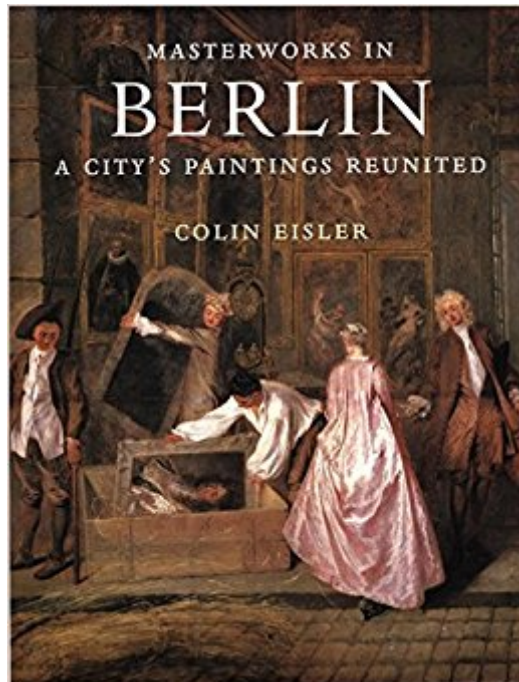




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Masterworks In Berlin: A City's Paintings Reunited



Synopsis

This work looks at important paintings from nine museums all over Berlin. Eisler uses a chronological and geographical organization to bring together over 700 works of world importance, stretching from the first half of the 12th century to 1914 and covering artists as diverse as Giotto, Raphael, Da Vinci, Titian, Tintoretto, Breughel, Van Eyck and Durer. As Germany in general and Berlin in particular face the ramifications of reunification, hundreds of works, often thought lost or destroyed, are coming to light and being presented for the first time in more than 50 years.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Colin Eisler, a professor at New York University's Institute of Fine Arts, was born in Berlin, and had to flee the city as a refugee at age two. During the ensuing war the city was largely destroyed, and afterward literally split in two by Cold War enmity characterized by a chilling wall. Eisler has undertaken the happy task of documenting the city's art collections as they are brought together and the city's museums restored. From the legendary Museum Island in eastern Berlin to Frederick the Great's Sanssouci Palace to what was once the Old Master Museum in Dahlem, Eisler takes us on a tour of the city's art troves. There remains a colossal task to finish in Berlin; it will take years to restore buildings and rearrange collections. The final relocation of many of the works in the book is unknown. But Eisler provides a tantalizing glimpse of the city's treasure.

This edition truly unites the rich collections still dispersed among the Prussian capital's many museums. Eisler, the Robert Lehman professor of Fine Arts at New York University's Institute of

Fine Arts, loves these works and brings to his discussion of over 700 paintings an extraordinary knowledge of their history and place in the larger history of art. His breezy style entwines historical context with observations on artistic development, and an occasional provocative glibness: Botticelli is called "painter to the parvenu

very good quality and very good service

Nine by twelve inch, about 650 pages, all color, probably 1000 repros, some full page. Fine quality, mostly unfamiliar things. Not clogged up with unnecessary erudition. This is my idea of an art book. If only they were all like this. Get it while it's still around.

I have Eisler's Paintings in the Hermitage, Rosenblum's Paintings in the Musee ' Orsay, and Gowing's Paintings in the Louvre to name but a few. I enjoy parts of each but none impressed me as being a great volume overall. This one did. Certainly the others are museum volumes and this one is a little less so, but their use by many is the same - to view a lot of art. The quality and selection of works displayed in this volume, as well as the quality of the illustrations themselves, was a step above the rest. I'd recommend it wholeheartedly.

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