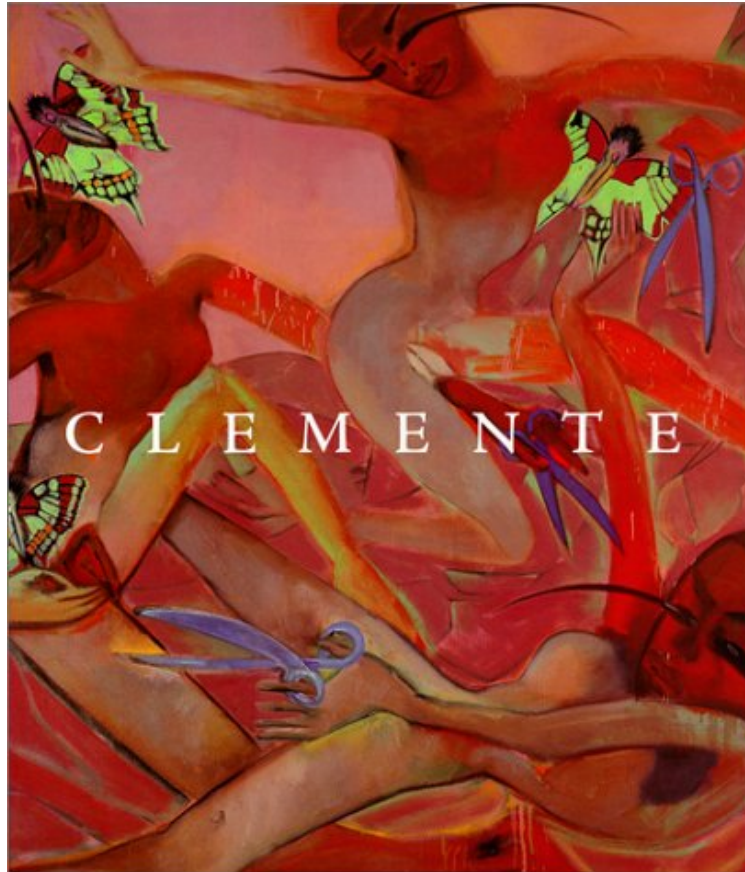


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## Clemente: A Retrospective (Guggenheim Museum Publications)

*Lisa Dennison*

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**Lisa Dennison : Clemente: A Retrospective (Guggenheim Museum Publications)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Clemente: A Retrospective (Guggenheim Museum Publications):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Amazing little book for a glimpse into the mind of ...By Ian Moore Amazing little book for a glimpse into the mind of a great artist. This man operates on a totally different level. If you are a fan of Clemente's work you will enjoy this thoughtful interview. I loved it! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great read, beautifully crafted....GIGANTIC book. By Jim C. OMG---huge book, highly informative. Artistically and personally created. The only complaint I have is that it is a boat anchor of a book. I dropped it accidentally on the floor and of course dented the cover a little. A horror for me....but I just love reading this book. It gives highly personal accounts of Clemente's life along with providing beautifully illustrated and thoughtful text. I will likely take me a year to actually read the entire book. It's very complete... 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great condition and super value By Vicki H. It's quite the book... Great condition and super value..Definitely a book for adults.. Would have liked to have seen a few more pics of his ocean and portrait series..

Since the 1980s, Francesco Clemente has been a leading artist in the international revival of expressionist figure painting and sculpture. Stylistically his work recalls the Italian Renaissance, Indian miniatures, Abstract Expressionism and Pop Art.

.com This finely wrought, lush, 500-page volume does justice to the wide-ranging oeuvre of one of the most open-minded, ambitious, and productive artists of the late 20th century. The catalog of an exhibition at New York's Guggenheim Museum in the fall of 1999, it contains a wide range of writings, including Robert Creeley's haunting poetry, a thorough chronology, and half a dozen essays, including the introductory "Once You Begin the Journey You Never Return," by the Guggenheim's Lisa Dennison. In accordance with Clemente's paintings and drawings, the book touches on themes from Indian mysticism, prayer, the body's pores and orifices, family bonds, and a number of metaphysical and physical concerns, being and nothingness among them. In the essay "Rooms," Francesco Pellizzi draws a long thread through cave painting, Meister Eckhart's sermons on the soul, Renaissance Rome, and Clemente's wall paintings to arrive at "the transmodern sense of a shifting place of origin; every step, every station, is the first and last in this vortex, a maelstrom animated by an eros that is enveloping and inevitable but also, in the end, joyous..." Clemente's art, which lays bare his obsessions with sex, self, and spirituality and explores them with a constantly surprising range of intense color and formal invention, stands in bracing, deeply pleasurable opposition to the desiccated, design-bound, theory-driven work that has dominated so much art of the last 25 years. Art historian James Elkins has described making graduate students copy, stroke for stroke, works by Monet and other painters, to give them a feel for "What Painting Is" (as he titled his recent book). Clemente raises the stakes a notch, demonstrating what painting might be, if we were to allow ourselves to be drenched in its myriad possibilities. --Peggy Moorman

Language Notes  
Text: Italian, English  
From the Publisher  
Francesco Clemente (b. 1952) has, since the 1980s, been a leading artist in the international revival of expressionist figure painting and sculpture. Clemente's subjects-rooted in both the physical and the surreal, spiritual worlds-create a vast body of work that appeals to diverse audiences. This stunning book is published to accompany a major retrospective exhibition. Clemente draws upon a pan-historic web of impulses, mediating among the myriad cultures of the ancient Mediterranean, Byzantium, Europe, India, and America. Stylistically his work recalls the Italian Renaissance, Indian miniatures, European Romanticism, Abstract Expressionism, and Pop Art. Clemente's widespread cultural interests and nomadic lifestyle-New York is his home but he spends part of each year in Italy, India, and the New Mexico desert-have deeply affected his art. 350 illustrations in full color, 10 x 11 1/2" Lisa Dennison is deputy director and chief curator at the Guggenheim Museum, New York. Exhibition Schedule The Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York Oct. 7, 1999-Jan. 9, 2000 Guggenheim Museum Bilbao, Spain Feb. 14-June 4, 2000