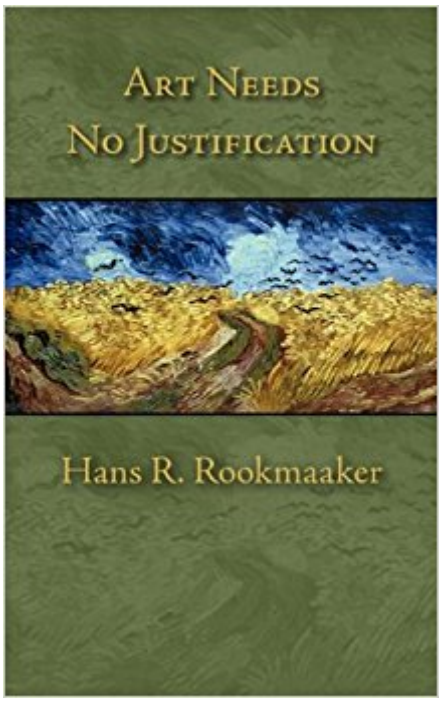
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Art Needs No Justification



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Synopsis

Artists often agonize over their work, even to the point of despair, in the modern world. This booklet by one of the twentieth century's most incisive art historians and cultural critics is a prophetic call to artists-craftsmen, musicians, visual artists and others-in all walks of life to "weep, pray, think and work." Hans R. Rookmaaker (1922-1977), founder of the art history department and professor of the history of art at the Free University of Amsterdam, made a significant contribution to the Christian understanding of art and is well known as the author of Modern Art and the Death of a Culture (1970). The Complete Works of Hans Rookmaaker (6 vols.) was published in 2003.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Overall I found this a delightful little book on art. As a musician, I greatly appreciated most of what he wrote and found it relevant to my role as an artist and a Christian. In his introduction he points out that many of his examples and considerations have to do with painting and sculpting because that is what he is most familiar with. Even so, he does touch on a few other artistic arenas, and most of his ideas flow pretty seamlessly from one sort of artistry to another. I would highly recommend this book to anyone, young - old, educated or not - who is an artist or an aspiring artist. It is not too heavy in its musings, but it does challenge one to think well about his or her place in the artistic world and how one practices his or her art therein. I would also highly recommend it for any church leadership who want to think well about how to guide and disciple artists in their church. Additionally, I think his thoughts are highly relevant to any church desiring to develop an arts

program. In the end, the short book is about understanding art in its right place in the world and society, and thinking well about what it means to be a good artist, a Christian artist, in the world.

Art is not doing to well. It's in a crisis. Even the canvas itself is being broken down in modern art. What is an expression using a particular format, when the expression is breaking down that format? Perhaps, it's saying that the very format IS broken down. And maybe, the artist is right. But how did art get there? What happened? And what do we do about it? Is the general crisis of art itself, related to the artists' crisis on a personal level? Hans Rookmaker digs into all of these questions and more. The result is a radically liberating piece of hands-on wisdom for artists and thinkers. Believers or not.

Well - my title sums it all up. If you aren't motivated to make art after reading this, then you are either a tough person to inspire or dead. I think this book is the tip of the iceberg, bringing forth tons of ripe ideas like the basic fact that art does not need to fulfill a function - it is - therefore, it is and that's it's function, to be art, a unuseful thing that is filled be beauty and awe and creativity. Simply put - best book I've read on this topic.

I'm still reading this book and the jury is still in deliberation. It seems okay from the perspective that Christianity and art are not mutually exclusive. I also agree with the author's view that all art forms are true art and the elevation of certain forms of painting and rendering to "fine art" might be a stretch.

A classic on the theme of Christianity and the Arts. A bit of a slog, and yet: a milestone text for understanding what art is and why it matters.Diana Pavlac Glyer, author ofÃ Â The Company They Keep: C. S. Lewis and J. R. R. Tolkien as Writers in Community

What a great work! I have felt so isolated as a Christian artist but Hans has cleared up so many questions and confusion regarding art as a legitimate gift from God. I only wish I could have read this while in the University I attended, but then again I would not have had the ears to here. williamfegan.com

This is a great little book for artists struggling with the value of their work.I am reading it in little passages and taking time to digest what it says.

This is a great companion book to Dr. Rookmacher's other books. Well thought through from a Chriatian world view, but not in any sense judgemental. Easy to follow.

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