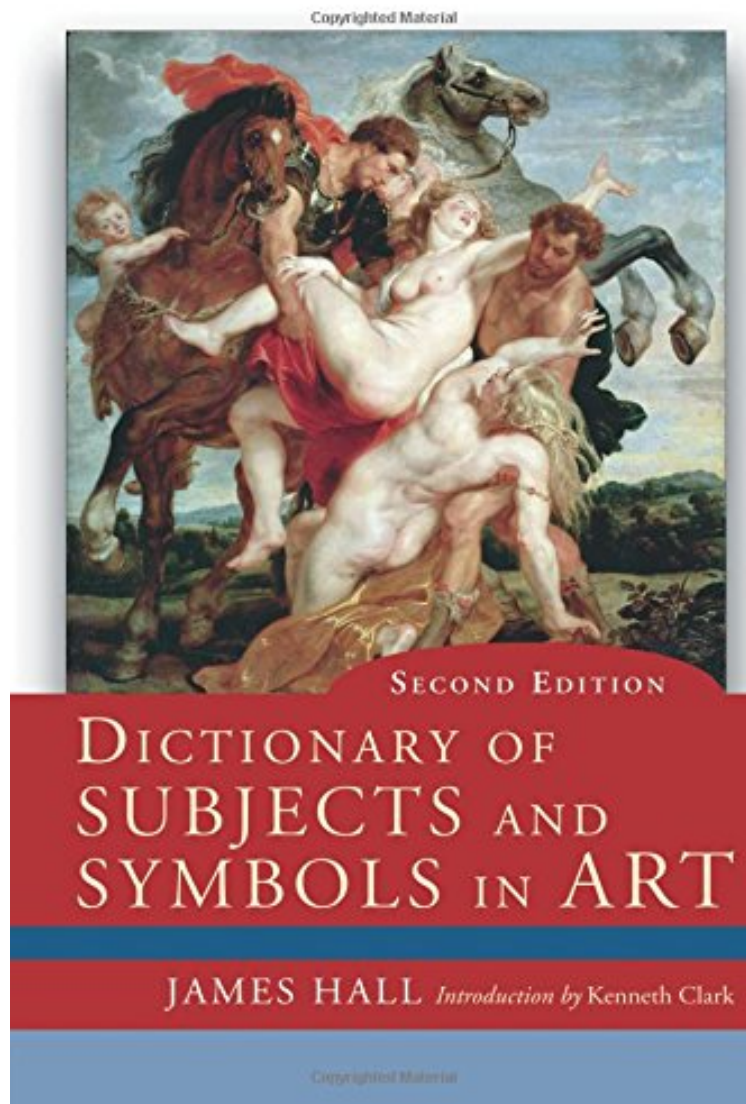


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Dictionary of Subjects and Symbols in Art

James Hall

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for anyone interested in art history, mythology, and ancient and current religions.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good resourceBy Kenny BWhen viewing art at a museum, it is often difficult for the modern viewer to appreciate the subject of the painting and its meaning. This dictionary is an alphabetical listing of symbols and subjects found in classical and Christian art. The first edition was printed in 1974 and is currently out of print but can be obtained from used booksellers on . Comprehensive listing of terms. Highly recommended for anyone with an interest in classical and Renaissance art.4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Has some good informationBy KarenIt's fine, it has some information which may be useful. Though most of the information can be found out easily by a quick search on the internet. I mostly bought it because it was required for a college course. I doubt I will use it often, however, because it contains just basic information. It good for a quick glance or overview of a term

The understanding and enjoyment of a work of art depends as much on the story it depicts as on the artist's execution of it. But what were once biblical or classical commonplaces are not so readily recognizable today. This book relates in a succinct and readable way the themes, sacred and secular, on which the repertoire of Western art is based. Combined here in a single volume are religious, classical, and historical themes, figures of moral allegory, and characters from romantic poetry that appeared throughout paintings and sculpture in Western art before and after the Renaissance. More than just a dictionary, this text places these subjects in their narrative, historical, or mythological context and uses extensive cross-referencing to enhance and clarify the meanings of these themes for the reader. The definitive work by which others are compared, this volume has become an indispensable handbook for students and general appreciators alike. This wholly redesigned second edition includes a new insert of images chosen by the author, as well as a new preface and index to highlight the ideas, beliefs, and social and religious customs that form the background of much of this subject matter.

It is clearly written, well arranged, and can be read for its own sake as a compendium of the image-making faculty of Western man. I would recommend it strongly to anyone who wishes to increase his interest and pleasure in visiting a picture gallery or turning over the illustrations of a book of art.Kenneth ClarkOf the several comparable dictionaries on the iconography of Western art . . . this one is by far the most satisfactory. This much richer fund of material as well as the tightly packed and well-written entries convey much information. In all, an impressively erudite yet thoroughly useable dictionary for which students and faculty alike should be grateful.ChoiceThe volume is comprehensive to interested laymen, and should be quite useful for students and scholars. Entries pertain to persons, titles and pictures, and objects as attributes and symbols. Recurrent mythological, historical and religious themes are explored and allegorical, poetic, and saintly characters are also covered. Cross references and appropriate line drawings enhance the book's value. And because the entries are succinct and really absorbing, it's fun simply to browse through this dictionary. Highly recommended.Library Journal