

Lavishly illustrated with exotic images ranging from Renoirs forgotten Algerian oeuvre to the abstract vision of Matisses Morocco and beyond, this book is the first history of Orientalist art during the period of high modernism. Roger Benjamin, drawing on a decade of research in untapped archives, introduces many unfamiliar paintings, posters, miniatures, and panoramas and discovers an art movement closely bound to French colonial expansion. Orientalist Aesthetics approaches the visual culture of exoticism by ranging across the decorative arts, colonial museums, traveling scholarships, and art criticism in the Salons of Paris and Algiers. Benjamins rediscovery of the important Society of French Orientalist Painters provides a critical context for understanding a lush body of work, including that of indigenous Algerian artists never before discussed in English. The painter-critic Eugene Fromentin tackled the unfamiliar atmospheric conditions of the desert, Etienne Dinet sought a more truthful mode of ethnographic painting by converting to Islam, and Mohammed Racim melded the Persian miniature with Western perspective. Benjamin considers armchair Orientalists concocting dreams from studio bric-a-brac, naturalists who spent years living in the oases of the Sahara, and Fauve and Cubist travelers who transposed the discoveries of the Parisian Salons to create decors of indigenous figures and tropical plants. The network that linked these artists with writers and museum curators was influenced by a complex web of tourism, rapid travel across the Mediterranean, and the march of modernity into a colonized culture. Orientalist Aesthetics shows how colonial policy affected aesthetics, how Europeans visualized cultural difference, and how indigenous artists in turn manipulated Western visual languages.

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Orientalist Aesthetics: Art, Colonialism, and French North Africa, Front Cover Â· Roger Benjamin. Univ of California Press, Feb 3. This book should be read not only by art historians and North Africa specialists, Orientalist Aesthetics: Art, Colonialism, and French North Africa, Roger Benjamin Orientalist Aesthetics: Art, Colonialism, and French North Africa, (Berkeley, Los Angeles, and London: University of California Press. Bucknell University. Benjamin, Roger. Orientalist Aesthetics: Art, Colonialism, and French. North Africa, Berkeley: University of California Press. Roger Benjamin. Orientalist Aesthetics: Art, Colonialism and French North Africa, “ Berkeley: University of California Press, Read the full-text online edition of Orientalist Aesthetics: Art, Colonialism, and French North Africa, ()

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