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Art Of Colonial Latin America (Art And Ideas)



Synopsis

For over three hundred years, from the era of Christopher Columbus to the struggles for independence around 1820, Latin America witnessed an artistic flowering of enormous creativity and originality. In a unique way, the art and architecture of Aztec, Inca and Guarani civilizations blended with those of Europe, North Africa and the Far East. In particular, the Spanish and Portuguese empires in Central and South America created the climate for a flourishing, diverse and distinct version of Renaissance and Baroque culture, produced under utterly different social and geographic conditions from those found in Europe. The products of this unique culture include some of the most lavish and visually arresting works of art and architecture in the world. In this lively overview of the tremendously rich and varied artistic output of the area from southern Chile to northern California, Gauvin Alexander Bailey discusses viceregal and missionary as well as civic and rural architecture, alongside religious and secular painting, sculpture, metalwork, textiles and ceramics. But he also looks back to pre-colonial influences and concludes with an examination of how twentieth-century artists such as Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo interpreted their artistic heritage. Even today, the art of the colonial period remains at the centre of Latin American society, culture and identity. The result is a book that provides a new and comprehensive understanding of all the influences that led to one of the most cosmopolitan artistic outpourings in the whole history of art.

Book Information

Series: Art and Ideas

Paperback: 447 pages

Publisher: Phaidon Press; 1st edition (February 1, 2005)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0714841579

ISBN-13: 978-0714841571

Product Dimensions: 6.3 x 1 x 8.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.8 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 10 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #44,392 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #1 in Books > Textbooks > Humanities > Visual Arts > Sculpture #4 in Books > Arts & Photography > Other Media > Ceramics #4 in Books > Arts & Photography > Sculpture > Appreciation

Customer Reviews

"Wide-ranging and handsomely illustrated... Plunges the reader into profoundly alien cultures that produced beautiful, often awesome artworks."-Independent "Lively and striking."-The Times "The bargain of the year, crammed with original research, but priced as a general interest book... A lucid, fascinating and beautifully illustrated account of the spectacular results of creative fusion between the vibrant visual cultures of South America and European baroque art. A book which opens up a little-known world."-Jane Stevenson, novelist, The Observer "Seldom can so much original research, fresh information and illustrations of so many unfamiliar works of art have appeared in a reasonably priced, mass-market paperback... It is a considerable achievement to have surveyed such a vast range of material from such a rich and various region in a single volume... This book, at a popular price, represents a remarkable bargain. Buy it and discover a new world hitherto all but closed to the Anglophone reader."-The Tablet "Warmly recommended to all teachers and students of the history of early modern art and architecture... The accessible text and generous number of well-presented illustrations also reveal the 'staggering variety of media' practised in Latin America... Contributes to a rapidly growing consensus that the arts of Latin America, and the world, existed in the early modern period as they do now, not just in a dualistic dialogue between 'us and them', but in a complex interconnectedness."-Rodney Palmer, University of East Anglia, The Art Book On the Art & Ideas series "Art & Ideas has broken new ground in making accessible authoritative views on periods, movements and concepts in art. As a series it represents a real advance in publishing."-Sir Nicholas Serota, Director, Tate London "The format is wonderful and offers what had long been missing in academic studies: usable manuals for specific themes or periods... I am definitely not alone in welcoming Art & Ideas as a precious set of teaching tools."-Joachim Pissarro, Yale University "Phaidon's series may prove to be the pick of the crop. It boasts expert but undogmatic texts and a wealth of illustrations."-The Sunday Telegraph

Gauvin Alexander Bailey is an associate Professor in the Department of Visual and Performing Arts at Clark University.

not a bad book; detailed enough to offer an overview from the pre-colombian to renaissance. great book to read on the beach or by the pool due to its size. however I was disappointed with the small size because it limits the size of the pictures and the paintings. perhaps should've purchased the book in large size. the epilogue can be skipped. seemed like an afterthought in putting together something for contemporary LatAm art. phaidon books' are consistent in the type of quality books they publish.

Great book! I order it for my college class and it came in pretty quickly ! It was brand new and it was A little hard to understand and it also fell a part pretty quickly.

Great read! I had to read this for a class, but I quite enjoyed it.

Great book for a really broad overview of Latin American art. Gives a brief introduction to Pre-Colonial Latin American art as well.

A++++++

Great source

The book Art in Colonial Latin America cover dates ranging form 1492 all the way to 1820. This book is perfect for those who are interested Latin American art in South America as well as the southwest United States. Bailey has a way of capturing the reader right from the beginning. His book starts with the first encounters and then takes you through how both the native people and the Spanish respond to the mix of cultures, he does an amazing job at telling both sides of the story. The reader really gets a true sense of the difficulties the natives faced with their new encounters. Bailey does a tremendous job on making the indigenous people the foreground of this new change. In chapter two his introductory statement shows just that "Until quite recently, historians of the conquest of the Americans focused almost entirely on the actions of the European conquerors and settlers. They treated the indigenous people as a silent backdrop to their Spanish and Portuguese protagonists, and paid scant attention to their cultures after the fall of the great pre-Hispanic civilizations." Bailey's book not only has very valuable history but along with it he has some wonderful images that are able to express exactly what points Bailey is trying to get across. For example when Bailey is discussing a type of life style such as colonial mansions he pairs the text with a beautiful full page image (page 324-325) so the viewer/reader can really connect with what aspects Bailey is discussing. Bailey's book is very well done with the information and the images; however the one weakness that I find is in the layout of the book. When I first picked this book up I found the front cover to not only be boring but very uninviting to read. The title was very small, isn't centered on the cover, and to me the image was to small in comparison to the size of the book, it has a very unfinished look. When I opened the book I was again disappointed with the layout, I

thought the text was too small and the large margins on the sides and small margins on the top and bottom of the pages were very distracting to me. The other thing that didn't seem quite right was the placement of the page numbers on the side of the left side of the page, also very small, and the pages with only images didn't have numbers either. This book's information is very well organized, Bailey starts with the pre-Hispanic world and then goes through to the Spaniards coming to the new world and then how the two cultures start to become one. Bailey gives you a brief table of contents so you can see what each chapter is about. In the back of the book there is a glossary which defines and explains words, events and artists. This glossary is very helpful especially with a culture that isn't as well understood. After the glossary Bailey provides us with a list of key dates and a map, which is very easy to refer to. Bailey has an index which also makes finding works of art very easy. Every one should read this book, they can gain so much knowledge from Bailey's insight. However I think that the language and contents of this book would be very appropriate for high school age kids and older. Before reading this book I didn't know nearly as much about the indigenous people and how they were affected by the Spanish coming to the new world. In my studies I always focused on the Spanish and their reaction on coming to the new world. My eyes were really opened to the fact that the indigenous people not only had to change their way of life, but had such a great impact on the religious icons found in the Saints honored by the Spanish. This is a really good book easy to read and very interesting, Bailey has a way of capturing his audience and really showing them both sides of the story.

This excellent book provides a thoughtful overview on a wide range of times and places in Latin America during the extensive Colonial period. The book exposes the reader to the complexities of the Colonization while explaining in a clear manner the originality and worth of the Amerindian art production during these tumultuous and hybrid times. Through beautiful illustrations, the art of the continent is given the well-deserved attention that other books on the topic are lacking. Highly recommended to anybody interested in the history and arts of the Americas.

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