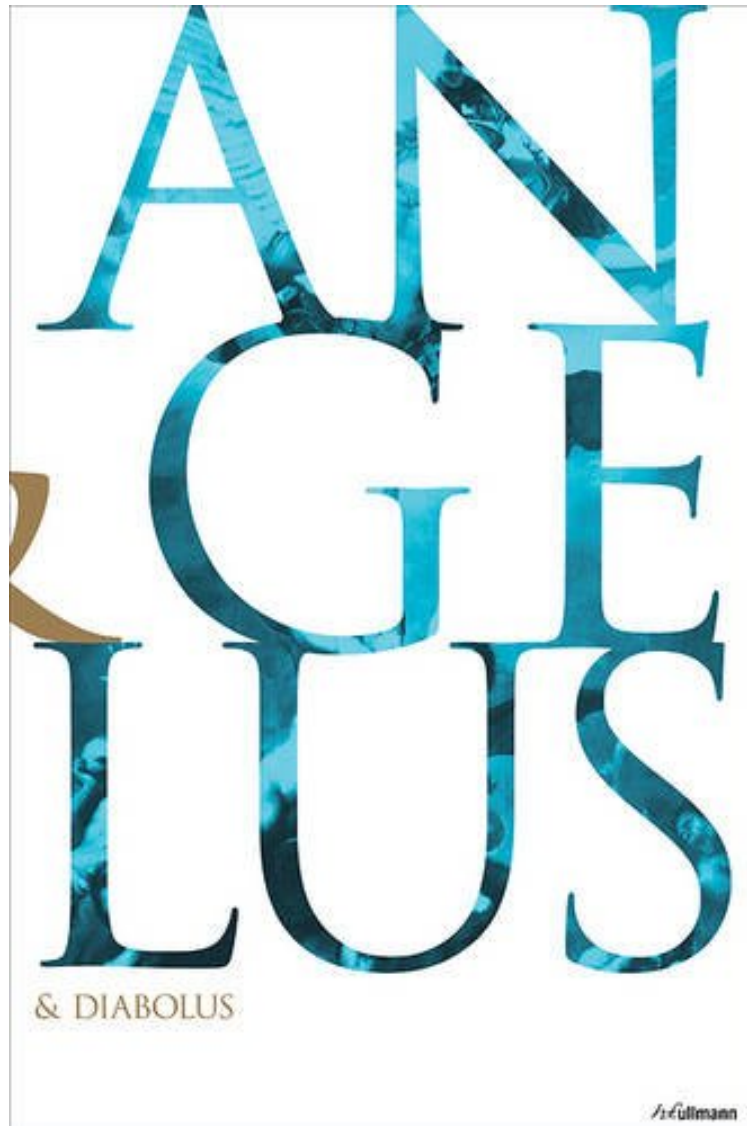


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# Angelus Diabolus: Angels and Devils. The History of Good and Evil in Christian Art

*Maria-Christina Boerner*

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**Maria-Christina Boerner : Angelus Diabolus: Angels and Devils. The History of Good and Evil in Christian Art** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Angelus Diabolus: Angels and Devils. The History of Good and Evil in Christian Art:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The biggest beast of them all, in my collection By C. CleverThere's only one complaint (and it's not, really!): the book easily weighs over twenty pounds. I have to ask my husband to get

"the big-big" book down for me to hunch over in my bed and enjoy. This book makes my Gothic and Baroque "Big books" (they are sixteen pounds each) look small! I'm spoiled by the quality in these oversized books, they are simply magnificent. This one in particular is an absolute treasure, with about 800 pages of amazing works of art in photos so crisp and colorful, it might be even better than visiting the works in person. 1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Customer That huge book delivered in complete condition. 5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. This is the sequel to the amazing *Ars Sacra* by Stephen W. Worth. I'm a big fan of the recent trend toward producing giant books. I have almost all the Taschen XL series, the Gothic and Baroque books, and the history of European cities in art series. This is the sequel to the amazing *Ars Sacra: Christian Art and Architecture from the Early Beginnings to the Present Day*, but it tops that book and all the other ones too. First of all is the size... it's massive. 25 pounds. This is a book to spread out on the dining room table. You're not going to be reading this in your lap. The print quality tops all the others too. The photography of the paintings (with one or two exceptions) has wonderful color and incredible sharpness. Even the paintings here that I am familiar with are revelations. It's like seeing them for the first time. The selection of art is perfect too... both ancient and modern, lots of things I've never seen before and all of them are jaw droppers. There are several huge fold outs, a couple of them are as big as a poster. They always give you a view of the whole work first, and then go into detailed crops. Needless to say, at 11 by 17, none of the pictures are printed too small, and the layouts are well designed to give plenty of room for the pictures and text without a lot of dead white space. The book is divided roughly in half, with the first part dealing with angels and the latter half dealing with devils. The chapters are broken down by subjects... Angel of Death, Last Judgement, the Fall of Lucifer, Hierarchy of Angels, etc. Obviously the last half of the book is a lot of fun, but I found that the compositions and stunning imagery in the angels section were just as fascinating. I haven't read the text yet, but I'm betting it is great. The pictures alone are worth the price of admission though. This is a book to buy and pass down to your descendants. Buy two copies and leave one sealed. Like the early Taschen XL books, this is sure to go out of print and fetch three or four times the price in a few years. I can't recommend this book more highly.

A book of superlatives, that's been ten years in the making! When the traditional world of faith encounters unshackled creativity, the result can often be exceptional works of art. When artists are capable of letting their imagination run wild and are not bound by the typical depiction of classical Christian themes, the art that emerges retains its fascination up to the present day. They often create surprising, grotesque and highly emotional pictorial worlds inhabited by angels, devils, and above all demonic creatures of fantasy, to which the best-known examples by Hieronymus Bosch belong. Angels, devils, and demons have played a significant role ever since the emergence of religious beliefs. *Angelus Diabolus* is the first publication of its kind to offer a visually stunning collection of the most beautiful and breathtaking pieces of art reflecting this exciting contrast between Heaven and Hell. Seven comprehensive chapters examine the topic from various angles like the nature, the duties and the hierarchy of angels, the downfall of sinful angels, angelic choirs, the pain of hell, imaginations of the end of the world, or the manifestations of heaven. Substantial texts by art historian Maria-Christina Boerner are accompanied by striking pictures by photographer Achim Bednorz, some of which show rarely seen details and make otherwise hidden elements accessible to the beholder. This tome comprises an unprecedented compilation of this timeless subject. The first chapters of this magnificent book are devoted to the angels, their nature and outward appearance, their tasks and hierarchy. They are followed by their adversaries, the diabolical princes of hell. With few exceptions, they are hideous and terrifying, as are the demons, which often appear in the center of scenes depicting vice and torture. It is not least this blend of grace and ugliness, of the beautiful and the grotesque, which results in the fascination of these artworks and thus also the fascination of this exceptional and monumental book. As with the de luxe production *Ars Sacra*, published in 2010 (also by h.f. ullmann), *Angelus Diabolus* breaks all the boundaries, in terms of both content and form. The first things you notice are the length (800 pages), the lavish format and the weight of this 11-kilogram book. In opening it you will dive into the world of art and imagination, and enjoy the extraordinary photographs whose incomparable quality becomes fully evident in the oversized format. At the same time, *Angelus Diabolus* is much more than just a picture book, as the quality of the text is also very impressive. Maria-Christina Boerner has succeeded in writing in a factual, but at the same time understandable and lucid manner, offering the reader and viewer of the book an unprecedented presentation of the timeless theme of good and evil in universal, philosophical, theological, and contemporary terms. For in recent times, there has been an increase in our readiness to believe in spiritual beings. Angels are showing up in advertising and huge global problems are linked with fears comparable to the ancient fear of demons. They are still perceived today as powers and forces which are beyond our control.

From the Inside Flap Achim Bednorz specializes in photographing sacred places About the Author Dr. Maria-Christina Boerner read German studies, art history, and journalism at the University of Berlin. After gaining her doctorate with a thesis on Heinrich Heine, she moved to teach and research at the University of Fribourg in Switzerland. She has been writing books on European art history since 2009 for various publishers, her main focal point in research and writing being the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Achim Bednorz has been taking photographs for more than 25 years

for publications on architectural and art-historical themes. He has made a name for himself above all as a specialist in sacral spaces. His photographs enjoy worldwide popularity. Rolf Toman studied German language and literature and philosophy. For the last 22 years he has been a freelance editor of books on the themes of art and cultural history. In 2010 he presented his magnum opus, *Ars Sacra*. He lives and works in the south of France..