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# 500 Self-Portraits



## Synopsis

A new version of Phaidon classic published in 1937, this evocative and fascinating book presents 500 of the world's greatest self portraits, arranged in a simple chronological sequence from ancient time to the late 20th century.

## Book Information

Paperback: 548 pages

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## Customer Reviews

An interesting collection of self portraits commencing with Ni-Ankh-Ptah (c. 2350 BC) through to Maurizio Cattelan (1997). The selection provides an interesting chronology of how portraiture has changed over the years. I'm uncertain as to which edition the previous reader has, as my version has 10 self portraits by Rembrandt. I would have liked to have seen more portraits by recent artists as the variation in how to approach the modern portrait is extensive compared with say the 17th C. The reproductions are good and the quality of paper is also good. The introduction by Julian Bell is well written and could have even been expanded upon further. It provides an excellent overview of how portraiture and art in general have changed over the centuries. A worthy book to have on the shelf - lends itself to random browsing.

For a book of this size, we can't expect everything. The book is about post-card sized, but almost equally as thick! Larger images and more depth on each artist would be preferred, of course, but it's a fun collection of self portraits on artists you may not have seen previously. Lots of names you know, and good exposure to those you don't. Apart from a small introduction in the beginning, it's purely a picture book. It gives the artist's name, DOB-Death, etc for each piece. Otherwise just

pictures (and none are full-bleed).

Good anthology. Could be excellent if the number of minority artists (including women) was higher--there are only about 20 self-portraits by women!!!

Makes me want to pick up a pencil and start drawing again. So many artists! So many styles! Ans so beautifully presented!

Beware it is a small book, but great for cutting up and doing activities in my art class!

I am enjoying this book very much. With 500 portraits the book remains interesting and educational for a long time. More than seeing what the artists look like is the variety of styles and attitudes. I recommend it!

This work is based on an earlier collection of self- portraits made by the scholar Ludwig Goldscheider. It contains many of the great works in the self-portrait including six self- portraits by the artist whose signature is written most prominently on this type of work, Rembrandt. It is difficult to fault a work which has so many great paintings in it, but I do find a couple of problems with the volume. The introduction is small and inadequate and there is no explanatory text whatsoever. I also found disconcerting and unpleasant a number of the more recent paintings selected. I would also point, to what it seems to me, is an inherent inadequacy of a book of this kind. Rembrandt teaches us that the true - self- portrait of an artist is a long series of self- portraits, is a history and a life of the person. The single self- portrait made of one time can show a moment of a life, can represent a person as they would be represented, but cannot tell us the whole life. Six self- portraits of Rembrandt are not enough.

This is a cute book but small. Had I realized how small it was I would not have bought it.

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