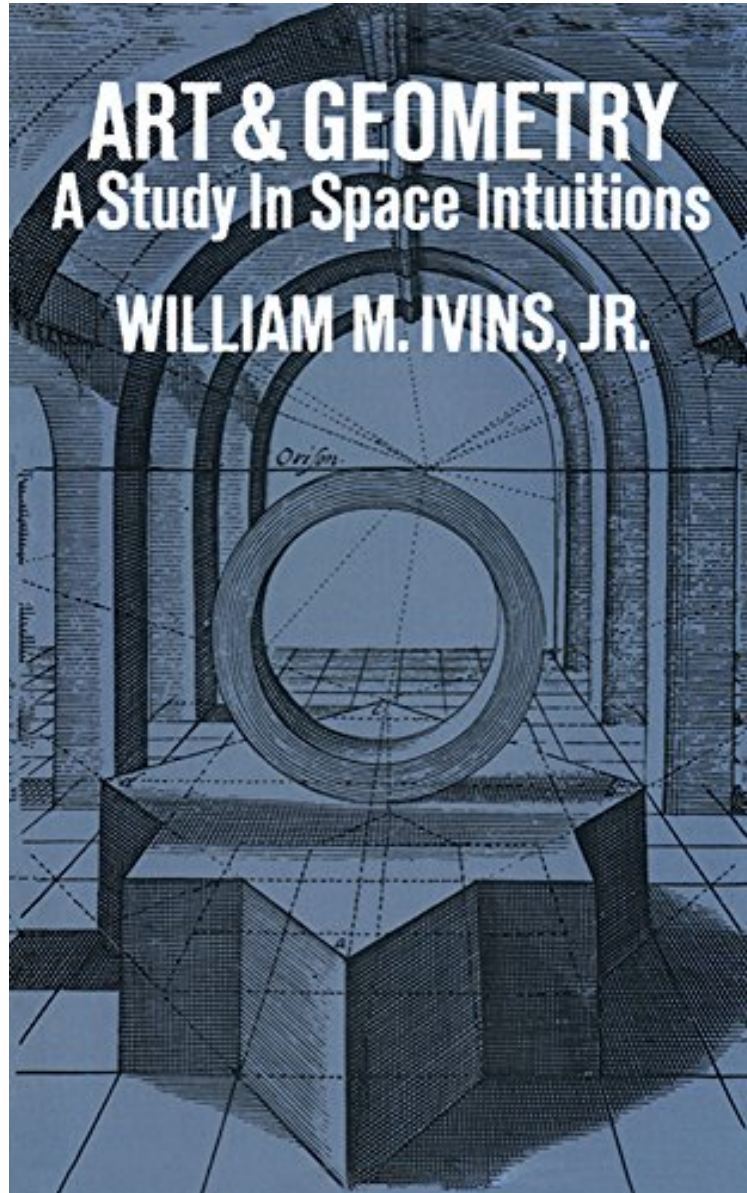


(Pdf free) Art and Geometry: A Study in Space Intuitions (Dover Books on Art History S)

Art and Geometry: A Study in Space Intuitions (Dover Books on Art History S)

William M. Ivins

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11 of 12 people found the following review helpful. So much for classical Greek cultureBy wiredweirdIvins uses this brief book to express his regard for classical Greece's culture, art, and contribution to the last two millennia of Western culture. That regard is very low. He first starts by debunking their ideas of perspective. It's a brief task because, as he demonstrates clearly, they had nothing we could identify by that name. Instead of arranging figures according to the logic of sight, Ivins argues that Greek art arranged figures according to a 'tactile' perspective, as if they were placed for easy reach rather than easy visual interpretation. He also dismisses the classical Greek sense of composition, on the ground that there was none. Figures were simply placed, without regard for their relationship to a time sequence, to a landscape, or to each other. He uses, as example, the battle friezes of Bassae, which were dismantled without noting their relationships to each other. At least six guesses at their arrangement, based on content, were in turn declared to be 'definitive.' The question of their proper order was only resolved when mounting marks on the backs were matched to the holes in the walls from which they had been detached - with no regard to the pictures themselves. The rest of the book argues likewise against the importance of classical Greek science, philosophy, and even Aristotelian logic (or illogic). Along the way, Ivins throws a number of barbs at the so-called scholars of ancient Greek culture, including those who argue the relative merits of different works that no longer existed even at the time of the earliest known commentary on them. This brief book (or sustained essay) is a wonderful contrarian work by a man of inarguable qualification. He was director of prints for many years, in the Metropolitan Museum in New York, well trained in art but independent of traditional scholarship. It's great by itself, or as a foil to your favorite snob of the classics - enjoy!//wiredweird0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. spectacular deconstruction of ordinary habits of scientific meritBy BarnabyWilliam Ivins recognizes in projective geometry the truly modern description of reality, and more than reality's mere presentation of itself by means of technology, far more: by pointing out that the spatial models evolved by conics and subsequent development after Desargues, may indicate a future understanding of physics. Remarkable book.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four StarsBy I decline my membership on all servicesstimulating

One of Western civilization's jealously guarded myths is that of Greek cultural supremacy. In this controversial study, William Ivins shows that the limitations of the Greek worldview actually hampered the development of the arts and sciences and gives a stimulating history of the new ideas of the Renaissance, especially in painting and geometry, that freed us from ancient misconceptions.

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