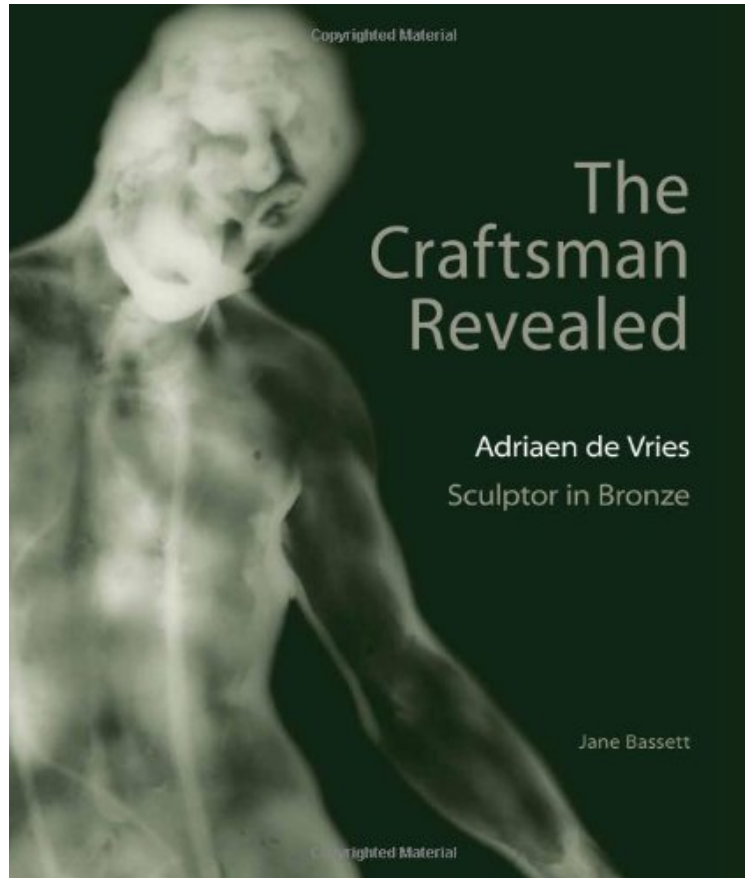



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The Craftsman Revealed: Adrien de Vries, Sculptor in Bronze

Jane Bassett, Peggy Fogelman, David Scott, Ron Schmidting
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Jane Bassett, Peggy Fogelman, David Scott, Ron Schmidting : The Craftsman Revealed: Adrien de Vries, Sculptor in Bronze before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Craftsman Revealed: Adrien de Vries, Sculptor in Bronze:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The Craftsman Revealed Great Book By Victoria Tribout This is a wonderful book. I recommend it for any sculptor, art, and art history student. Great and interesting read. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Wonderful combination of rigor and clarity By las cosas Did you ever stand in front of a bronze sculpture and read that the work was "attributed to" someone, or that a work is possibly by a certain artist and wonder how these issues are investigated? Then this is the book for you! A surprisingly approachable book that presents a detailed technical analysis of the bronze sculptures of a single artist. After reading this book I for the first time had some understanding of how a professional curator can determine a wealth of information about a bronze sculpture, and how that information provides a detailed understanding of the artist, the work and the environment in which the work was created. It opened my eyes to new ways to look at bronze sculpture, providing a much fuller understanding of the technical and physical constraints that face the sculptor in creating the works, and appreciating how those constraints can determine the composition of the work. This book is a study of the bronze sculptures of late

16th and early 17th century Northern Mannerist sculptor Adriaen de Vries. But this is neither a catalogue, nor a 'life and works' of de Vries. Instead, the book presents a detailed technical analysis of twenty-five de Vries sculptures. This provides the reader with an analysis of, for example, the fabrication techniques, x-rays of the rods and wires used to construct the bronzes, casting methods and defects and any restorations after it was cast. But the element of this book that makes it completely fascinating to me, as a lay person with zero background in this field, is that there is an extensive glossary explaining terms used in the case studies. For example, I never really knew what lost wax casting meant, the variety of cores that can be used in the casting process and the use of plaster foundry models. The writing is clear and direct. Difficult technical processes are meticulously explained so that the conclusions are understandable, even to me. Typical of Getty Museum publications, no expense was spared in providing endless photos documenting each step of the analysis, and providing a step-by-step illustration of many glossary terms. De Vries produced a large number of exquisite bronze sculptures that have survived in generally excellent condition. This book lavishly illustrates over two dozen of these works, but more importantly provides the lay person with the opportunity to enter the lab and see, and understand, the technical analysis used to uncover a surprising amount of information hidden to the naked eye. Rarely does one encounter a technical book of this nature that is as readable and engaging for the general reader, though clearly written for the professional world of art conservation.

The sculptor Adriaen de Vries (1556-1626) spent much of his life working for the most discerning royal courts of the age, including that of Holy Roman Emperor Rudolf II in Prague. A master of composition and technique, De Vries was relatively unknown until the J. Paul Getty Museums groundbreaking 1999 exhibition Adriaen de Vries: Imperial Sculptor, which firmly established the artists reputation and afforded a rare opportunity to study in depth a large group of bronzes.

This exemplary book is a must read for anyone wishing to delve into the technology of Renaissance bronze casting. *Studies in Conservation*