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Awards

- Benjamin Franklin Award, Silver Medal, Biography
- LGBT Book of the Year, Finalist, Foreward Reviews
- Biography Book of the Year, Finalist, Foreward Reviews

Rights enquiries

MacKenzie Wolf (NYC)

Distribution

USA Trade, IPG
UK Trade, Gardners, Gazelle

Specifications

INFORMATION ON AGNES MARTIN: PIONEER, PAINTER, ICON

www.henry-martin.com

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FORMAT: Paperback original

RRP: €18.50, \$18.95

ISBN: 9781943156306

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PUBLISHER: Schaffner Press

Description

'One of America's least recognized masters of 20th-century abstraction,' (*The Economist*), AGNES MARTIN (1912–2004) now ranks among the great artists of the Twentieth Century. A new book, based on interviews with friends, family and lovers, explores her work – and, for the first time, her extraordinary life.

Canadian-born, Martin became a key figure in the male-dominated 1960s art world, creating abstract and geometric paintings that bridged the work of her contemporaries Mark Rothko and Jackson Pollock, with that of a new generation of minimalists including Carl Andre and Eva Hesse. However, at the height of her career, Martin abandoned this success and New York. Recurring treatment (including shock treatment) for schizophrenia in the infamous Bellevue Hospital had taken its toll on the artist and she needed an escape: "I had to have time and nobody's going to give you time where I was," she said, "So I had to leave."

For almost two years Martin travelled across the US and Canada before finally returning to New Mexico for inspiration, as Georgia O'Keeffe, D.H. Lawrence, Willa Cather, and many more had done before her. Here, Martin resumed her practice and went on to become an influence on a new generation of artists, including Rachel Whiteread and Zoe Leonard. For the next thirty years Martin was prolific, producing paintings on the themes of joy and happiness. Before she died in 2004, aged ninety-two, she had become, after an early life of hardship, "the greatest artist in the world," recipient of the Venice Biennale Golden Lion Award (1997) and a Whitney Museum retrospective (1993).

In 2015, a major retrospective at Tate Modern introduced Martin's work to a new generation for the first time in twenty years. While Martin's work has been examined in previous books, her personal life has yet to be fully explored—until now.

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Throughout her life, Martin's gender, sexuality, profession, social status, and schizophrenia made her an outsider. Based on new interviews with Agnes Martin's family, friends, and lovers, Henry Martin explores Martin's outsider status and charts her story from the pioneer plains of Canada, to the desert of New Mexico and New York's bohemian circles where her transformation from outsider to icon was hard-won.

Agnes Martin: Pioneer, Painter, Icon is certain to be a mainstay for readers of the arts, and admirers of the creative spirit. Revelatory accounts of the artist's early life, combined with unpublished photographs from Martin's family and friends, make this an essential biography on the artist.