



Bruegel: The Complete Paintings

Rose-Marie Hagen , Rainer Hagen

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At a time when artists were still primarily occupied with religious or mythological subject matter, the great Flemish painter Pieter Bruegel (c. 1525-1569) turned his eye on the everyday. Most of Bruegel's 45 surviving works, which are all reproduced in this book, record the facts of 16th century life in rural or small town communities. In this title in the Basic Art Series, Rose-Marie and Rainer Hagen outline the artist's account of his society and times, and the relevance that account has for us today.

Bruegel: The Complete Paintings Details

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Noah Goats says

When I was a kid my parents had an art history book that contained pictures of hundreds of famous paintings, but the one painting that kept me coming back to the book, again and again, was The Triumph of Death, by Pieter Bruegel. I was in awe of that painting, and could stare at it for quite a long time. I was drawn to the drama of the picture, to its horror. All those skeletons murdering all those people...

I still love Bruegel. I like the way you can stand back and enjoy his paintings as landscapes, usually imbued with a sense of movement and always using color beautifully. But then you can press your nose right up against them and look at the detail. All those figures, some of them very strange, engaged in every sort of human activity. I much prefer Bruegel's earthy humanity to the etherial perfection of the Italian renaissance.

And I enjoyed this book. The text was helpful and the prints beautifully done. A very nice overview of Breugel and his work.

Azamat says

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Aras says

<http://electric-pages.livejournal.com...>

Bernie says

Who would have thought Bruegel was a trail blazer bring saints and the holy family down to human level by making them the same size as normal people. By showing man's need to eat just like animals do and by not conforming to the ideals of the Renaissance style.

The illustrations are of high quality and the book as a whole is a nice introduction to the artist and his time

Kristen says

Northern Renaissance Art. My favorite painter, so I'm biased

Jay says

Good description and coverage of Bruegel's life and paintings. Wish the book was a bit bigger and the pictures larger so that you can see more of the details. Overall a good book.

Karen says

Most interesting.

Kathie Harper says

This is a perfect introduction to the world and work of a trail-blazing and eminent artist who lived during the 16th century. I was first introduced to Bruegel via his painting, Children's Games, while I was in grad school. I was immediately intrigued, and he became one of my favorites. His portraiture of real people and their activities set a direction for the art world that is still in evidence today. My new favorite of his is The Flemish Proverbs, still relevant today. There is a wonderful video about it on Youtube. My interest and appreciation has been aroused again by a course that I have just completed. So much so that I wish I could return to the Kunsthistorisches Museum in Vienna where there is a whole gallery devoted to his paintings. I was blown away the first time but now I would have so much more to see and appreciate.

Leanne says

Another wonderful book in Tashen's series of basic art books. This is a great basic introduction to the artist. I was reading Joseph Koerner's Bosch and Bruegel: From Enemy Painting to Everyday Life <https://www.theguardian.com/books/201...> and found myself getting more and more intrigued by Bruegel and so picked up this book on sale at a local bookstore to get more background, as Koerner's book is quite dense.

Bruegel--like Bosch-- were such one-offs. Their works were more often than not commissioned and it remains mysterious in some sense since the subject matter of both painters is not what you imagine would be particularly desirable back then. Bruegel, for example, mainly painted peasants. He rarely painted the beautiful human form or the nude, but rather painted human beings as they are. Messy and not always so pretty. His landscapes are sublime and the human beings are always situated right in them as in Chinese landscapes--not the focus as in Renaissance painting but part of the natural landscape itself. Both artists seem shockingly modern. This basic art book is not big on interpretation but rather is a solid introduction to the painter.
