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Hieronymus Bosch: Complete Works



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.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Hieronymus Bosch was an artist working at a time when having a large workshop of pupils copying your works and not signing your works was common; and with forensic technology rapidly accelerating, it makes it easier to accurately date artworks that were left undated by the artist. Plus, even though his works contain a lot of protestant sympathies, he was labeled a Catholic painter in a region of Europe that went decidedly Protestant; this means that most of the paintings made by Hieronymus Bosch were either destroyed during the 16th century or were stolen, moved, lost,

discovered etc. Then there were people like Hieronymus Cock, who built their careers off of labeling original works as by Hieronymus Bosch (a practice today known as forgery, and fraud). Needless to say, this leads to a problem when it comes to books called "The Complete Hieronymus Bosch" as every scholar is going to have a slightly different listing of what they consider to be autograph vs. copies vs. workshop of vs. follower of etc. and the list of autograph works is constantly changing. I get that.

Edit 4/19/2016: Just to show the difficulties and uncertainties of attribution, since this book has been published:

- *The Seven Deadly Sins and the Four Last Things has been shown to be a copy by a follower, along with Removing The Stone/Stone of Folly*
- A "Temptation of St. Anthony" in Kansas City, MO, long thought to be by a follower and not even listed in this book, has been proven to be a Bosch original
- *the Met has offered more evidence that their Adoration of the Magi, listed as work by a follower #25 in this book, is by the master
- *it has also been proven that the Hell drawing listed as D13 in the Workshop drawings section is in fact by the master.

I got this book and could not put it down for about 2 or 3 weeks because I was so mesmerized by the high-quality reproductions of my favorites Bosch works like the St. Anthony Triptych and the Garden of Earthly Delights. I also fell in love with Bosch works I had only really glimpsed at before, like the St. Julia Triptych. The text is well written, providing a nice insight into both the interpretation of the works and what we know of the works and their respective places in Bosch's timelines, but people buy these books for the pictures and the pictures truly are ASTOUNDINGLY clear and beautiful. A lot of the drawings are even reproduced at actual size or near-actual size. For the art this book contains, it deserves a 5/5, if I could give this book a 4.5/5 I would for the glaring omissions. I was disappointed that works deemed to be by followers or the workshop were given such little attention. I'm a Bosch fan and The Conjuror is one of the major images I've come to associate with Bosch, even though it only exists in copies, the same goes with the Ghent version of Christ Carrying the cross. They are both mentioned in the list of works by followers and given a picture less than 2 inches x 2 inches, but no details and no bigger reproductions and they are completely ignored in the text. Then you realize that the central panel of the Wedding at Cana triptych only exists in copies and yet IT was given a bigger reproduction. Also, in the Philadelphia Museum of Art there are works formerly attributed to Bosch (An Ecce Homo and an Adoration of the Magi) and 2 works attributed to the workshop of Bosch. The Workshop pieces are listed in this book as workshop pieces, but the Ecce Homo and the Adoration just aren't mentioned. At all. Period. The Hell panel of the Last Judgement in Munich isn't mentioned at all, neither are the fragmentary pieces (Head of a Woman, Head of a Halberdier) that were once attributed to Bosch. Like I said, there are a lot of factors that make establishing a complete list of Bosch's work difficult. Since most of the works of Hieronymus Bosch have been

destroyed, I'd argue that in a book called "The Complete Hieronymus Bosch" the works of the students, workshop and followers should be treated as more important than they are treated here. I mentioned the Munich Last Judgement, and while anyone can look at that piece and see that it was clearly by a hand other than Bosch's, they can also clearly see the influence of Bosch (notice how the same naked woman from the Munich Judgement also shows up in the St. Anthony panel of the Hermit Saints Triptych). In Taschen's Da Vinci monograph, they include paintings that only exist in copies or works that were only designed by Leonardo but executed by students because the list of autograph Leonardo paintings is so small. They could have done the same thing here. They should have done the same thing here. This shouldn't be enough to dissuade anyone from buying this book with amazingly high-quality reproductions of the works of one of the most unique, enigmatic and original painters of all time; I remedied the situation by buying this and the other book that Taschen offers called "The Complete Hieronymus Bosch". The OTHER "Complete Bosch" is the 96-page "Basic Art Series" book by Walter Bosing/Walter Gibson, but includes a decent reproduction of the Ghent Christ Carries, the Munich Last Judgement, the 2 Philadelphia paintings AND the fragmentary pieces. Together, I got a really comprehensive collection of the works of my favorite artist. In short, buy this book, AND the other book by the SAME publishing company ALSO labeled "the complete Bosch" but with a completely different list of works; then prepare to spend the next 2 weeks staring into the biblical nightmares of a pre-renaissance genius. Edit 5/25/2016: Just got Bosch: Visions of Genius by Ilsink and Koldeweij. It's another good supplement to get IN ADDITION TO THIS BOOK. Visions of Genius contains the Kansas City Temptation of Saint Anthony, The Conjuror, The Philadelphia and Metropolitan versions of Adoration of the Magi, The Munich Last Judgement as well as the Jackson Pollock-style paintings found on the reverse of the Heaven/Hell/Ascent of the Blessed/Fall of the Damned quadriptych; it also contains details of paintings by the workshop and followers, these paintings are given larger reproductions than in this book. However, Visions of Genius is meant to coincide with a specific exhibition, so it does not necessarily go into depth on paintings by the master that were not obtained for the show; literally, a copy of the left panel of Garden of Earthly Delights by a follower gets more attention than the original.

This is a little bit smaller version of the original large and outstanding edition of the Complete Works of Hieronymus Bosch by Stefan Fisher. The quality of art reproduction is the same, perfect, as well as the accompanying text. Maybe more important, this edition is affordable in terms of price (at least thus far) for the individuals who love Hieronymus Bosch but cannot afford to buy the original

edition.

An excellent reference book to answer all the questions you ever had about Bosch. What I loved most, though, is the opportunity to really study the minute details of a number of his paintings. A real treat.

Words cannot describe the journey this takes me on. I cannot believe the price!!! Pretty much half price of similar art books in length, size, and reproduction quality. Be ready for another world along with both thought provoking and informative type. My favorite parts are the "detail" images. Two thumbs up.

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

The detail of Bosch's paintings in this volume is breathtaking. Closeups of many paintings as well as full length photos. This may be the only Bosch book you'll need.

so good. tons of large clear reproductions and detail shots. its a huge book, fyi.

Love this book and the art is just mind blowing! Such a great price too!

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