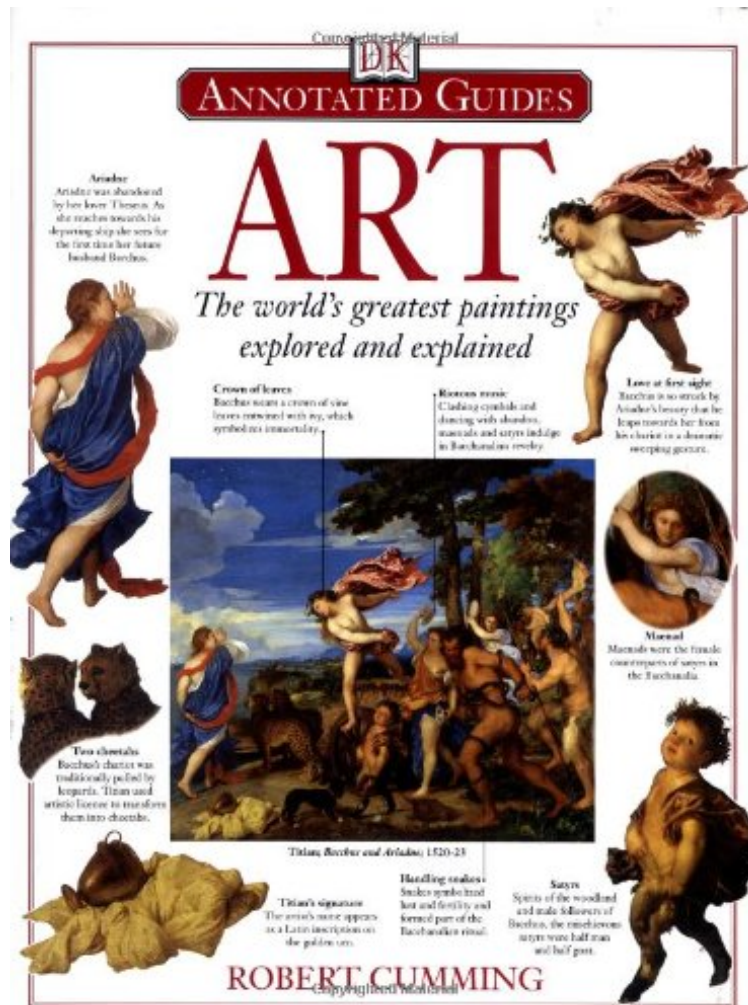


Art (Annotated Guides)

Robert Cumming

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Robert Cumming : Art (Annotated Guides) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Art (Annotated Guides):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I highly recommend this book if you want to understand more about ...By V. B. HuffI highly recommend this book if you want to understand more about famous masterpieces. Why were they painted, what was the artist trying to convey, what style/movement is characteristic in the painting, etc. At the same time, the author suggests that you use your own judgement while studying a piece of art. The psychology behind every work is very subjective and opinions can easily vary. I found it fascinating.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Awesome! Opens up your inner eye towards artBy ShanI always used to think: "Why do other people stare at those paintings? Why is painting X considered more special than painting Y". This is the book which completely opened me up to paintings and gave me a solid footed approach towards looking at them. I now know what

paintings were drawn in what generation, what the masters of those generation did and why those paintings are so great. The book dwells in the minutiae as well as the overall painting. I totally love this book. I study one painting a day - it makes my day! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. great art book By sharky This book was a great art book. It includes many classic works of art. It has wonderful pictures, it also tells you many details about the works of art. We love this book.

Your eyes will indeed be opened, and what you see in works of art will come newly alive when you have Robert Cumming, the former chairman of Christie's International Art Studies, as your guide. With tremendous erudition and tart, provocative opinions, Cumming zeroes in on the essential characteristics of more than 770 painters, showing us, for example, what it was that made Rembrandt's art unique. He explains the conventions of narrative and iconography in Western art, such as the representation of St. Lawrence, who is always seen lying on a hot griddle. And Cumming defines several hundred terms-- both technical (gouache, sfumato, craquelure) and critical/historical (Expressionism, Mannerism, the Hudson River School)-- that so often mystify a viewer. Cumming's no-nonsense guide is enlightening and entertaining; lavishly illustrated with the key works of hundreds of artists; concise and portable enough to use in the "field" (museums and galleries); and so substantial you will refer to it often at home. There is nothing like ART.

From School Library Journal YA? An exploration of some of the world's great paintings, ranging from the works of 14th-century Giotto through the Renaissance and Baroque periods to Neo-Classical and Romantics, on to the Impressionists and Cubists up to Picasso. Cumming describes and decodes each of 45 paintings by graphic commentary using six guidelines: the subject, the technique, the symbolism, space and light, historical style, and personal interpretation. Detailed sections of each painting are analyzed to point out symbols or obscure subjects, to locate unusual signings by the artist, and to describe materials used. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Cumming, chair of Christie's Education, London, takes readers on a guided tour of 45 of the Western world's great works of art. In typical Dorling Kindersley style? reflecting the influence of CD-ROMs, perhaps? each work is illustrated in full and surrounded by numerous excerpted details, sidebars, and annotations. Cumming succinctly discusses the subject, technique, symbolism, space and light elements, and historical style of each and adds his personal interpretation. For Hans Holbein's "The Ambassadors," for example, Cumming gives a short biography of the artist, explains the crises in Europe alluded to in the painting, and points out the odd form in the foreground. The latter, he explains, is a distorted death's-head that is meaningless if viewed from the front but from a certain angle takes the shape of a skull. While not as ambitious as Sister Wendy Beckett's *The Story of Painting* (LJ 11/15/94), this is an exciting introduction to painting for general collections at an attractive price. ?Daniel J. Lombardo, Jones Lib., Amherst, Mass. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist Gr. 9 and up. In an oversize volume that introduces 45 art masterpieces, Cumming points out that there's much more to a painting than subject and technique. Double-page-spread reproductions introduce famous works from the Gothic, Renaissance, neoclassic, baroque, and romantic periods, including Giotto's *The Adoration of the Magi* and Rubens' revealing *Samson and Delilah*. Cumming provides brief introductory remarks, a thumbnail profile of the painter, and some intriguing bits about the work--the story behind it, the significance of various elements, or notes about scale or symbolism. The reproductions are beautiful and large enough to be used with a small group; the close-ups of details will challenge readers to see the whole work in a new light. An excellent resource for art students as well as for teenagers wanting to expand their knowledge before tackling a museum. Stephanie Zvirin