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Hieronymus Bosch: Complete Works



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Synopsis

Devil in the details: The symbols, monsters, and morals of a Netherlandish radicalA bird-monster devouring sinners, naked bodies in tantric contortions, a pair of ears brandishing a sharpened blade: with nightmarish details and fantastical painterly schemes, Netherlandish visionary Hieronymus Bosch (c. 1450-1516) secured his place as an art historical magnet. 500 years on from his death, his extraordinary works continue to enthrall scholars, artists, designers, and musicians. This large-scale TASCHEN monograph presents the complete Bosch oeuvre, celebrating the artist's staggering compositional scope and most bizarre and intricate details through full-page reproductions, abundant details, and a fold-out spread drawn from The Last Judgement. With guidance from art historian and Bosch expert Stefan Fischer, we explore the many compelling elements that populate each scene, from hybrid creatures of man and beast, to painterly assaults on the body, and a pictorial use of proverbs and idioms. Particular attention is given to Bosch's most famous work, the mesmerizing, terrifying triptych The Garden of Earthly Delights.

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Customer Reviews

Stefan Fischer studied art history, history and classical archaeology in Münster, Amsterdam and Bonn. In 2009 he completed his doctoral thesis on "Hieronymus Bosch: Malerei als Vision, Lehrbild und Kunstwerk". His specialist fields are Netherlandish painting of the 15th to the 17th century and museology.

I thought the book would be larger than it actually was so the art work appears much smaller and harder to view. I believe I may have confused this particular book with another, larger book with fold-out artwork. I did still enjoy the book and find the artists work fascinating.

This rather massive and beautifully-produced tome now has pride of place in my library, and regularly serves as a conversation piece with guests. The comprehensive set of high-quality reproductions of Bosch's art would be enough to justify the purchase. The commentary and reference material complement the artwork wonderfully, unintrusively inspiring the reader to appreciate more, study more closely, and consult other sources. While much or all of this material is available online for the motivated researcher, Fischer's compilation conveniently allows for an immersive, tangible experience of Bosch's work that is hard to match, even with an exhibition (which would be unlikely to match this work in scope). This book is a wonderful gift for any art-lover, a feast for both the eyes and the mind, and I recommend it without reservation.

This book is a masterpiece. First of all given its size and weight, I was worried about it arriving undamaged. But the packaging was perfect—four nested boxes, and the book comes in its own special box with handle. I have loved and been fascinated by Bosch's work since I was a kid, and I've bought and/or read many books. However I haven't seen any book as complete as this. The reproductions are perfect, and don't appear to be reused old photos. There are fold-out reproductions which are amazing. I could go on about the visual treats in this book. But I should mention the text and compliment the Author, Stefan Fischer. I'm only about 60 pages into the book, but I have found new information about Bosch, his world, and the meanings of his work on every page. I absolutely recommend this book to anyone who is interested in Art History, and particularly anyone who is fascinated by the work of Hieronymus Bosch. Thank you once again to Taschen Books for another serious publication on art. And thanks to Taschen.

The best looking book of Bosch I've ever seen. All the images were high quality too.

I'm no art historian, but this book seems chock full of detailed information as well as many different views (zoomed in) of Bosch's art with explanations galore. As a casual lover of dark and edgy art, this book is perfect to have in the bathroom. You can look at it for as little or as long as you need to take care of business.

This is an excellent small format edition of a perfect large edition of Complete Works of Hieronymus Bosch by Stefan Fisher. The laser-sharp quality of art reproduction is amazing. The accompanying text is perfect. And the price for this edition is also perfect. Everyone who loves Hieronymus Bosch should get this edition just to be able to look at his works anywhere at home: Other editions (the big and heavy as well as the middle sized one) require specially arranged places to read the text and appreciate the artwork, whereas this smaller edition could be looked at in the privacy of your bed, in the patio chair, or while laying on a couch.... Enjoy!

This book is amazing in so many ways. First off, its size. It measures 12 inches by 15 inches. Looking at it, you would think there are hundreds of pages here, but in reality, there are only 299 pages; it's just what's in there is top quality printing, with heavy stock paper. I'm sure this book weighs close to 10 pounds. The reproductions in this book are great. Many of them fold out, especially Garden of Earthly Delights, which opens out to 43 X 23 inches. Not only is this impressive, but the scale gives you an idea of what is in this painting, above and beyond anything else you've seen. Even if you have seen the painting in person at the Prado in Madrid, it's hard to take it in and you miss many of the minute details. With this large spread, you see the tiniest of objects. Honestly, plan on spending hours looking at it. This book goes beyond Garden of Earthly Delights, however. Instead, the book is a 'walk' through Bosch's life and work. This covers his earlier works (1474 - 1487), up until his later works (1504 - 1516). There is ample text, but again, the reproductions are incredible. Because the book is so big, you see each piece in great detail, to include repairs, cracking, and stains that have appeared through the years. The text is straightforward and gives a historical overview of what was happening in broader culture and society when Bosch was painting. Comparisons are also made of Bosch's work to other artists of the time. Anyhow, it's a great book. It will take me months to get through it all. This is for lovers of European Art, Bosch in particular, and history.

This artist is incredible, especially considering the era when he was painting. I am in no way an art expert. I first noticed some prints online and just wanted to investigate for myself. His work is confounding, disturbing, far ahead of his time and extremely detailed. I had no idea how much of his work has survived. The narrative of the book is very detailed - almost too much for my purposes and knowledge. A larger size book would have been better, I mean physical size as it is about the size of a novel. Great starter if you are interested in his work.

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