

*Gothic Nightmares* explores the taste for weird, supernatural and fantastic themes in British art between 1770 and 1830. Presenting the wildly original and extravagant images of Henry Fuseli and his contemporaries in the context of the 'Gothic', it shows how art, taste and ideas of the self were transformed in an era of revolutionary change, helping lay the foundations of modern culture.

This groundbreaking publication reveals the 'Gothic' in all its scintillating, titillating complexity. It focuses on the major paintings and drawings of the Swiss-born artist Fuseli (1741-1825), one of the most brilliant and controversial figures of the time, famed for his vast ambition, infamous for the sexual violence of his vision. His works are shown in the context of his contemporaries and admirers - including the visionary artist William Blake (1757-1827) and the brilliantly talented caricaturist James Gillray (1756-1815). Fuseli's ideas and the settings of his art are explored in wide-ranging new essays by Martin Myrone, Christopher Frayling and Marina Warner.

Introducing many unfamiliar or unknown works, as well as acknowledged masterworks of the Romantic era, this pioneering book establishes a new framework for understanding British culture on the eve of modernity, when the boundaries between high art and exploitation, good taste and the extravagant, were uniquely fragile.