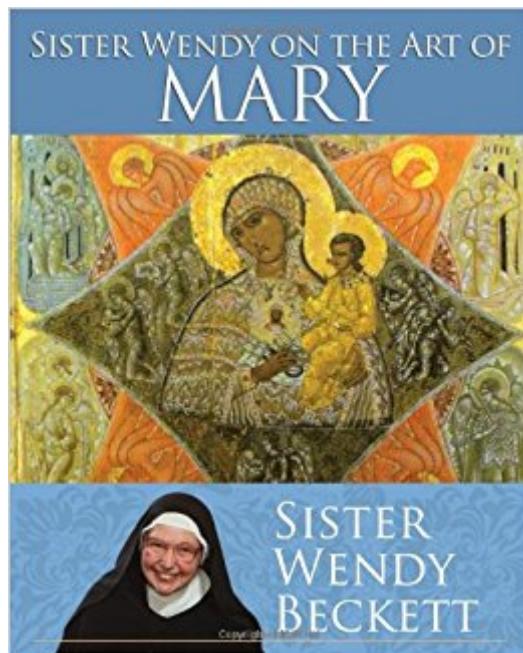


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# Sister Wendy On The Art Of Mary



## **Synopsis**

Imagine going on a tour of a world-class art museum with a talented and insightful curator. But instead of just focusing on the history, technique, and cultural significance of each piece, you have the opportunity to reflect on the spiritual aspects of the works, examining their religious significance and concentrating on the transcendental meaning conveyed by the artist. This is what you'll find in this exquisitely produced book. It features fifteen pieces of art relating to Mary, with an extended reflection on each piece. The commentary is meditative, more reflection on the spiritual nature of the paintings' subject than art critique. Sister Wendy writes with the deft hand of one who is formed in spirituality, art, and critical thinking. Her imagery is lush, creating a landscape where the sacred and profane live in comfortable coexistence through the medium of painting. For spiritual seekers and lovers of art, this book will offer a unique journey into the experiential nature of a well-rounded faith.

## **Book Information**

Paperback: 55 pages

Publisher: Franciscan Media; Reprint edition (August 30, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1616366931

ISBN-13: 978-1616366933

Product Dimensions: 8 x 0.2 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 6 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #598,957 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #142 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Catholicism > Mariology #241 in Books > Arts & Photography > History & Criticism > Themes > Religious #9839 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Christian Denominations & Sects

## **Customer Reviews**

Sister Wendy Beckett is an English hermit. An art expert, in the 1990s she presented a series of BBC documentaries in which she reflected on the meaning of various works of art from throughout history. Beckett entered the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur in 1946 and graduated from Oxford University in 1953, but in 1970, she obtained papal permission to leave her congregation and become a consecrated virgin. Her former congregation arranged for her to live under the protection of the Carmelite nuns at their monastery at Quidenham, Norfolk, in the east of England. There she

leads a contemplative lifestyle, dedicating her life solely to solitude and prayer, but allotting two hours of work per day to earn her living. Imagine going on a tour of a world-class art museum with a talented and insightful curator. But instead of just focusing on the history, technique, and cultural significance of each piece, you have the opportunity to reflect on the spiritual aspects of the works, examining their religious significance and concentrating on the transcendental meaning conveyed by the artist. This is what you'll find in this exquisitely produced book. It features fifteen pieces of art relating to Mary, with an extended reflection on each piece. The commentary is meditative, more reflection on the spiritual nature of the paintings' subject than art critique. Sister Wendy writes with the deft hand of one who is formed in spirituality, art, and critical thinking. Her imagery is lush, creating a landscape where the sacred and profane live in comfortable coexistence through the medium of painting. For spiritual seekers and lovers of art, this book will offer a unique journey into the experiential nature of a well-rounded faith.

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Sr. Wendy's books are always great, I only wish she had included more images. The book was visually sparse where I had expected more information on the multiple versions of Mary that have appeared if only in recent history alone.

good book

I bought this for my sister for her Christmas present this year. She loves it.

The meditations paired with the paintings of Mary are enjoyable.

Love Sister Wendy - Love her art books.

Sr. Wendy Beckett is known worldwide for her documentaries on art history shown on the BBC and PBS. Her new book on "The Art of Mary," features fourteen full-color reproductions of world-class art works related to the mother of Jesus. Most are from the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries and many are icons. Each full-page reproduction is accompanied by three pages of text on the history of the piece, a description of certain of its elements, and a personal reflection. In providing background Beckett includes several legends as well as factual information. For example, some believe that the Annunciation as described in Scripture was not Gabriel's first appearance before Mary, and that the reason wine ran out at the marriage feast at Cana is that Jesus brought along his apostles. Many of the reflections end in an observation about our own lives. For example, Mary's accepting God's plan "is essentially about trust in God and letting him do as he pleases with us," and "Joy comes from the deep, unshakable happiness of faith in Our Lord." Beckett's treatment of the Russian icon "The Mother of God as the Burning Bush" is a good example of the detail she provides. After describing the large, central portion of this complex image, she points out smaller symbols such as a ladder, symbolizing the incarnation as a connection between heaven and earth, and a tiny representation of Christ the high priest celebrating the Eucharist on the altar of his tomb in Jerusalem. "The icon is telling us that the Church contains Jesus, just as Mary did, and this complex imagery is held in her heart," writes Beckett. This book, quick to read, beautiful to ponder, would make a lovely gift.

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