



# The Painted Book in Renaissance Italy: 1450–1600

*Jonathan J. G. Alexander*

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**A comprehensive survey examining the vibrant and sumptuous art of illumination during a period of profound intellectual and cultural transformation**

Hand-painted illumination enlivened the burgeoning culture of the book in the Italian Renaissance, spanning the momentous shift from manuscript production to print. This major survey, by a leading authority on medieval and renaissance book illumination, gives the first comprehensive account in English of an immensely creative and relatively little-studied art form.

Jonathan J. G. Alexander describes key illuminated manuscripts and printed books from the period and explores the social and material worlds in which they were produced. Renaissance humanism encouraged wealthy members of the laity to join the clergy as readers and book collectors. Illuminators responded to patrons' developing interest in classical motifs, and celebrated artists such as Mantegna and Perugino occasionally worked as illuminators. Italian illuminated books found patronage across Europe, their dispersion hastened by the French invasion of Italy at the end of the 15th century. Richly illustrated, *The Painted Book in Renaissance Italy* is essential reading for all scholars and students of Renaissance art.

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