

A history of pictures



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David Hockney, Martin Gayford

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360 pages

Revue de presse

'Through the eyes of Hockney and Gayford, we see familiar paintings as though for the very first time.' Mail on Sunday

'A sheer pleasure to read and to look at.' -- Alexander McCall Smith's books of the year, New Statesman

The Times Rachel Campbell-Johnston's Books of the Year

'A wonderfully intimate insight into a charismatic and candid conversation with one of the art world's greatest living artists.' -- Irish Arts Review

'Elegant and often surprising...Hockney flags up a topic and Gayford gives the critical armature: it makes for a refreshing double act.' --Michael Prodger's books of the year, The Sunday Times

'A lovely conversation about fampus images, from caves to computer screens'--Guardian Weekend Magazine

'What makes some pictures a masterpiece? Who better to explain than our greatest living artist, as he teams up with art critic Martin Gayford to open your eyes to the works of genius he holds dear' --Mail on Sunday

'His sharp and often delightfully slanted take on pictures, explained in clear terms, crisps up perceptions and help readers to look anew.'--Rachel Campbell-Johnston, The Times

'Wonderful ... Apart from the sumptuous avalanche of reproductions, the book consists of paragraphs in which the two proprietors speak alternately. It's a measure of Hockney's vividness of perception that he can always put a cap on Gayford s knowledge ... fabulous'--Clive James, Guardian

'Will keep any intelligent person amused and intrigued ... [Hockney] asks big questions about the nature of picture-making and the relationship between painters and photography in a way that no other contemporary artist seems to do ... enormously good-humoured and entertaining ... On almost every page, there is an interesting provocation'--Andrew Marr, New Statesman

'Gives readers the sensation of eavesdropping on an enlightening conversation' --Rachel Spence, Financial Times

'I won't read a more interesting book all year ... utterly fascinating' -- AN Wilson, The Sunday Times

'Thought-provoking ... like hearing from superbly well-informed and enthusiastic friends, because the format, the superbly chosen illustrations for the entire history of image-making and the design of the book itself make its contents unusually accessible, allowing them still to be argumentative, stimulating, even at times unexpected, and totally engaging' --Marina Vaizey, V&A Magazine

'A brilliantly original and illustrated exploration into how and why pictures are made, and the pair share sparkling insights and ideas. Art lovers will go wild.' --Woman & Home Présentation de l'éditeur The making of pictures has a history going back perhaps 100,000 years to an African shell used as a paint palette. Two-thirds of it is irrevocably lost, since the earliest images known to us are from about 40,000 years ago. But what a 40,000 years, explored here by David Hockney and Martin Gayford in a brilliantly original

book. They privilege no medium, or period, or style, but instead, in 16 chapters, discuss how and why pictures have been made, and insistently link 'art' to human skills and human needs.

Each chapter addresses an important question: What happens when we try to express reality in two dimensions? Why is the 'Mona Lisa' beautiful and why are shadows so rarely found in Chinese, Japanese and Persian painting? Why are optical projections always going to be more beautiful than HD television can ever be? How have the makers of images depicted movement? What makes marks on a flat surface interesting? Energized by two lifetimes of looking at pictures, combined with a great artist's 70-year experience of experimentation as he makes them, this profoundly moving and enlightening volume will be the art book of the decade.

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