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# Encyclopedia of Themes and Subjects in Painting: Mythological, Biblical, Historical, Literary, Allegorical and Topical

*Howard Daniel*

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**Howard Daniel : Encyclopedia of Themes and Subjects in Painting: Mythological, Biblical, Historical, Literary, Allegorical and Topical** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Encyclopedia of Themes and Subjects in Painting: Mythological, Biblical, Historical, Literary, Allegorical and Topical:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. ALMOST FOUND!By Sina SiahpooshVISITING an art gallery has never been easy, not now, never. Unless you merely intend to be out for a stroll like in a park and to just take the air and look past paintings as if you were in a botanical garden viewing colorful flowers. Even so, if someone asks you the names of the flowers, you would probably be at a loss with most of them.Art gallery is a paradise in a way, a 'walled garden' wherein you behold the artistic flowers of humanity. A mere stroll in there is much more complicated. And with paintings it is a never-ending display of symbolism. Even with some knowledge of the eras, schools, movements, deciphering the iconography or understanding the artistic style is complex enough to be forever 'almost lost' in the labyrinthine halls of major galleries.Beyond mere shapes and colors and the rudimentary story about a canvas, typically on a little plaque on the wall, our appreciation expands greatly if we know certain details about motifs, the historical perspective and technical aspects as to why painting is significant and so admired. Without these considerations we shall always remain an acquaintance at best.The casual visitor and the amateur art enthusiast need

not know so much of what the art historian or the critic must for evaluation and interpretation, but illumination of the path to better appreciation is at hand. The title\* of this book is self-explanatory as to what hurdles it will remove towards that comprehension. When at least we know the story we are better equipped to appreciate the picture. This novel book, a brilliant idea the likes of which are indeed quite rare, is an education. Identifying many recurring subjects and the stories behind them, it also provides a fair glimpse into the world of mythology and religion reflected in painting, both of which overwhelmingly inspired the masters and so much of the Western arts for the last millennium at least. Although I am boring you stiff with what awaits you here in terms of insights to motifs, you are in for a surprise in this 'encyclopedia' with a superb and, I daresay, revolutionary critique of Western easel painting and in general, the history of painting from the Renaissance on, in the introduction to this book which shall prove invaluable to those who wish to be 'introduced' to some subtle and unspoken aspects of the art (usually the turf of the art historian). It is a thought-provoking, enlightening and easy to understand essay through the discerning eyes of the renowned art critic, John Berger. Then in this light, the content of this volume (and indeed, your strolls in exhibition halls) shall take on a wholly new color. And this picture book being in dictionary form, no need to read his thoughts first. In fact I recommend to jump in anywhere your curiosity takes you. Read the intro when you are happy with all the insights you are gaining. In subsequent trips to picture galleries you'll surely feel things are different: a confidence when you are almost found.\* (Aptly subtitled in some prints as "Mythological, Biblical, Historical, Literary, Allegorical, And Topical".) Content of all prints (1971, 1974) and formats (hardcover, paperback) are the same.

Book by Daniel, Howard