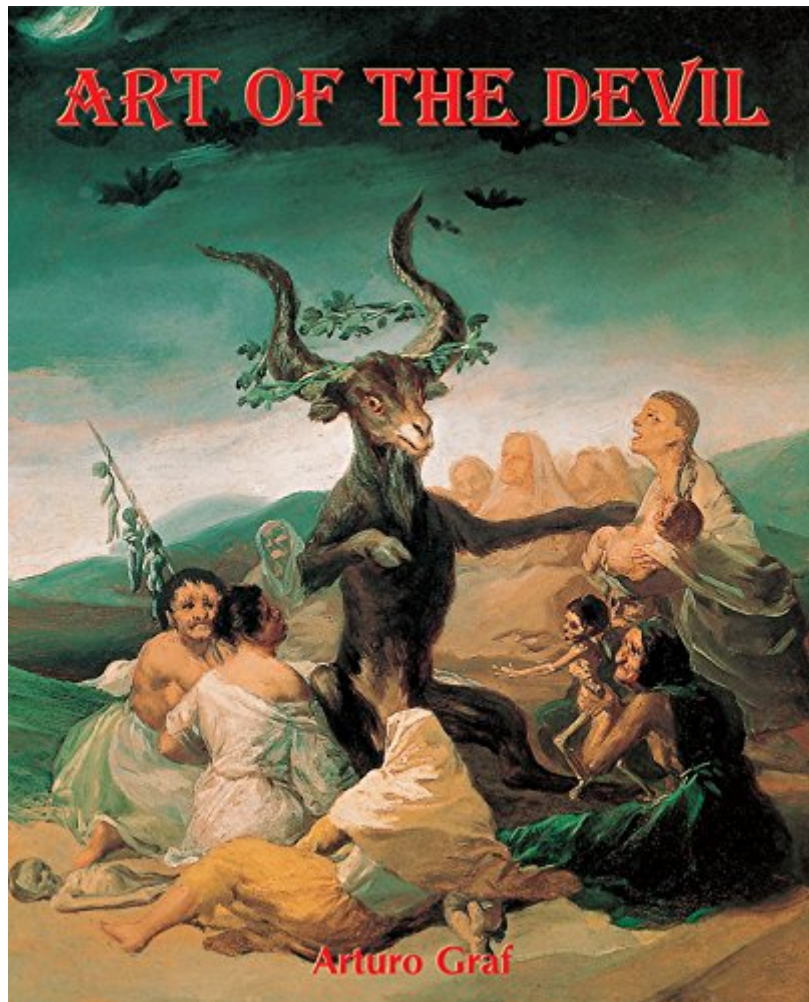


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# Art Of The Devil



## Synopsis

“The Devil holds the strings which move us!” (Charles Baudelaire, *The Flowers of Evil*, 1857.) Satan, Beelzebub, Lucifer | the Devil has many names and faces, all of which have always served artists as a source of inspiration. Often commissioned by religious leaders as images of fear or veneration, depending on the society, representations of the underworld served to instruct believers and lead them along the path of righteousness. For other artists, such as Hieronymus Bosch, they provided a means of denouncing the moral decrepitude of one’s contemporaries. In the same way, literature dealing with the Devil has long offered inspiration to artists wishing to exorcise evil through images, especially the works of Dante and Goethe. In the 19th century, romanticism, attracted by the mysterious and expressive potential of the theme, continued to glorify the malevolent. Auguste Rodin’s *The Gates of Hell*, the monumental, tormented work of a lifetime, perfectly illustrates this passion for evil, but also reveals the reason for this fascination. Indeed, what could be more captivating for a man than to test his mastery by evoking the beauty of the ugly and the diabolic?

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## Customer Reviews

ART OF THE DEVIL is a fascinating book that author Arturo Graf has curated and written. The book looks at images of the Devil - or Satan, Lucifer, Beelzebub, Antichrist, Abaddon, Mammon, serpent, Perdition, Fallen Angel, among many other names - as depicted by artists for centuries.. The book is rich in reproductions of images from frescoes, paintings, drawings, book illustrations that extend from medieval times to the present. It is entertaining to see how the world at certain times in history gave the devil different faces and personalities: the hideous beastie from early sacred books and paintings, such as the dark presence from Dante's Inferno, becoming the very darkly handsome character as in the drawings and paintings reflecting Goethe's Faust story, to the fallen angel of the Pre-Raphaelite artists, and the sculpture of the large 'Hand of the Devil' clutching man. What makes this 'picture book' so special is the quality of writing of Arturo Graf, a writer and art historian who is unafraid to impose his own quality of drama and suspense to his study. This is a very worthy book for the art library of all those who are fascinated by ancient art and who simultaneously enjoy studying the changing perception of one character. The Devil has never been so available to study!

Grady Harp, December 10

Most books containing work on this subject are tiny, here is a volume that has work different from most of the others and can be viewed without a magnifying glass. Although not everything you might expect is here a wonderful effort.

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