Sister Gertrude Morgan (1900-1980) was an African-American self-taught artist, evangelist, musician, and poet who used her diverse talents as a vehicle for and extension of her profound religious faith. Morgan's life and art combine the African-American tradition of autonomous expression with a remarkable inherent artistic sensibility.

Gertrude Morgan considered her paintings and decorated objects not art but rather tools for teaching the word of God. Settling in New Orleans in 1939, she became a familiar figure on the streets of the city's French Quarter, where she would set up her easels with paintings illustrating passages from the Bible and preach the Gospel to passersby, often singing in a deep voice and accompanying herself on guitar or tambourine.

Most of her paintings are religious in theme; many are literal interpretations of biblical passages from the Old and New Testaments, and her imagery is often richly apocalyptic. She frequently wrote messages or quoted scriptural passages in her pieces, and her text forms an integral and vital part of the total composition.

Like many self-taught artists, Morgan began to paint late in life, at the age of 56; she was not inspired by looking at other art or attempting to emulate it. What sets her apart from many in the field, however, is her originality, technical virtuosity, and highly distinctive style that demonstrates sustained artistic growth over a period of more than twenty years.
This book will accompany the first comprehensive retrospective of Morgans work, at the American Folk Art Museum in New York and the New Orleans Museum of Art. It is the first monograph on this important African-American self-taught artist.

My Personal Review:
astonishing and super-real in everything she sang and wrote and preached, I am totally awestruck and undone and remade as a book poet or cultural critic, I here give thanks for Sister Gertrude Morgan who showed me a way forward in American poesia. Yes, the city of God is a tenement in New Orleans, chants and warns the poet-saint in the French Quarter, standing in "the headquarters of sin" and with washington under prolonged possession of Lucifer forces who think they are the brides of christ as they sell blackhawk down war missions to the young and the US mass media goes along with its neo-liberal blessing of praise and babble pretending to be critique. Well, thank the American Folk Museum for finding this God-given poet and preacher named Sister Gwertrude Morgan and bringing her back into eternal circulation here and now. "Walking on water wasn't built in a day" as Bob Kauffman put it, we need to remember this at a time when it feels like we are living inside a Rome cum Babylon-made empire of war, greed, vanity, and death. Poetry might help in the battle for the republic, the soul of the nation fallen to the sleepwalkers. All I can do is praise her and give 10 stars of poetic honor.

For More 5 Star Customer Reviews and Lowest Price:  