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The Art Of Arousal



Synopsis

This is a celebration of one hundred of the most erotic paintings, sculptures, prints and drawings from diverse eras and cultures, coupled together with revealing commentaries about their sexual and aesthetic content. Erotic encounters have been celebrated by artists from the beginning of time. Presenting a wide range of provocative images, this irresistible volume chronicles a startling variety of sensual relationships from flirtation and seduction through consummation to blissful exhaustion. Dr. Ruth explores every element of sexuality expressed in these works of art, including the pleasures of looking, creative masturbation, and the effects on male and female pleasure of the various positions depicted. All the works have been chosen to meet two criteria: everyone portrayed must be having a good time and each image must satisfy a high aesthetic standard.

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Customer Reviews

Well-known sex therapist Westheimer here presents a provocative, richly eclectic, inspirational collection of erotic art. Chapters proceed methodically from flirtation and seduction to foreplay, the embrace, solitary and group pleasures and conclude with blissful exhaustion--a loose framework for organizing more than 100 color reproductions of works by Georgia O'Keeffe, Titian, Watteau, Durer, Manet, Courbet, Egon Schiele, David Hockney and others. The scope is multicultural, embracing Persian miniatures, a Cambodian sandstone female torso, a Dogon primordial couple from west Africa and Hopi carver Fred Koruh's interlocking male and female kachina dolls. Westheimer's exhortatory interjections on foreplay, lovemaking positions and so forth seem intrusive amidst the shrewd art-historical commentaries of her anonymous, albeit acknowledged cultural adviser.

Overall, this is a delightful bedside companion. Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc.

The inimitable sex therapist Dr. Ruth has concocted yet another approach to spark romantic liaisons. Dr. Ruth and an art historian friend "spent days giggling and choosing the illustrations" for this inane publication, which contains over 100 images of erotic artworks. Spanning the centuries from ancient Greek times to the present and representing a multitude of cultures, the illustrations include sexual depictions by such artists as Botticelli, Fragonard, Titian, Rodin, Goya, and Magritte. "Pictures in which everyone was having a good time" are paired with biographical and historical comments spiced with Dr. Ruth's special expertise. In keeping with its intent, the chapters are organized by "the progression of an erotic relationship, from the first glance to postcoital bliss." Art and sex deserve better than this gimmicky book. Not recommended.- Joan Levin, ChicagoCopyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Dr. Ruth takes us through dozens of museums, and using her own knowledge, searching for the history of human arousal. As to be expected, this book contains close-up sexual genitalia, male and female. It is interesting that female genitalia was too exciting in many cases to show directly, while the males were shamelessly displayed in their full naked magnificence. Renaissance artist Leonardo thought that male and female genitalia were hideous and the sexual act repugnant, but fortunately most artists did not agree. There are about 120 erotic paintings, sculphures, and drawings from diverse cultures and eras, including Western art, Japan, Africa, India and Arabia. Her choices were instructive, erotic and beautiful, and entertaining. Fortunately there has always been a strong interest in all societies for sexual arousal, or we wouldn't be here today. I liked it - a nice book for the adult coffee table.

Intriguing historical look at eroticism in art. Very informative and beautiful at the same time. Excellent source for any art student, art enthusiast, art lover, lover of eroticism and of eroticism in art. If you are looking for heaven forbid, "smut", you definitely should look past this particular book as this book is far from trash and instead is romantic, classy, and sensual in nature. Erotic art through the ages, how wonderful! Five stars!!!

The selection of pictures and the quality of printing on very good heavy paper is a pleasure. I guess for newcomers who need to acquaint themselves with the art of arousal it's quite good. For connoisseurs of that art it's not really up to expectations. But if you collect this kind of genre and if

you buy a used edition (mine was essentially new) at a reduced price, it could well be worth the addition.

Westheimer has taken a very different perspective on some well known and lesser known artworks. Interpreting them by the implied or explicit activities depicted provides a different level of appreciation for the artists' abilities.

Dr. Ruth's signed copy of her book met my expectations. Thank you.

boring writing by someone who long ago forgot what true arousal really is. I've been looking at these paintings for decades. the point of the book has totally escaped me.

Poor did not meet my expectation.

No comments

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