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The Reformation of the Image (Paperback)

By Joseph Leo Koerner

The University of Chicago Press, United States, 2009. Paperback. Condition: New. New edition. Language: English . Brand New Book. Martin Luther preached the radical notion that we are saved through faith alone. With one stroke, he overturned a thousand years of practice and teaching. Gone was the need for saintly intercessors and a special priesthood or the richly decorated and image-filled churches in which such mediation could take place. What counted now was faith arriving inwardly, in each individual, through the text of the Bible - the naked Word of God itself. But if words - not iconic images - led the believer to salvation, why didn't religious imagery disappear during the Reformation? The answer, according to Joseph Leo Koerner's masterful *The Reformation of the Image*, lies in the paradoxical nature of Protestant religious imagery itself, which is at once both iconic and iconoclastic. According to Koerner, it is this iconoclasm that characterizes Reformation art. *The Reformation of the Image* compellingly shows how visual art became indispensable to a religious movement built on words. It also reveals in Protestant images a powerful instance of modern disenchantment: the disappearance of magic both from images and from the world.



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