



Endless Forms: Charles Darwin, Natural Science, and the Visual Arts (Yale Center for British Art)

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Charles Darwin's revolutionary theories of evolution and natural selection have not only had a profound influence on the fields of biology and natural history, but also provided fertile territory for the creative imagination. This lavishly illustrated book accompanies an exhibition organized by the Fitzwilliam Museum, University of Cambridge, in association with the Yale Center for British Art, that will coincide with the global celebration of the bicentenary of Darwin's birth and the 150th anniversary of the publication of *On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection* (1859).

The essays in this exceptionally wide-ranging book examine both the profound impact that Darwin's ideas had on European and American artists and the ways in which his theories were influenced by the visual traditions he inherited. In works by artists as diverse as Church, Landseer, Liljefors, Heade, Redon, Cézanne, Lear, Tissot, Rossetti, and Monet, from imaginative projections of prehistory to troubled evocations of a life dominated by the struggle for existence, Darwin's sense of the interplay of all living things and his response to the beauties of the natural world proved inspirational.

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Editorial Review

Review

"A major achievement. . . . An extravagant celebration of sense and sensation."?Edward Rothstein, *New York Times*

(Edward Rothstein *New York Times* 2009-03-03)

"As this ambitious and generously illustrated study shows, <?xml:namespace prefix = st1 ns = "urn:schemas-microsoft-com:office:smarttags" />Darwin's theories unleashed a spate of artistic activity in depicting humankind and the glories of the human world. A veritable ethnographic museum in a book." ? *The Times*

(*The Times* 2009-03-23)

"Lavishly produced. . . . Much more than a catalogue. It offers thoughtful explorations of many of the ideas provocatively raised by the displays themselves."?Harriet Ritvo, *Science*

(Harriet Ritvo *Science* 2009-03-27)

"[Not] the first to consider the reception of Darwin within the visual arts, but . . . offers a more sustained and wide-ranging exploration of the topic than has emerged in scholarship to date. . . . Every essay in *Endless Forms* is captivating and contains significant historical and conceptual insights, The richness and breadth of the [volume is] impressive. . . . Yield[s] a fascinating and rigorously documented portrait of the art and visual culture of Darwin's era and beyond. . . . A major accomplishment, among others, of *Endless Forms* is its illumination of the intellectual interest and significance of animal painting."—Rachael Z. Delue, *Art Bulletin*

(Rachael Z. Delue *Art Bulletin*)

About the Author

Diana Donald is the former Head of the Department of History of Art and Design at Manchester Metropolitan University. Jane Munro is Senior Assistant Keeper of Paintings, Drawings, and Prints at the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge.

Users Review

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Doris Moreno:

This *Endless Forms: Charles Darwin, Natural Science, and the Visual Arts* (Yale Center for British Art) book is not ordinary book, you have after that it the world is in your hands. The benefit you obtain by reading this book is actually information inside this book incredible fresh, you will get facts which is getting deeper a person read a lot of information you will get. That *Endless Forms: Charles Darwin, Natural Science, and the Visual Arts* (Yale Center for British Art) without we realize teach the one who looking at it become critical in contemplating and analyzing. Don't be worry *Endless Forms: Charles Darwin, Natural Science,*

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