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A Sense Of Place: The Artist And The American Land



A Sense of Place

THE ARTIST AND THE AMERICAN LAND



Synopsis

Originally published in 1972 by Friends of the Earth, *A Sense of Place* is a remarkable look at the American continent over the past four centuries. Award-winning artist Alan Gussow presents a powerful collection of paintings that range from the earliest depiction of America by a European (John White's *Indians Fishing*, c.1585), to contemporary masterpieces such as Reuben Tam's *White Sea*. For each picture—including works by Winslow Homer, Edward Hopper, George Innes, Georgia O'Keeffe, Anne Poor, Albert Bierstadt, Wolf Kahn, and many others—the author provides a selection of the artist's own words that describe the painting and the scene that inspired it, along with a brief introduction to the artist and his or her work. An introduction by National Book Award and Pulitzer prize winning poet Richard Wilbur explores the complex relationship between artist and land, while a new preface by Gussow discusses the history and enduring importance of the book. Island Press/Shearwater Books is proud to bring forth a new edition of this stunning, long out-of-print volume.

PRAISE FOR THE FIRST EDITION: "[A Sense of Place] is astonishingly successful; no careful reader should see art-or nature-in the same way again." -Time "[These] paintings, done in joy by [artists] swamped in the colors and forests of an Earth old, yet alive, convey a statement in spite of themselves on behalf of the land, the spectrum of light in the air and the full panoply of Creation." -Edward Hoagland, *Life* "Even the most ardent conservationist cannot match the eloquence of these paintings." -Anatole Broyard, *The New York Times*

Book Information

Hardcover: 160 pages

Publisher: Island Press; 1 edition (November 1, 1997)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1559635681

ISBN-13: 978-1559635684

Product Dimensions: 13.8 x 10.7 x 0.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.7 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 5 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #876,519 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #70 in Books > Arts &

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Painting #258 in Books > Arts & Photography > Other Media > Conceptual

Customer Reviews

A great painter, artist, probably lost. Probably deliberately "lost" by the "contemporary"

powerbrokers, the same ones who keep Antonio Lopez Garcia outside the public's consciousness. I cannot vouch for each artist represented in this volume. My praise is directed at Gussow himself.

"A Sense of Place" is a beautifully illustrated anthology coffee table book of America's greatest living and past landscape artists covering first contact through the 1970s. Each colored reproduction is paired with a page of text about and/or by the artist. It is easy to read for those not familiar with art history jargon. There are other great scholarly works about the history of landscape painting in general such as Kenneth Clark's "Landscape into Art" which has excellent analysis and commentary but very poor b/w reproductions and Malcolm Andrew's "Landscape and Western Art" which frames European and American landscape art in a much different way and addresses its practice from a much different philosophical perspective. But, for the money, this is my first pick.

Marvelous, beautiful book in every way. I savor it.

A SENSE OF PLACE links the human with the natural: people make, and are made by, parts of our earth. Landscape artist and conservationist Alan Gussow has organized 63 well-chosen colorplates reminding us that paintings record the known landscape, the unknown frontier and what might be forgotten once nature and people meet. The book is a beautiful way to get to know the names in landscape art and see how the United States has changed over time: late 16th-century John White's "Indians fishing" in the Virginia colony organized by Sir Walter Raleigh; early 19th-century Thomas Cole's "Landscape with dead trees" and George Catlin's "Prairie meadows burning - Upper Missouri

The Book arrived quickly was in the exact condition as described. Very happy with this seller and the product.

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