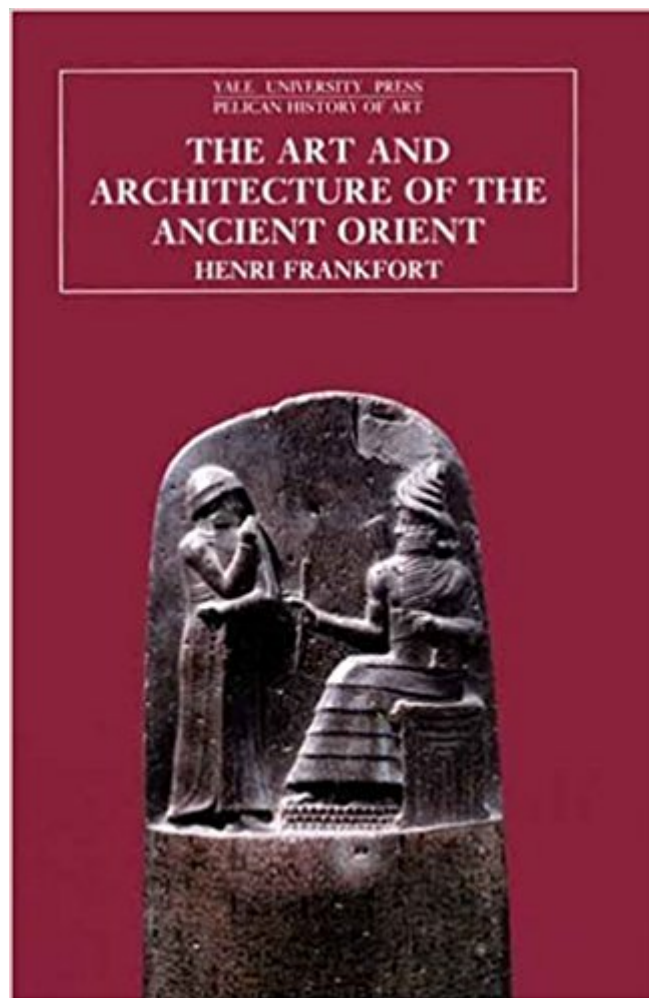




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The Art And Architecture Of The Ancient Orient (The Yale University Press Pelican History Of Art)



Synopsis

Traces the development of Mesopotamian art from Sumerian times to the late Assyrian and Neo-Babylonian periods. This text also covers the art and architecture of Asia Minor and the Hittites, of the Levant in the second millennium BC, of the Aramaeans and Phoenicians in Syria, and of Ancient Persia.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I ordered this textbook for a Mesopotamian art history course. I probably read 80-90% of this book; I may have read all of the chapters, but I skimmed a lot of the sections on architecture since I knew my professor wouldn't be testing me on them. I'm a student, obviously not an expert in this field, and with very little familiarity with this region of the world prior to taking the class. There are two strikes against this book: 1. It was written in 1954. Even though it was updated in 1996, that means there are still over fifteen years' worth of archaeology (and in some cases, of site destruction and looting) that the text can't account for. According to my professor, there simply hasn't been a better book written since Frankfort, so for the study of Mesopotamian art this is the best book to read. 2. This is a dreadfully dry and dense text. I'm not the sort of person to nod off while reading, but this book literally put me to sleep two or three times over the past month. I think that the book does a decent job of covering the major civilizations of the Mesopotamian region. It's arranged chronologically, but I still found it devilishly difficult to keep the names and dynasties straight in my memory. The book doesn't really go into the history of each region at all - I have no more knowledge of daily life in Mesopotamia than I did before picking this textbook up. It is solely focused on art objects and

aesthetic analysis. For an art history class, that's fine...but the lack of context, at times, did contribute to my inability to remember the key differences between Amorites, Aramaeans, Assyrians, and Akkadians.**While I appreciate that the relatively low price for the book is only made possible by the fact that all the images are black and white, I wish that there had been some color plates for the photos of frescoes and watercolor reconstructions.** If, like me, you need help keeping track of basic Mesopotamian history, I found the *Handbook to Life in Ancient Mesopotamia* an excellent for quick reference.

This is an excellent, lavishly illustrated book of ancient Mesopotamian art. The illustrations are well rendered, and there are literally hundreds of them. There's a reason museums the world over have wings dedicated to this exact subject. The British museum in particular has a stunning room covered with Assyrian wall carvings, created by the people they conquered, which are some of the oldest and most powerful anti-war protests, a number of which are included in this volume. A dramatic presentation of ancient life in one of the most important areas on Earth at the time. The previous reviewer complained about the text but missed the old saying "A picture is worth a thousand words." This is a rare find, and if you are interested in this period of history, you should order this book, especially since there are a number of used copies at very reasonable prices.

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