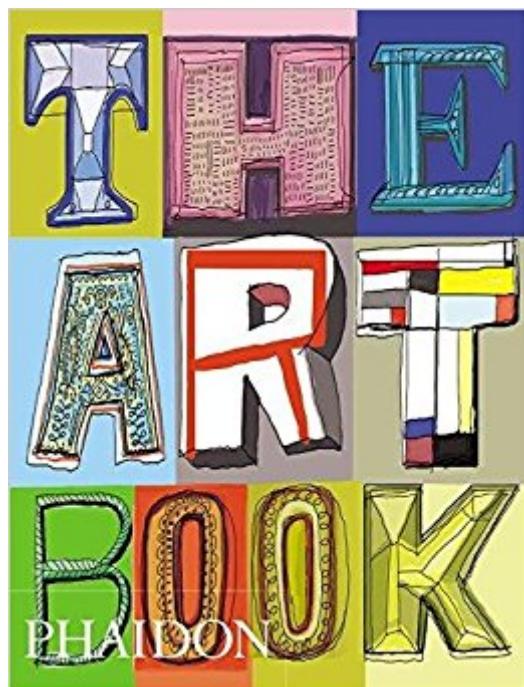


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# The Art Book: New Edition, Mini Format



## Synopsis

Winner of the Illustrated Book of the Year award in 1994, The Art Book has been an outstanding success and has become a well-known landmark in the art book world. Now published in over 20 different languages and in mini, midi and hardback formats, it has received rave reviews from numerous newspapers and magazines and has made many appearances on the bestseller lists. Complemented by The 20th Century Art Book and The American Art Book, its unique approach brings art alive. An A-Z guide to the greatest painters and sculptors from medieval to modern times, it debunks art-historical classifications by throwing together brilliant examples of all periods, schools, visions and techniques. Each artist is represented by a full-page color plate of a definitive work, accompanied by explanatory and illuminating information on the image and its creator. Glossaries of artistic movements and technical terms are included, making this a valuable work of reference as well as a feast for the eyes. By breaking with traditional classifications, The Art Book represents a fresh and original approach to art: an unparalleled visual sourcebook and a celebration of our rich and multi-faceted culture.

## Book Information

Paperback: 600 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 93 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #84,669 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #89 in Books > Reference > Encyclopedias & Subject Guides > Art #290 in Books > Arts & Photography > Individual Artists #465 in Books > Arts & Photography > History & Criticism > History

## Customer Reviews

There is no introductory essay, there are no comparative illustrations, and there is little placement of these 500 works in historical context. The Art Book is a completely visual survey of the history of art. Each of the 500 great works is arranged by artist from A to Z. Works are not surrounded with historical data, supplemental illustrations, or other works by the artist, which relieves viewers of expectations or influence and allows them to judge each piece as it appears. The editors of the

book are not irresponsible, though. Information critical to the work and its creator is unobtrusively listed in upper and lower margins of the page, giving some context and allowing each work to be reproduced as largely as possible. With its large format, elegance, and well-produced illustrations, *The Art Book* is hard to put down, once you have picked it up. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

""The perennial bestseller is back. This classic art primer is a sureâ "fire bestseller." â "The Bookseller"Still one of the best books on art, this is a superb gift for art lovers, as well as a useful introduction to those new to the study of art." â " The Good Book Guide"An anthology crackling with visual energy." â " The Times"Big, fun, well designed." â " Wall Street Journal"A great resource." â " The Washingtonian"Innovative." â " Chicago Sun Times"As a visual source book, its first class." â " Brisbane News"

This valuable little book, at approximately 6-1/2 by 5 inches, packs a lot of information and pleasure into a little package. Five hundred artists, from Agasse to Zurbaran, are represented. To each painter or sculptor one page is devoted, featuring a full-color print (covering about two-thirds of the page); a paragraph of text that discusses the artist's work in general, the specific work depicted, and cross-references to similar artists; information about the artist and the piece including the artist's place and year of birth and death, the work's title, date, medium/materials, physical dimensions and current location. Presented alphabetically rather than chronologically, this dynamic little tome makes great browsing, and helps you to look at art in a way we don't usually -- outside of its historical context. The color plates and paper are of the first quality, and the text is delightful -- as if you had a very smart and articulate mentor who could describe an artist or a movement in a way that actually makes sense. I've read several books on artistic aesthetics, hoping to find a better appreciation for the art that I mainly enjoy viscerally and IMHO, these pithy remarks do as well or better than those whole books. It's fun to see which work was chosen as typical of your favorite artists, and it's fun to try and guess the period in which an artist worked before you read the information. Just the kind of book to leave out when guests are over, and the price is so reasonable and the size so manageable that this is an art book I can leave out for kids to enjoy too. Because so much is fit into such a small volume, some readers may be frustrated at the small print, though the font is quite clean. The book closes with glossaries of technical terms and artistic movements, and a directory of museums and galleries, organized by country, that includes address, phone number and a list of the book's works that they own. I hope the next edition will also include web sites. In this fast, fast, faster world, it

might be good to take a few minutes and look at some pictures, eh? Phaidon Press has done us a service by publishing this little treasure. They have worked a little miracle to do so at such a great price. Buy this book!Highest recommendation.

Someone got this for me as a gift, and I got it as a gift for an artist friend who is in a nursing home. It is small, but thick, and easy to have by the bedside to see all the excellent art of the world. I have taken it on vacations to get my daily "art fix" and see the art in a fresh way each time I leaf through it. Excellent to have around!

Give this book to your children. Why? Because you will find out if they really have any interests on the arts. If NOT, read and see it for yourself - it's a real treasure and it will show you more about The Arts as you may see visiting galleries, museums etc. in a lifetime. If YES, when your child shows interests, read and see it too, talk about and who knows, maybe you have an artist in your family or - even this is possible: YOU are the artist! I am an artist, an Installation Art Sculptor and learned from this little handy guide how to look on art. I read it in two days from "alpha to omega". Now I know: THE ART BOOK is my book and my gallery. I wonder why our kids don't get it in schools. They would know about The Arts in some hours more than most of the teachers. Is art education needed? When yes! How much it will cost? THE ART BOOKS itself will give you a good answer. Buy it! Give it to your children, friends .... and to art teachers as a guide. Sincerely - Jan A. Loeffler, Yes2Art originator.

Great little book with LOTS of ART Works. Explains artist and painting.

If you want to find a sample artwork of many of the world's most famous artworks, this book has one artwork by 500 of the most famous. I like that it is in alphabetical order making it easy to look up a name. Although there are a lot of artists there are not many African American Artists. I was surprised Jacob Lawrence was not included. I would have expected a few more artists from Canada and other non-American or European countries. The text for each artist is one long paragraph focusing on the artwork featured and connected to their style or referencing other work by that artist. Its focus is not biographical. I purchased the very small sized paperback. Which is easy to carry around, but the print is hard to read.

I purchased this item with hopes that it would make it in time for the holidays and in good condition.

The seller was wonderful, honest and had my book shipped to me 4 days before the estimated early date of arrival. This book is great for those who are just getting into the world of art as it includes 500 pieces from different time periods and styles. We actually used this book as a text in class! Great reference and nice little coffee table reading. Not recommended for those who are familiar with several pieces of art because there are a lot of images with short descriptions rather than a few pieces that are more in-depth. Great starter book with a wonderful variety of classic and questionable works.

I got this book for my daughter when she was in kindergarten because she really enjoyed art. She looked through it frequently and referenced it through the years in her art classes. Years later, when we would see something from the book in a museum, she would recognize it.

Glossy, color photos, with just enough description. Fantastic little "carry along with you" book for browsing a wide variety of art.

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