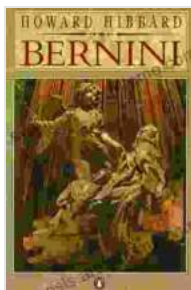


Bernini: The Master of Baroque Art and Architecture



Bernini (Penguin Art & Architecture) by Howard Hibbard

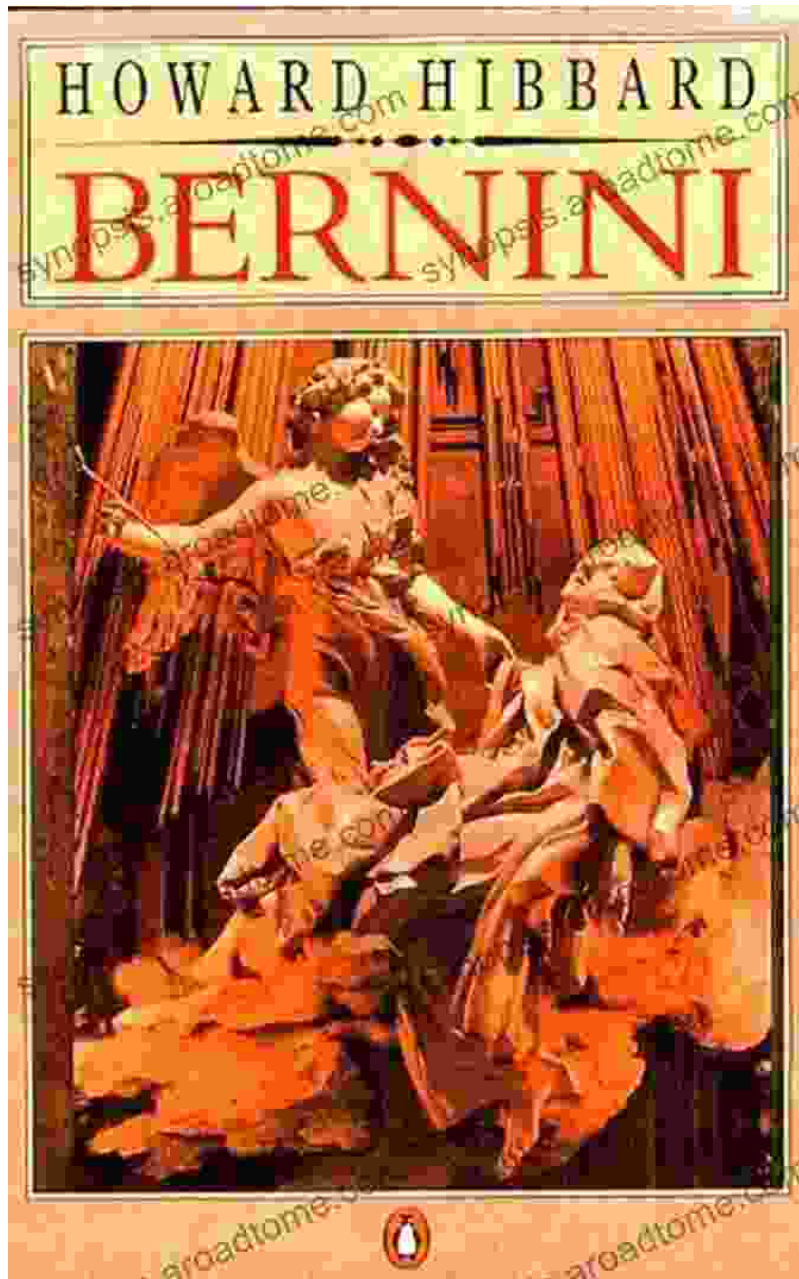
★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

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A Comprehensive Guide to the Life and Legacy of Gian Lorenzo Bernini

Gian Lorenzo Bernini (1598-1680) is widely regarded as one of the greatest artists of all time. A master of both sculpture and architecture, Bernini's works epitomize the exuberant and dramatic style of the Baroque period.



Bernini's Early Life and Training

Bernini was born in Naples, Italy, in 1598. His father, Pietro Bernini, was a sculptor who taught his son the basics of the craft. At the age of 10, Bernini moved to Rome with his family. There, he studied under the sculptor Stefano Maderna and quickly gained a reputation for his virtuosity.

Bernini's Baroque Masterpieces

Bernini's works are characterized by their dynamic movement, emotional intensity, and theatrical grandeur. Among his most famous sculptures are the Ecstasy of St. Teresa (1647-1652), David (1623-1624), and Apollo and Daphne (1622-1625).

Bernini's architectural masterpieces include the Trevi Fountain (1629-1643), the Baldacchino in St. Peter's Basilica (1624-1633), and the Scala Regia (1663-1666).

The Ecstasy of St. Teresa

The Ecstasy of St. Teresa is a marble sculpture that depicts the Spanish mystic Teresa of Avila in a moment of religious ecstasy. The sculpture is considered to be one of Bernini's most famous and controversial works. Some critics found the depiction of St. Teresa's ecstasy to be too sensual and erotic.

David

David is a marble sculpture that depicts the biblical hero David standing victorious over the slain Goliath. The sculpture is notable for its dynamic pose and muscular physique. David is often considered to be one of the greatest sculptures of the Renaissance period.

Apollo and Daphne

Apollo and Daphne is a marble sculpture that depicts the Greek god Apollo chasing the nymph Daphne. The sculpture captures the moment when Daphne is transformed into a laurel tree to escape Apollo's pursuit. Apollo and Daphne is a masterpiece of Baroque movement and emotion.

The Trevi Fountain

The Trevi Fountain is one of the most famous fountains in the world. It is located in the Trevi district of Rome and is a popular tourist destination. The fountain was designed by Bernini in the 17th century and features a large central figure of Neptune flanked by allegorical figures representing the four seasons.

The Baldacchino

The Baldacchino is a large bronze canopy that stands over the altar in St. Peter's Basilica. It was designed by Bernini in the 17th century and is one of the most striking and iconic features of the basilica.

The Scala Regia

The Scala Regia is a grand staircase that leads to the Vatican Palace. It was designed by Bernini in the 17th century and is one of the most famous and impressive staircases in the world.

Bernini's Legacy

Bernini's works continue to inspire and amaze people around the world. He is considered to be one of the most influential artists of all time and his work has had a profound impact on the development of Western art.

If you are interested in learning more about Bernini and his work, I highly recommend reading the book *Bernini* by Howard Hibbard. This book provides a comprehensive overview of Bernini's life, career, and legacy.

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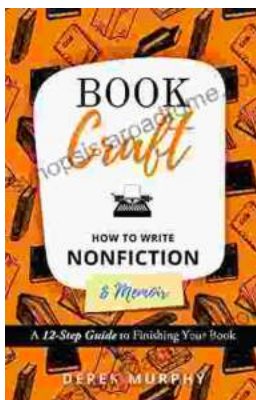
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