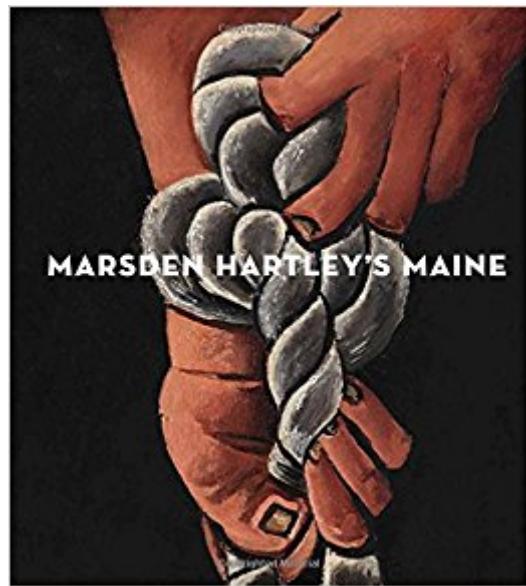


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Marsden Hartley's Maine



Synopsis

Marsden Hartley (1877–1943) was a well-traveled American modernist painter, poet, and essayist, but it is his life-long artistic engagement with his home state of Maine that defines his career. Maine served as a creative springboard, a locus of memory and longing, a refuge, and a means of communion with other artists, such as Winslow Homer, who painted there. This is the first book to look at the artist's complex relationship with the Pine Tree State, providing a nuanced understanding of Hartley's impressive range in over 80 works, from the early Post-Impressionist interpretations of seasonal change to the late depictions of Mount Katahdin, the most dramatic and enduring series in his oeuvre.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

“Marsden Hartley's Maine, accompanying an exhibition at the Met Breuer, is as tantalizing for what it omits as for the insights it offers into Hartley's creative intelligence. Besides examining in-depth both the early and late Maine periods, the present book includes a fine essay on materials and techniques, based on careful examination of a dozen works, which shows a surprising continuity in composition and methods across Hartley's career. Christopher Lyon, *Hyperallergic* “[T]he handsomely produced exhibition catalogue includes informative essays and images of provocative comparative works, as well as of the exhibited paintings and drawings. Karen Wilkin, *The New Criterion* “This book provides deeper understanding of his artistic range, particularly as it

relates to Maine's landscapes (including the iconic Mount Katahdin) . . . This great introduction to Hartley's life and works is recommended for art enthusiasts and students alike. *Library Journal*

The artist's complex relationship with his home state serves as a powerful tool for reassessing the evolution of his art in this insightful book.

Marsden Hartley has been getting much deserved attention by the art world in the recent past and Donna Cassidy is one of a handful of scholars who has taken on the monumental task of bringing him and his work to life. "Marsden Hartley's Maine" traces his life as he moves throughout the world, always returning to his home state to refresh his spirit and commune with the land he so loved. If you cannot get to the exhibit at the Met, this is the next best thing. It is a rare treat to see so many of his works at one time (nicely illustrated in this book), much less a selection that is so finely focused. If you are just hearing about Hartley, this is a solid introduction to him and his body of work that is focused on Maine.

A very good gathering of a particular time in the career of the artist well illustrated. Even though the format seems a little too small, well worth having. The artist and his times are well presented as an overview with many illustrations to put these particular works in context. Another more complete book is probably necessary to have a deeper understanding of the artist and his work, but what is presented is a beautiful accomplishment and aid to his technique and visual aesthetic.

Wonderful book. Nice images.

Magnificent Maine through the eyes of one of its homegrown talents.

Marsden Hartley's Maine by Donna Cassidy is a beautifully illustrated overview of Hartley's life and work with an eye toward his connection to Maine. While this volume certainly emphasizes the visual art he produced I was particularly interested in Richard Deming's essay on Hartley's poetry. The work as a whole does a wonderful job of giving a well-rounded picture of Hartley but it is the attention given to his literary contributions which really made him come to life for me. I think Deming's suggestion that "some conversation about place were occurring between the paintings and the poems" offers yet another way into both Hartley himself and his works, both visual and

literary. I would recommend this to collectors of books on art and artists. This will also be of interest to those interested in the interplay between place and artistic expression. Reviewed from a copy made available by the publisher via NetGalley.

This a collection of essays of Marsden Hartley's paintings, poetry and his relationship with his home state of Maine. Even though he lived elsewhere he always returned to Maine. I found the essays to be very well written and well researched. They are all accompanied by beautiful color illustrations. I also liked the essay about his poetry. This was an area I was not very familiar with. Readers will enjoy this book even if they do have a chance to see the exhibit.

Marsden Hartley's Maine by Donna Cassidy et. al. is a free NetGalley ebook that I read in early March. A real-life shared curation between the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York and the Colby College Museum of Art in Maine, Marsden Hartley's Maine shows Hartley's art amid six commentaries on his earlier career, emotionality and motivations, his time in Maine (in and out of a collective and, most notoriously, having an art studio in a chicken coop), and his own original poetry and autobiographical literature. His art is rendered in a Cezanne-like dash/dab/blot style and Hiroshige-like mountain tableaux that convey an almost clay-sculpted amount of depth and overcast, natural ruddy color. Noted exceptions to this style are his German graphic-inspired Indian Fantasy and still-lifes with bowls, flowers, and seashells.

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