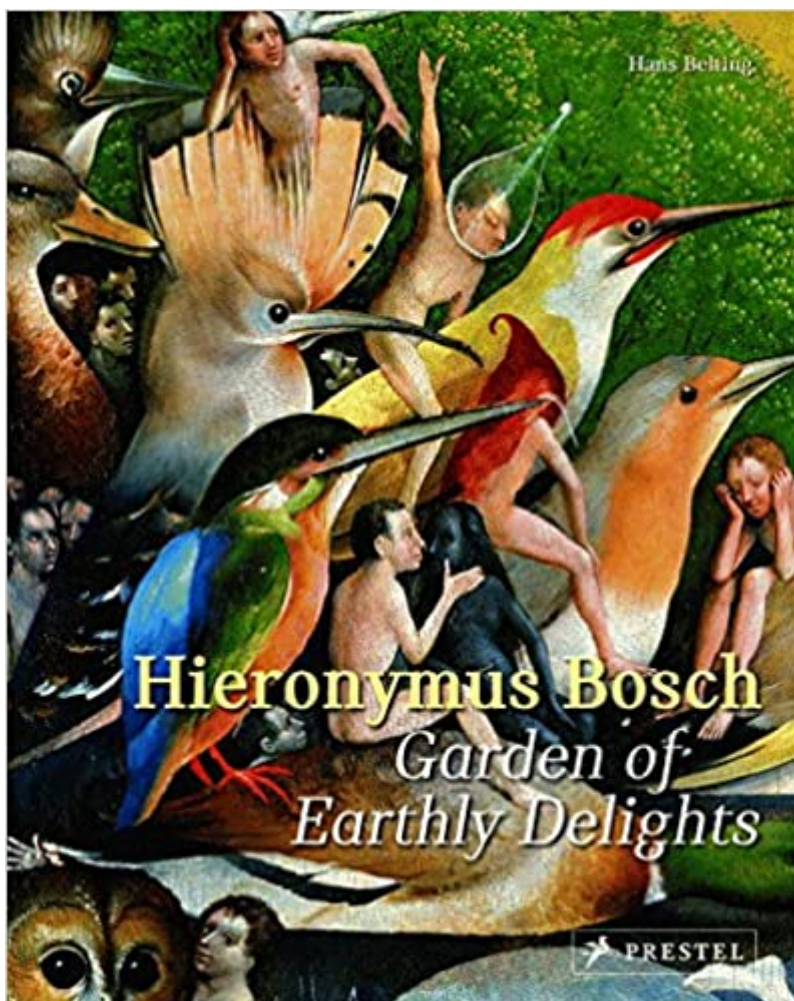


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Hieronymus Bosch: Garden Of Earthly Delights



Synopsis

Now available in a new edition, this book explores Hieronymus Bosch's masterpiece Garden of Earthly Delights. Few paintings inspire the kind of intense study and speculation as Garden of Earthly Delights, the world-famous triptych by Netherlandish master Hieronymus Bosch. The painting has been interpreted as a heretical masterpiece, an opulent illustration of the Creation, and a premonition of the end of the world. In this book, renowned art historian Hans Belting offers a radical reinterpretation of the work, which he sees not as apocalyptic but utopian, portraying how the world would exist had the Fall not happened. Taking readers through each panel, Belting discusses various schools of thought and explores Bosch's life and times. This fascinating study is an important contribution to the literature and theory surrounding one of the world's most enigmatic artists.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

HANS BELTING is an internationally renowned art historian and an expert on Netherlandish art. The author of numerous works on art theory and twentieth-century art, he lives in Karlsruhe, Germany.

An excellent monograph on Bosch's most important, endlessly fascinating, painting. You can accept the distinguished author's interpretations or not but the plates are what counts. The size of the central panel is 6" wide by 7" high and the side panels 3" x 7" - too small to gain more than a sense of the work but the marvelous details, which I take to be actual size, are very clear with both the

craquelure and pentimenti visible. The screen is so fine magnification is required to see it. In a way the illustrations are better than being in Madrid: no one standing in front, nor extraneous noise, nor guard to shoo you back. My only wish is the format were larger, but then the cost would be so much greater. The current after market price of \$1.55 represents an incredible bargain.

The work is quite well illustrated and is divided into two parts. The first 90-odd pages deals with a reasonable hypothesis concerning Bosch's quintessential triptych. There is no proof that can be given to this as versus any other. Still, it gives an approach to understanding this unique work, if not perhaps what Bosch (Jheronimus Achten von Aken) had in mind. There is a second part of 28 pages that deals with contemporaneous exploration that perhaps touches on fantastical creatures as well as on current beliefs. This part seems to be appended to the main as a 'filler', not clearly connected with the first part. It strikes me as not really fully integrated with the balance of the book. The fantastical creatures being based on exploration is not necessarily related to the exploration noted including The Americas and prior discovery of Africa, India and Serendip (Sri Lanka). Indeed Unicorns, Dragons and Griffons were among the well-used figures of Heraldry and religious art and were prevalent in the culture. Other creatures such as Basilisk, fish-bird hybrids, the Fauvel or horse-from-hell, dog-serpent, mermen so and cynocephalus creatures (dog-headed-men) were well known of before the fourteenth Century. The book is a decent work, but should not be taken as authoritative; though there is no more authoritative source beyond this either. It is recommended for the art work and the credible effort to give some unifying idea to this work.

...The plates in this book show fantastic detail. Every crack in the paint is visible in many of the closeups. These are new pictures taken after the painting, was cleaned & restored. So if you are an artist or color enthusiast this is essential. Some of these same photos are also used in this poster "book" by the same publisher: (# ISBN-10: 3791330705 & # ISBN-13: 978-3791330709, with a detachable poster of the painting, 24 pages, 16.3 x 9.2 x 0.3 inches)...This book does not show all of his paintings. It is focused on the one in the title "Garden Of Earthly Delights"....The theory is interesting.

What a fabulous book, in depth examination of Bosh's fascinating paintings! Outstandingly quick delivery too. *****

very good

Great book about a great painting

Thorough discussion of an underappreciated artist.

The binding to this book is already falling apart after one reading. Why don't publishing company spend more money on making books last a lifetime? As a booklover, I do not want to buy any newly published works since the quality of paper and binding is poor.

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