



The History of Gardens in Painting

Niles Büttner

ISBN	9780789209931
Publisher	Abbeville Press
Binding	Hardback
Territory	World excluding USA, Canada, Puerto Rico, and Australia
Size	307 mm x 279 mm
Pages	240 Pages
Price	£67.99

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An original, splendidly illustrated history of gardens as seen through the eyes of painters by the highly acclaimed author of *Landscape Painting: A History*.

The creation of gardens was among the first achievements of early civilizations, and garden design was already highly developed in antiquity. Pictures of gardens are a reflection of the social, historical, and aesthetic context in which gardens were conceived. The focus of this captivating book is not the gardens themselves or the different concepts of the garden, but rather the representation of gardens in paintings. The author examines why artists paint gardens by covering the varied and lively 2,000-year history of the garden picture using 180 garden masterpieces as examples.

The text begins with a look at ancient Rome, when paintings of gardens, as found in villas in Pompeii, were already valued as works of art. The wide-ranging coverage also includes pictures of charming medieval gardens in books of hours; Botticelli's masterwork *La Primavera*, set in a grove of orange trees; views of well-known historic gardens, such as those at Versailles; painter's gardens, as for example, Monet's Giverny; and modern gardens depicted by Frida Kahlo, Andy Warhol, and David Hockney, among others. For collectors of art history books and garden books, this lovely volume should appeal to a broad audience.

Nils Büttner is a professor of art history at Dortmund University. He is the author of *The Invention of the Landscape*, the co-author of several books, the author of numerous catalogue essays, and a curator of a number of museum exhibitions.