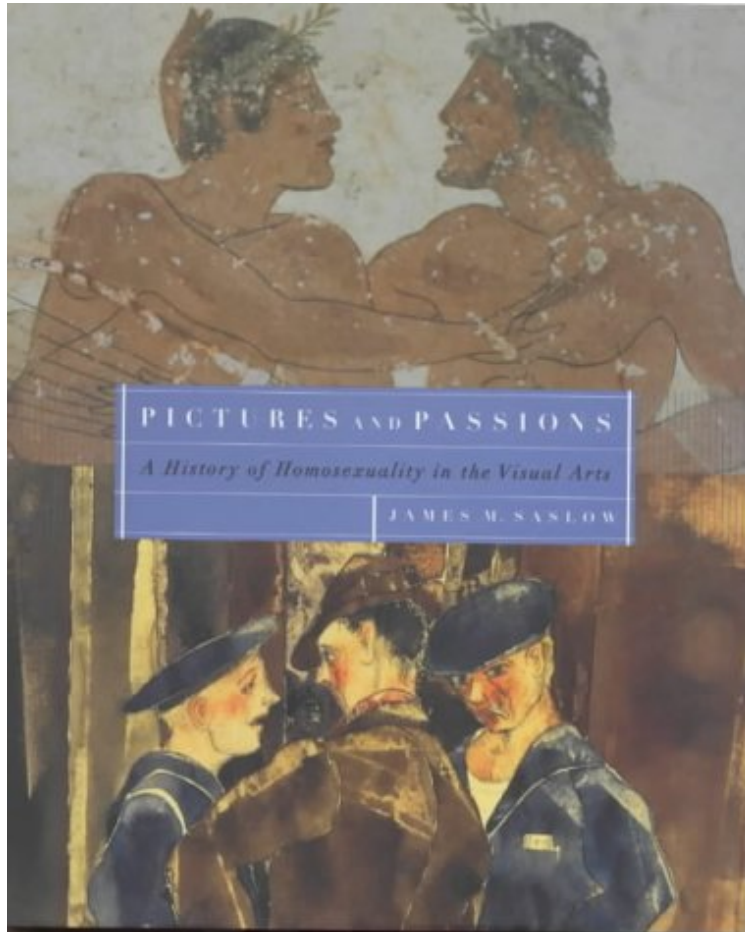


[FREE] Pictures and Passions: A History of Homosexuality in the Visual Arts

Pictures and Passions: A History of Homosexuality in the Visual Arts

James M. Saslow

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James M. Saslow : Pictures and Passions: A History of Homosexuality in the Visual Arts before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Pictures and Passions: A History of Homosexuality in the Visual Arts:

55 of 56 people found the following review helpful. Beyond Pericles, Pottery and PederastyBy Allen SmallingEngrossing and surprisingly comprehensive overview of homosexuality in the visual arts, from ancient times until the 1990s. Being forced to read a more recent textbook that managed to make the subject dull and pedantic makes me love this book all the more. Pay particular attention to St. Sebastian and how his sufferings echo down the ages, such as the martyred "Sebastian Venable" in the play/movie SUDDENLY LAST SUMMER. I hope they'll bring this gem back into print; for the meanwhile, used copies are not terribly hard to find.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A truly great book!By Clear EngleberrIt covers a vast range, and the selection of pictures is marvelous.

The writing is brilliant---it's not just readable---it practically reads itself! I can't think of enough superlatives to do this book justice...8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Very Entertaining and informative
By E. B. MULLIGANI bought this primarily for the historical aspect and also as it was recommended by the artist Tee Corinne in her book 'Intimacies'. From the book description - This history of homoerotic art spans three millennia and explores traditions in Western, Middle-Eastern, and Asian cultures. In addition to celebrating glorious paintings and photographs, art professor Saslow illustrates the ways in which degrading images of gay men and lesbians have been used to infiltrate societies with negative assumptions of homosexuality. A groundbreaking work of nuanced scholarship encompassing all genres in all ages on gay themes. 145 illustrations, 32 in color.
Table of Contents
Acknowledgments
Introduction: From Stone Age to Stonewall 1
Ch. 1 The Classical World: Greece and Rome 13
Ch. 2 The Middle Ages: Dogma Versus Desire 55
Ch. 3 From Renaissance to Reform: Europe and the Globe, 1400-1700 79
Ch. 4 Asia and Islam: Ancient Cultures, Modern Conflicts 125
Ch. 5 From Winckelmann to Wilde: The Birth of Modernity, 1700-1900 151
Ch. 6 Modernism, Multiplicity, and the Movement: 1900-1969 207
Ch. 7 Post-Stonewall, Post-Modern 259
Further Reading 311
Illustration Credits 319
Index 327

This text presents an overview of gay art from the beginning of recorded time to the present: works about gay themes by identifiably gay artists or for gay patrons. Saslow carefully examines the classical world, in which homoerotic love was recorded, celebrated, and satirized in the visual arts, and he examines the ways in which the guilt-free acceptance and institutionalized dignity the Greeks accorded to homosexuality have persisted as a nostalgic symbol of lost arcadian ideals in nearly every later civilization.

From Kirkus s
With over 150 photographs and prints (32 in full color) of homoerotic art, this volume brings together three millennia of queer images into one extraordinary volume, a mini-Louvre dedicated to the various incarnations of homosexuality throughout the centuries. The scope of Saslow, long the New York arts editor of the Advocate and now a professor of art at the CUNY Graduate Center, is all-encompassing: he takes the reader from the classical worlds of Greece and Rome to the present-day streets of New York, from Cretan bronze plaques of the seventh-century b.c. to Tom of Finland's gay erotica of the 1960s. Though Saslow looks primarily at the Western tradition, he also turns his attention to homoerotic art in the Middle East, Asia, and pre-Columbian America. One of this book's greatest strengths is that it doesn't attempt to present a purified or sanitized version of homosexuality, nor does it only delineate positive depictions of homoeroticism. Saslow pays close attention to how hostile images, such as those of the Nazis' "Degenerate Art" traveling exhibit, play upon stereotypes to demonize gay men and lesbians. What is especially remarkable is how Saslow illuminates his considerations of the artworks with analyses of the social and cultural conditions of the societies which created them. This book doesn't merely cull queer art into a coffee-table book for a prefabricated gay and lesbian audience; it reads the art as a measure of the artists and their cultures. The final result is academic writing at its best: informational for Saslow's fellow art historians, instructive and illuminating (yet not pedantic) for the lay reader. Saslow describes his work as a map, not a close-up, of queer art. With this map in hand, the reader is ready for an exciting and rewarding journey into 3,000 years of homoerotic images, a trip which offers innumerable opportunities to ponder the visual beauty of the queer. -- Copyright 1999, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved. "His excellent on these informative icons...." -- Lambda Book Report, December 1999
About the Author
James M. Saslow, a graduate of Princeton and Columbia universities, for many years New York Arts Editor for The Advocate, is a professor in the Department of Art at Queens College and the Graduate Center of the City University of New York. His books include Ganymede in the Renaissance: Homosexuality in Art and Society. He lives in New York City.