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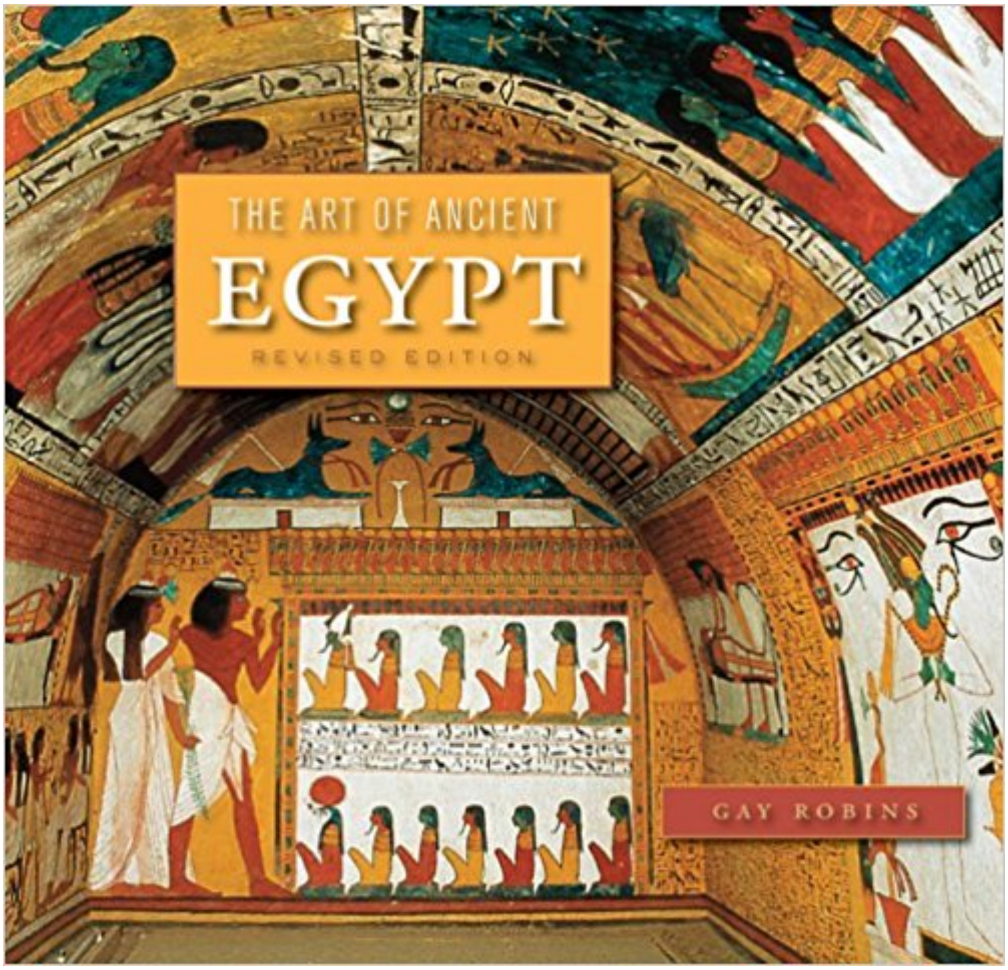
The Art Of Ancient Egypt: Revised Edition



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Synopsis

From the awesome grandeur of the Great Pyramids to the delicacy of a face etched on an amulet, the spellbinding power of ancient Egyptian art persists to this day. Spanning three thousand years, this beautifully illustrated history offers a thorough and delightfully readable introduction to the artwork even as it provides insight into questions that have long engaged experts and amateurs alike. In its scope, its detail, and its eloquent reproduction of over 250 objects, Gay RobinsÃ¢â ¬â„¢s classic book is without parallel as a guide to the art of ancient Egypt. And her eagerly awaited new edition includes many new color photographs and a fully revised and updated bibliography.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Robins (art history, Emory Univ.) has produced the first significant general survey of ancient Egyptian art in the English language since Cyril Aldred’s Egyptian Art in the Days of the Pharaohs, 3100-320 BC (Oxford Univ., 1980) and W. Stevenson Smith’s The Art and Architecture of Ancient Egypt (Penguin, 1981). The first chapter orients the reader in the cultural, technical, and iconographic contexts needed to explore the evolution of the Egyptian artistic tradition in subsequent chapters. Beginning with the predynastic origins (5000 BCE) and concluding in the Ptolemaic Period (304-30 BCE), Robins traces the development of sculpture, painting, funerary and religious art, and architecture with over 300 illustrations, many in color. Unique to this survey is the inclusion of Ptolemaic art and the attention paid to the decoration of sarcophagi, coffins, and mummy cartonnages over three millennia. The text is authoritative and fully referenced with an

excellent bibliography. This work will interest general readers as well as scholars and is recommended for all public and academic libraries.?Edward K. Werner, St. Lucie Cty. Lib. Sys., Ft. Pierce, Fla.Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

delight anyone interested in the art and archaeology of the ancient world.Covering three millennia of Egyptian art, this beautifully illustrated volume presents and chronological survey of the monuments and art works of the ruling elite of ancient Egypt...This book is sure to delight anyone interested in the art and archaeology of the ancient world. -- Rhonda Cooper "KLIATT"Robins has produced the first significant general survey of ancient Egyptian art in the English language since Cyril Aldred's "Egyptian Art in the Days of the Pharaohs, 3100-320 BC "and W. Stevenson Smith's "The Art and Architecture of Ancient Egypt,.".Unique to this survey is the inclusion of Ptolemaic art and the attention paid to the decoration of sarcophagi, coffins, and mummy cartonages over three millennia. The text is authoritative and fully referenced with an excellent bibliography. This work will interest general readers as well as scholars and is recommended for all public and academic libraries. -- Edward K. Werner "Library Journal"

The Art of Ancient Egypt is, in a word, magnificent. In the foreward, Robins writes that her primary aim is to explore the reasons why art was so important to the ancient Egyptians. She succeeds brilliantly. There are over 300 images in the book - most of them color photographs - showing the stylistic changes in Egyptian art from the early dynastic period through the Ptolemies. While the vast majority of the art is for royality, in each period of Egyptian history Robins includes a close consideration of "non-royal monuments." And while art is the primary focus of the book, a good third of her attention is directed towards architecture as well. I cannot think of anything more that I would want or expect on the topic.With this ringing endorsement, a few details that Robins brought to my attention that I had never considered or realized. The first (and most significant) is that Egyptian art *does* change and evolve over time. Certainly there are consistent themes and forms in the art, the changes subtle and nuanced, but the joy (and interest) of studying this is finding and explaining these differences. For example, following the end of the Old Kingdom (2134 BCE), provincial rulers in Upper Egypt didn't have access to the skilled artisans in Memphis (the cultural center of ancient Egypt), and therefore had to use whatever local talent they had. As a result, Upper Egyptian art from the First Intermediate Period (2134 - 2040 BCE) has its own unique style: large eyes, a high, small back, and a lack of musculature in male figures. WIth the reunification of Egypt during the Middle

Kingdom (2040 BCE - 1640 BCE), there is a deliberate return to Old Kingdom styles, a signal of political centralization and an underscoring of the connection between the 11th dynasty kings and the Old Kingdom 6th dynasty.Another detail that I had seen (but had been wholly unaware of) was the proportions the Egyptians used, and how the relationship of these proportions changed over time. For example, in the 12th dynasty (1991 - 1793 BCE), there were 18 "squares" between the sole of a figure's feet and the crown of the head. These proportions changed between the 13th and 17th dynasties (1793 - 1150 BCE) and again with the 18th dynasty (1550 - 1307 BCE) - most noticably during the reign of the "heretic king" Amunhotep IV / Alhenaten (when not only the proportions changed, but so too the number of sqaures increased to accomodate for the longer neck and face.)Robins' writing style is academic without being pretentious -the way in which she seamlessly synthesizes the broader themes of Egyptian society with the major historical events of ancient Egypt while connecting them to the trends and changes in art is another strength of the book. She does this so well, readers are likely not to notice; to pull this off seeminlgy so effortlessly is not easy, and is testament to her skill as a writer and her mastery of the subject.For those interested in art history, I imagine this would be a "must-have" text, as well as those with a strong interest (like me) in ancient Egypt. Highly recommended.

This book is a classic, plain and simple. Robins is the leading (living) expert on Egyptian art, and her introduction to it in this lavishly illustrated volume is the most up-to-date source out there. Other classics (for instance, William Stevenson Smith's volume) are perhaps more thorough, but they are also so old as to border on antiquated at this point.

The opening orientation guides the reader / student to the fundamentals of understanding ancient Egyptian "art." The photographs of paintings, statues, and walls stun with beauty and the descriptions are clarion.

This book is written for a laymen to understand and the imagery in this book is fabulous! I can't think of a page that doesn't show at least some images of Egyptian Art. Definitely worth the money.

Book arrived incredibly quick. This is an assigned textbook for my class on Ancient Egyptian Art. This is a book I will enjoy referencing long after my course concludes.

This book covers Egyptian art period by period, from the Predynastic Period into the Old Kingdom,

the Intermediate periods, the Middle Kingdom and the New Kingdom. The text is easy to read, and the many pictures do a great job of showing you hundreds of examples of ancient Egyptian art. I was very, very impressed with the artistic achievements of this ancient land and found myself gazing at the pictures in downright amazement. Robins explains each period's artistic conventions and styles and discusses changes in those styles over time and across media, going into enough detail to let you know what is going on without becoming tedious. She talks about statues, tomb paintings, wall carvings, jewelry, coffins, furniture, and many other art forms within these pages and discusses the gods of ancient Egypt and their roles along the way to enlightening you as to what you're seeing.I am a beginner at ancient Egyptian art, and this book was geared toward me. It has simple, straightforward explanations and excellent captions for the images that tell you what you're looking at and its significance to the field of Egyptian art. I read the entire book but must admit I bought it for the pictures, which are full color and represent many types and styles of art objects. Nothing tells art history like pictures, which you can examine to your heart's content; the explanations can point out and explain relevant features, but you must take in these features with your own two eyes in order to absorb them properly. A must-have for the beginner in Egyptology who wants a firm foundation in the art history of one of the world's greatest civilizations!

I enjoy browsing through this book very much. It is beautifully illustrated and the text is informative and complements the illustrations.

I bought this book as a text book for a college class. Not only did I learn so much about the art of this amazing ancient society, I learned about their culture that spanned for thousands of years. This book will definitely give you a deep understanding on Egyptian art.

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