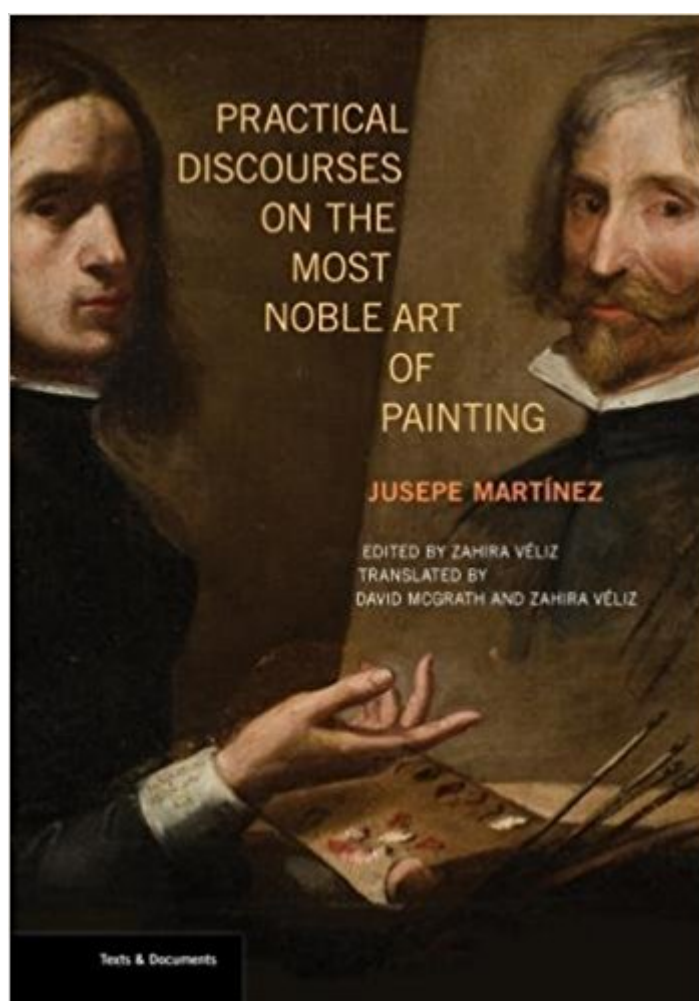


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Practical Discourses On The Most Noble Art Of Painting (Texts & Documents)



Synopsis

Jusepe Martínez's *Practical Discourses on the Most Noble Art of Painting* (ca. 1673–75), though little known today, was highly influential on art, artists, and artistic practice and theory in Spain long after its publication. This volume is the first English translation of the Discourses, which, while circulated in manuscript copies, was not even published until the mid-nineteenth century. Martínez wrote the Discourses toward the end of his life as a well-traveled professional artist who had studied and worked in Italy and the major artistic and literary centers of Spain; his ideas were especially enriched by his participation in the elevated cultural life of his native Aragonese school. His discussions on art offer anecdotal knowledge from his friendships with many of the principal artists of Spain's Golden Age, including Diego Velázquez and Alonso Cano, as well as writers and intellectuals of the period. Martínez's text stands out for a nuanced humanism that is rare in practical treatises. Along with his original ideas on handling, pictorial aesthetics, and the vocation of painting, his work has even more affinities with philosophical discourses than with artists' practical instructional books. Zahira Valiz's introduction and notes provide historical context and situate Martínez's ideas in his rich cultural milieu.

Book Information

Series: Texts & Documents

Paperback: 192 pages

Publisher: Getty Research Institute; 1 edition (July 1, 2017)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1606065289

ISBN-13: 978-1606065280

Product Dimensions: 7 x 0.5 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

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Best Sellers Rank: #300,465 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #28 in Books > Textbooks > Humanities > Visual Arts > Painting #524 in Books > Textbooks > Humanities > Art History #732 in Books > Arts & Photography > Painting

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