



Eye of the Beholder: Johannes Vermeer, Antoni van Leeuwenhoek, and the Reinvention of Seeing

By Laura J. Snyder

Download now

Read Online ➔

Eye of the Beholder: Johannes Vermeer, Antoni van Leeuwenhoek, and the Reinvention of Seeing By Laura J. Snyder

The remarkable story of how an artist and a scientist in seventeenth-century Holland transformed the way we see the world.

On a summer day in 1674, in the small Dutch city of Delft, Antoni van Leeuwenhoek—a cloth salesman, local bureaucrat, and self-taught natural philosopher—gazed through a tiny lens set into a brass holder and discovered a never-before imagined world of microscopic life. At the same time, in a nearby attic, the painter Johannes Vermeer was using another optical device, a camera obscura, to experiment with light and create the most luminous pictures ever beheld.

“See for yourself!” was the clarion call of the 1600s. Scientists peered at nature through microscopes and telescopes, making the discoveries in astronomy, physics, chemistry, and anatomy that ignited the Scientific Revolution. Artists investigated nature with lenses, mirrors, and camera obscuras, creating extraordinarily detailed paintings of flowers and insects, and scenes filled with realistic effects of light, shadow, and color. By extending the reach of sight the new optical instruments prompted the realization that there is more than meets the eye. But they also raised questions about how we see and what it means to see. In answering these questions, scientists and artists in Delft changed how we perceive the world.

In *Eye of the Beholder*, Laura J. Snyder transports us to the streets, inns, and guildhalls of seventeenth-century Holland, where artists and scientists gathered, and to their studios and laboratories, where they mixed paints and prepared canvases, ground and polished lenses, examined and dissected insects and other animals, and invented the modern notion of seeing. With charm and narrative flair Snyder brings Vermeer and Van Leeuwenhoek—and the men and women around them—vividly to life. The story of these two geniuses and the transformation they engendered shows us why we see the world—and our place within it—as we do today.

16 pages of color illustrations

 [Download Eye of the Beholder: Johannes Vermeer, Antoni van ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Eye of the Beholder: Johannes Vermeer, Antoni va ...pdf](#)

Eye of the Beholder: Johannes Vermeer, Antoni van Leeuwenhoek, and the Reinvention of Seeing

By Laura J. Snyder

Eye of the Beholder: Johannes Vermeer, Antoni van Leeuwenhoek, and the Reinvention of Seeing By Laura J. Snyder

The remarkable story of how an artist and a scientist in seventeenth-century Holland transformed the way we see the world.

On a summer day in 1674, in the small Dutch city of Delft, Antoni van Leeuwenhoek—a cloth salesman, local bureaucrat, and self-taught natural philosopher—gazed through a tiny lens set into a brass holder and discovered a never-before imagined world of microscopic life. At the same time, in a nearby attic, the painter Johannes Vermeer was using another optical device, a camera obscura, to experiment with light and create the most luminous pictures ever beheld.

“See for yourself!” was the clarion call of the 1600s. Scientists peered at nature through microscopes and telescopes, making the discoveries in astronomy, physics, chemistry, and anatomy that ignited the Scientific Revolution. Artists investigated nature with lenses, mirrors, and camera obscuras, creating extraordinarily detailed paintings of flowers and insects, and scenes filled with realistic effects of light, shadow, and color. By extending the reach of sight the new optical instruments prompted the realization that there is more than meets the eye. But they also raised questions about how we see and what it means to see. In answering these questions, scientists and artists in Delft changed how we perceive the world.

In *Eye of the Beholder*, Laura J. Snyder transports us to the streets, inns, and guildhalls of seventeenth-century Holland, where artists and scientists gathered, and to their studios and laboratories, where they mixed paints and prepared canvases, ground and polished lenses, examined and dissected insects and other animals, and invented the modern notion of seeing. With charm and narrative flair Snyder brings Vermeer and Van Leeuwenhoek—and the men and women around them—vividly to life. The story of these two geniuses and the transformation they engendered shows us why we see the world—and our place within it—as we do today.

16 pages of color illustrations

Eye of the Beholder: Johannes Vermeer, Antoni van Leeuwenhoek, and the Reinvention of Seeing By Laura J. Snyder **Bibliography**

- Sales Rank: #237100 in Books
- Published on: 2015-03-16
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.60" h x 1.40" w x 6.70" l, .0 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 448 pages

 [**Download** Eye of the Beholder: Johannes Vermeer, Antoni van ...pdf](#)

 [**Read Online** Eye of the Beholder: Johannes Vermeer, Antoni va ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online *Eye of the Beholder: Johannes Vermeer, Antoni van Leeuwenhoek, and the Reinvention of Seeing* By Laura J. Snyder

Editorial Review

Review

“Elegantly written intellectual history...fascinating.” (Deborah Blum - The New York Times Book Review)

“An engaging and richly detailed work of interdisciplinary history.” (Jonathan Lopez - Wall Street Journal)

“Beautifully evokes the ambience of late-seventeenth-century Delft... revelatory about Vermeer’s aims and methods, helping to explain what is so mesmeric about his work.” (Philip Ball - Nature)

“Vivid and persuasive.... This poetic, inclusive approach to popular science writing makes *Eye of the Beholder* an unfailing pleasure to read.” (Wendy Smith - The Daily Beast)

“Irresistible.... [Snyder] ingeniously explores the minutiae of her subjects’ lives to reveal sweeping changes in how their world was understood?ones that still resonate today.” (Jonathon Keats - New Scientist)

“Absorbing.... Snyder takes us back through time, beyond the reflections and shadows, to the very heart of Vermeer’s art.” (Roma Tearne - The Independent [UK])

“Laura Snyder is both a masterly scholar and a powerful storyteller. In *Eye of the Beholder*, she transports us to the wonder-age of seventeenth-century Holland, as new discoveries in optics were shaping the two great geniuses of Delft?Vermeer and van Leeuwenhoek?and changing the course of art and science forever. A fabulous book.” (Oliver Sacks)

“*Eye of the Beholder* is a thoughtful elaboration of the modern notion of seeing. Laura J. Snyder delves into the seventeenth century fascination with the tools of art and science, and shows how they came together to help us make sense of what is right in front of our eyes.” (Russell Shorto, author of *Amsterdam: A History of the World's Most Liberal City*)

“Laura J. Snyder's *Eye of the Beholder* is an irresistible invitation into the lives and work of Vermeer and van Leeuwenhoek and how the extraordinary intersection of their genius in Seventeenth century Delft awakened our perceptions of how we see the world. It's a wonderful and vivid book.” (Katharine Weber, author of *The Music Lesson*)

“As in *The Philosophical Breakfast Club*, Laura Snyder tells the tale of a crucial moment in human discovery by focusing on the interplay between the personalities involved, in this case the great Dutch artist Johannes Vermeer and the amateur scientist Antoni van Leeuwenhoek, best known for his miniature microscopes and his pioneering work as a microbiologist. This was an age when artists as well as scientists explored nature, occasionally with the same technical means, such as optical devices. This delightful book is solidly researched but reads like a novel?and a good one at that!” (Walter Liedtke, Curator of European Paintings, The Metropolitan Museum of Art)

About the Author

Fulbright scholar Laura J. Snyder is the author of *The Philosophical Breakfast Club*, a *Scientific American* Notable Book, winner of the 2011 Royal Institution of Australia poll for Favorite Science Book, and an official selection of the TED Book Club. She is also the author of *Eye of the Beholder* and *Reforming*

Philosophy. Snyder writes about science and ideas for the Wall Street Journal. She is a professor at St. John's University and lives in New York City.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Michael Madden:

The publication with title Eye of the Beholder: Johannes Vermeer, Antoni van Leeuwenhoek, and the Reinvention of Seeing has a lot of information that you can understand it. You can get a lot of advantage after read this book. This kind of book exist new expertise the information that exist in this publication represented the condition of the world right now. That is important to you to find out how the improvement of the world. This kind of book will bring you in new era of the globalization. You can read the e-book in your smart phone, so you can read the item anywhere you want.

Helen Velez:

Your reading 6th sense will not betray anyone, why because this Eye of the Beholder: Johannes Vermeer, Antoni van Leeuwenhoek, and the Reinvention of Seeing guide written by well-known writer we are excited for well how to make book that could be understand by anyone who all read the book. Written in good manner for you, leaking every ideas and creating skill only for eliminate your current hunger then you still hesitation Eye of the Beholder: Johannes Vermeer, Antoni van Leeuwenhoek, and the Reinvention of Seeing as good book not merely by the cover but also by content. This is one book that can break don't assess book by its include, so do you still needing one more sixth sense to pick this!? Oh come on your reading through sixth sense already said so why you have to listening to an additional sixth sense.

Sandra Williams:

This Eye of the Beholder: Johannes Vermeer, Antoni van Leeuwenhoek, and the Reinvention of Seeing is brand new way for you who has fascination to look for some information since it relief your hunger of information. Getting deeper you in it getting knowledge more you know or perhaps you who still having tiny amount of digest in reading this Eye of the Beholder: Johannes Vermeer, Antoni van Leeuwenhoek, and the Reinvention of Seeing can be the light food to suit your needs because the information inside this kind of book is easy to get by means of anyone. These books create itself in the form that is certainly reachable by anyone, yep I mean in the e-book form. People who think that in reserve form make them feel tired even dizzy this book is the answer. So there is not any in reading a reserve especially this one. You can find actually looking for. It should be here for anyone. So , don't miss it! Just read this e-book variety for your better life as well as knowledge.

Robert Beaubien:

Don't be worry in case you are afraid that this book will certainly filled the space in your house, you can have it in e-book means, more simple and reachable. This kind of Eye of the Beholder: Johannes Vermeer, Antoni van Leeuwenhoek, and the Reinvention of Seeing can give you a lot of friends because by you

investigating this one book you have factor that they don't and make an individual more like an interesting person. That book can be one of one step for you to get success. This e-book offer you information that probably your friend doesn't understand, by knowing more than additional make you to be great people. So , why hesitate? We need to have Eye of the Beholder: Johannes Vermeer, Antoni van Leeuwenhoek, and the Reinvention of Seeing.

Download and Read Online Eye of the Beholder: Johannes Vermeer, Antoni van Leeuwenhoek, and the Reinvention of Seeing By Laura J. Snyder #LYM5PIT7CVZ

Read Eye of the Beholder: Johannes Vermeer, Antoni van Leeuwenhoek, and the Reinvention of Seeing By Laura J. Snyder for online ebook

Eye of the Beholder: Johannes Vermeer, Antoni van Leeuwenhoek, and the Reinvention of Seeing By Laura J. Snyder Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Eye of the Beholder: Johannes Vermeer, Antoni van Leeuwenhoek, and the Reinvention of Seeing By Laura J. Snyder books to read online.

Online Eye of the Beholder: Johannes Vermeer, Antoni van Leeuwenhoek, and the Reinvention of Seeing By Laura J. Snyder ebook PDF download

Eye of the Beholder: Johannes Vermeer, Antoni van Leeuwenhoek, and the Reinvention of Seeing By Laura J. Snyder Doc

Eye of the Beholder: Johannes Vermeer, Antoni van Leeuwenhoek, and the Reinvention of Seeing By Laura J. Snyder Mobipocket

Eye of the Beholder: Johannes Vermeer, Antoni van Leeuwenhoek, and the Reinvention of Seeing By Laura J. Snyder EPub

LYM5PIT7CVZ: Eye of the Beholder: Johannes Vermeer, Antoni van Leeuwenhoek, and the Reinvention of Seeing By Laura J. Snyder