



**Bernard Berenson**  
**Piero della Francesca**

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“The impassivity of Piero della Francesca’s figures, which no emotion seems to be able to disturb, and his deliberate abstention from any rhetorical amplification, in an age of exasperated passion like ours, rests, calms, coaxes the spectator and forces him to a state of gratitude and adoration.”

Piero della Francesca by Bernard Berenson is an irreverent and revolutionary work, a cardinal text of twentieth-century art criticism. Berenson pursues hidden and silent beauty starting from classical art, through the luminous medieval texts, up to the threshold of modernity of Cézanne, Degas and Van Gogh. Since art is timeless, eternal and always new is the amazement that arouses in us.

**Bernard Berenson** (1865-1959) was an American art critic and art historian. He was an authority on Italian Renaissance painting whose many works on this period were published worldwide. He contributed to defining Italy in general and Florence in particular as the cradle of art. Berenson was also the first to appreciate and support the post-impressionist art of Cézanne and Matisse, contributing to the correct understanding and appraisal of the important role of this movement in contemporary art.

