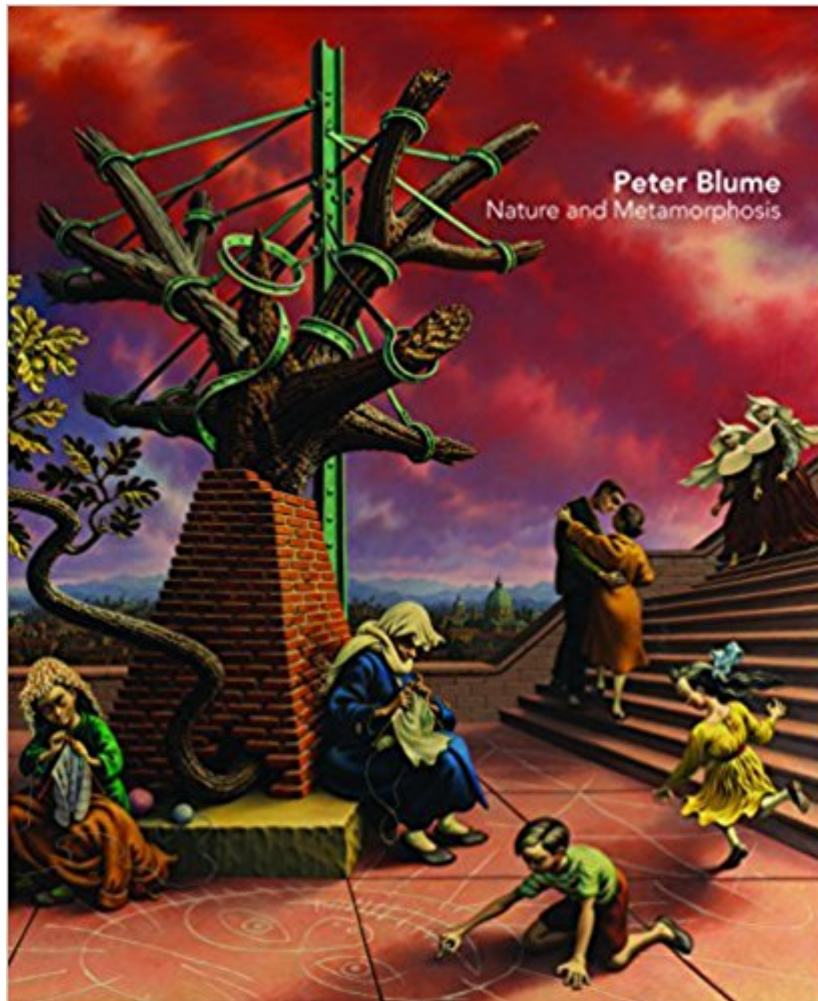




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# Peter Blume: Nature And Metamorphosis



## Synopsis

Russian American artist Peter Blume was one of the earliest practitioners of surrealist painting in the United States, and his elaborately detailed and dreamlike compositions helped define American Modernist art. Blume worked out the themes of his ambitious large-scale paintings through dozens of drafts in different media, slowly developing layers of allegory and imagery that dramatized the creative process, cultural memory, urban expansion, destruction, rebirth, and political power. Showcasing over a hundred paintings and drawings, as well as sketches, sculpture, and ephemera from all periods of his six-decade career, *Peter Blume: Nature and Metamorphosis* provides unprecedented insight into the artist's process, his relationship to Surrealism, and his profound visions of twentieth-century social and spiritual upheaval. This comprehensive volume draws on a selection of previously unpublished interviews with Blume and selected examples of the artist's writings, and reflects previously unknown aspects of Blume's work, including a poster design made during World War II, a major painting not seen in public since 1961, and extensive photographs and drawings from his archives. Essays by Samantha Baskind, Sergio Cortesini, Robert Cowley, David McCarthy, Sarah Vure, and Robert Cozzolino delve into topics such as Blume's relationship with an international community of artists and writers and their work, his engagement with politics in the 1930s and 1940s, his vital role in the evolution of Surrealism in America, the relationship between automatic drawing and precise painting in his own practice, and the influence of his Jewish heritage on his work. The first retrospective of this influential artist in several decades, *Peter Blume: Nature and Metamorphosis* brings the artist's significance within the history of American art into sharp focus. Contributors: Samantha Baskind, Sergio Cortesini, Robert Cowley, Robert Cozzolino, David McCarthy, Sarah Vure.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 352 pages

Publisher: University of Pennsylvania Press (January 6, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0943836425

ISBN-13: 978-0943836423

Product Dimensions: 11.2 x 9.6 x 1.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.8 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 2 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #957,735 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #121 in Books > Arts &

## Customer Reviews

Selected by Choice magazine as an Outstanding Academic Title for 2015" This handsome book accompanies the 2015 retrospective exhibition of the artist's work at the Pennsylvania Academy of Art, the first such exhibit since 1976. The exhibition and this publication aim to make better known an American artist who was more popular in the 1930s and 1940s. . . . In addition to insightful essays by Cozzolino, who knew Blume as a family friend, the book includes chapters by Samantha Baskind, Sergio Cortesini, Robert Cowley, David McCarthy, and Sarah Vure. The book is well illustrated throughout. . . . Essential."â "Choice

Robert Cozzolino is Senior Curator and Curator of Modern Art at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts.

I attended the Exhibition at the Wadsworth Atheneum, loved it, have an earlier book on Blume, saw this catalogue at the exhibit, and immediately decided to buy it. I waited till I was able to order it at , less expensive and the same exact book. Love it! It is probably the most complete book on Peter Blume available. Has most of his major works, many drawings (rare to see them in actuality or in book form) and good text. I recommend this book to anyone interested in P. Blume. An important painter/artist in mid-20th C. American art.

Beautiful book with great pics.

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