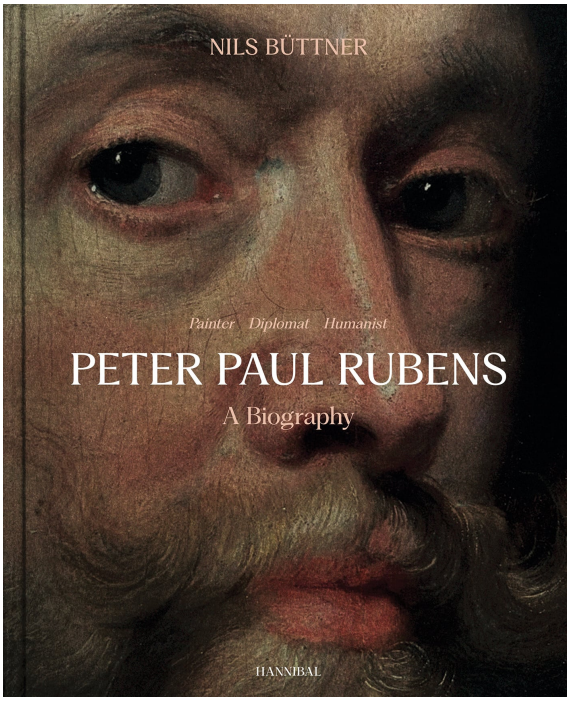
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Peter Paul Rubens: Painter, Diplomat, Humanist

A Biography

Nils Büttner

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- Celebrate Rubens' 450th anniversary with the ultimate and richly illustrated artist biography
- First translation to English of Nils Büttner bestselling Rubens biography, originally published in German
- Moves beyond the traditional "isolated genius" narrative to examine Rubens as a savvy entrepreneur, workshop director, and active cultural participant in the European Baroque

Peter Paul Rubens (1577–1640) is one of the best-documented artists of the early modern period. His life and work are characterized by a remarkable interplay of artistic production, intellectual exchange, and social positioning within the context of the Southern Netherlandish Baroque. His vast oeuvre, comprising around 2,500 works, is documented in the *Corpus Rubenianum*, the largest art-historical cataloguing project in the world. His correspondence, with hundreds of surviving letters, also offers unique insight into his network, diplomatic activities, and views on art theory and practice.

In this book, Prof. Dr. Nils Büttner approaches Rubens not primarily as an isolated genius, but as a social and cultural actor deeply embedded in the political, religious, and economic dynamics of his time. Particular attention is paid to his interactions with contemporaries, the organization of his workshop, and the reception of his work within a broader European context.

Nils Büttner (born 9 February 1967 in Bremen) is a German art historian and curator specializing in Peter Paul Rubens and Early Modern European art. He is Professor of History at the State Academy of Fine Arts Stuttgart and chairman of the Centrum Rubenianum in Antwerp, where he oversees the *Corpus Rubenianum*, the authoritative catalogue raisonné of Rubens's work. His research also explores artists such as Hieronymus Bosch, Johannes Vermeer, and Rembrandt. He has contributed to major exhibitions, including *Rubens in Genoa* (2022–2023).

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