



Enduring Creation: Art, Pain, and Fortitude

By Spivey, Nigel Jonathan

University of California Press, Berkeley, CA, 2001. Hardcover. Book Condition: NEW. Dust Jacket Condition: NEW. 272 pp., illus., bib. notes, index; 27 cm. BRAND NEW. Shrinkwrapped. OVERSIZE! No priority/international, except by special arrangement. "Nigel Spivey takes on one of the greatest taboos in Western culture in this brilliantly original work of cultural history: why is so much pain depicted in the art of the West? Beginning with a meditation on Auschwitz, the prizewinning author then takes us on a journey that encompasses the stone-bound screams of classical sculpture, the many depictions of the Crucifixion, the Massacre of the Innocents and St. Sebastians pierced with arrows, self-portraits of the aging Rembrandt, and the tortured art of Vincent van Gogh. Exploring the tender, complex rapport between art and pain, Spivey guides us through the twentieth-century photographs of casualties of war, Edvard Munch's The Scream, and back to the recorded horrors of the Holocaust. Beauty and disfigurement, violence and thrill, horror and comfort--these are pairings fostered throughout Western art, for causes as various as religious martyrdom, judicial torment, artistic virtuosity, and erotic gratification. The ancient Greeks invented tragic drama: but how far was pity for tragedy's victims tempered by the notion of just...

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