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John HOUSE

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John HOUSE : Impressionists by the sea before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Impressionists by the sea:

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Lynne S.Great book. Lovely paintings....1 of 10 people found the following review helpful. FrustratedBy Pedro FernandesThis book accompanies an exhibition held at the Royal Academy in London. The theme is limited to seascapes and beech scenes. Surprisingly enough it enables the reader to rediscover the artists through some of their best, though neglected, works. Some of the seascapes here are so loosely painted that they verge on abstraction and they show what a revolutionary painters the impressionist were. But there are another books or catalogues about the impressionist moviment far more better. I was frustrated.20 of 20 people found the following review helpful. Not to be missed!By C. O'HalaI purchased this book because I wanted a preview of the exhibit that will run from February 9 to May 11, 2008 at the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art in Hartford, CT.Impressionists by the Sea is a collection of 69 paintings documenting French nineteenth-century artists' fascination with the Normandy coast. It features 14 paintings by Monet, 7 by Boudin and 5 by Courbet as well as works by Impressionists Renoir, Cassatt and Caillebotte. The focus is on the beach and sea and how artists documented its' changes from 1850 to 1890. Subject matter of the paintings vary, from depicting the power of natural forces, to the working fishing families and finally to the wealthy on holiday seeking relaxation and pleasure at the resort beaches of Trouville, Deauville, Etretat and Sainte-Adresse.The book is excellent. It features beautiful, large color plates (one painting per page). If you want more information regarding the artwork it is easily found in the back in Catalogue Entries. There are small "thumbnail" photos of each painting with a generous amount of information.It

begins with an introduction by distinguished art historian John House and followed by an essay by David Hopkin, both enjoyable with beautiful engravings, period postcards and photographs. House points out how both writers (with their serialized fiction stories published in the newspapers) and painters (using the Normandy coast as their subject matter for paintings at the Salon) enticed Parisians to board the new railway to this idyllic destination. The book is divided into five sections. The Public Face of the Coast features early masters such as Isabey, Breton and Jongkind who focused on the families whose livelihoods depended on the sea. In Before Impressionism Courbet, Whistler, and Millet, depicted the dramatic visuals where the sky, sea and land meet. It also includes Boudin's series of "holidaymakers" on the beaches from 1863-1865. Early Impressionism has breath-taking paintings by Manet and Monet expanding on Boudin's "holidaymakers" subject matter. In Beach Scenes at the Salon after 1870 are landscapes by Daubigny, Guillemet, Cazin, Pelouse and Sargent. Finally in Impressionism in the 1880s, are works by Monet, Renoir, Cassatt and Gauguin that have the passionate brushwork and vibrant colors as well as children on the beach as a subject matter. This book has convinced me not to miss this exhibit this Spring!!

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