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FRA ANGELICO: ART AND RELIGION IN THE RENAISSANCE (HARDBACK)



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Crescent Moon Publishing, United States, 2016. Hardback. Condition: New. Revised ed.. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****. FRA ANGELICO: ART AND RELIGION IN THE RENAISSANCE By Rosalind Muter FRA ANGELICO, known by several names, including Fra Giovanni Beato Angelico da Fiesole (1399?-1455), is one of the very few painters of the Italian Renaissance who painted religious pictures exclusively. Almost all Angelico s paintings are religious - he did not paint secular portraits, like, say, Giovanni Bellini or Ghirlandaio. It was Vasari who stressed Angelico s purity, holiness, faith, humility and devout nature, and this description of Angelico as a holy monk-like painter persists throughout the centuries. John Ruskin called Angelico an inspired saint . It is in San Marco in Florence that Angelico s saintly reputation was forged. He (with assistants) painted fifty frescoes at San Marco. The paintings reveal a traditional form of Christian worship: Angelico s is a conventional kind of Christian theology and devotion. Some critics emphasize Angelico as a stylist. Of course, Angelico did not separate style from content in the way modern critics do. Clearly, they are part of the same thing. For the Renaissance religious painter, the aim is to come up with a style, colouration and technique which accords with one s beliefs, as well as flattering the faith of one s patrons. So Angelico s sweet style stems from his blending of painterly technique with religious understanding. Fra Angelico stands at the transition between the mediaeval and Renaissance worlds. Angelico s feelings are in the Middle Ages , Bernard Berenson wrote, yet he was distinctly a Quattrocento, Renaissance painter. His art combines the timelessness and rigidity of icon painting, where figures are caught in bright, static, hieratic motions, with the new painterly explorations (in form, style and...

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