

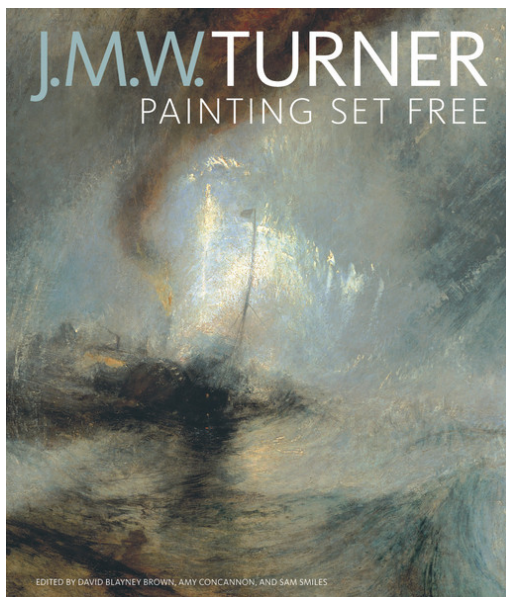
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An enthralling tour through the late works of a celebrated British painter

LOS ANGELES— In 1844, the art critic John Ruskin wrote in his diary of a vexing meeting with J. M. W. Turner, during which he was rebuffed when he asked the artist to create “an agreeable picture,” instead of the paintings he had been recently producing. Why was one of Turner’s most loyal champions encouraging a change in style? By this time in his career, Turner had made a remarkable shift in his painting techniques and execution, and his later work was reviled by some contemporary critics as indulgent and bizarre. Today, many scholars consider these same paintings to be some of Turner’s best, and it has been an ongoing trend to read them as so amazingly modern that they transcend time and place, surpassing young Turner’s works and anticipating Impressionism.



Lavishly illustrated with dozens of beautiful reproductions of Turner’s work, *J. M. W. Turner: Painting Set Free* (Getty Publications, \$49.95, hardcover) offers a more nuanced understanding of these paintings than ever before. This volume returns Turner’s late works to the context in which they were painted, seeing them not as a complete departure from his early career, but as a product of his evolution as a painter. With their arresting quality of light, sublime color palettes, and gorgeous texture, Turner’s late paintings prove to be some of the most beautiful and perplexing art ever to be created.

This catalogue is published to coincide with an exhibition at the Tate Britain,



J. M. W.
TURNER
PAINTING SET FREE

London, from September 15, 2014, through January 18, 2015; at the J. Paul Getty Museum from February 24 through May 24, 2015; and at the de Young Museum in San Francisco from June 20 through September 20, 2015.

About the Editors— **David Blayney Brown** is Manton Curator of British Art, 1790–1850, Tate Britain, where **Amy Concannon** is assistant curator of British Art, 1790–1850. **Sam Smiles** is programme director for Art History and Visual Culture at the University of Exeter.

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