



Erotica Universalis

By Gilles Neret

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The art of pleasure: An erotic history of humanity

From the dawn of time, ever since Adam and Eve, all artists of every age—whether the Egyptian, Greek, or Roman artists of Antiquity, or more recent famous names as Rembrandt, Courbet, Degas, or Picasso—have succumbed to their fantasies, obsessions, and libido, and produced erotic works that the censors have taken good care to keep from the public. For *Erotica Universalis*, we surface from the subterranean realms of the museums to enter those of our national and private libraries. Here we discover that not only most of our famous writers, such as Ovid, Aretino, Voltaire, Verlaine, or Maupassant, wrote erotic texts that bordered on indecency, but also that great artists like Boucher, Fragonard, Dalí, or Matisse were inspired to provide suitable illustrations for these naughty books. For this **new hardcover edition of the classic 1995 bestseller**, we have culled highlights from our *Erotica Universalis* collection. A banquet for the imagination and a feast of the eye!

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Editorial Review

About the Author

Gilles Néret (1933–2005) was an art historian, journalist, writer and museum correspondent. He organized several art retrospectives in Japan and founded the SEIBU museum and the Wildenstein Gallery in Tokyo. He directed art reviews such as *L'Œil* and *Connaissance des Arts* and received the Elie Faure Prize in 1981 for his publications. His TASCHEN titles include *Salvador Dalí: The Paintings*, *Matisse*, and *Erotica Universalis*.

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