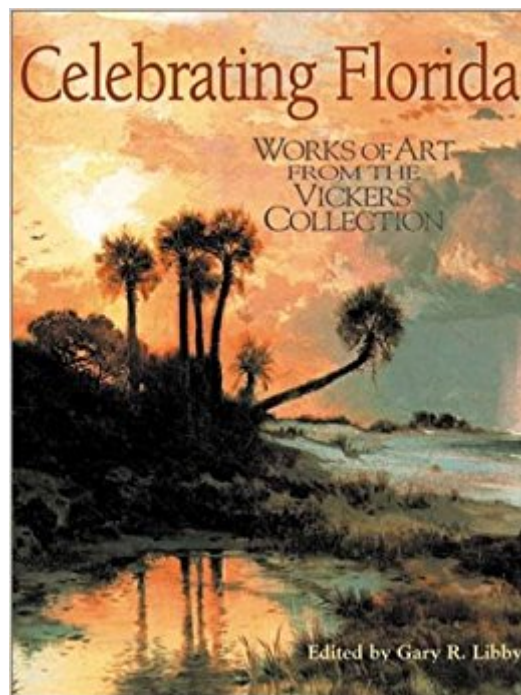




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Celebrating Florida: Works Of Art From The Vickers Collection (Florida Sesquicentennial S)



Synopsis

"The Vickers Collection is wonderfully rich, remarkably deep, and filled with the most delightful surprises."--Nicolai Cikovsky, National Gallery of Art

Celebrating Florida presents for the first time a full-color collection of 66 important paintings, drawings, and prints of Florida-based art. Featuring such artists as Winslow Homer, Louis Comfort Tiffany, George Inness, William Glackens, Martin Johnson Heade, Frank Shapleigh, and Herman Herzog, the book highlights some of the world's most significant artists, who came to Florida from 1823 to 1950 to capture the Sunshine State. Essays by noted historians Wendell Garrett and Erik Robinson discuss the settlement of Florida and its birth as a state in 1845. Additional essays present an aesthetic, historical, social, and cultural overview of the significance of the art as well as biographical information about each artist. Celebrating Florida is a Sesquicentennial publication, part of the celebration of 150 years of Florida statehood. Gary R. Libby is director of the Museum of Arts and Sciences, Daytona Beach, Florida. He has served as contributing editor to Southwest Art Magazine and International Fine Art Collector Magazine. Wendell Garrett is senior vice president of American Decorative Arts at Sotheby's, New York City. Nicolai Cikovsky is curator of American and British painting at the National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. Erik Robinson is historian at the Museum of Florida History, Tallahassee, Florida.

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Customer Reviews

"Readers will find themselves entranced by each painting and comparing it to the Florida they know

today ... [These paintings] entice us to imagine what our Florida was like before Disney. The fact that well-known painters such as Tiffany, Catlin, Curtis, Herzog, Heade and Homer are represented in the collection is icing on the cake."

Celebrating Florida: Works of Art from the Vickers Collection illustrates in full color a generous selection of paintings and works on paper by some of the world's most significant artists who came to Florida from 1823 to 1950 to capture the "Sunshine State". Of particular interest to students of Florida history are two essays by noted historians Wendell Garrett and Erik Robinson, who discuss the "creation of Florida" and its birth as a state in 1845. Essays on each artist present an aesthetic, historical, social, and cultural overview - designed to clarify the significance of the works of art presented in this first-ever collection of Florida-based art. Essays on each artist with bibliographies by Henry Adams, Gary R. Libby, James Murphy, Erik Robinson, and David Swoyer help to explain the significance of individual works and their place in Florida's history and artistic record.

Celebrating Florida: Works of Art from the Vickers Collection offers the most comprehensive study of Florida art currently available. It also serves as the catalog for a traveling exhibition curated at the Museum of Arts and Sciences in Daytona Beach, Florida, in honor of Florida's Sesquicentennial.

Great paintings of old Florida!

Fantastic history/collection of Florida art.

no comment

This book delivers what it promises; it celebrates the labor of love that has resulted in the finest private collection of Florida art. Well produced and printed, *Celebrating Florida* catalogs the exhibition of the same title that the Daytona Beach Museum of Arts and Sciences had the foresight to curate. (I saw the exhibition there and was overwhelmed by the installation and the paintings.) The book's design concept, of utilizing informative essays, contextualizes the images for viewers to understand the necessities that inspired the artists while permitting the paintings to work their magic. The introductory essays set the stage for viewing period art and the interpretive entries accompanying each plate help viewers to consider the particular image. It is difficult for even a finely produced book to do justice to the exhibition that it archives, but author Gary Libby realized that the goal was not to compete with the show but instead to serve it. In deed, the book encourages dialog

and a sense of personal exploration. Celebrating Florida is a first to demonstrate what many of us know, that the state really does have an artistic heritage and it opens the door for other surveys (like Mann's Art in Florida and Libby's Coast to Coast: The Contemporary Landscape in Florida). The Vickers have judiciously amassed images of Florida which seep in to viewers' consciousness, defining Florida. Their passion elevates collecting to creativity. A must-have for Floridians and those interested in its past and meanings.

I find that it is no more than a catalogue of a private collector's paintings with no idea or history of the art, why it was created, and what it may mean in the realm of art. It is a good collection, but not on view for the public. It is more of a personal vanity press item.

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