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Van Gogh's Van Goghs



Synopsis

This work is published to coincide with an exhibition in the USA of a group of Van Gogh's paintings from the Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam. The collection is based on works acquired directly from the artist by his brother. Among the treasures reproduced here are "Potato Eaters", "The Bedroom" "Self Portrait as an Artist", "Wheatfield with Crows", and "Harvest". Richard Kendall's essay addresses Van Gogh's major themes and the different phases of his career. John Leighton contributes a history of the Van Gogh Museum and a biography of the artist.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This lavish but manageable book is the catalog for one of the most successful van Gogh exhibitions ever (at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C., through January 3, 1999, and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art from January 17, 1999, to April 4, 1999). Judging from the haunting, beautifully reproduced paintings and drawings in the book--which range from the iconic to the rarely seen--it is easy to see why hordes of people keep pressing through overcrowded galleries to get a glimpse of the originals. The ones here are all from the Van Gogh Museum, Amsterdam, where most of Vincent's work resides. Author Richard Kendall does a heroic job of writing van Gogh's tortured story one more time. Few artists have analyzed their own work with the clarity and insight Vincent brought to his. And Kendall relies heavily on Vincent's letters to his brother Theo, giving the reader broad access to the ultimate expert, the painter himself. The wealth of color plates is intoxicating--70 paintings, including *The Potato Eaters* and other early, gloomy works, a dozen self-portraits, *Almond Blossom*, *Wheatfield with Crows*, *Butterflies and Poppies*, *The Bedroom*, *The*

Zouave, and The Courtesan (van Gogh's take on a Japanese geisha in full regalia). It seems trivial to further praise the book's designers for holding it to only 150 pages, but the length makes an important difference. This is a volume that fits comfortably on the lap, to be perused and enjoyed at close range, for hours if you want, and not just displayed in unwieldy glory on a coffee table.

--Peggy Moorman

Richard Kendall's graceful essay walks the reader through van Gogh's surprisingly ordinary life as a little-known artist who ultimately made extraordinary paintings... -- The New York Times Book Review, Hilarie M. Sheets

The best thing about this edition is the extreme closeups of many of the paintings. It is interesting to see how Van Gogh applied his paint. Occasionally the paintings are printed side-by-side with the original sketches that inspired the paintings, another great insight into Van Gogh's technique. The first 50 pages (of 150 pages) are about Van Gogh's early work which is darker with a browner palette, a phase I don't enjoy as much. But this is typical of books on Van Gogh. Some of the reproductions don't seem very crisp which seems odd for a book printed in 1999 by the Van Gogh Museum (which should have had the leisure to get good photographs). This isn't the best book on Van Gogh but it has features not seen in other books. Plus it is available for a good price especially in paperback. Because of the closeups and the larger-than-usual reproductions of a few paintings I love (like "Undergrowth") this book rounds out my Van Gogh book collection rather nicely.

Interesting to read things about Vincent that I hadn't heard before. Guess my main disappointment was none of the paintings I was wanting the book for was in the book. It was interesting to see some of his earlier paintings. Many of the early ones don't look anything like what I've come to recognize as his. Could hardly believe the skeleton head was done by him. =)

If you like Post Impressionism and in particular Van Gogh's work, this book is the best collection of his work and the best reproduction of his work I've seen. This book along with his book of Van Gogh letters gives you an excellent understanding of his troubled life and work. I'm now also reading the new "Van Gogh at Work" which gives you a unique understanding of his evolving artistic talents and the materials he used.

I visited the Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam this summer and was very moved by the artwork.

This book covers many of the pieces I was fortunate enough to see in person. It is essentially a lightweight biography that chronologically follows the paintings as they are presented. As someone with little knowledge of the art world, I found this very helpful with understanding the life and times of Van Gogh and how his work related to other artists of the era. The paintings are, of course, beautiful.

This book details the life and art of Vincent Van Gogh. I thoroughly enjoyed studying the paintings (portraits, landscapes, and personal life journeys) and learning why he chose the subjects for his paintings. He is an interesting study. I wanted to include this in my library.

On time no issues

Awesome book, cloth cover with vibrant jacketFull of large full page images as well as detail shots.Great for your art book collection

Good pictures

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