



# **Redeeming Beauty: Soundings in Sacral Aesthetics (Ashgate Studies in Theology, Imagination and the Arts)**

*Aidan Nichols O. P.*

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**Redeeming Beauty: Soundings in Sacral Aesthetics (Ashgate Studies in Theology, Imagination and the Arts)** Aidan Nichols O. P.

Redeeming Beauty explores the richness of orthodox Christian tradition, both Western and Eastern, in matters of 'sacral aesthetics' - a term used to denote the foundations, production and experience of religiously relevant beauty. Aidan Nichols investigates five principal themes: the foundation of beauty in the natural order through divine creative action; explicitly 'evangelical' beauty as a quality of biblical revelation and notably at its climax in Christ; the legitimacy of making and venerating artworks; qualities of the self in relation to objective presentation of the religiously beautiful; and the difficulties of practising a sacral aesthetic, whether as producer or consumer, in an epoch when the visual arts themselves have left behind not only Church but for the greater part the public as well. The thought of theologians such as Augustine, Aquinas, Balthasar, Ratzinger, Bulgakov, Maritain and others is explored.



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