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Gorgeous Gallery



Synopsis

This coffee table book offers a unique overview of the works of contemporary gay artists. After breaking new grounds beyond the realms of photo and comic art with Ross Watson's *Untitled #*, we now proudly present *Gorgeous Gallery* - a stunning collection of wonderful artworks, ambitiously compiled by David Leddick. In these 160 pages you can find everything from pop art to photo-realism. The marvellous faces of modern art, dedicated to the beauty of men.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

David Leddick has produced a colorful art book of absurdly handsome men. E-readers will never be able to replace this sort of presentation, a beautifully printed book on slick heavy paper. It's so good looking that, like a new model boyfriend, you'll want to show it off. A better title for this book would be "Perfect Modern Fantasies: 125+ Nearly Pornographic Pictures from 40 or so Gay Artists." After a token look at some pre-20th-century art works, Leddick has divided the book into three sections: "Contemporary," "Avant-Garde," and "Classic." At first glance, this is an interesting order to present the works, but after examining the works (and sometimes very, very carefully examining them a number of times over several days) the categories don't make much difference. In the first section, "Contemporary," Leddick presents 17 artists. The first artist in the section is Don Bachardy, Christopher Isherwood's partner who still lives in Southern California. This starts the book strongly with a series of vivid nude studies of men at rest. Midway through the section, David Hockney's simple drawings give a break from the painted nudes. Three intense images of penises by Andy Warhol, who typifies the adrenaline-fuelled New York art world, appear near the end of the

section. Throughout the book, each artist gets a short write-up with a random amount of information along with their selected images. Each section bounces between East Coast, West Coast, and international artists, which seems confusing until you realize that within each section, the book presents its artists alphabetically rather than based on geography, medium, thematic approach, or chronology.

This inside cover flap statement by author/curator David Leddick rather sums up this very spectacular book that will surprise the legion of followers that David Leddick enjoys. He has published not only some very fine novels, but he is perhaps best known for his always erudite and entertaining introductions to books on art: anthologies seem to be his metre. He may be providing information about erotic art but it is always with a style of academic dignity. GORGEOUS GALLERY is somewhat of an exception for Leddick. This time around he has created a book that begins with a lucid, detailed history of 'Homoerotic Art Through History' from the Greeks and Romans to the present. Opening with a tongue in cheek discussion about the prudish public afraid to accept that art can be erotic ('This is an idea that has been strongly resisted in our still oh-so puritan United States. Porn is something that you receive in a plain wrapper and regard in the privacy of your bedroom or closet.'), and then proceeds to give written and visual examples of the eroticism in the art of the master, carrying his historical path through the ages to the present. He then divides his book into time chapters - Contemporary, Avant-Garde, and Classics - each chapter including artists who have chosen one of these three pathways to present the male nude. And then the fun begins. Every artist in this book is represented by a brief but concise biography and examples (often full page sized) of their work. In the Contemporary sector he includes Don Bachardy, David Hockney, Michael Leonard, Steve Walker (whose painting graces the cover), Wes Hempel, Joseph Fanielli, Andy Warhol and others. In the Avant-Garde section he places Jack Balas, Miguel Angel Reyes, Marc Ming Chan (a thrillingly brilliant draughtsman!

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