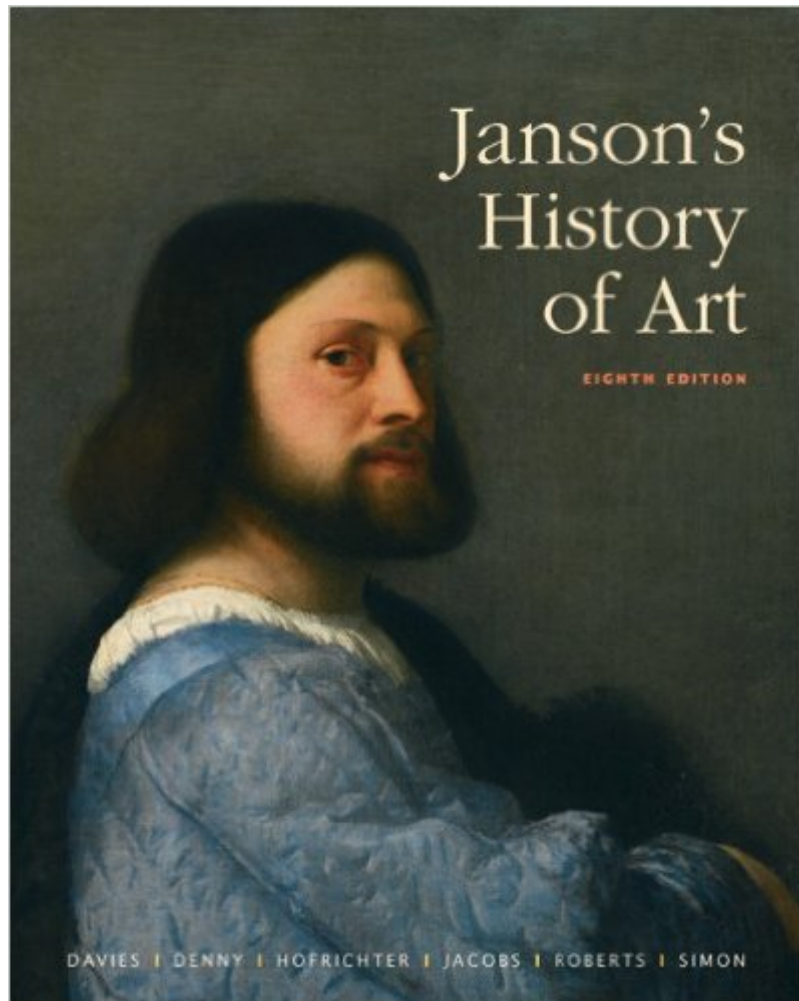


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Janson's History Of Art: The Western Tradition (8th Edition)



Synopsis

For courses in the History of Art. Rewritten and reorganized, this new edition weaves together the most recent scholarship, the most current thinking in art history, and the most innovative online supplements, including digital art library. Experience the new Janson and re-experience the history of art. Long established as the classic and seminal introduction to art of the Western world, the Eighth Edition of Janson's History of Art is groundbreaking. When Harry Abrams first published the History of Art in 1962, John F. Kennedy occupied the White House, and Andy Warhol was an emerging artist. Janson offered his readers a strong focus on Western art, an important consideration of technique and style, and a clear point of view. The History of Art, said Janson, was not just a stringing together of historically significant objects, but the writing of a story about their interconnections, a history of styles and of stylistic change. Janson's text focused on the visual and technical characteristics of the objects he discussed, often in extraordinarily eloquent language. Janson's History of Art helped to establish the canon of art history for many generations of scholars. The new Eighth Edition, although revised to remain current with new discoveries and scholarship, continues to follow Janson's lead in important ways: It is limited to the Western tradition, with a chapter on Islamic art and its relationship to Western art. It keeps the focus of the discussion on the object, its manufacture, and its visual character. It considers the contribution of the artist as an important part of the analysis. This edition maintains an organization along the lines established by Janson, with separate chapters on the Northern European Renaissance, the Italian Renaissance, the High Renaissance, and Baroque art, with stylistic divisions for key periods of the modern era. Also embedded in this edition is the narrative of how art has changed over time in the cultures that Europe has claimed as its patrimony.

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Customer Reviews

Having used this book in my 2002 Art history class, I can say without reservation that it is probably the best Art History book I have studied. A close second would be the History of Modern Art by Arnason. Countless times I have referred to this book for references to art for my blog and personal works of art. If this isn't your school's text book, it should be.

Having slogged through Stokstad, I found myself breezing through Janson. Janson's prose is clear and concise. The photographic reproductions of paintings, sculpture, and architecture is sublime. And most importantly, the analysis of the subject matter is astounding and the best you will find. This is not a small book. At over 1100 pages, this book needs to be enjoyed in small chunks. But if you do manage to finish it, then you are well prepared to understand the evolution of art from Stone Age to whatever age we are in today - Deconstructed Information Age? My only real problem is for the modern period. While talking about Japanese influence on European art (and btw, for the majority of the art, it is Italian and French with some thought given to the UK, Germany, and the US), it would have been nice to have a discussion of Japanese art for a few pages. In this respect Stokstad does a better job - you can see the connections of the Japanese art to the European art. But this does not distract from the exemplary text that is this book. Hopefully this book inspires you to read more detailed books on specific periods - books like the World of Art series.

I've used an earlier edition when I was in high school and finally got around to purchasing this edition for myself. The editors have always done an excellent job with each addition. The book is rich in information and most up-to-date with the latest information. Each page has graphic elements, from several pictures or multiple diagrams. Though thick and heavy, it's great for the coffee table.

This is a great art history reference book. I'm only through the first 8 or so chapters, but it is very well written, it's detailed, and the illustrations are great, fine color, line, and detail. It appears to be very sturdy and the paper stock is heavy. Of course, the quality and size of this book make it very, very heavy. You won't lug this tome to the museum as a handy reference source!. While it's pricey, I think the quality (physical as well as content), scope, and size of this book make it a very good purchase.

I used the original Janson when I took art history in college. I bought this for my son and started reading it on my own. What a wonderful rework of this classic. It provides very accessible descriptions of historical context as well as clear presentations of the impact of "technology" (i.e. development of various media) on the ability of the artists of various periods to express themselves. Love this book.

As an art history student I have read many an art history tome. They have ranged from sleep-inducing books written by my own professors, to badly-translated oeuvres from scholars across the Atlantic, to glorified picture books. However, I was very grateful to find that both Volume I and II of Janson's History of Art were written with a clarity unsurpassed by any other art book I've read, while retaining enough useful and surprisingly interesting information to cover at least two semester's worth of art history courses. For a student studying western art or simply any person interested in the subject, I strongly recommend purchasing this publication.

Bought this for my daughter for college art requirement. She liked it so well that she wanted to keep it instead of selling it at the end of semester. Lots of valuable information in here and examples by photo's.

Jansen's History of Art is simply a beautiful book with all the information you need to get familiar with the world of art from the Paleolithic era till today. One short advice: if you're planning a long vacation/trip to the overseas while attending an online class (like myself), please make sure to buy the electronic version, because the book is huge, and extremely heavy!

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