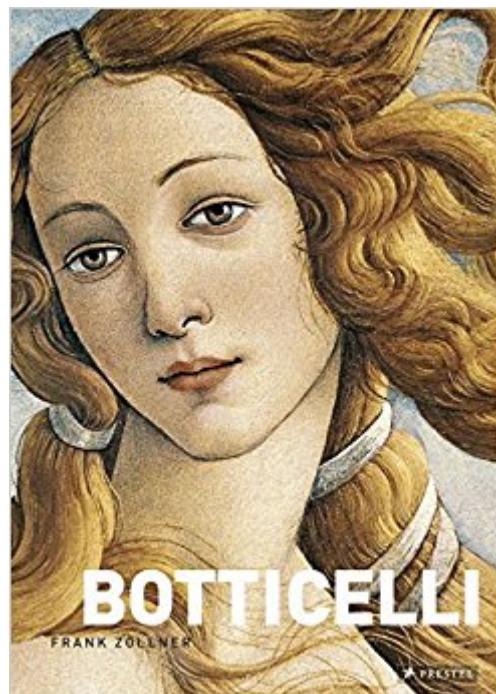


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# Botticelli



## Synopsis

Now available in a new edition, this celebration of the life and art of the Renaissance genius presents Sandro Botticelli's complete paintings and offers a comprehensive and thoroughly up-to-date study of his work. Botticelli is one of the most admired artists of the Renaissance period and his seductive Venus and graceful Primavera are among the world's most recognizable works of art. This catalogue raisonné of Botticelli's paintings offers more than two hundred full-color illustrations and meticulous scholarship by the distinguished Renaissance art historian Frank Zöllner, described by The Financial Times, when reviewing this book's previous edition, as "a fabulous, accessible scholar; his book has luscious reproductions and exquisite detail." Presented in chronological order, the facts of Botticelli's life and career are insightfully discussed against the background of the artistic upheaval that marked the Renaissance period. The artist's reinterpretations of ancient myths as well as his religious paintings are thoughtfully explored in this sumptuously illustrated volume, which will please scholars and delight lovers of fine art books everywhere.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

With the dimensions of a 16.5" x 12"-tank, and armored in a special tissue-lined black box, this blockbuster picture book is ready to roll into the holiday season. Starting with possibly the least-scintillating opening sentence ever ("Art history is the scholarly discipline that addresses the ubiquitous medium of the visual image"), University of Leipzig art history professor Zöllner proceeds to deliver an accurate if thoroughly stodgy account of Botticelli's life

(1444/45-1510). Fortunately, the story is often fascinating enough to overcome Ziffer's dry, professorial style. The explanation behind the eerie symbolism in some of Botticelli's portraits, and of how this symbolism was tied to the murderous political machinations of Florence's ruling Medici family, for example, is bound to please Da Vinci Code fans. And anyway, the obvious attraction of a large-format picture book is the pictures. Like the text, the book's layout is not especially imaginative, but it hardly matters when the reproductions themselves are as good as they are here, with vibrant colors and crisp details. Seen at this size, and with such intense clarity, Botticelli's nymphs and noblewomen are intoxicating. Especially captivating are the glorious, full-page details splashed across the frontispiece of each chapter. A good basic reference on the painter, this volume will also make for some seriously heavy artillery for anyone's holiday gift list. (Dec.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"...Seen at this size, and with such intense clarity, Botticelli's nymphs and noblewomen are intoxicating..." -- Publishers Weekly, November 2005 "...the book provides a reasonably comprehensive survey of the artist's career and works..." -- Library Journal, January 2006 "Luxe volume.. sumptuous reproductions of Botticelli's majestic mythology paintings.. the enormous pages allow the reader to pore over enlarged details." -- Newsday, December 2005 "This year's coffee-table sensation; this is one stocking stuffer that will throw Santa's back out..." -- Wall Street Journal, December 2005 --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Great book!

This book is marvelously illustrated. We had a superficial knowledge of Botticelli's paintings and were looking for a volume that would fill that gap. This book did that in spades. The color plates are beautiful! We didn't delve into the text enough to offer a critical evaluation of it. The cover image is a close-up of his famous depiction of Venus which stands as one of the greatest paintings of all time! The image of her face is intriguing as she is expressionless. Yet, I can't stop looking at her. It reminds me of paintings by Sulamith Wulffing whose subjects' faces draw you in with blank expressions. However, I am not suggesting that they are artists of the same order. The central figure of Venus is alluring but not in a lascivious manner, although Savonarola might disagree. Fortunately, it survived the Bonfire of the Vanities. The other paintings, including an astounding

portrait of Simonetta Vespucci who is thought to be the model used for Venus, are exquisite.

Beautiful hard cover with story of the life of Botticelli by a known authority. I purchased the book after attending an exhibition in Williamsburg, Va.. The museum had sold out of all artist information, so I was delighted to find it on line.

There are many Botticelli books floating around to remind us how far we have progressed in digital photography and the reproduction of art in books. Nothing I have seen comes close to the exceptional and unbelievably generous quality of these reproductions which have given me unexpected insight into the human hand that produced them. The text, while sometime tedious in its effort to draw sweeping generalization about the artist and patron agenda, and attributing intellectual literary sources to explain the iconography and symbolism behind the details, nonetheless brings to life the artist and his atelier in a way I find endlessly fascinating. What this book lacks, from the point of view of an ignorant artist like myself, is technical details behind how these works were logically produced from raw materials and the naked eye. It would be nice if once in a while the scholarly critics stepped aside and gave voice to master craftsmen or artisan specializing in producing these kinds of paintings, or even the excellent people we do not hear about who painstakingly restore these painting from 600 years of pollution or neglect.

Gorgeous Photography! Absolutely Stunning Work! High Quality! Excellent Book!!!

If you love Primavera or the Birth of Venus, this book is for you. The writing can be a little academic at times-what you would expect from a monograph-but it's easy to read. You will get a little bit of art criticism/art theory (i.e. detailed explanations of the creative process on several paintings; inspiration vs execution); some socio-political context with (the Medicis, Savanarola); and more than anything, an awesome coffee book with oversize pages- a feast to the eyes. The last 90 pages is comprehensive catalog of paintings & drawings attributed to Botticelli, so art geeks will specially enjoy this section. PS - Do not miss the different versions of Simonetta Vespucci by Botticelli & his workshop.

This book is just great, I always loved the works of Boticelli and will always adore this book form now on. Probably it's too big some may say, but the prints look perfect, with the best quality I could ever imagine. The paper needless to say is just fabulous too. For true collectors of painting art this

is highly recommended! Enjoy!

I must disagree with one of the previous reviewers who said that the quality of the photographs were good. For a book of this size and hence, I assume, quality, they are really terribly poor. If you are not sure what I am talking about, just compare it to the gigantic tome on Leonardo Da Vinci from Taschen, which comes at about the same price, is about three times as thick, and has truly incredible reproductions where every crackle in the paint is visible. On the other hand, the Botticellis seems slightly out of focus so that you do not get a feel of the quality of the paint. Look before you buy.

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