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## Jacob van Ruisdael Windmills and Water Mills

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By Seymour Slive

J. Paul Getty Museum. Hardcover. Book Condition: New. Hardcover. 128 pages. Dimensions: 8.8in. x 8.6in. x 0.6in. Windmills were ubiquitous in seventeenth-century Holland and they remain the best-known symbol of the Dutch landscape. Jacob van Ruisdael first depicted them as a precocious teenager and continued to represent all types in various settings until his very last years. Water mills, in contrast, were scarce in the new Dutch Republic, found mainly in the eastern provinces, particularly near the border with Germany. Ruisdael discovered them in the early 1650s and was the first artist to make water mills the principal subject of a landscape. His most celebrated painting, Windmill at Wijk bij Duurstede at the Rijksmuseum, and the J. Paul Getty Museums Two Undershot Water Mills with an Open Sluice are the centerpieces of this overview of the artists depictions of windmills and water mills. Both depended upon forces of nature for their operation, but their use in the Netherlands and their place in seventeenth-century Dutch art differed considerably. This book examines their role in Holland and introduces readers to the pleasure of studying Ruisdaels images of them, a joy conveyed by the English landscapist John Constable in a letter written to his...



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