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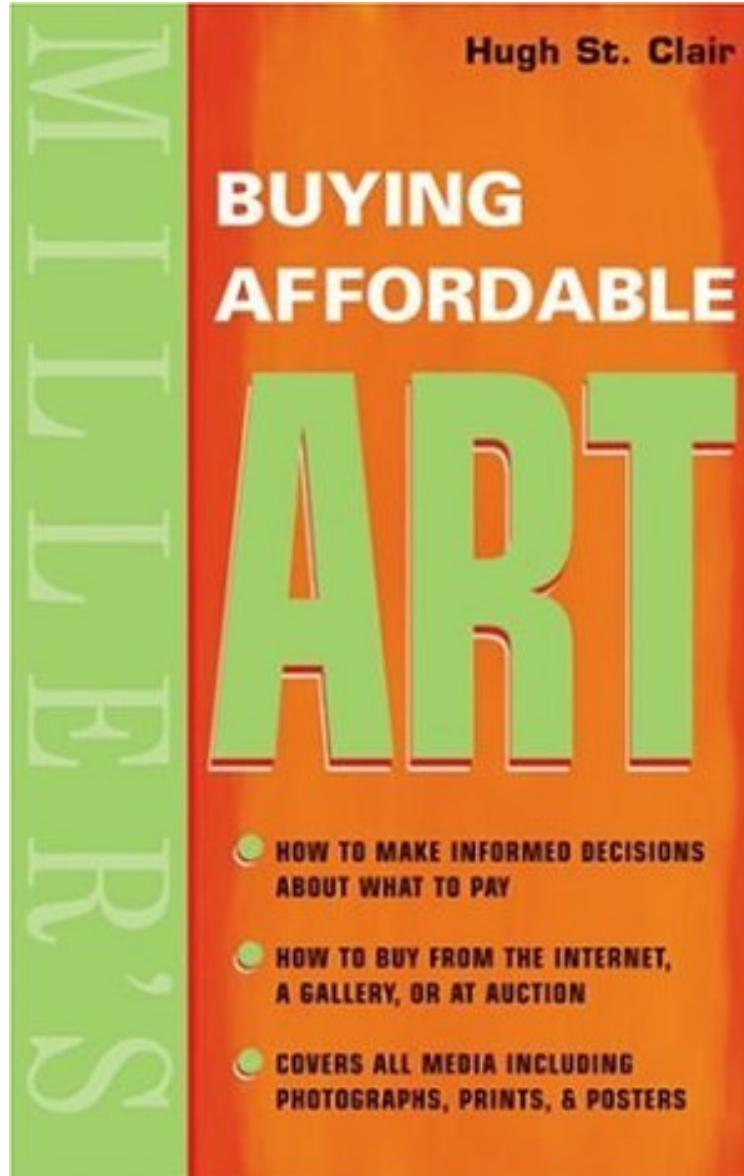
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Hugh St. Clair : Miller's Buying Affordable Art (Mitchell Beazley Antiques Collectables) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Miller's Buying Affordable Art (Mitchell Beazley Antiques Collectables):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Stating the obvious and discussing it at lengthBy R. JOHNSONI

have nothing remotely to do with the art industry, but keep an amateur eye out for attractive and under priced art for sale, on the second-hand art market. I use just the obvious resources available to all: auction catalogues, library books and Internet sites. I have had a little success, but have no doubt that most opportunities slip through my fingers, unrecognised by my very limited, self-taught knowledge. In buying this book, written by an inside art market professional, I expected it to greatly enhance my techniques and abilities, if not revolutionise them. However, I was greatly disappointed. The auctioneers, contacts and websites listed are the predictable ones that anyone with a very limited degree of common sense or an amateur interest in the field, has already easily discovered with little effort or guidance. The book also discusses blindingly obvious suggestions at length, such as 'if in doubt, consult a professional' or 'the value of art can go up as well as down' or 'safeguard against on-line fraud by using a safe payment method'. The book mentions useful examples of the types of art that have increased and those that are out of fashion and have not. However, the book rightly states the obvious, that over time, such tastes change dramatically ... and this book is now five years out of date. Overall, the book might be described as very marginally useful. I bought it new from a publishers' clearance bookshop, in London for 2 (\$3 US). At this minimal price, a book of minimal value was fairly priced. However, it's certainly not worth the cover price. For anyone with either a passive or active interest in discovering under priced art, Sleuth by Phillip Mould (of Antiques Roadshow) should be both more interesting and useful.

Buying original works of art whether an oil painting, watercolor, print, photograph, or piece of sculpture is no longer the preserve of the wealthy. In fact, many people are now turning to art as an alternative to investing in stocks, shares, and property. Find out how to make an informed purchase, when and where are good places to buy and sell (not always the same) including the Internet and the ever-popular eBay; and how to find out if that filthy oil painting you've picked up in the local junk shop should be cleaned and whether it's worth anything and the tax implications if it is. All the visual arts are covered, with information on how to research an artist, provenance, and a subject all of which can affect value. Above all, you'll learn how to build a coherent collection and how to pick pieces that you can enjoy and will stand the test of time, too.