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Treasures Of The Cleveland Museum Of Art



Synopsis

Treasures of the Cleveland Museum of Art is the most comprehensive book available on this distinguished collection. The book has been published in advance of the long-awaited completion of the museum's expansion project due December 2013. The Cleveland Museum of Art is renowned for the quality and breadth of its collection, which includes more than 40,000 objects and spans 6,000 years of achievement in the arts. Published to celebrate the closing stages of a long-term renovation and expansion, this exquisitely illustrated volume features treasures from the museum's deep and wide-reaching collection including Asian Art, African Art, American Painting and Sculpture, European Painting and Sculpture, Medieval Art, Ancient Egyptian Art, Ancient Near East and Greek and Roman Art, Islamic Art, Art of the Ancient Americas, Drawings, Prints, Photography, Decorative Art and Design, Textiles, Modern Art, and Contemporary Art. Each department features masterpieces including liturgical objects from the famed Guelph Treasure, Japanese screens from the Kamakura through Edo periods, *River and Mountains on a Clear Autumn Day* by Dong Qichang, *The Crucifixion of Saint Andrew* by Caravaggio, *Cupid and Psyche* by Jacques-Louis David, *Stag at Starkey's* by George Bellows, *The Dream* by Salvador Dalí, and *La Vie* by Pablo Picasso, among countless others. Featuring new, accessibly written scholarship by the curatorial staff, *Treasures of the Cleveland Museum of Art* will be the definitive resource on this world-renowned collection, and essential for all those interested in art history. Also available: *The Cleveland Museum of Art: Director's Choice* ISBN: 9781857597844

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Customer Reviews

David Franklin was named the ninth director of the Cleveland Museum of Art in 2010. A renowned expert in the Italian Renaissance and baroque periods, he is a native of Canada and previously served as the deputy director and chief curator of the National Gallery of Art in Ottawa.

I live in New Zealand at the bottom of the World. I got to see a lot of art when I worked in the UK. I visited the National Gallery and British Museum frequently and tried to see as many other galleries/museums on weekend trips or more especially on longer holidays. I have tried to get the names and details right but there may be some typos etc

The book This book was published on the Centenary of the Museum's founding and about the time of the Opening of a major renovation and enlargement. The description gives an idea of what is included. This is a superb with excellent text and illustrations and well worth considering. It is arranged on a global view-- see below. I am retired and tend to think of Art in terms of country(it's) and my comments will tend to slip back and forward between these two approaches-- otherwise the review would be even longer.

Preamble-- this may seem boring, but it helps you understand what the various curators have achieved, along with the photography unit.

Format. Global View. The book looks at objects of about the same date from various parts of the world. Initially only a few cultures are involved but as the time gets closer to our own day more and more cultures come into view. This no doubt reflects the objects in the collection.

2 examples. Around 3000 BC objects from China, Western Anatolia (now in Modern Turkey), Japan, Crete, Egypt

Around 1,000- 1,200 AD Kashmir ,India, German, China, Iran, Cambodia, France,

Format in more detail. The basic format At top Name of Object, and approximate or exact date. Next line Country and period This is followed by substantial commentary which is clear, informative and well written

At base of page Material eg Marble or Silver etc

Dimensions. Donor. On the opposite page is an excellent Illustration. (I give several examples of how this is worked out in practice below)

General comment on Illustration. A number of objects that are chosen as Sculptures, others are three dimensional. The trick is to make a three dimensional object look three dimensional on a two dimensional page. The photograph ages has to be a master of lighting the object so that he catches it's three dimensional character. This depends on the angle he takes the object from. This hopefully brings out it's sense of volume. He also has to capture its texture and the figure's expression. You need a very good photographer to do all that. True you will get a better view if you see the object in the museum, but the photos will bring to mind many features you noted as you peered at the object. This may sound long winded-- the point is that the photos are not just good the are excellent. You get a real feel for the object. It's shape, and volume, the way the texture of the marble is used by the artist to add life to the object.

MANY MANY

MASTERPIECES With 40,000 objects the Museum had a difficult job of picking what to show. Although many of us may have wanted some other items included, the choices in the book are excellent. (I didn't count the number of objects in the book.) I think you get good value for money. qI will try and show this in several ways. I will try and show it at a given time, in it's Global Perspective and I will also Pick some Highlights for me. Around 200 AD Railing Pillar 2nd century AD India--Mathura, Kushan Period. Red Sikri Sandstone then dimensions-- 80 cm high. Donor. This shows the great skill in carving sandstone. It is in 3 tiers with the top and bottom theirs being about half the size of the dominant middle section. The photo brings out the remarkable detail (by the use of light and shadow. Standing Shakyaummuni. Second Half of Second Century. Pakistan. Probably Takht-I-Bahi, Gandharan style. Grey Schist approx 120 cm tall Donor. There are a number of Religious objects including a number of Sculptures. Again one could discuss the superb carving in stone. You get a feel for the texture of the wonderful roses beautifully draped on this object. The face is serene. The Emporer As Philosopher, Probably Marcus Aurelius. AD 180 to 200. Bronze height 193 cm Donor A headless standing stature.. The Right arm crosses to the left chest. This is a wonderful study both in giving the sense of the person's. physique and a wonderful study of the folds in the robes..the Bronze has a deep rich brown colour. Two Artisans Ad 250--600. MesoAmerica Maya People. Ceramic and Pigment. Dimensions and Donor These two artisans sit cross legged making objects. They wear elorate headgear which may have separate earrings. They they have different necklaces, and one appears to have a nose ornament. All in all very impressive. The Jonah Marbles -- About 280.to 290 AD Asia Minor , Late Roman. Marble. The various sences are names Four Marles telling the Story of Jonah in the Old Testament. A smaller picture of the agood Shepherd. The main illustrations of Jonah take up the up half of the two page spread. The sculptures are excellent, some parts are missing-- that said this is a very well preserved set of sculpture from this era. The next object is from AD 500 One could have chosen a different time period and covered say objects from China and Japan (or Korea) along with objects from other countries later objects from Cambodia appear. I was impressed by the various objects from the various regions of Asia as I am by objects from a number of other regions. I love Master Drawings and it was a treat to see both Drawings and Screens decorated with Drawings from China, Japan and Korea-- usually not from the same time period Landscape is a common theme, but other themes occur. Some are long scrolls! Others are on late screen that would screen off a portion of a room. They are of various dates. There was a later painting of an Emperor, Empress, and I think 11 consorts. The detail was refined, the colours reflect their regal status. There are beautiful bowls of various materials, and with different glazes. One at least had a delicate cracking pattern. There was

a prince's top and pants-- again showing the mastery of both design and detail.

Other Cultures

There is coverage of India and related Areas and Mesoamerica. There are a interesting selection of Islamic objects. Much later various African Cultures are also covered. There is good coverage on America-- A few objects I recognise as iconic (I am still learning about America. This list is not all inclusive.

Other notable objects.

Shifting to Spain there was a beautiful curtain from the Alhambra Palace. Wonderful rich colours and excellent design-- it looks brand new. The conservators have done well. There are a group of Three Mourners, from the Tomb of Philip the Bold (Duke of Burgundy) 1406-- 1410. There were a number of mourners around the tomb, so this is just part of the whole. Each individual is very different, each is grief stricken. The Woman in the centre has her face partly obscured by her hood. She looks young and beautiful. Her hands are crossed on her chest, the drapes of her robe are lovingly rendered. Another is another older woman. Her head is also partly covered by the hood , but we get to see her face more clearly. Her arms are also crossed across her chest and she has a prominent Rosary. The third is a Cleric. This is very impressive carving of Alabaster. The figures are so expressive, the drapery so natural, the texture of that drapery appealing.

French Silver

There is a beautiful French Silver Table Fountain from about 1350 AD . It is very impressive in its design and execution. A much later object from about the 1740 is a Soup Tureen on Stand and Cover. It is a remarkable work. It has sinuous curves.. It is a rare survival of mature French Rococo Silver. (so much French silver was melted down at the Revolution or soon after.) this piece was made for an English Duke. The Sea Creatures and Vegetation appear to ride a Silver Wave. It is the most important item in Silver at the CMA.

Master Drawings

Just to mention a few. Durer , Raphael and Rembrandt. All are good , the Raphael is very good..

Paintings

I like the 17 th century. Wonderful works by Caravaggio, Rubens, Velazquez, Poussin, Frans Hals and a rare Georges De La Tour painting. A very impressive group. There are wonderful paintings of later date. Turner's great painting on The Burning of the Houses of Lords and Commons 16 th October 1834 being one example. Later there is Van Gogh, Picasso, Matisse Warhol to name a few. One could go on but the review is rather long already. (I have not mentioned Glass, or Furniture, Photography or Video Installation etc.)

There is no bibliography. I think this is not a problem given the nature of the book. There is an Artist Index.

Summary.

This book is crammed full of Masterpieces. The illustrations are excellent and should deepen your appreciation for the various pieces of art. I started by noting some pieces I liked, with time I got to appreciate more. If possible get to know your local art museum and practice the art of looking. When on holidays try and take in a major museum. Try and spend a day (or longer) looking at the great collections. You have a good selection in America. With time and some effort you hopefully will come to really enjoy museum visiting. Learning about art is more than learning to

look, but one of the basic skill to learn, is The Arr Of Looking.Bottom line.This book is excellent.I hope my descriptions have wetted your appetite to buy the book and hopefully visit the museum.This is a good book to learn the art of observation from.Very Highly Recommended.I have added a suboptimal photo.

For as much money they must have spent on this otherwise handsome and well written book, they should have ensured having the best printer possible.The color on each and every reproduction is shamefully dull, dark, or muddy compared with the object in real life. And I possess other museum art books where this is not the case.If this is important to you, do not purchase this book. Just visit the museum.

Nice choice of works to illustrate. Well presented. A good book to remember what was seen or to prepare for visit.

nice coffee table book

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