**Synopsis**

This beautifully produced survey of over a thousand years of Western art and architecture introduces the reader to a vast period of history ranging from ancient Rome to the age of exploration. The monumental arts and the diverse minor arts of the Middle Ages are presented here within the social, religious, and political frameworks of lands as varied as France and Denmark, Spain and Turkey. Marilyn Stokstad also teaches her reader how to look at medieval art—which aspects of architecture, sculpture, or painting are important and for what reasons. Stylistic and iconographic issues and themes are thoroughly addressed with attention paid to aesthetic and social contexts. Significantly updated, this second edition of Medieval Art spans the period from the second to the fifteenth centuries and includes over 4000 illustrations, over 100 in color, detailed maps, a time-line, glossary, bibliography, and index—all in a larger 8 by 10 inch trim size.

**Book Information**

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**Customer Reviews**

As an art historian in medieval art I would suggest this book if you are looking for a work that is more detailed than the all-encompassing art historical books on Western Art. However, its content is quite dense, almost cramped, in its attempt to cover so many art objects in such a brief manner. Consequently, the writing can be quite dry and hard to follow. If one is searching for a work that has a more leisurely pace but is just as informative, I would suggest the work by James Snyder of the same title. Its more lengthy, but far more detailed and focused on particular objects—a good basic text for the novice or professional.
As an art student, I have found Stockstad's book a great help and a source of pleasure. The book contains wide and relevant information about the art of the Middle Ages - from its early days to the high Gothis. The different chapters offer the reader a relevant and comfortable division to chapters and issues. Wide historical background, suggested by Stockstad in every chapter, is interesting and important for understanding the cultural, religious and political surrounding of the special art of these days. Many color pictures make the book easier and more enjoyable to read and remember even for a non-English reader and the whole experience of the book can be summarised into "great".

Stockstad is a well-known art history author and she doesn't disappoint here either. I had to use this as a textbook for a Medieval Art class. Lots of pictures, lots of words, but that's what I expected and would be disappointed otherwise from Stockstad if it were any other way.

I don't really know how to review textbooks. They're usually all awful, aren't they? Hahah. Useful book with pretty artwork inside.

This was an easy read which is not so common in art history textbooks. The pictures were easy to scan and research. I liked that the history was given to the reader in a way so that you don't have to re-read and ponder over every paragraph thinking "WHAT?!"... I'm keeping it as my future reference for any medieval art I come across.

great book

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