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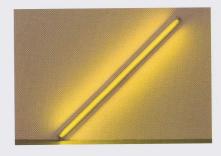
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Preface

We have been indebted to many friends for help and encouragement in writing this book, above all to the late John Calmann, without whom we should never have had the temerity to embark on it. His death, when it was little more than half finished, deprived us of a warm friend and an outstandingly gifted publisher. Since then all possible assistance has been given to us by his sister Marianne and by his loyal staff. To Sarah Riddell's meticulous editorial skill we owe a very great deal as also to Elisabeth Ingles and Dr I. Grafe whose careful reading of the text has saved us from many errors. Susan Bolsom-Morris was indefatigable in searching for the photographs we wanted. And the book owes much to the patient cooperation and visual sensibility of the designer, Harold Bartram.

For guidance and information either on specific points or more general issues we have importuned a number of scholars, several of whom have kindly read whole chapters or sections and have given us the benefit of their specialized knowledge. They include James Ackerman, Bruce Boucher, Richard Brilliant, J. F. Cahill, Lorenz Eitner, Nicholas Gendle, Oleg Grabar, Ian Graham, Michael Grant, Francis Haskell, Howard Hibbard, Derek Hill, Robert Hillenbrand, John Dixon Hunt, Charles Jencks, Alastair Laing, Sherman E. Lee, Norbert Lynton, M. D. McLeod, Margaret Medley, Patricia Phillips, Aaron Scharf, Dorota Starzecka, William Watson and Sarah Jane Whitfield. To all of them we are deeply indebted, as also to the authors of books and periodical articles, too few of whom are recorded in our necessarily very brief bibliography, and of course to many librarians, especially those of the London Library and the Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florence.

For help in connection with photographs and other problems we are most grateful to Naomi Caplin, Peter Carson, Françoise Chiarini, John and Thekla Clark, Anne Distel, Aastrid Fischer, Michael Graves, Andreina Griseri, Anne d'Harnoncourt, John Harris, Carlos van Hasselt, John Irwin, Arata Isozaki, Margaret Keswick, Islay Lyons, Henry P. McIlhenny, Dominique de Menil, John H. Morley, John Ross, Laurence Sickman, William Kelly Simpson, Nikos Stangos, Mary Tregear, Hermione Waterfield and William Weaver. And, finally, we must also thank, most gratefully, the friends who have helped us in more personal ways – Noel and Giana Blakiston, Milton Gendel, Nicholas and Susanna Johnston, Ornella Francisci Osti, Donald Richard, Richard Sachs, Gary Schwartz and Sebastian Walker.

Hugh Honour and John Fleming, November 1981

Preface to the Revised Seventh Edition

The sixth edition of this book was the first to be prepared without the collaboration of John Fleming, who was able to do no more than discuss improvements to its predecessor before his death. Additions to its text have been retained in the present edition: the expansions to record recent discoveries – from the prehistoric Chauvet Cave in south-western France to the late thirteenth-century frescoes in the Sancta Sanctorum in Rome; the 'Urban

Development' boxes dealing with the ancient world from Jericho to Athens, and those discussing the Roman empire, medieval Europe (contributed by Delia Gaze), renaissance Rome, seventeenthcentury Islam and nineteenth- and twentieth-century Europe and America; the quotations in the 'Sources and Documents' boxes (to which passages from Walter Benjamin's writings on photography have now been added). Also carried over from the sixth edition are the pages on the arts of Africa which were revised and partially re-written by Michael Bird, to whom I remain very grateful.

In the present, revised seventh edition, a significant number of the images have had the benefit of new photography, which has also allowed many of them that were formerly printed in black and white to be now in colour. Throughout, insertions have been made to clarify, or correct, remarks in the original text, and I have re-written the pages on Meso-American art in the light of the excavation of the great temple of the Aztecs in Mexico City. To other and more recent archaeological discoveries that call into question former assumptions I could do no more than allude. Two important developments in this area have been the steady increase in the corpus of prehistoric paintings, which now includes an example in England – dating from before the country was isolated from the European continent by the rise of the North Sea, and the excavations directed by Klaus Schmidt at Göbekli Tepe in southeastern Turkey that are revealing a cult centre built soon after 9600 BC and mark a new beginning for the history of architecture and organised religion.

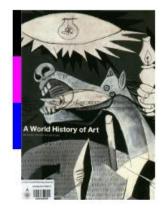
Most conspicuously, however, this edition differs from its predecessors in the final chapters. Chapters 21 and 22 have been completely revised and greatly expanded by Michael Archer, whose contributions in these chapters was one of the significant features of the sixth edition. In this edition, he not only revised and expanded his previous discussion, but has charted in detail the significant developments in the arts of our own troubled times. I am deeply grateful to him.

The successive editions of this book could not have been written without the help and encouragement of a number of advisers and personal friends, who are in addition to those listed in the main preface. It is a pleasure to thank by name: Eve Borsook, Michael Craig-Martin, Margaret Daly Davis, Richard Dorment, Cornelia Grassi, Claudio Guenzani, James Hall, Larissa Haskell, Walter Kaiser, Ronald de Leeuw, Michael Mallon, Vernon Hyde Minor, David Plante, Ida Rigby, Brian Robertson, Michael Rogers, Robert Skelton, Carl Strehlke, David Sylvester and Dimitros Zikos. I remain, of course, alone responsible for expressions of opinion and errors of fact. For the enthusiastic support of Laurence King Publishing — Laurence King himself, Lee Ripley, the designer Nick Newton, the picture researcher Julia Ruxton, and above all my dedicated editors Kara Hattersley-Smith, Jessica Spencer, Donald Dinwiddie and Susie May — I am extremely grateful.

Hugh Honour, March 2008

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