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History Of Art For Young People (5th Edition)



Synopsis

For nearly 25 years, *History of Art for Young People* has remained unsurpassed as an introduction to the fascinating world of art in the Western world. In this new edition, Anthony F. Janson, chairman and associate professor of art and theatre at the University of North Carolina, Wilmington, retains the intelligent freshness of H.W. Janson's classic original work while making it even more accessible and meaningful for today's readers. 623 illustrations, 253 in color. Glossary. Index. Bibliography. 4 maps.

Book Information

Hardcover: 632 pages

Publisher: Prentice Hall; 5 edition (January 1, 1997)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0810941503

ISBN-13: 978-0810941502

Product Dimensions: 10.3 x 9.1 x 1.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.8 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.6 out of 5 stars 11 customer reviews

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Customer Reviews

Appearing fewer than five years after its previous edition, this is a parallel but simplified version of the elder Janson's benchmark college text, *History of Art* (LJ 5/15/70). The publisher intends this variant for high school students, as the title implies, as well as for general adult readers. Making comprehensible all the complexity of art history is a tall order, even when addressing the most learned adults; this version of Janson shows some of the difficulties of explaining art to a younger audience. Although chapters have been streamlined, the prose has not. It is marred by a needlessly sophisticated syntax that comes across as snooty and affected. With the arrival of inherently less understandable art forms in the 20th century, the challenge to maintain a tone of straightforward description becomes acute; only some of the time does this text meet that task. Readers able to keep up will appreciate the Jansons' adeptness at bringing to light the telling detail and making apt comparisons. But with more accessible surveys available like Marilyn Stokstad's recent *Art History* (LJ 4/15/96) and Laurie S. Adams's *History of Western Art* (LJ 9/15/93), this is recommended only

for comprehensive collections. ?Douglas F. Smith, Oakland P.L., Cal. Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Gr. 7[^]-12. The fifth edition of a standard single-volume introduction to Western art for young people is revised, greatly expanded, and handsomely redesigned to be more spacious and easier than ever to use. Coverage ranges from prehistory through the 1990s, and the rich text is enhanced by more than 600 illustrations, 252 in full color, and labeled drawings. The focus this time is on art before 1520, though art in the modern world is certainly not neglected. New to this edition are boxed essays (added "to suggest the larger cultural context in which the visual arts have been created") that comment on music, theater, and poetry through the ages, as well as cultural and religious influences. There are four double-spread maps and four chronological tables spanning history from B.C. 4000 to A.D. 1990, as well as sidebar tables that list major civilizations, periods, dates, etc. Also the glossary has been expanded and the bibliography updated. An exemplary art history, well worth the price. Sally Estes

Great coverage for art of the western civilization. That's plenty good for me. I'm not really into eastern art. My husband was an art teacher for 35+ years and I always wished I knew more about art history. It gives adequate coverage of history in general and applies it to the paintings. Most photos are not large, and are more black and white than colored, but it is a very good book for a person looking to improve their working knowledge of the art world. I'm glad I bought it.

This book should have "young" no where in the title. Do not buy this book thinking it will work for anyone younger than a senior in high school or even a college student. I went to an art college and this was just like any textbook I had. (If I was looking for a college level textbook, I would have given this more stars.)

Good

Great book!

Love it but I wish it had more color.

very useful and complete

Looking forward to using this in our homeschool study of art! It looks very thorough!!

"Young People" should be interpreted as upper high school or college students. I had hoped it was written for a younger audience than that. I also would have appreciated more color plates. To me this book looks and reads just like my 30 year old college art history texts. This is probably my mistake, but I can't help being disappointed.

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