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Vermeer And The Masters Of Genre Painting: Inspiration And Rivalry



Synopsis

A landmark exploration of the engaging network of relationships among genre painters of the Dutch Golden Age. The genre painting of the Dutch Golden Age between 1650 and 1675 ranks among the highest pinnacles of Western European art. The virtuosity of these works, as this book demonstrates, was achieved in part thanks to a vibrant artistic rivalry among numerous first-rate genre painters working in different cities across the Dutch Republic. They drew inspiration from each other's painting, and then tried to surpass each other in technical prowess and aesthetic appeal. The Delft master Johannes Vermeer (1632–1675) is now the most renowned of these painters of everyday life. Though he is frequently portrayed as an enigmatic figure who worked largely in isolation, the essays here reveal that Vermeer's subjects, compositions, and figure types in fact owe much to works by artists from other Dutch cities. Enlivened with 180 superb illustrations, Vermeer and the Masters of Genre Painting highlights the relationships among Vermeer and his contemporaries, including Gerrit Dou, Gerard ter Borch, Jan Steen, Pieter de Hooch, Gabriel Metsu, and Frans van Mieris.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This thought-provoking book provides insight into how Johannes Vermeer and his contemporaries admired, inspired, and rivalled one another.

Adriaan E. Waiboer is curator of northern European art at the National Gallery of Ireland. Arthur K.

Wheelock Jr. is curator of northern baroque paintings at the National Gallery of Art, Washington.

Blaise Ducos is curator of 17th-and 18th-century Dutch and Flemish paintings at the Musée du Louvre.Â

An excellent book- Most impressed with the content and format- Well researched and presented-

I buy exhibition catalogs for the beautiful reproductions, and, for some reason, the National Gallery just doesn't produce top-quality catalogs. A truly beautiful catalog would contain full-page reproductions and full-page details, but the National Gallery's catalogs just aren't that sumptuous. There are plenty of reproductions, but none cover the entire page, and the effect is not very satisfying. After comparing this catalog and the French edition, I bought the French catalog, even though I don't speak French: It's 130 pages longer, contains lots of beautiful full-page reproductions and details, and retails for 38 Euros -- a real bargain. The French catalog is titled Vermeer et les maîtres de la peinture de genre, and it's available from . Of course, the essays are different, and they're in French, but if you want beautiful reproductions, the French edition is the way to go.

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