



Painting in France in the 15th Century

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ISBN	9788874391202
Publisher	5 Continents Editions
Binding	Hardback
Territory	World excluding Italy & France
Size	240 mm x 170 mm
Pages	156 Pages
Illustrations	64 color, 13 b&w
Price	£14.95

- This publication looks at the study of paintings produced in France in the 15th century, which has led to the rediscovery of several forgotten personalities (such as Jean Hey, Antoine de Lonhy)

The study of fifteenth-century painting in France was inaugurated a century ago by the exhibition *Primitifs français* (1904) and has developed considerably over the past few decades, especially thanks to the work of Charles Sterling, Michel Laclotte, Nicole Reynaud, and François Avril. This research has led to the revival of several forgotten figures (Barthélemy d Eyck, André d Ypres, Antoine de Lonhy, Jean Hey, Jean Poyer, etc.) and the reassessment of many centres of artistic production. Linked together, they formed a crucial part of the trade network across Europe. It is this extremely complex artistic geography that this book's three sections attempt to recreate. The first is devoted to the interplay between the French courts and Paris, as a thriving centre of artistic production at the time of the flowering of international gothic (1380-1435). The second examines the spread of *ars nova* (the illusionist art of Flanders) and its selective adoption in the kingdom of France in the time of Charles VII and Louis XI (1435-1483). The third concentrates on the gradual development of a generally accepted standard form of the French language, based on the model of Jean Fouquet and evolving in parallel to the work of the grand rhetoricians under Charles VIII and Louis XII (1483-1515).

Frédéric Elsig teaches medieval art history at the University of Geneva, where he obtained his PhD with a thesis on Hieronymus Bosch. He is an expert on fifteenth- and sixteenth-century European art, and has helped organise several exhibitions, particularly *El Renacimiento Mediterráneo* (Madrid, 2001) and *Hieronymus Bosch* (Rotterdam, 2001). He was co-curator of *La Renaissance en Savoie* (Geneva, 2002) and with his seminar students is currently preparing the catalogue of Dutch and Flemish paintings (prior to 1620) in the Musée d'Art et d'Histoire in Geneva.