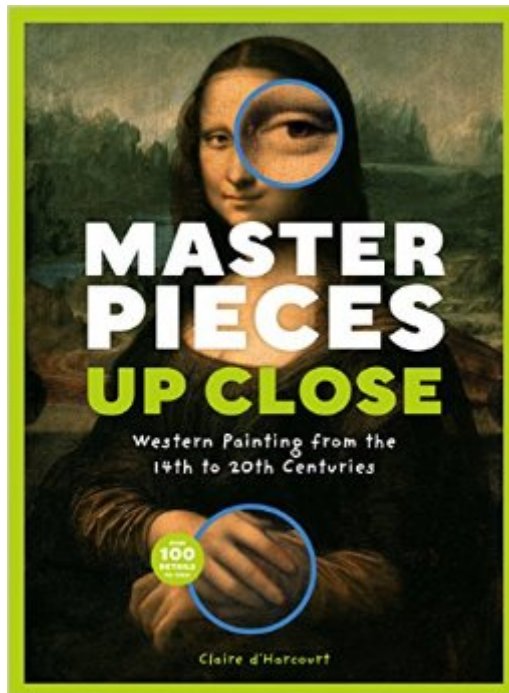


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Masterpieces Up Close: Western Painting From The 14th To 20th Centuries



Synopsis

Masterpieces Up Close is back in print! Once again readers can explore great works of art from the Middle Ages to the twentieth century in exquisite large-format detail. Captioned, full-color reproductions of more than twenty paintings provide informative and challenging treasure hunts involving more than one-hundred close-up details. Don't worry, if you can't find one of them, lift-the-flap copies of each painting can be found in the back of the book highlighting each detail. Brief biographical sketches offer information about the artists.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars Â Â See all reviews Â (7 customer reviews)

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Age Range: 9 - 12 years

Grade Level: 1 - 3

Customer Reviews

We homeschool and were looking for a book to use with artist studies. This book has wonderful pictures, and points out details that were surprising to me, even on very familiar prints. I had borrowed this from the library, and the first day home I knew we would buy it for our own home library. This book would be a welcome addition to any child's collection, for pure enjoyment or simple introductions to the world of famous masterpieces.

This is a beautiful, large-sized book that is a good primer for middle-grade students (and their teachers!) to engage in critical discourse on art. It's scale is effective in helping see some masterpieces from the 14th to 20th centuries and discovering details within each of them. Each

painted masterpiece has a large full-color picture, artist, title and date notation. Then scattered around the picture are about half a dozen circles that focus on elements within the picture. Each circle describes what's featured in the circle and most ask a question to get you to think about why the artist depicted that or what you think about it. There are no answers specified, and that's in keeping with today's critical thinking standards in education. After three "up close" spreads there is a 2-page spread that goes into more depth some of the themes and aspects of each of the preceding paintings. At the end of the book there's a neat section with miniature reproductions of the paintings in a flap-book style where you open the flap and inside is a short biography of each artist along with another picture of the painting with numbered dots that show where the focused detail circles came from. Ultimately it's a fun introduction to art history and appreciation that can spark curiosity and examination of the details and purposes of famous painted works. It can be useful for teachers and students in art lessons and to engage in open discussions. The artworks chosen are all well-known in the art world (I studied all of them when I was an art history student in college). As a former children's librarian, the durability of the flip books is questionable and would probably not survive heavy circulation. On the negative side, my main criticism is that most of the paintings suffer a bit from the book binding as the reproduction spreads across the binding and you lose a bit of the picture. The picture is still seen in miniature in the back, but this detail does interfere with enjoying the artworks in their full glory. As this book focuses on details, perhaps for others this is not a concern. The artworks in focus do range over 7 centuries, however the last two centuries (19th and 20th) are less studied, maybe because the art is generally more abstract? In conclusion, this is a visually attractive primer for children to learn about several painting masterpieces and develop an eye for observing details. This is not an in-depth nor comprehensive book but an excellent start to helping children discover art.

This is a great book. The advantages are that it is large enough format for the reproductions to be good, and the selection of paintings really does have some of the most famous paintings, from Giotto to Warhol. Someone earlier mentioned nudes. Well, if Botticelli's Venus is too much for your household, this book isn't for you, but as nudes go, it's pretty tame. My boy and I enjoyed it over a period of months (ages 2-3). He may not have understood a lot that an older child might, but he did like the paintings and enjoyed finding the details--like the "I spy" books.

This book is great for learning more about art. Giving to young people; great intro to art.

This book is so cool!!! I bought it for my 1 month old daughter. Right now, she loves just looking at the various masterpieces, but it will definitely grow with her!!

Perfectly captures the kids attentions. A large book, perfect for inspiring little minds:)

As an elementary art teacher with 33 years experience I am always amazed that with all of the masterpieces available publishers insist on including nudes in books they claim are appropriate for children. While parents may not have issues with the works chosen I would strongly advise teachers that this particular book is not appropriate for the elementary nor intermediate classroom.

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