



CATS IN Art

BY Stefano Zuffi

The Book

The art historian Stefano Zuffi accompanies us in a fascinating journey down 4000 years of artistic masterpieces depicting images of cats. A magical and mysterious animal, often indolent but ready to pounce and spring like a predator, elusive in its wanderings and psychology, alternately linked to domestic tranquillity or to demoniac or witchlike impulse, the cat travels through the history of culture and of art leaving precise and extraordinarily evocative tracks.

This volume identifies and marks out the presence of the cat in the figurative arts from the ancient civilizations to the XX century: only in a few cases is the feline the absolute star, but its appearance is always an important signal, charged with symbolic values and narrative implications.

In an attractive and manageable editorial and graphical formula, the cat projects itself as the silent but decisive star in sculptures and paintings, some of them renowned masterpieces. As a result we discover that few artists have been able to resist the allure of this articulated and elegant animal, extremely agile but ready to doze off into deep sleep, capable of sovereign indifference yet always vigilant, familiar to everyone but fascinating at the same time in its blissful isolation.

The painters most susceptible to feline motions include Raphael, Leonardo, Giulio Romano, Barocci, Veronese, Rembrandt, Lotto, Frans Hals, Ceruti, Chardin, Le Nain, Hogarth, Goya, Renoir, Gauguin, Bonnard, and Balthus. The volume provides brief general background introductions and numerous readings of particular images, to highlight the cat's role in different types of paintings such as portraits, religious scenes, historical compositions and so on.

The author

Stefano Zuffi (1961), a Milanese art historian, specialized in museology, collaborates with museums, institutions and associations for the organization of exhibitions and the development of cultural projects. He is the author of specialist essays and studies of Renaissance and Baroque painting, but especially of countless popular works on art and history, translated and distributed all over the world. His books of greatest success include *La pittura italiana* (1997, new edition 2005), *Dürer* (2001), *Il grande atlante della pittura* (2002), *Episodi e personaggi del Vangelo* (2002), and *Il Cinquecento* (2005), all published by Electa. He is also a scientific consultant for this publishing house for the realization of widely distributed editorial series.

Size: cm 23x23

Pages: 360

Photos: approx. 185 + details

Text: General introduction of about 15,000 – 20000 signs

Single introductions to 8 chapters of about 6000-7000 signs

Captions for images of about 800-900 signs each

Total: approx. 230,000 signs

Printing: 4/4 on 150 gra paper

Binding: hard cover with jacket

First edition: spring 2007