ABRAMS 2004-12-07Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.75 x 1.00 x 7.131, #File Name: 0810955768384 pages | File size: 44.Mb

Patrick De Rynck : How to Read a Painting: Lessons from the Old Masters before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised How to Read a Painting: Lessons from the Old Masters:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Art sybolism explainedBy Jacqueline MerciecaThis book is great for students studying history of art as it has very good explanations of the interpretation of symbolism used in old Masters' paintings. The significance of certain detail added to a painting to give a message was of great importance to the viewer at the time.The old masters were originally apprentices and learnt thier craft over several years working with and painting in another artists' studio. This was the way they were educated. Today books such as this with beautiful illustrations help us understand many of these details and this book is a key to the student and any person who may be interested in learning about how artists added certain details as a message.1 of 1 people found the following review

helpful. Should be titled "How to Read a Specific Painting" By Customer I was hoping that this book would give an overview of the different elements of painting, symbolism, etc. Instead it is a collection of commentary on specific paintings. Additionally, the author does not include his references in the discussions so you have no way to substantiate his claims that X symbolizes Y (and some of those claims are pretty outlandish). This book would be acceptable to someone who wanted commentary on a specific painting but it is not a good guide to help you do your own interpretation. 3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. To an American artist the title appears totally misleading. By Peter D. Shnaw The text is translated from "Dutch" To get to the point, the following words from the preface, "... the iconographic traditions with which we are concerned here." reveal the fact that the book is concerned with explaining the stories which can be found in the subject matter of the works. While the individual artists were very much involved with their intuitive as well as learned aesthetic norms, the probably often illiterate viewer took in the biblical or mythological stories portrayed in the works. And to some extent were affected by the aesthetics and impressed by the craftsmanship. There is minimal mention of aesthetics and none of craft, I think. The book is an excellent source of images from a great number of museums and other locations. Images which very few will get to see in the original. In my, M.F.A. mind "reading a painting" involves fathoming its aesthetics.

An anecdotal reference to the symbolism and themes of more than 150 key works of art shares background information about the theology, mythology, and folklore of the Renaissance era that shaped the works of such masters as Giotto, Botticelli, and Vermeer. 15,000 first printing.

From Booklist As De Rynck succinctly observes, today's art viewers aren't "sufficiently familiar with the Christian and classical pictorial traditions on which European artists drew so heavily and for so many centuries." To correct this lack, he presents 150 paintings and frescoes that have attained the status of masterpieces. Each work is displayed on a full-color two-page spread that includes detailed close-ups and a meticulous decoding of the painting's subject, symbols, and intent. This is a truly felicitous approach, and the selections are supreme, ranging from Fra Angelico's The Annunciation to Titian's Venus and Adonis to Goya's The Third of May, 1808. Donna Seaman Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved About the Author Patrick De Rynck is a classicist, a translator, and a writer for museums, publishers, newspapers, and radio. He is the author of ten books, including an ABC of Classical literature and a retelling of Greek myths.