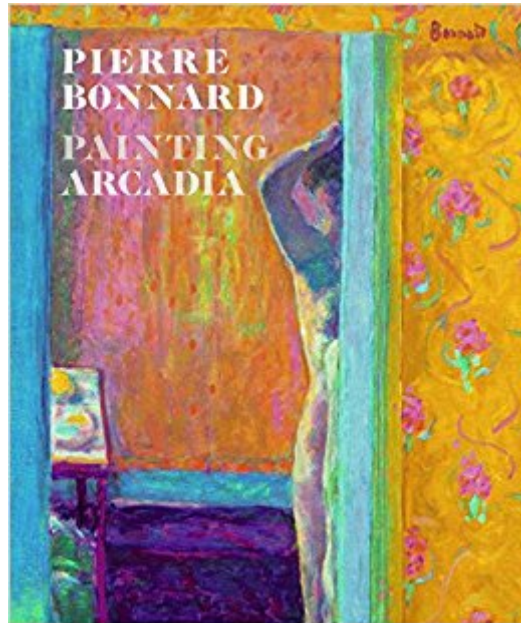




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Pierre Bonnard: Painting Arcadia



Synopsis

This lavishly illustrated volume examines the genius of Pierre Bonnard, whose utopian vision bridged both Impressionism and modernism. Pierre Bonnard is often considered a painter of idyllic scenes, replete with color and serenity, however, this view overlooks many of the most striking aspects of Bonnard's oeuvre. Over the course of his career, Bonnard worked within "often expanding and challenging" many genres and techniques. Alternating between the traditions of Impressionism and the abstract visual modes of modernism, Bonnard addressed elements present within many movements in order to synthesize a world worthy of his utopian vision. As this exquisitely produced volume reveals, Bonnard's work evolved radically over the course of his career. Included in its pages are illustrations of well-known examples alongside rarely exhibited pieces, which represent the many thematic and stylistic compositions of Bonnard's work. The book features the murals and tapestries he created with the Nabis; his lush interiors and depictions of his wife, Marthe; his extraordinary use of rich color, brush strokes, and perspective; and his contemplative portraits. Interwoven throughout these dazzling reproductions are illuminating texts by acclaimed critics who draw on the latest research to present a multi-dimensional account of the artist. Readers of this gorgeous, authoritative book can look forward to a visual and intellectual treat in which Bonnard's status is elevated from a forerunner of modernism to one of the greatest painters of the 19th and 20th centuries.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Guy Cogeval is President of the Musee d'Orsay and the Musee de l'Orangerie in Paris. Isabel Cahn

is Chief Curator of Paintings at the Musee d'Orsay.

There are many color reproductions of works I had not seen before, and some seen only in black and white. Some of the repros seem a bit pale. I say this having seen his large retrospective in New York a few years ago. The book also indulges in something MOMA would seemingly never do: splitting a horizontal repro between two pages so you cannot see the image flat as a rectangular whole. I hate that practice...very disrespectful! The text is mediocre, abounding in hazy generalities and multiple cultural references, especially French ones. If you have read the MOMA catalog by Elderfield and Whitfield, or any other penetrating studies of his work you will be disappointed. There is a voluminous section on Bonnard's photography, which for me does not add to an appreciation of his paintings. A section on his drawings would have been more appropriate. The works are not in anything like chronological order, and the authors/sponsors seem proud of this. For me this is not helpful. In short the organization of topics seems random and scattershot. I would give it 3 stars were it not for the glory of his work.

It tells about his entire painting career but it didn't show some of my favorite paintings of his

Gorgeous color illustrations as well as very well done commentary.

So many of the reproductions seemed radically different from those in other books, I really have nothing to say until I see the exhibition. Generally speaking the most recent publications have the best color in regard to accuracy due to digital photography. The text is excellent and varied with several authors so I do have high hopes. It does seem a rather unusual gathering of works as well, with many seemingly minor pieces. This is of course because it is basically an exhibition catalog.

A beautiful book of a phenomenal artist.

Wonderful exhibit of his work

wonderful

The quality of reproduction varies considerably. I would have liked to see more reproductions of Bonnard's magical late paintings.

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