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Vermeer: The Complete Works



Synopsis

Johannes Vermeer (1632-1675), one of the great masters of the Dutch Golden Age, is among the world's best-loved artists. The poetry of Vermeer's painting, with its brilliant colors, exquisite textures, and pearly light effects, is as vivid to us today as it must have been to people of the artist's own time. This beautiful book illustrates every known work by Vermeer in full color. Arthur K. Wheelock, Jr., Curator of Northern Baroque Painting at the National Gallery of Art has written an illuminating essay on the artist and commentaries on the paintings.

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Customer Reviews

It is hard not to like a Vermeer painting. They are simple yet elegant. They have light streaming into everyday interiors in a way that can not be matched. Unfortunately art historians have only identified 34 or 35 Vermeer paintings. To look at the painting "The Astronomer", one is not surprised that Hitler looted it for his own personal collection. We are thankful that the Monuments Men recovered it and that is now in The Louvre. This book has large sized color reproductions of all of Vermeers work and is a joy to look through.

This exceptional work showcases Vermeer's oeuvre with very high quality reproduction. Note especially the clarity of two wondrous Vermeer portraits, the Girl with the Pearl Earring and the Girl with the Red Hat; both have been recently cleaned and restored and are presented here with much of the the subtle values and luminous color characteristic of the originals. The landscapes are beautifully captured to scale: The Little Street shimmers with tincture of bricks and mortar, while The

View of Delft generates a sense of lapidary majesty. The Lady Reading, the Milkmaid, the Woman in Blue, and the Woman Holding a Balance are simply splendid, as are the Astronomer and the Geographer. Arthur Wheelocks's text incisively narrates Vermeer's threadbare story, giving historical context while providing insight about the paintings themselves. I'm not sure he should have included the controversial St. Praxedis, for many scholars have rejected its attribution to Vermeer. But his commentary as well as his methodology for dating the paintings is informed by the best scholarship, for Wheelock has been at the forefront over the last several decades in bringing Vermeer to the public at large. Given the price, this book is a terrific value. It can be used on the coffee table and as an essential companion when reading other volumes about Vermeer. Better still, take it with you as you visit personally all the Vermeers in the New York (the Metropolitan and the Frick) and Washington, DC (the National Gallery) museums.

A beautiful book. The quality of the oversized prints are some of the best I've seen in any art book I've studied. The writing is short and succinct but very good, just enough to stimulate the reader to simultaneously read online interpretations. Those who wish to do so should go to the Essential Vermeer website. A very worthwhile book for anyone interested in Vermeer. His entire repertoire at your leisure.

Beautiful book. Very comprehensive. Great gift for the art lover.

This is a great book for all occasions for female friends of all ages. Beautiful story.

I love Vermeer and his superb talent. I have always been a fan, so I decided to get this book. It is huge! I love the oversized feel to it, and the color is vivid and captures his work perfectly (as well as a book can). If you like Vermeer, you have to get this.

Wonderful images, from painter that really did seem to paint with light. He had a small amount of work in his life but what he did is profound. Vermeer is a powerful and awe inspiring artist. This book shows you why. Great images of his work.

This book arrived quickly and I could not be more pleased with the price!!

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