



The Art of Suicide (Picturing History)

By Ron M. Brown

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The Art of Suicide is a history of the visual representation of suicide from the ancient world to its decriminalization in the twentieth century. After looking at instances of voluntary death in ancient Greece, Ron Brown discusses the contrast between the extraordinary absence of such events in early Christianity and the proliferation of images of biblical suicides in the late medieval era. He emphasizes how differing attitudes to suicide in the early modern world slowly merged, and pays particular attention to the one-time chasm between so-called heroic suicide and self-destruction as a 'crying crime'.

Brown tracks the changes surrounding the perception of suicide into the pivotal Romantic era, with its notions of the 'man of feeling', ready to hurl himself into the abyss over a woman or an unfinishable poem. After the First World War, the meaning of death and attitudes towards suicide changed radically, and in time this led to its decriminalization. The 20th century in fact witnessed a growing ambivalence towards suicidal acts, which today are widely regarded either as expressions of a death-wish or as cries for help. Brown concludes with Warhol's picture of Marilyn Monroe and the videos taken by the notorious Dr Kevorkian.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

More desperate pursuits are illustrated in *The Art of Suicide*, a scholarly look at the depiction of self-murder in painting and other visual forms, from Rembrandt's *Lucretia* to the tawdry engravings in Victorian England's Illustrated Police News to the more abstract representations by Man Ray and Warhol. Studying the Didos and Judases and Ophelias depicted over the last two millennia, Ron M. Brown, a teaching fellow in the Faculty of Health and Environment at Leeds University in Britain, analyzes the competing cultural perceptions of, and moral questions regarding, suicide in the Western world, from the heroic suicides of antiquity to the 20th century's clinical cases.

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Review

'The Art of Suicide is a fascinating cultural history of images of self-murder from antiquity to the present, taking in Dido, Judas, Ophelia and Vincent along the way.' - Books of the Year, The Independent 'scholarly and informative ... and yet it is not a dry book; far from it' - Church Times

About the Author

Ron M. Brown is Teaching Fellow in the Faculty of Health and Environment at Leeds Metropolitan University.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Gary Glover:

This *The Art of Suicide (Picturing History)* are generally reliable for you who want to become a successful person, why. The main reason of this *The Art of Suicide (Picturing History)* can be one of many great books you must have is definitely giving you more than just simple studying food but feed a person with information that might be will shock your before knowledge. This book is actually handy, you can bring it just about everywhere and whenever your conditions throughout the e-book and printed people. Beside that this *The Art of Suicide (Picturing History)* giving you an enormous of experience including rich vocabulary, giving you test of critical thinking that we understand it useful in your day task. So , let's have it and luxuriate in reading.

Elvia Wirtz:

Reading a publication tends to be new life style within this era globalization. With reading you can get a lot of information that could give you benefit in your life. Using book everyone in this world may share their idea. Books can also inspire a lot of people. Plenty of author can inspire all their reader with their story or maybe their experience. Not only the story that share in the books. But also they write about the information about something that you need case in point. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach your sons or daughters, there are many kinds of book that you can get now. The authors on this planet always try to improve their ability in writing, they also doing some research before they write for their book. One of them

is this The Art of Suicide (Picturing History).

Robin Boucher:

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