



Vermeer: The Complete Works

Karl Schütz

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Startling Life

The astonishing oeuvre of Johannes Vermeer

This book brings together the complete catalog of **Johannes Vermeer** (1632-1675), presenting the calm yet compelling scenes so treasured in galleries across Europe and the United States into **one monograph of utmost reproduction quality**. With **new photography of many works**, Vermeer's restrained but richly evocative repertoire of domestic actions-ranging from letter writing to music making to preparations in the kitchen-unfolds in generous format. **Numerous details** emphasize the artist's remarkable ability not only to bear witness to the trends and trimmings of the **Dutch Golden Age** but also to encapsulate an entire story in just one transient gesture, expression, or look.

In his lifetime, Vermeer's fame barely extended beyond his native Delft and a small circle of patrons. After his death, his name was largely forgotten, with works outside of Holland even misattributed to other artists. It was not until the mid-19th century that Vermeer came to the attention of the international art world, which suddenly looked upon his **narrative minutiae, meticulous textural detail, and majestic planes of light**, and spotted a forgotten master.

Today, Vermeer's works have inspired a *New York Times* best seller and a film starring Scarlett Johansson and Colin Firth not to mention record visitor numbers at art institutions from Amsterdam to Washington, DC; and special crowd-control measures at the Mauritshuis, The Hague, where thousands flock to catch a glimpse of the enigmatic and enchanting **Girl with a Pearl Earring**, also known as the -Dutch Mona Lisa.-

Vermeer: The Complete Works Details

Date : Published April 7th 2017 by Taschen

ISBN : 9783836566582

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Format : Hardcover

Genre : Art, History, Biography

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