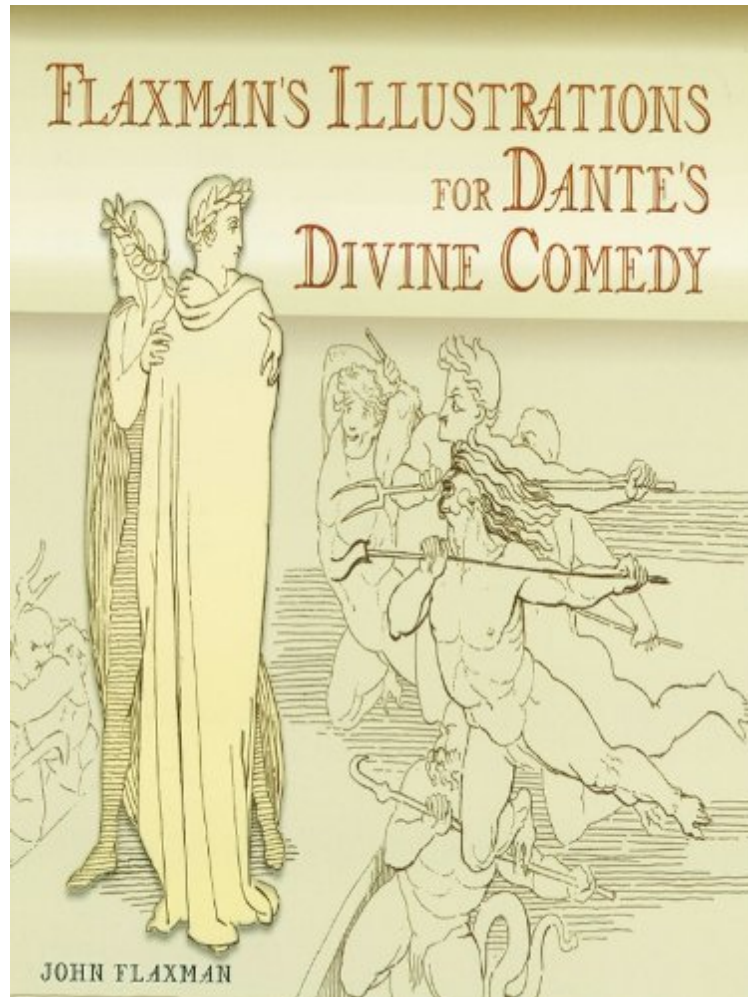


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Flaxman's Illustrations for Dante's Divine Comedy (Dover Fine Art, History of Art)

John Flaxman

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John Flaxman : Flaxman's Illustrations for Dante's Divine Comedy (Dover Fine Art, History of Art) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Flaxman's Illustrations for Dante's Divine Comedy (Dover Fine Art, History of Art):

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. a master draftsman at workBy AcrophobeThis is a 221 page book containing 110 full-page illustrations of all 99 cantos of The Divine Comedy, with the appropriate lines from Longfellow's translation to accompany each image. The drawings here are generally minimalist, two-dimensional renderings closer to woodcuts or etchings than traditional drawings. But don't be fooled by the simplicity of forms. Flaxman was a master of lines and composition. He strips every scene bare, giving us only the essentials of characters, expressions and locations. His drawings are filled with dynamic lines and tension that bring the poetry to life more like

sculpture than painting or drawing. This book is a no-brainer purchase for anyone interested in Dante, Flaxman, drawing, and graphic novels. Highly recommended. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. great book but... By steveni love this book but be careful buying anything from BOOKSURF11... very unscrupulous seller 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Neo-classical Master interprets Dante By Susanna Mary Lundgren John Flaxman's 1807 series of engravings for Dante's *Commedia* (based on drawings of 1793) embodies Enlightenment ideals and expresses the best of Neo-classical style: elegance, restraint, sensitivity to the visual power of 'empty' space well-positioned. Unlike such an artist as David, however, Flaxman is able to avoid the sometimes stilted, chilling effect of this style through the emotional content of his figures in composition. This Dover edition offers the full effect of Flaxman's genius in a convenient, inexpensive format.

Since its creation at the beginning of the fourteenth century, Dante's *Divine Comedy*—a masterpiece of European literature—has moved legendary artists such as William Blake and Gustave Dore to illustrate the famed poem. John Flaxman, English sculptor, draughtsman, and renowned Wedgwood designer, was no exception. Commissioned at the end of the eighteenth century by famed art collector and author Thomas Hope, Flaxman's 110 illustrations of the *Divine Comedy* are known as his greatest achievement. Deceptively simple, awash in pathos, and recalling antique imagery in a classically Greek style, they themselves became an inspiration for such artists as Goya and Ingres, and were used as an academic source for nineteenth-century art students. This magnificent edition of Flaxman's *Illustrations for Dante's Divine Comedy* includes the complete series of drawings created by Flaxman for all 99 cantos of the literary masterwork. A glorious collection of lively outlines that captures the very spirit of Dante's poem, it is an essential addition to the bookshelves of art, literature, and history enthusiasts. Captions are included from the Henry Wadsworth Longfellow translation of the original text.