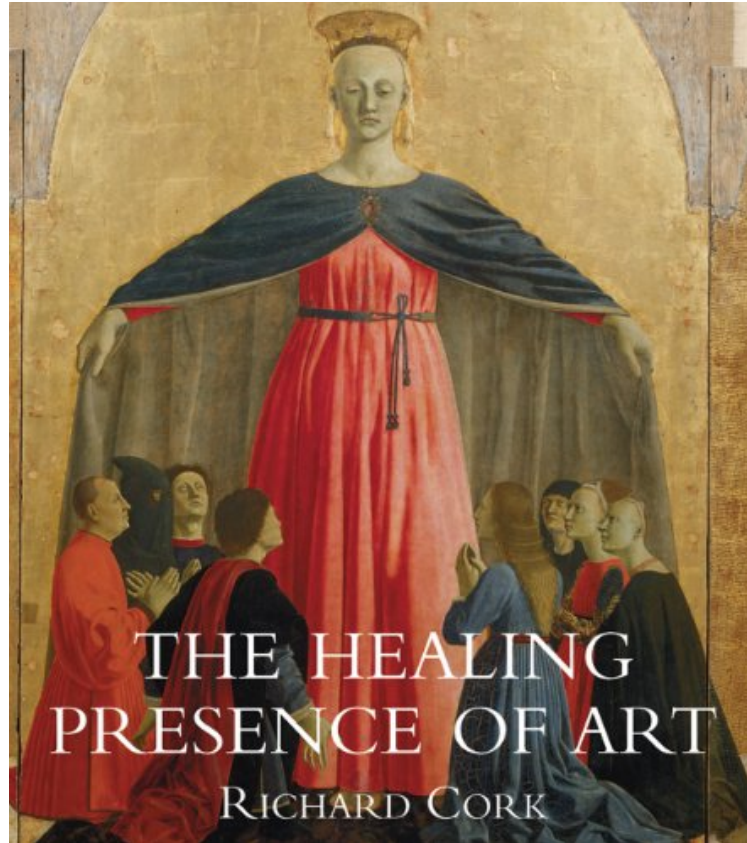


[Get free] The Healing Presence of Art: A History of Western Art in Hospitals

# The Healing Presence of Art: A History of Western Art in Hospitals

*Richard Cork*

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**Richard Cork : The Healing Presence of Art: A History of Western Art in Hospitals** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Healing Presence of Art: A History of Western Art in Hospitals:

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. unusual subject of great interest-excellently presentedBy Ivor E. ZetlerWhen I first encountered hospitals as a medical student in the seventies (in Cape Town, South Africa), I was struck by the blandness of the bare white walls in the large wards. This fascinating book demonstrates that hospitals were not always so undecorated. Richard Cork begins his exploration of the subject in Siena in the mid 1400's. The idea that hospital patients might benefit from redemptive surroundings was initially an ancient Greek idea and it was adopted by this enlightened city. As the book progresses we read and see examples of decorations in buildings in other areas of Italy and other European countriesThere is an interesting chapter about the Hotel Dieu hospital in the Netherlands which contained a large altarpiece by Rogier van der Weyden. Here the wardroom beds were arranged so the patients were guaranteed a view of this awesome work. On Sundays the altarpiece was opened to reveal the Last Judgement as a lesson to display the consequences of evil behaviour! Also written about is Van Gogh's stay in a hospital in Arles.To enumerate the many varied aspects of hospital art through the ages as presented in this book would require a major essay. Suffice it to say that anyone interested in art and/or history should enjoy this book

immensely. There are numerous generously sized, high quality color illustrations of the associated art works. While you may enjoy these illustrations, I suspect you will be compelled to read the text far more than that contained in the average art book. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A great project By parisNewtCork has done a marvelous job of research and thinking about this neglected specialty. As another reviewer mentions, there is very little art in today's hospitals, and most of it is mediocre. But this was not always the case! A fascinating book.

Fascinated by the astonishingly rich history of art in hospitals, the well-known critic and art historian Richard Cork has written a brilliant account of the subject. These works, which include masterpieces of Western art, have been produced from Renaissance Florence and Siena to the 20th century. Piero della Francesca made a painting for a hospital in Sansepolcro, as did Hans Memling in Bruges, Matthias Grnewald in Isenheim, El Greco in Toledo, Rembrandt in Amsterdam, William Hogarth in London, Vincent van Gogh in Saint-Rmy-de-Provence, and Marc Chagall in Jerusalem. The book's sumptuous images offer a rich range of subjects, from Francisco Goya's dramatic confrontations with suffering to Giovanni Battista Tiepolo's sublime, airborne celebrations of resurrection and heavenly ecstasy. Some, like Leonardo da Vinci's incisive drawings, are based on uncompromising firsthand study of hospital patients. Others explore a redemptive world where Christ is born, orphans are rescued, and plague victims are given shelter. In this wide-ranging survey, Cork investigates how such artworks have been used to humanize hospitals, to alleviate their clinical bleakness, and to offer genuine, lasting pleasure to patients, staff, and visitors.

Selected as a Choice Outstanding Academic 2012 Title for Art and Architecture within the Humanities category.