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(Nikko Bashirian)

FREDERIC REMINGTON AND THE WEST: WITH THE EYE OF THE MIND



University of Texas Press. Paperback / softback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, Frederic Remington and the West: With the Eye of the Mind, Ben Merchant Vorpahl, "Frederic Remington and the West" sheds new light on the remarkably complicated and much misunderstood career of Frederic Remington. This study of the complex relationship between Remington and the American West focuses on the artist's imagination and how it expressed itself. Ben Merchant Vorpahl takes into account all the dimensions of Remington's extensive work—from journalism to fiction, sculpture, and painting. He traces the events of Remington's life and makes extensive use of literary and art criticism and nineteenth-century American social cultural and military history in interpreting his work. Vorpahl reveals Remington as a talented, sensitive, and sometimes neurotic American whose work reflects with peculiar force the excitement and distress of the period between the Civil War and the Spanish-American War. Remington was not a "western" artist in the conventional sense; neither was he a historian: he lacked the historian's breadth of vision and discipline, expressing himself not through analysis but through synthesis. Vorpahl shows that, even while Remington catered to the sometimes maudlin, sometimes jingoistic tastes of his public and his editors, his resourceful imagination was at work devising a far more demanding and worthwhile design—a composite work, executed in prose, pictures, and bronze. This body of work, as the author demonstrates, demands to be regarded as an interrelated whole. Here guilt, shame, and personal failure are honestly articulated, and death itself is confronted as the artist's chief subject.Because Remington was so prolific a painter, sculptor, illustrator, and writer, and because his subjects, techniques, and media were so apparently diverse, the deeper continuity of his work had not previously been recognized. This study is a major contribution to our understanding of an important American artist....



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