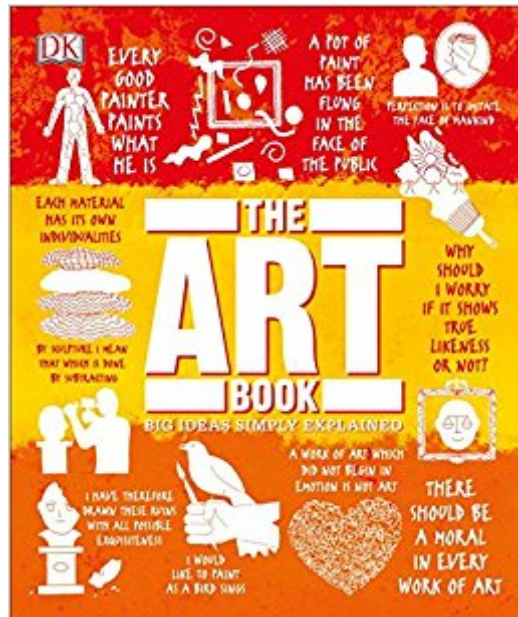




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The Art Book: Big Ideas Simply Explained



Synopsis

Discover what makes a piece a significant work of art and tour history's greatest masterpieces. See the master works of Pablo Picasso, Vincent van Gogh, Claude Monet, and more. From prehistoric cave paintings to postmodern art, *The Art Book* explores more than 100 different movements, periods, and works throughout history, including ancient Assyrian sculpture and contemporary Japanese multimedia works. Art's theories and themes are more approachable and easier to understand through innovative graphics and creative typography. Part of DK's award-winning Big Ideas Simply Explained series, *The Art Book* profiling more than 100 artists and 200 pieces of work, and covers paintings, drawing, sculptures, ready-mades, land art, installations, and more. Follow how art changed in the Medieval world to the 18th century to the modern age. Study famous pieces of art including Venus of Willendorf, The Book of Kells, and Rembrandt's Self-Portrait. Learn the differences between Paul Cézanne, Henri Matisse, and Roy Lichtenstein. With stunning images and graphics, clear writing, an artist directory, and a vocabulary glossary, *The Art Book* is the perfect introduction to the complex and exciting world of art.

Book Information

Series: Big Ideas Simply Explained

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Customer Reviews

"[The Big Ideas Simply Explained books] are beautifully illustrated with shadow-like cartoons that break down even the most difficult concepts so they are easier to grasp. These step-by-step diagrams are an incredibly clever learning device to include, especially for visual learners." [Examiner.com](#) "The visual layout promotes browsing with illustrations, pull quotes, and simple mind

maps to explain concepts quickly." [Accessable guide to the great thinkers.](#)
• School Library Journal

I'm a big fan of DK's recent "The XYZ Book: Big Ideas Simply Explained" series. They cover Science, History, Philosophy, and even Shakespeare and Movies. So naturally when I heard they were making an Art book I was excited. Because my wife is an artist and I'm a lover of art. After looking into this book I have realized a couple of things. The "Art" subject isn't really correct. It's more an "Art History" book than an art book. Others may disagree, but I found it's coverage of the subject to be primarily relegated to the classical history of art, akin to what you would find a college course about art history, as opposed to a class on Art itself. So be forewarned, you are not getting a big book on art techniques and great artists, you are getting an art history book. If you were expecting loads of comic book artists, manga illustrators, animators, industrial designers, video game creators, and performance artists, you will NOT find that sort of thing here (though it strikes me that someone really ought to do a book covering the substance, if not the history, of all those divergent forms of art). No, instead you are getting something far more predictable and even a bit unexpected considering how refreshingly modern many of the other Big Ideas books from DK are. All that said...If you read this book you ARE getting a top-notch education on the history of (primarily classical) art. Read it cover to cover and you can walk into a museum and appreciate the period and ideas represented by what you are looking at. For a history buff like me this is great stuff. As usual in this series there is beautiful page layout, great writing, beautiful imagery. I disagree with both those who say the content is dense and those who say the text is small. To my eyes it no denser or smaller than any other books in the series (maybe those people need to get new eyeglasses?), and I've certainly seen paperbacks with smaller type that's harder to read (the super-crisp white paper and dark consistent black helps). This is not a dry, dusty tome for college students even though it covers the same material. Think of it more as a cliff-notes version of the subject. If you want to just read an art history book this is highly recommended if like me you want your book to be readable. If you are looking for a definitive source there are whole encyclopedias written on this subject that might be more up your alley. Overall, another excellent coffee table college course from DK and I'm looking forward to seeing what they have up their sleeve next. I'll be reading this one for the rest of my life to educate myself and refresh my memory on art history.

The "Big Ideas Simply Explained" series of DK books introduces topics typically covered in liberal arts colleges. DK was first known for their nonfiction books for children aged 9-12 which were heavy

on full color photos with snippets of text over a topic covered only on a two page spread. All the books in this newest DK series "Big Ideas" series are college topics written for interested high school aged teens or older students or adults who want to learn this material in an approachable, easy to understand manner. These are some topics which are AP high school class topics also. Gifted very interested junior high students might get into these books as well. The Art Book is a book of art history which was written by five authors who are all either historians, art history, philosophy, or music specialists or are experienced book authors in the art writing field. Because the "Big Ideas" series goes more in depth the entire topic cannot be covered across two pages but the use of bold illustrations or color photographs is present. Text is the majority here and the font size is typical for high school textbooks. There is an all capital letters bold font phrase that I assume is meant to pique the interest of the reader to draw them in to read the text. Text is in three columns (magazine style) and there are sometimes blurb boxes to the side (as is also typical now of high school and college textbooks). The art history content is typical of a survey 100 level college course in art history. This book is easy to read and understand if you are an interested reader and it's not full of fluff and nonsense. There are 352 pages which is not a lot compared to college textbooks so the material has been summarized down and there is virtually no white space on the page. Having this shorter length book makes the book seem approachable and readable not intimidating. It's hardcover and nicely bound with a low price (take a look at some textbook prices!). Rating 5 stars = Love It.

This is an unusual and fascinating art book. It is more of an art history and artists' biography than I expected, but I am very happy with it. I am not a student of art, so many of these artists and styles are unfamiliar to me. Most of the topics are new to me as well. I am finding the book easy to read, considering my very amateur status. The book is filled with illustrations, histories, styles of art, and characteristics of various artists, many of whom are as odd as they come, as well as extremely talented. Each page is a work of art in itself, collage-style, with various sizes and styles of font and page designs. You cannot pick this book up for a casual look without becoming absorbed in whatever topic you turn to. Most of the topics covered don't take long to read, and the book is richly illustrated as well. Are you interested in Japanese art? Read the two page topic: "One Can Almost Hear the Crack of Thunder." Remember the tormented painting of "The Garden of Earthly Delights?" Read just about everything there is to know about its painter: Hieronymus Bosch, who lived from 1450 to 1516. Do you have an interest in self-portraiture? Rembrandt, van Gogh and other lesser known painters are well-covered in the short chapter on this topic. I highly recommend adding this book to your home library. It is an excellent resource for children in school, and a book the whole

family can peruse and discuss, as well. Just as it claims, this is an "Art Book [of] Big Ideas Simply Explained."

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