



Cy Twombly: A Monograph

By Richard Leeman

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The pictorial creations by American artist Cy Twombly have represented, for more than 50 years, a sort of enigma that reinforces the mythic status of the artist. This book, takes into consideration Twombly's immense and complex body of work from the 1950s up through his current works, offers a thematic and chronological interpretation of his paintings, drawings, sculptures, and collages. Richard Leeman's study elucidates the symbols found in Twombly's paintings?pictograms, numbers, words, colors?that, at first glance, constitute diverse and unique entities, but then assemble to form a veritable language, where their often primitive forms mix on the canvas with allusive fragments of a vast culture. From scribbles and drawings to words, Twombly's work profoundly articulates a language and memory of desire where painting, drawing, and writing meld into a single art form.

This exquisitely produced volume, complete with six gatefolds, is an important addition to the existing bibliography of works on one of America's preeminent contemporary artists.

Exhibition Schedule

“Cy Twombly: Fifty Years of Works on Paper”

Whitney Museum of Art: January 27—May 8, 2005

Menil Collection, Houston, TX: May 27—September 4, 2005

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Editorial Review

Review

"Twombly's paintings are florid, romantic and ornately overstated; they are baroque, decadent concoctions; they are the paintings Edgar Allan Poe's Roderick Usher might have done; they are sensuous flowers of the south; they are seriously unedifying, poisonous vintages. They are letters to history from the heart of a corrupt empire' - Jonathan Jones, The Guardian"

About the Author

Richard Leeman is a professor of Art History at Bordeaux University. After completing his doctorate thesis on Cy Twombly, he has contributed to a book on the history of visual art published in French and to the launch of the first issue of the new art history journal 20/21e siècles. He was head of research and subsequently scientific advisor for Vektor, a European project that fosters the exchange of information in the field of contemporary art.

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