



Botticelli: Life and Work

By Ronald Lightbown

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Every aspect of Botticelli's work--his devotional and secular art, portraits, illustrations, and depictions of classical myth--are examined with a text that is a perfect complement to the magnificent art. 350 illustrations, 250 in full color.

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Botticelli: Life and Work By Ronald Lightbown Bibliography

- Rank: #1541209 in Books
- Published on: 1989-10-20
- Ingredients: Example Ingredients
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 1.60" h x 11.39" w x 13.27" l, 7.05 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 336 pages

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

"There is no more radiant picture in European art than this," writes Lightbown of Botticelli's Birth of Venus. That painting, as well as the Primavera and other Botticelli masterpieces, have been newly cleaned in the past decade, so the radiance of their reproductions dazzle in this expanded revision of Lightbown's 1978 monograph. An absorbing text, fresh photographs of every autograph work and marvelous enlarged details of the cleaned ones situate the Florentine innovator in the hothouse of 15th-century politics and Renaissance culture. How did Botticelli break away from the Gothic style of his mentors to achieve his powerful, plastic idiom? By painful trial and error, Lightbown demonstrates. This British expert on Renaissance painting discusses Botticelli's remarkable portraits (only eight or so survive), his religious visions and the agitated energy of his almost hallucinatory drawings for Dante's Divine Comedy. All students of Botticelli should own this resplendent volume.

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Review

Lightbown's monograph . . . has long been considered the definitive text on Botticelli. A newly revised version just released updates the author's critical consideration of the artist's work, and presents new, fresh illustrations of works that have been cleaned in the past decade. . . . Even in reproduction these works have never looked so good. -- *San Diego Tribune*, 12/8/89

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