



Velazquez and the Surrender of Breda: The Making of a Masterpiece (Hardback)

By Anthony Bailey

Henry Holt Company Inc, United States, 2011. Hardback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. What began as propaganda art to celebrate a rare Spanish victory in the Eighty Years War with Holland, The Surrender at Breda is today recognized as Velazquez s narrative masterpiece. Breda is packed with vivid military detail - whole armies are suggested on the huge canvas, twelve feet high and eleven feet wide. Unlike typical surrender scenes, there is neither a heroic victor on horseback nor a vanquished commander on his knees. Instead the rivals appear on foot almost as equals. The loser bends forward to offer the key and receives a chivalrous pat on his shoulder, as if to say: Fortune has favoured me, but our roles might have been reversed. Anthony Bailey examines the paintings from which the artist arose, coaxing stories from them that flesh out a complete portrait of one of the world s major artists whose personal life has remained largely unknown.



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