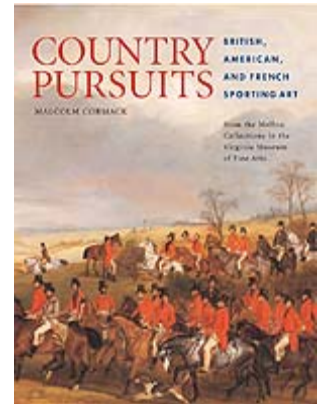


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New book brings together some of the finest examples of sporting art from Britain, France and America

The Virginia Museum of Fine Arts has long been renowned for its fine collection of sporting art donated by Paul Mellon, American philanthropist, racehorse owner/breeder and well known art collector. Owing to his interest in this genre, the VMFA's collection comprises not only British but also American and French works. With *"Country Pursuits: Sporting Art from the Mellon Collections in the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts"*, Malcolm Cormack provides a consideration of these three national traditions, combined for the first time in one book. Presenting an in-depth survey of sporting art that is supported by catalogue-style entries and corresponding colour reproductions, this lavish coffee table book also represents the work of each nationality in its own section.



Containing animal studies and scenes of horse racing, foxhunting and coursing, shooting and fishing, coaching and carriages, and other country pursuits, by artists such as George Stubbs, John Wootton, Sir Alfred J. Munnings, Alfred de Dreux, and George Catlin, this volume also offers a major introductory essay in which the author addresses the definition of sporting art with a particular emphasis on British artists in the context of prevailing artistic trends. Destroying the myth that only a coarse class of country squires collected sporting pictures, a separate section on British patronage describes the social and political context of sporting art.

Including biographies of the artists found in the Mellon collections and an index, *"Country Pursuits"* is a truly handsome collection for the sporting art enthusiast.

About the author

After serving as the Curator of Paintings at the Yale Center of British Art, **Malcolm Cormack** became Paul Mellon Curator at the VMFA in 1991 until his retirement in 2004. He has lectured at Cambridge and Yale and is the author of books and exhibition catalogues on Constable, Turner, Reynolds, and Bonington. His most recent works are *Champion Animals: Sculptures by Herbert Haseltine* and *William Blake: Illustrations of the Book of Job* (VMFA).

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