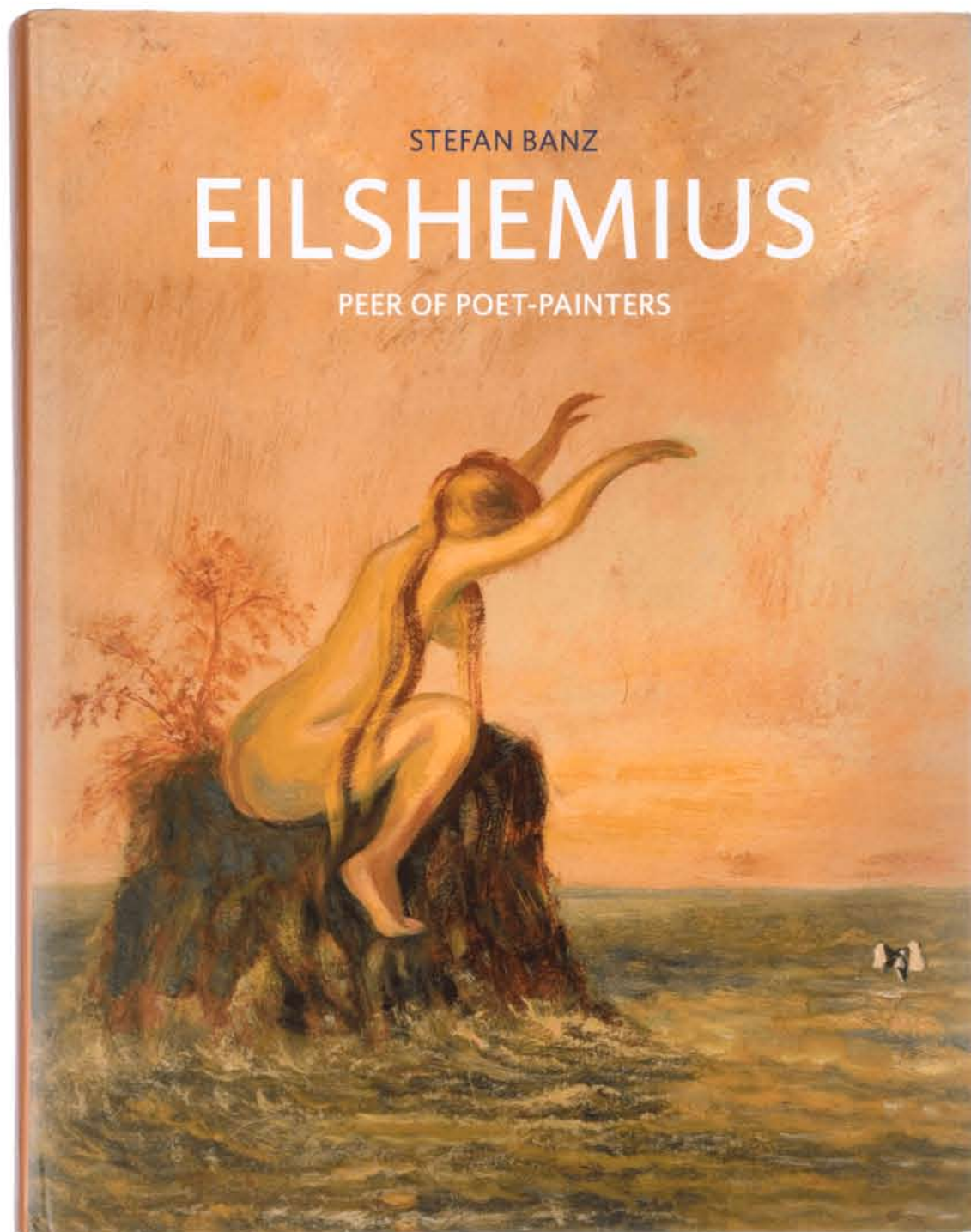


The New York Times

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Eilshemius: Peer of Poet-Painters

BY STEFAN BANZ

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Weighing in at nine pounds and 768 pages, Stefan Banz's book about the American painter Louis M. Eilshemius (1864-1941) is as much grand obsession as monograph. It seems to reproduce in color just about every known painting by this idiosyncratic, extremely prolific artist, who specialized in awkward nymphs and nudes in landscapes, was alternately ridiculed and admired by the New York art world and was a friend of Marcel Duchamp. It also seems to include all reviews of his art that ran in New York newspapers during his lifetime, along with a great many of his responses in letters to their editors. Mr. Banz, a Swiss artist and curator, is founder of the Marcel Duchamp Kunsthalle, a small dollhouse-like museum in the courtyard of the Forestay Museum in Cully, Switzerland. This book should probably similarly be considered a disguised work of art. Again cover lines are pertinent: "Collected Documents: A Novel of Facts by and About Louis M. Eilshemius and a Study of his Influence on Marcel Duchamp." — ROBERTA SMITH