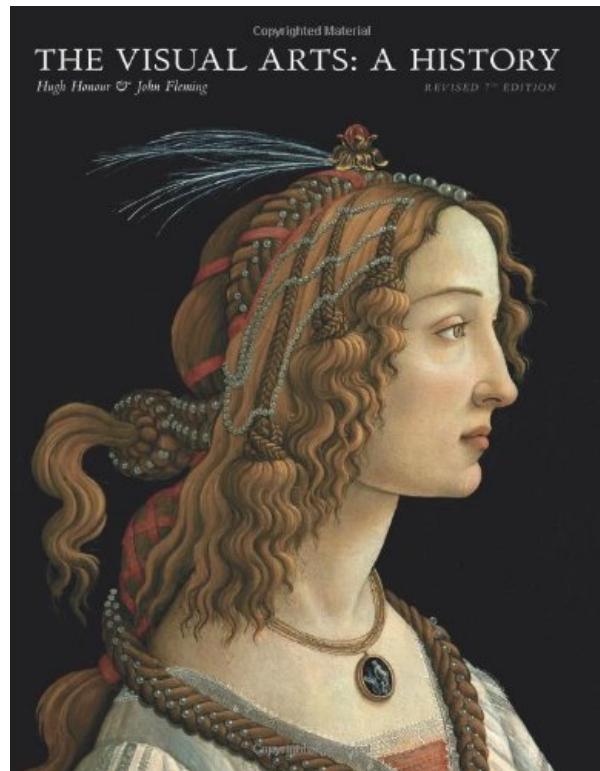
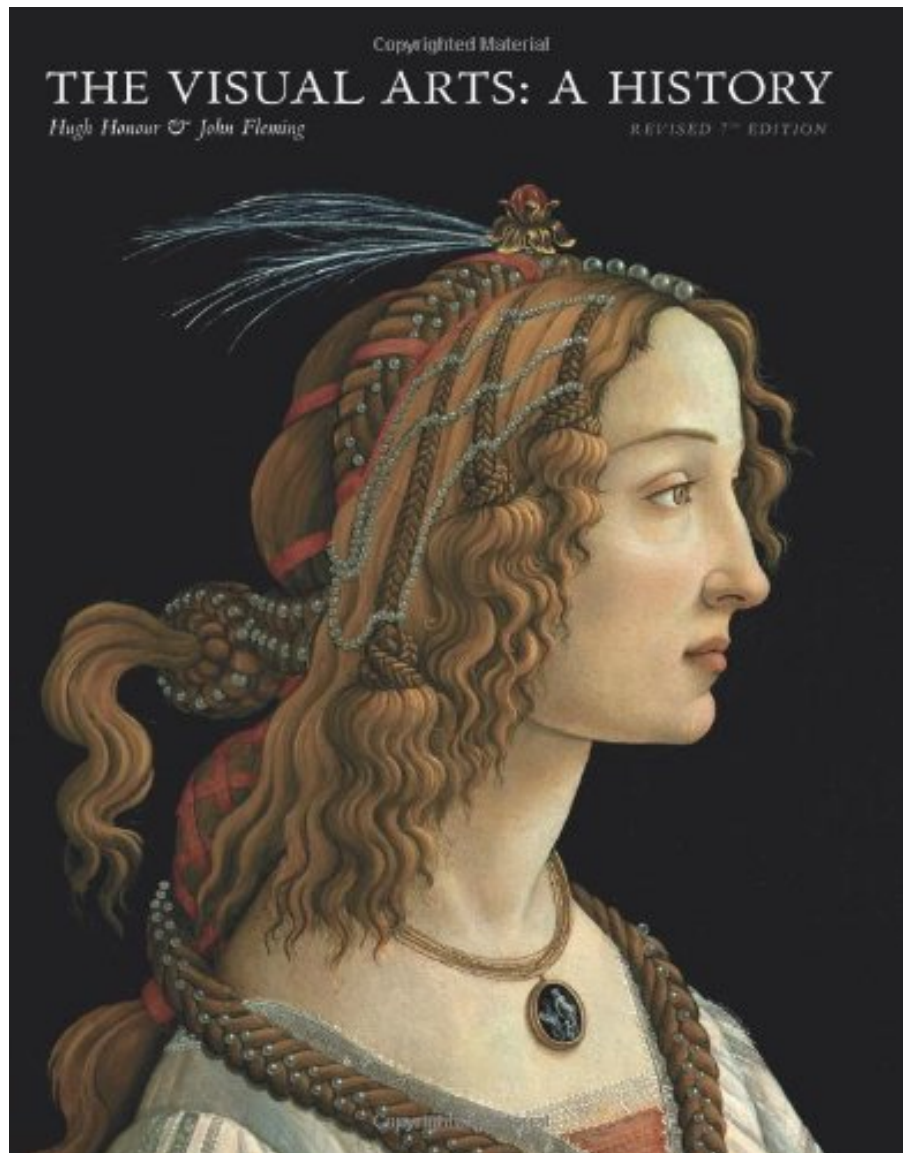


THE VISUAL ARTS: A HISTORY BY HUGH HONOUR, JOHN FLEMING



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From Booklist

Originally published in 2009, this most recent edition of Honour and Fleming's classic art-history text is now being marketed to a general audience at a more affordable price. With a chronology that stretches from prehistory to the present day in nearly 1,000 pages and 1,500 color and black-and-white images, this book aims to be comprehensive, as befitting its stated goal of being "exploratory rather than critical." Photography, architecture, and digital and installation art are discussed, along with traditional media, such as painting and sculpture. Unlike many art-history books, the focus here goes beyond Western art, and topics such as colonialism and indigenous art are addressed within the chronological organization rather than in separate sections or volumes. Also notable is the attention devoted to contemporary art. The final chapter, "Into the Third Millennium," focuses on art from the 1980s to the early 2010s. Contributed by contemporary art historian Michael Archer, the chapter addresses recent developments from a global perspective, including sections on "Postmodern Multiculturalism" and "Globalization, Sensation, and Spectacle." Each chapter begins with a time line that juxtaposes historical landmarks with events in the visual arts. "In Context," "Urban Development," and "Sources and Documents" boxes provide historical, religious, and cultural context and excerpts from relevant primary source documents. The book also includes a glossary, lists of further reading for each chapter, and an index. Classic art-history surveys are regularly updated but often at a significantly higher cost. At just \$75, this book represents an affordable and comprehensive addition to academic, school, and public library collections. --Lindsay Harmon

About the Author

Hugh Honour is one of the leading art historians of the 20th century. He is co-author with Nikolaus Pevsner and John Fleming of *The Penguin Dictionary of Architecture*.

John Fleming founded and edited with Hugh Honour the *Pelican Style and Civilization* series. He died in 2001.

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For over a quarter of a century this art historical tour de force has consistently proved the classic introduction to humankind's artistic heritage. From our Paleolithic past to our digitised present, every continent and culture is covered in an articulate and well-balanced discussion--a broad and epic canvas that omits none of the fine detail. In this Revised Seventh Edition, contemporary art historian Michael Archer has brought the account of contemporary art up to date, reflecting the latest developments that continue to shape out cultural history.

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2001.

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34 of 34 people found the following review helpful.

A Lucid Overview of Art in Context

By L. Nguyen

This book is a marvelously wide-ranging foray into art as practiced from prehistoric to modern times. What sets it apart from other surveys is the care the authors have taken to place art and artists in their cultural, political, and religious context. (For instance, the economics and theology of medieval Christendom are discussed as a background that focuses more sharply the true significance and accomplishment of the Gothic cathedral.) The book also provides time charts for each chapter, and sidebars quoting primary sources and contemporary responses to art. Over 1,300 illustrations, maps, and diagrams are included. In elegant and readable prose, the authors explore the creation of art not only through time but also across continents. Art from the Americas, Africa, and the East (Near and Far) are discussed in addition to the more familiar Western European masterpieces. I consider *The Visual Arts: A History* to be a lucid, thorough, and wonderfully written account of the impulse toward and creation of art as it has developed throughout history and within different cultures.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Comprehensive Art History Volume

By Natasha343

I purchased this to have a comprehensive art history overview to assist me in working as a volunteer docent. It's definitely comprehensive at least in terms of its size, but doesn't contain detailed information on each piece reviewed (which really isn't the purpose of the volume and I'll use different resources for that). The historical/chronological/geographic information is well organized, the color plates are stunning and the information is cogently presented. It is an extraordinarily large and heavy book with relatively small print on glossy paper so reading large chunks of it at one time is a bit of a strain on my old eyes and arms but I'm happy with the purchase.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Not for anyone, but very good for those hoping to learn about artworks, artists, and the cultural climate that inspired them.

By Charles C. Larson

If you enjoy learning about the evolution of art through the ages, along with the cultural circumstances that inspired the artists, you will enjoy this book. It can be dry reading at times, but that is a minor fault of such a thorough work. I was disappointed that the authors showed their bias at the time of the writing, by focusing on artists who were supposedly the best of their times, while omitting many who are seen as inspirational....John Singer Sargent for example. But this is a small criticism and any work such as this has to have limits. Not a book to be interesting to all, but among art histories, this is one of the better.

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