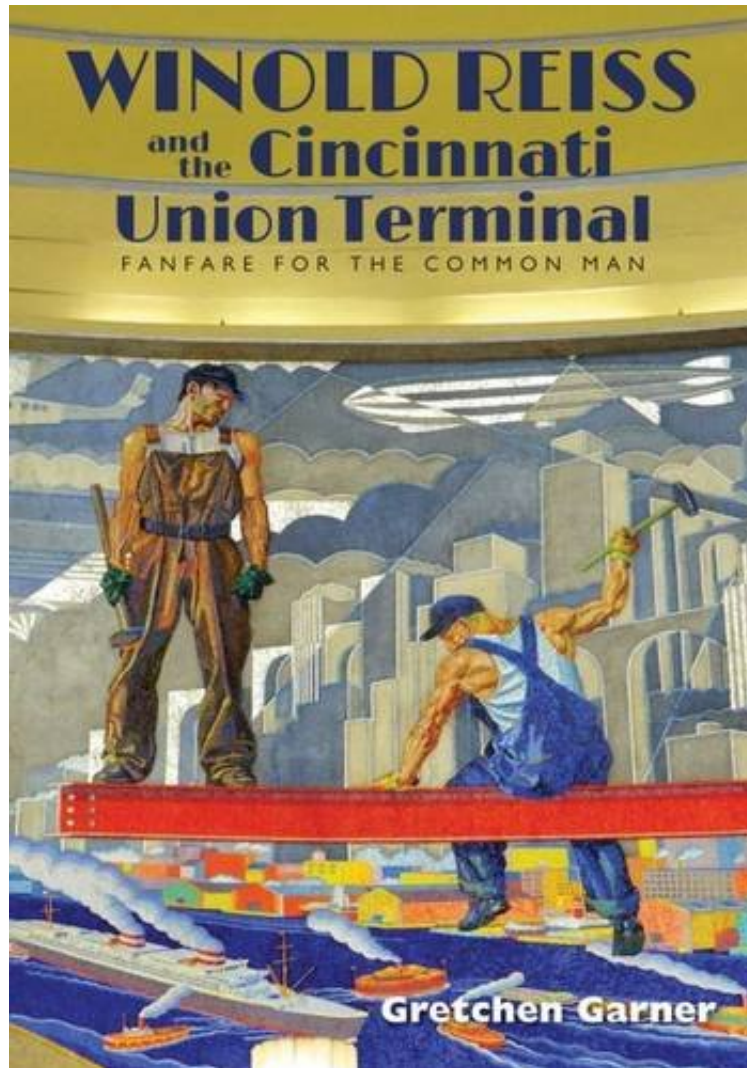


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Winold Reiss and the Cincinnati Union Terminal: Fanfare for the Common Man

Gretchen Garner

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Gretchen Garner : Winold Reiss and the Cincinnati Union Terminal: Fanfare for the Common Man before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Winold Reiss and the Cincinnati Union Terminal: Fanfare for the Common Man:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A priceless cultural heritage of CincinnatiBy T. WesselsHaving grown up in Cincinnati, I saw all of these Winold Reiss mosaic murals in the Cincinnati Union Terminal. The murals installed along the concourse walls were moved to the Greater Cincinnati Airport before the concourse, not the

rotunda, was demolished in 1972. I do not know if all of the murals re-located to the airport are still there. I did see several of them in September 2016 when I arrived at the airport. These mosaic murals by Winold Reiss are the priceless heritage of Cincinnati and the country. It is sad to think that they are all not in the same place where they were installed back in 1933. Gretchen Garner's book is a wonderful look at the artist who created these murals.

When Winold Reiss won the commission to design and install the immense mosaic murals in the Cincinnati Union Terminal in 1931, he was already a noted artist. After immigrating to the United States from Germany in 1913, he quickly had become a sought-after portraitist and designer of large public art projects. The Cincinnati Union Terminal murals are extraordinary not only for their size and the boldness of their color and design but also for the artist's use of mosaic, an unusual choice for the time. After Reiss's death, he and his work fell into relative obscurity as tastes and trends in art changed. The terminal itself closed in 1972 and was partially demolished. It reopened in 1990, transformed into the Cincinnati Museum Center, and the awe-inspiring murals of the rotunda are once again on view to visitors. Winold Reiss and the Cincinnati Union Terminal collects full-color images of the mosaic murals, including those rescued before the demolition. Gretchen Garner traces the inception of the mural project and the selection of Reiss to design and construct it, as well as Reiss's own development as an American artist and the artistic and historical context for the work. In this book, these evocative and vibrant murals signal a work of public art in Ohio and in the nation that finally get the attention they deserve.

Winold Reiss and the Cincinnati Union Terminal by Gretchen Garner is a valuable and timely reminder that both the Reiss murals and the terminal itself were on the apex of modernity when created in the early 1930s. An important record of forward thinking in a city frequently accused of looking backward. Cincinnati CityBeat