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Max Beckmann : Max Beckmann: On My Painting (Artist's Writings) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Max Beckmann: On My Painting (Artist's Writings):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Beckmann readBy robyn w faircloughGreat read, did not realize how very very short it is!! Insightful, wonderful artist with true introspection to art and his process2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Beckmann's theory of paintingBy Winston houghIf you are a fan of Beckmann this a must read.Beckmann goes counter to todays direction,with its empahsis on formal qualities: minimalism. He stresses content and that means subject matter.Beckmann's formal attributes come out of traditional German art.He tells you

why ,he paints.He didn't have a difficult art life: his work in Germany found early acceptance.His work as an ambulance driver in WW1 scarred his vision of the world. After a period of recovery from mental problems due to the war. He led a stable life. He came to the U.S after the Nazis were seeking him in the Netherlands. He taught at the Brooklyn Museum school and Washington University in St. Louis Mo.He tried to compete with Picasso. He kept a keen eye on Pablo's work.Max still enjoys a big reputation.He never lost his visual German accent!

Max Beckmann is widely acknowledged as one of Germany's leading twentieth-century artists. A figurative painter throughout his career, Beckmann depicted the world around him with an unparalleled intensity. His art emerges directly from his experiences of the First and Second World Wars, the political upheavals of the 1920s and 1930s, the rise of Nazism, exile in Amsterdam and his final emigration to the United States. By capturing the objects and events that surrounded him, Beckmann hoped to grasp the deeper mysteries underlying human existence. He perceived and painted the world as a vast stage, at once real and magical, upon which his own life and the traumas of contemporary history were closely intertwined."On My Painting" can give a valuable insight into understanding his work. It was composed in 1938 at a crucial juncture in Beckmann's life, just a year after he was included the "Degenerate Art" exhibition in Nazi Germany. It was read by him at the opening of the "Twentieth Century German Art" exhibition. With an introduction by Mayen Beckmann, the artist's granddaughter, and an afterword by Sean Rainbird.

About the AuthorSean Rainbird is curator at Tate and is the London selector for the major Max Beckmann retrospective taking place in 2003. Mayen Beckmann is the artist's granddaughter.