

**See the Renaissance from its original perspective with two lavishly illustrated works on artistic technique by Albrecht Dürer**

Albrecht Dürer, *De Symmetria Partium in Rectis Formis Humanorum Corporum / Underweysung der Messung*. Nuremberg: H. Andrea, 1532 and Hieronymum Formschneyder, 1538. 12 inches x 8 3/8 inches (305 x 213 mm), 346 pages, illustrated throughout.

Albrecht Dürer (1471–1528), German painter, engraver, and draftsman, was the most celebrated artist of the Northern Renaissance. Dürer's reputation spread throughout Europe during his lifetime, beyond his native city of Nuremberg, a thriving center of art and commerce. Like Leonardo da Vinci, Dürer became deeply involved in scientific and mathematical studies; his application of scientific principles to the creation of art marks the beginning of art theory in Northern Europe and of scientific writing in Germany.

This is a rare sammelband that brings together the first two books of Dürer's *De Symmetria Partium in Rectis Formis Humanorum Corporum* (Books on the normal proportions of the parts of the human form) with *Underweysung der Messung* (Instruction in measurement). *De Symmetria* is Dürer's beautifully illustrated study of the measurements and proportions of the human form. *Underweysung der Messung* is a pioneering work in scientific illustration that contains over 150 woodcuts, including outstanding examples of orthographic projection and several of Dürer's most intriguing designs. It presents a wide range of geometric subjects, with the basics of linear, plane, and solid geometry laying a foundation for practical applications for architecture and art, including the construction of columns and the rendering of alphabets. Its most notable achievement is the analysis of perspective; in that regard, Dürer's treatise had a major impact on Northern Renaissance art.

This extraordinary book from the Warnock Library is bound in exquisite Bohemian vellum with the arms of Emperor Rudolf II impressed on the front cover. Rudolf II's widely varied interests transformed Prague into a European cultural center, attracting the era's most influential scientists and artists. Rudolf was a passionate collector of Dürer's work, and it is fitting

that a book intended for artists bears his arms.

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