



***The Best Art You've Never Seen:
101 Hidden Treasures from Around the World***



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Across the globe there are scores of beautiful and unusual works of art that are either unseen or have failed to receive the critical acclaim that they deserve...

The Best Art You've Never Seen restores to view 101 great treasures from around the world. From the richly-painted Buddhist caves of Mogao in northern China to the haunting self-portrait of Felix Nussbaum, an artist persecuted by the Nazis, author **Julian Spalding** takes us into a world of startling and **beautiful artefacts** and reveals the amazing, and often moving, **stories behind each one**.

Some of his choices have been hidden by chance, by a rock-fall or a shift in a trade route, others to avoid destruction or for use in the afterlife. Many, such as the exquisite flower paintings of Pierre-Joseph Redouté, have continued to be marginalized simply because they don't fit into the established norms and conventions of art. Then there are those works that are locked away in museum storerooms, private collections, or are as good as hidden by the over-scrupulous demands of conservation.

Whatever the reasons, Julian Spalding calls for a more open and less exclusive view of art, one that opens doors rather than closes them. He argues that the cleaning of the Mona Lisa is long overdue and suggests that the current obsession with conceptual art has led to the neglect of some outstanding contemporary artists.

"If readers put down this book feeling more ambitious about what they would like to receive through their eyes, it will have done its job." Julian Spalding

Thought provoking and challenging, this book unveils a surprising and unfamiliar alternative canon and offers a fresh take on the world of art.

About the author:

Julian Spalding is an art writer and museum expert whose forthright and original views have made him a controversial figure. For thirty years he worked as a museum and gallery curator, in charge of several major civic collections. In Glasgow he directed twelve museums (including the famous Burrell Collection) and established the Glasgow Gallery of Modern Art. His book *The Art of Wonder – A History of Seeing* won the Banister Fletcher Award as the best art history book of 2006.

Notes for editors:

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