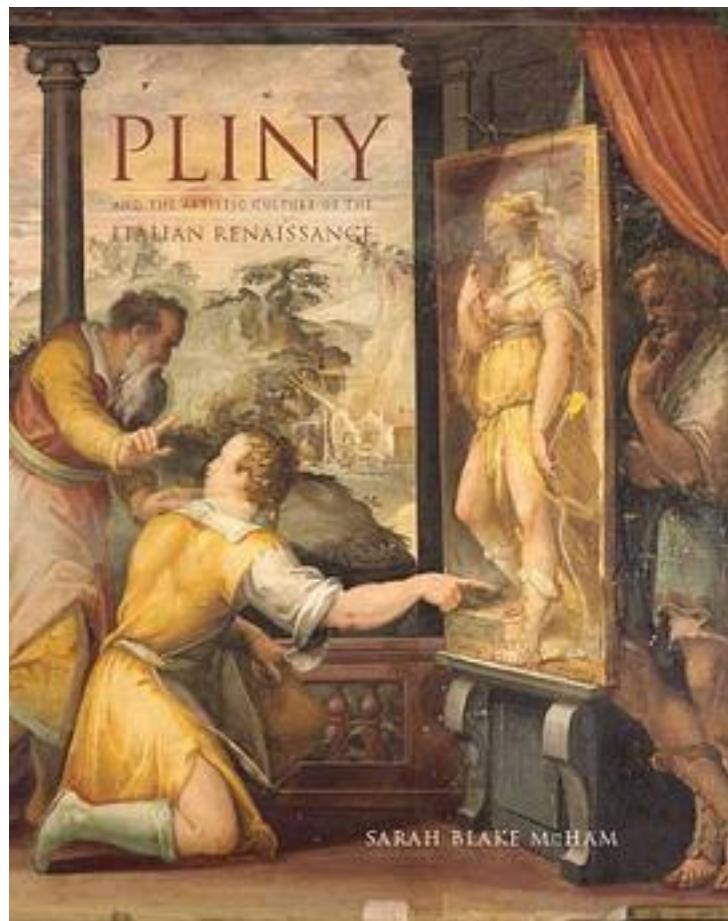


# Pliny and the Artistic Culture of the Italian Renaissance



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Pliny's "Natural History" (A.D. 77-79) served as an indispensable guide to and exemplar of the ideals of art for Renaissance artists, patrons, and theorists. Bearing the

imprimatur of antiquity, the "Natural History" gave permission to do art on a grand scale, to value it, and to see it as an incomparable source of prestige and pleasure. In "Pliny and the Artistic Culture of the Italian Renaissance", Sarah Blake McHam surveys Pliny's influence, from Petrarch, the first figure to recognize Pliny's relevance to understanding the history of Greek art and its reception by the Romans, to Vasari and late 16th-century theorists. McHam charts the historiography of Latin and Italian manuscripts and early printed copies of the "Natural History" to trace the dissemination of its contents to artists from Donatello and Ghiberti to Michelangelo and Titian. Meanwhile, benefactors commissioned works intended to emulate the prototypes Pliny described, aligning themselves with the great patrons of antiquity. This is a richly illustrated, comprehensive reference work of social history, myth making, iconography, theory, and criticism.

作者介绍:

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