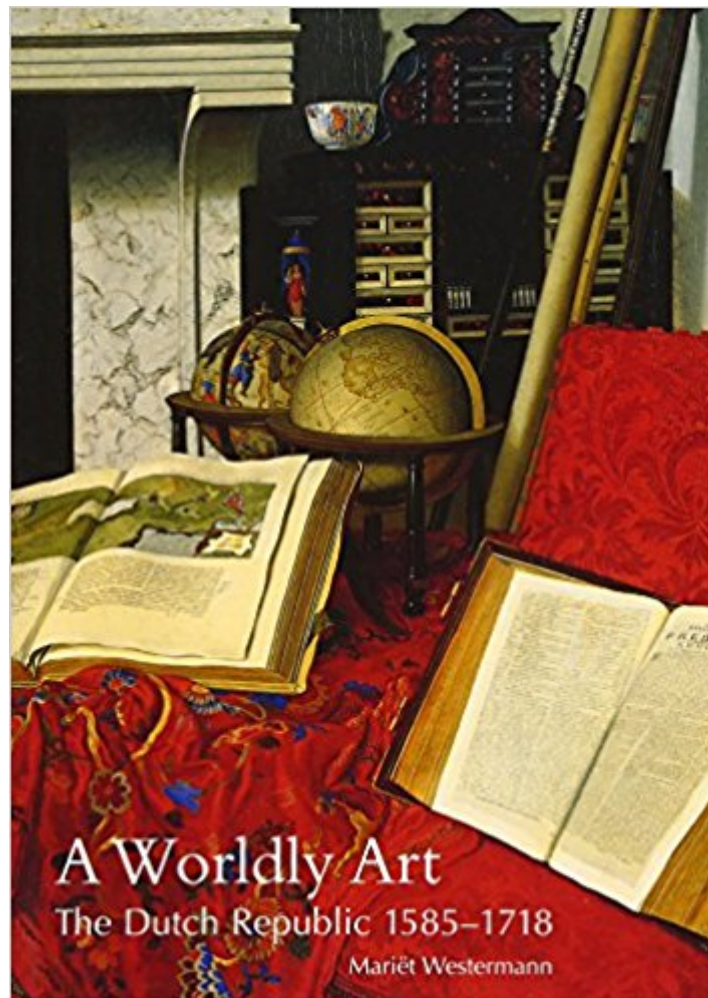


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A Worldly Art: The Dutch Republic, 1585-1718



Synopsis

Newly independent in 1585, the increasingly prosperous and politically powerful Dutch Republic experienced a tremendous rise in the production of artwork that was unparalleled in quantity, variety, and beauty. Now back in print, this classic book (originally published in 1996) examines the country's rich artistic culture in the seventeenth century, providing a full account of Dutch artists and patrons; artistic themes and techniques; and the political and social world in which artists worked. Distinguished art historian Mariëtte Westermann examines the 'worldly art' of this time in the context of the unique society that produced it, analyzing artists' choices and demonstrating how their pictures tell particular stories about the Dutch Republic, its people, and its past. More than 100 color illustrations complement this engaging discussion of an extraordinary moment in the history of art.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The paintings covered in this appealing book by Mariëtte Westermann were intended to not only please, but to serve as a kind of visual catalog of the period. Whether the subject was interior or exterior, the paintings provide an almost photographic record that bring to life the physical surroundings of the Dutch people of the 17th century. In doing so, they provide insight into their hearts and souls as well. And Westermann proves to be a capable guide through the era. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"The most intelligent and readable introduction to Dutch art in any size or shape. . . . 'Magisterial' is

the only way to describe this attractive, still cogent text."â •Larry Silver, Sixteenth Century Journal

This is a handsome, well made book that looks like it should hold together. There's a great selection of pictures. Ms. Westerman has a somewhat lewd taste, which I appreciate. The text is smart, readable and useful. My chief interest is historical rather than artistic, but the book works well both ways. Very nice.

Quite informative and I was pleased to be able to see some of the paintings in Amsterdam

A well-written setting of the Dutch masters in the very complex political, cultural and religious setting of the time. It was also a period of rapid Dutch expansion into the East and West Indies via eponymous companies the nation founded, a period also of intense focus on science. All this is well communicated, with copious illustrations. Simon Schama's histories of the period also recommended.

The quality and size of the images in this book makes this into a very pleasurable visual experience. Mariet Westermann's analysis on the historical context and meaning of these paintings is an excellent way to learn about the significance of this type of early modern European art. I recommend it for any art lover.

This book is beautifully printed and full of not only splendid pictures, but much useful information. This is the kind of book to put on your shelf for reference over and over. And, on a gloomy day, it will be a delight to get out and look through again.

Very interesting read, discusses trends in Dutch art during the golden age thematically instead of chronologically which really makes more sense for the period. Very easy read, informative.

The writing, reproductions, insights and analysis make this book a must read for anyone who loves art and art history. If you admire the paintings and the painters from this era, don't miss reading this brilliant book.

Excellent book. Overview of the Golden Age in Netherlandish art. I had read prior books by Westermann, which led me to this purchase. Highly recommended as a primer on the subject.

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