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The Pre-Raphaelites (Art Of Century)



Synopsis

In Victorian England, with the country swept up in the Industrial Revolution, the Pre-Raphaelites, close to William Morris's Arts and Crafts movement, yearned for a return to bygone values. Wishing to revive the pure and noble forms of the Italian Renaissance, the major painters of the circle (such as John Everett Millais, Dante Gabriel Rossetti and William Holman Hunt) favoured realism and biblical themes over the academicism of the time. This work, with its captivating text and rich illustrations, describes with enthusiasm this singular movement which notably inspired Art Nouveau and Symbolism.

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Customer Reviews

It's confusing that the date on this edition is given as 2008: that, please note, is the date of the translation, but it is NOT the date the book was first written in French. I can't find the date the book was originally published (which is annoying), but to give you an idea, Robert de la Sizeranne died in 1932 at the age of 68. I was looking for a more modern take on the Pre-Raphaelites than this: there's a lot of weird stuff about "Englishness" that sounds very dated indeed now. The history of how the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood was founded seems good, though, and of course that doesn't

date as quickly, and there's a short biography of each of the major painters in the back. There are also many illustrations, but of course they look terrible on my original (e-ink) Kindle. Don't know if they're viewable in color on the Fire. On the whole, I don't think this book is worth \$8; I wish I had found a newer one.

This is a pretty good, inexpensive survey of the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood (and in fact goes a bit beyond the original painters who signed their paintings 'PRB' as Academy students). The quality of the reproductions is pretty good, though it's hard to capture the optical effects created by PRB techniques (such as glazing over white to create luminosity) particularly in paintings by Hunt, which can almost look a little garish in reproductions of this size and quality.

A enjoy this one a lot, the historical part is straight an to the point, the image selection is also good, even when i would have loved more by Rosetti and Burne Jones, but is a matter of personal taste. This is a good title at a good price, if you are curious about this unique moment and group in art's history buy it now.

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