

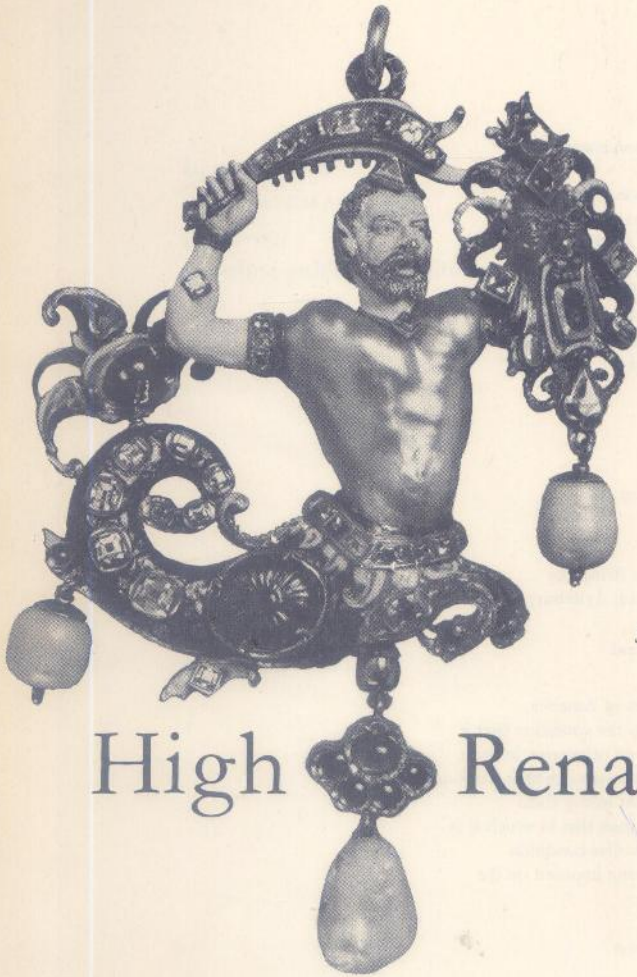
*High Renaissance*  
*Michael Levey*

*Style and Civilization*



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*Style and Civilization*

# High Renaissance

*Penguin Books*

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Supreme accomplishment and total artistic confidence characterize the work produced, not just in Italy but all over Europe, during this marvellous period – in the palaces at Fontainebleau and Granada, in Holbein's portraits as much as Raphael's, in the princely monuments at Innsbruck and Antwerp. Considered as the interpreters of a divinely inspired energy and lauded for their ability to transmit pleasure and refinement, the High Renaissance artists, ranging wide in time and place, produced a luxuriant profusion of paintings, buildings and jewellery.

Michael Levey, author of the widely praised *Early Renaissance* (which earned him the prestigious Hawthornden prize), views the age as one triumphantly sure that art can rise above nature. Here, writing absorbingly and aided by a great understanding of the period and a selection of over 150 illustrations, Levey demonstrates how Michelangelo's 'David', Titian's 'Assunta', a piece of Spanish jewellery or a Palissy dish – to name only a few – illustrate the defiant virtuosity of the High Renaissance.

## Style and Civilization

This series interprets the important styles in European art in the broadest context of the civilization and thought of their times. It aims, in this way, to achieve a deeper understanding of their character and motivation.



The front cover shows a detail from the 'Venus of Urbino' by Titian (photo: Scala); the back cover shows a detail of the Triumph Relief from the Tomb of François I by Pierre Bontemps (photo: Archives Photographiques).  
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