



# Slaves Waiting for Sale: Abolitionist Art and the American Slave Trade

*Maurie D. McInnis*

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## Slaves Waiting for Sale: Abolitionist Art and the American Slave Trade Maurie D. McInnis

In 1853, Eyre Crowe, a young British artist, visited a slave auction in Richmond, Virginia. Harrowed by what he witnessed, he captured the scene in sketches that he would later develop into a series of illustrations and paintings, including the culminating painting, *Slaves Waiting for Sale, Richmond, Virginia*.

This innovative book uses Crowe's paintings to explore the texture of the slave trade in Richmond, Charleston, and New Orleans, the evolving iconography of abolitionist art, and the role of visual culture in the transatlantic world of abolitionism. Tracing Crowe's trajectory from Richmond across the American South and back to London—where his paintings were exhibited just a few weeks after the start of the Civil War—Maurie D. McInnis illuminates not only how his abolitionist art was inspired and made, but also how it influenced the international public's grasp of slavery in America. With almost 140 illustrations, *Slaves Waiting for Sale* brings a fresh perspective to the American slave trade and abolitionism as we honor the sesquicentennial of the Civil War.

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