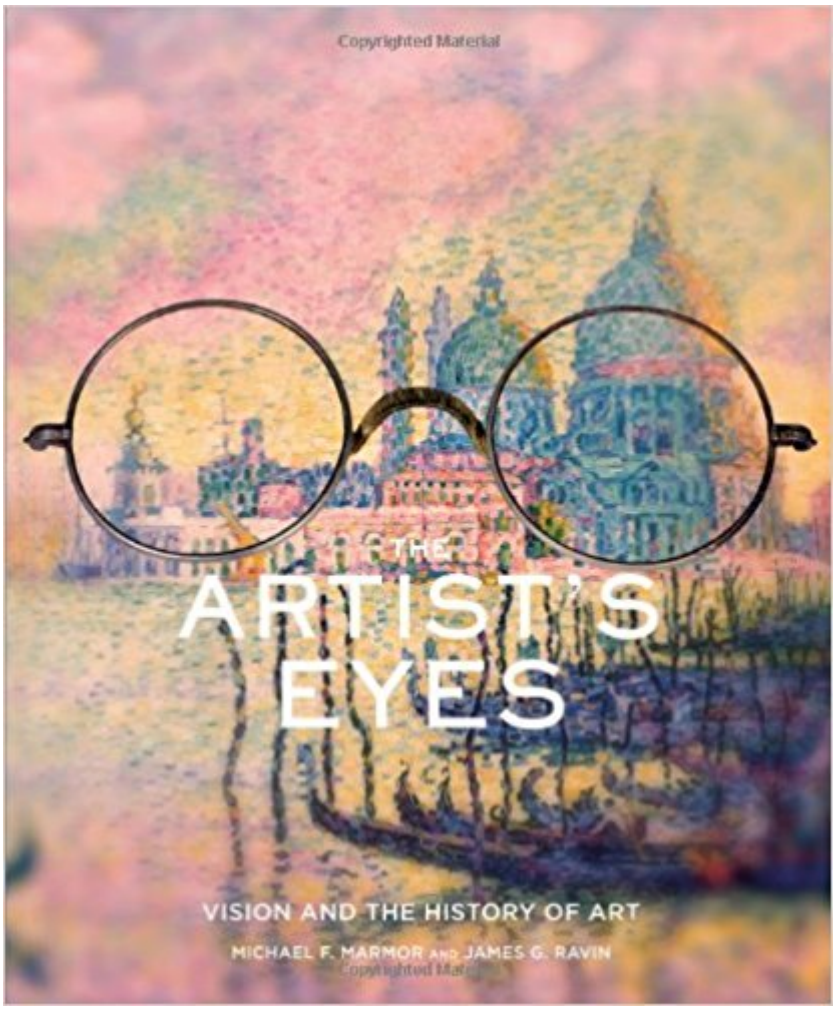
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The Artist's Eyes



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Synopsis

In this fascinating juxtaposition of science and art history, ophthalmologists Michael Marmor and James Ravin examine the role of vision and eye disease in art. They focus on the eye, where the process of vision originates, and investigate how aspects of vision have inspired and confounded many of the world's most famous artists.Why do Georges Seurat's paintings appear to shimmer? How come the eyes in certain portraits seem to follow you around the room? Are the broad brushstrokes in Monet's Water Lilies due to cataracts? Could van Gogh's magnificent yellows be a result of drugs? How does eye disease affect the artistic process? Or does it at all? The Artist's Eyes considers these questions and more.Using key works of art as well as innovative illustrations that simulate different artists' vision, Marmor and Ravin shed new light on the story of art.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Michael Marmor is one of today' s leading experts in retinal disease and retinal physiology, and the author of more than 150 scientific papers. He is Professor in the Stanford University School of Medicine. He lives in Stanford, California. James Ravin is an opthamologist with an interest in the effects of illness on artists. His investigations have been featured on CNN, The Today Show, and in other national media. He lives in Toledo, Ohio.

The authors explain how the eye works and examine the paintings of many artists to illustrate several things: the use of perceptual knowledge in creating the painting, the presence or lack of eye

disease in the use of distortion, shading, colors. Each chapter deals with a different facet of visual perception and how it is employed in painting. A book for someone interested in the way artists create. Many fine illustrations.

It is well presented with very good pictures. However, I am surprised that the authors -- two eye doctors -- allowed it to be printed in such small font size. It is uncomfortable to read. As for the information explaining the insets, I have to use a magnifier glass to read it. I have normal vision with my glasses and can read other printed matter easily.However, I am grateful for the precise information and the beautiful presentation of this volume.

The Artist’s Eyes were a gift to my husband who is an artist and art historian. He is reading through the chapters carefully and generally finds them insightful, particularly the ophthalmic observations. He is more critical of some of the art historical interpretation. The art historical analysis undertaken through an ophthalmic lens is an important contribution to the understanding of art.

Print is a little small ironic for a book on vision

I used this book as a helpful reference (among others) in my talk to a science society entitled "The Physiology of Vision and Art". I am a scientist and amateur painter. In retirement I have taught art and I lecture on the relationships of art and science.

Not only does it dispel myths about some artists that were long regarded to have problems with their vision, the book also educates us about the science of vision and anatomy of the eyes. Am reading this slowly in order to enjoy every part of it fully.

Always wondered why artist styles changed over time.

good book!

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