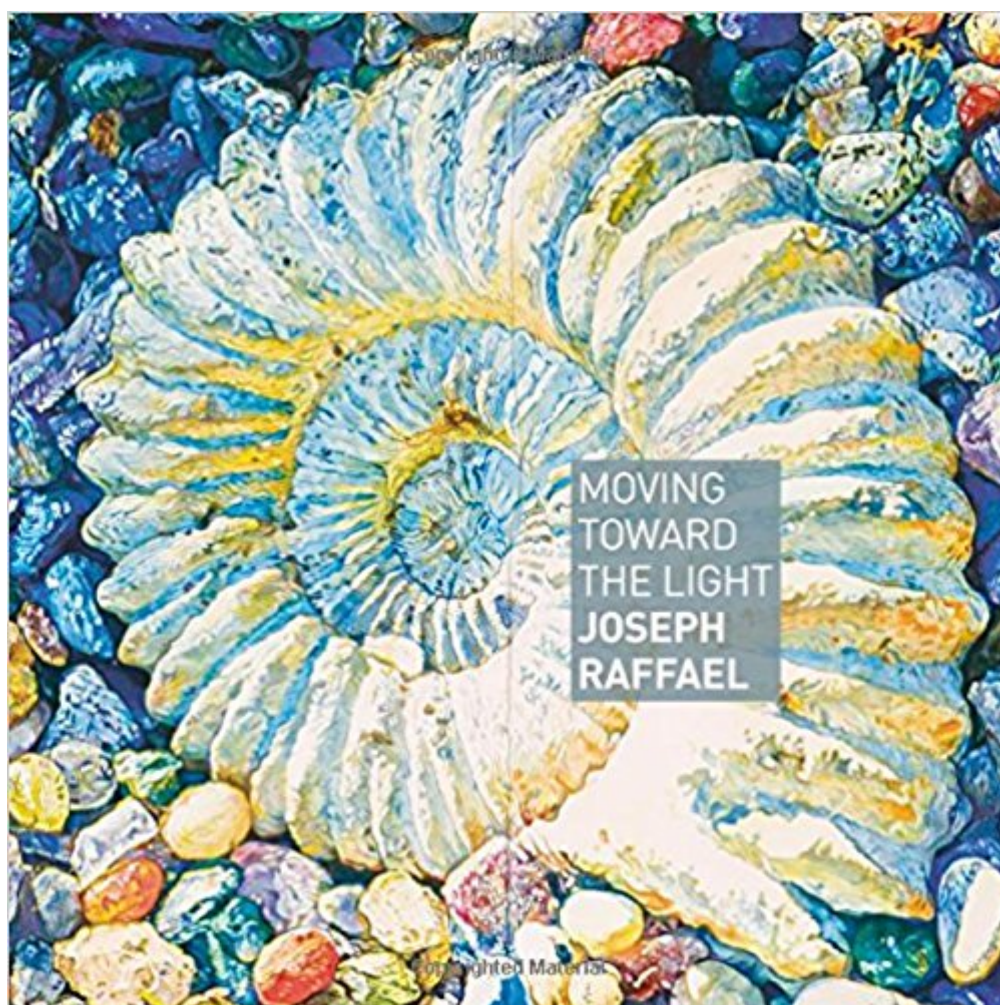


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Moving Toward The Light: Joseph Raffael



Synopsis

There will be a traveling exhibits of Joseph Raffael's work: Nancy Hoffman Gallery, NYC - September 10 through October 31, 2015 Canton Museum, Canton Ohio - December 2015 through early March 2016 Southern Ohio Museum, Portsmouth, Ohio - March through June 2016 Flint Institute of Arts, Flint, Michigan - June through August, 2016 Extraordinary in scale, infinitesimal in detail, and sumptuous in color, the paintings of master watercolorist Joseph Raffael plumb the depths of nature's beauty. Eighty-eight works of deep reflection, awe, and joy selected for this volume were created in his home and garden in Cap D'Antibes, France, overlooking the sparkling Mediterranean Sea. Raffael's radiant vision of the natural world, including flowers, fish and water, has garnered critical praise throughout his long career. "Despite their iconic serenity when seen from a distance," wrote art critic Robert Hughes, "Raffael's paintings disclose a bejeweled profusion of incident close up," concluding that the artist's color-drenched canvases display "a tender virtuosity without parallel in other American figurative painting today." It might be said that water, a symbol of life and constant change, is both Raffael's muse and teacher. The artist becomes its conduit as his colour-saturated brush glides along the surface of the white paper. "Watercolors have a mind of their own. I just need to show up and be present," he tells Betsy Dillard Stroud in her interview with the 81-year old artist. Lanie Goodman, a fellow resident in the South of France, visits Raffael at work in his light-filled studio, which she describes, in her biographical profile of the artist, as his haven and heaven. With tables of brushes and glass dishes of paint, the carefully cultivated garden by his wife Lannis, and the blue sea beyond, Raffael joins the long legacy of artists - Cezanne, Matisse, Leger among them - nourished by this life and vista. Raffael's home, where artist and nature are in constant dialogue, accounts for the artist's luminous painting, their symphonic color, and the splendour we behold in them. In his essay "A Walk in Beauty," David Pagel identifies Raphael's worlds within worlds as profound instances of big-picture thinking - the best possible experience of both Nature and Art.

Book Information

Hardcover: 192 pages

Publisher: Antique Collectors Club Dist (October 1, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1851498052

ISBN-13: 978-1851498055

Product Dimensions: 11 x 1 x 11 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 10 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #266,127 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #198 in Books > Arts & Photography > Individual Artists > Monographs #1895 in Books > Arts & Photography > History & Criticism > History

Customer Reviews

Raffael is legendary among watercolorists! (Fine Art Connoisseur, February 2016) Joseph Raffael offers us the possibility of really seeing what is at once outside of us and present within our entire being. (Tom Wachunas Artwach, January 13, 2016)

Amazing! But almost too much of a good thing.

fabulous book on this extraordinary artist! Price more than fair.

Brilliant artist, and brilliantly put together book. Easy to highly recommend.

MOVING TOWARD THE LIGHT - Joseph Raffael is one of the most elegant monographs on a practicing artist I have had the pleasure of reading. Yes, "reading" is an operative word here. Too often artist monographs are coffee table picture books, lush and lovely to look at, enlightening as to a chronological path of achievement, and even historically relevant - solely on the basis of the images: the written essays are seldom read and if they are read, they are merely perused. Such is not the case with this warmly informative and evocative collection of the works of this fine realist painter. Authors David Pagel (A Walk in Beauty), Lanie Goodman (In the Studio Making Paradise), and Betsy Dillard Stroud (Moving Toward the Light) write with courage about techniques (use of the photograph as the springboard, method of appropriation from the photo image to the paper or canvas, etc) that would frighten most of our painters today, so revealing of secrets and methods publically scorned as "copying" or NOT "representational". But the real coups in this valuable volume is having the artist talk us through not only his techniques, but through his personal history and vulnerabilities. As for the paintings, there are splendid reproductions of those paintings we all know and love (koi, water, water lilies, flowers) but there are also many examples of Raffael's wildlife images, spiritual images, and those of his wife Lannis seeming to

metamorphose out of her garden. The images in this book - eighty-eight works of deep reflection, awe, and joy created in his home and garden in Cap D'Antibes, France - represent the collection that will be on tour throughout the country for the next year. It will be in Nancy Hoffman Gallery, NYC, Canton Museum, Canton Ohio, Southern Ohio Museum, Portsmouth, Ohio and Flint Institute of Arts, Flint, Michigan. This book is a fine standard for art books that strive to inform as well as document an artist's work. Even if you don't know Raffael's paintings, I would recommend your adding this volume to your library - for you eye's AND your soul's sake. Very Highly Recommended. Grady Harp, October 15

I have followed Joseph Raffael's journey ever since the 70's when I went to see a show in San Francisco. Turning through a doorway, ahead of me on the wall hung a huge painting of a seal head just breaking water. The diamond light reflecting from the wet seal was mesmerizing. Color and light and mystery.....and sad yearning. Moving Toward the Light is like a letter from an old far away friend saying that all is now well, life is complete, whole, truly unabashedly beautiful.....and joyfully mysterious. Thank you Joseph Raffael for pointing the way.

I was fortunate to have the opportunity to attend the exhibit of Joseph Raffael's work at the Nancy Hoffman Gallery in New York City in October of 2015. There, I found his newest book, Moving Toward the Light and numerous original watercolor paintings found in this volume. Taking the painting in as 5 x 8 watercolors was a thrill. I was in a state of awe at the color and vibrancy of these paintings. I felt doused in sunlight and the magic of his garden. Outside it was grey, cold and raining in New York. I dreaded returning to the streets. Fortunately, I ordered his book and found this 11 x 11 volume is equally filled with magic. It has become peaceful refuge for me in this chaotic time. I read the prose or look at the pictures to start my day, much like a morning meditation, or to end my day, so that the evening news will not take over my precious dreams at night. Filled with both great beauty and wisdom, I am inspired and reassured. I sense when we are able to join with Mother Nature, our creative nature flows and all will be well. Thank you Joseph and Lannis.

Beautiful edition. Incredibly gorgeous paintings. I love this artist. Shows the underlying pattern of the universe in every work.

A Beautiful Book - paintings full of sunshine and light. Very inspirational - I highly recommend it!

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