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Welcome back to the French Blog Moments! Since this isn't the first time you've been here, you may be interested in downloading the guide to 20 Amazing Offbeat Places in Paris. Click here to get a free copy right now! If you want to understand the features of a Gothic cathedral or church, you can find a lot of information on the internet. However, there are two reasons why books are still a good option. First of all, I love reading a paper document myself. Secondly, not everything (yet) can be found on the Internet ... Books offer more specialized information with high-quality illustrations that you rarely get online. This small selection of my favorite Gothic art books will definitely help you if you are visiting a Gothic church in France or just want to learn more from your chair! My pick of the best books on Gothic art There are many resources available at your local or online store. The problem is, which book to choose? By the way, the choice of a book is often a personal action. You can enjoy the look of the lid, whether it's a paperback or a hardcover. Maybe, like me, you are reasonable to the quality of illustrations ... and when reading is too technical... Well, you just read diagonally (hoping it will be easier later!)) What will be next short of a selection of my favorite books that you can order online (I'm not looking for books that can only be found by accident on the flea market or that aren't published anymore). Let me know what your favorite Gothic art books are by filling out the comment box below! Who knows... I may have missed the listing of a really good book! What is Gothic art in France? But before we start the list, I just want to clarify what we're talking about when we use the word Gothic. You would have guessed that it's not about wearing black clothes to paint black while listening to good old metal. We are talking about the artistic movement that originated in the Ile-de-France (Paris region) in the early 12th century. It succeeded to another artistic movement: Romanesque art. The facade of strasbourg Cathedral © French MomentsOne of the earliest Gothic churches was built by Abbot Suger to the north of Paris: the basilica Saint-Denis.In the following centuries, Gothic art would have spread to the whole country and Western Europe.In France only, high cathedrals and churches were built. Amiens, Reims, Rouen, Beauvais, Strasbourg, Metz... Metz Cathedral © momentsIt is important to note that even if Gothic is often mentioned in architecture, it also includes painting, sculpture, glassware, and engravings... The window of the southern rose of Notre Dame de Paris © French MomentsA discredited artThe word Gothic is not the one used in the Middle Ages to describe the artistic movement. Then it was known as Opus that is French art or French work. Gothic was first used in a letter to the Pope X Raphael in 1518. And it wasn't in a positive way. In fact, the artist had a barbaric mind, and therefore used it pejoratively. Then, a few years later, in 1530, another Italian artist and writer, Giorgio Vasari, described Gothic art as monstrous and barbaric... Disorder. Chimera Notre Dame and © MomentsThen came gothic revival ... But the perception of Gothic art changed in the 19th century, at least in France.An began another artistic epoch: gothic revival or neo-Gothic.In 1816 French scientist Alexander de Laborde wrote that Gothic architecture has its own beauty. The following year, Victor Hugo published the historical novel The Hunchback of Notre Dame. It starred not only Esmeralda and Quasimodo, but also the Gothic cathedral of Notre Dame de Paris. Fiction was a huge popular success. Notre Dame de Paris © French Moments Since the 1840s French architect Viollet-le-Duc restored most of France's symbolic churches and castles in France, including Notre Dame de Paris, Abbey Vézère, Carcassonne, Mont Saint-Michel, Pierfond Castle and the Palace of Popes in Avignon.Castle Carcassonne © French MomentsGothic #1Gothic: Architecture, Sculpture, Painting by Rolf TomanBloublisher: Ullman, ISBN-13: 978-3833135125This book was for me a great resource that helped me better understand the gothic movement in art from the 12th century to the Renaissance. Architectural style, which first originated from France and spread throughout Europe.Over 500 pages it focuses on the development of Gothic architecture with many illustrations and photographs, but not only. I also found an interesting in-depth discussion of a wide variety of art forms, including painting, sculpture, metalwork and even book lighting! It also includes specific coverage of the Catalans and the Pontifical Palace in Avignon. And, of course, it mentions the Cathedral of Notre Dame de Paris! It's definitely a book that I recommend if - like me - you love everything about gothic, such as churches, gargoyles, stained glass, flying supports and more. In fact, this is my favorite of all gothic art books on this list... Order it online! Gothic Art Book #2Romanesque - Gothic France: Art and Architecture Vivian Minne-Seve and Herve Kergalloppulisher: Harry N. Abrams, ISBN-13: 978-0810944367Th excellent book tells the story of Romanesque and Gothic art throughout France, and focuses, in particular, on architecture and sculpture. It also includes a good overview of church structures, paintings, manuscripts and stained glass, while putting each landmark in its historical setting. A great resource for those who make school reports about cathedrals and churches in France (I especially like glossary!). Order it Gothic art #3Gothic cathedrals: A guide to history, places, art and Karen Ralls PhDPublished: Ibis Press, ISBN-13: 978-0892541737In this book author - a medieval historian - leads us to the glorious medieval times of Gothic cathedrals. This study focuses on the artistic beauty and expert skill that have served for centuries to inspire feelings of spiritual reverence and aesthetic wonder. The author included the study: the connection between architecture, geometry and music, the concept of the labyrinth of the Great Pilgrimage, what are the Black Madonnas?astronomical calculations in the design and arrangement of cathedrals, stone and wood carving, gargoyles, Pythagoras and later neo-platonists and more. Order it online! Book of Gothic Art #4The Gargoyle Book: 572 Examples from the Gothic Architecture of Lester Burbank BridahamPublisher: Dover Publications, ISBN-13: 978-0486447544Indeces the representation of visible spires and arches in Gothic cathedrals, this book is dedicated to down-to-earth architectural details that are sometimes overlooked by visitors: tympanum sculptures, gargoyles and chimeras, heads, capitals and other compositions, or woodworking. You will learn a lot of things about Gothic churches and want to explore them in turn! Order it online! Gothic cathedrals and church blog! Finally, if you're looking for more accurate information about specific cathedrals and churches, check out my pages! Here's a selection of Gothic sanctuaries we're working on: In Paris and the historic Ile-de-France Roan Rouen CathedralSein-Maclue Church in Rouen-San Wen Church in Rouenin northeastern France (Grand Est) south of LoireAix-en-Aix-en-Mclue Church Provence CathedralBordeaux © Cathedral of the Rouen Cathedral © French MomentsThe portal of the Strasbourg Cathedral © the French MomentsThe Upper Chapel Of St. Chapel st. Chapel © French MomentsThe porch © French MomentsThe chevet of Dijon Cathedral © French moments liked? Make a second to support the French moments at Patreon! © 1996-2014, Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates are a bit dry in prose, but it's not surprising for a book on art history. However, it is informative, and even inspiring, to read. And, it contains such beautiful, beautiful paintings of glorious Gothic painting and architecture. Recommended for those who (obviously) are art history students, people who love art history and, well, people who love Gothic art in general. 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