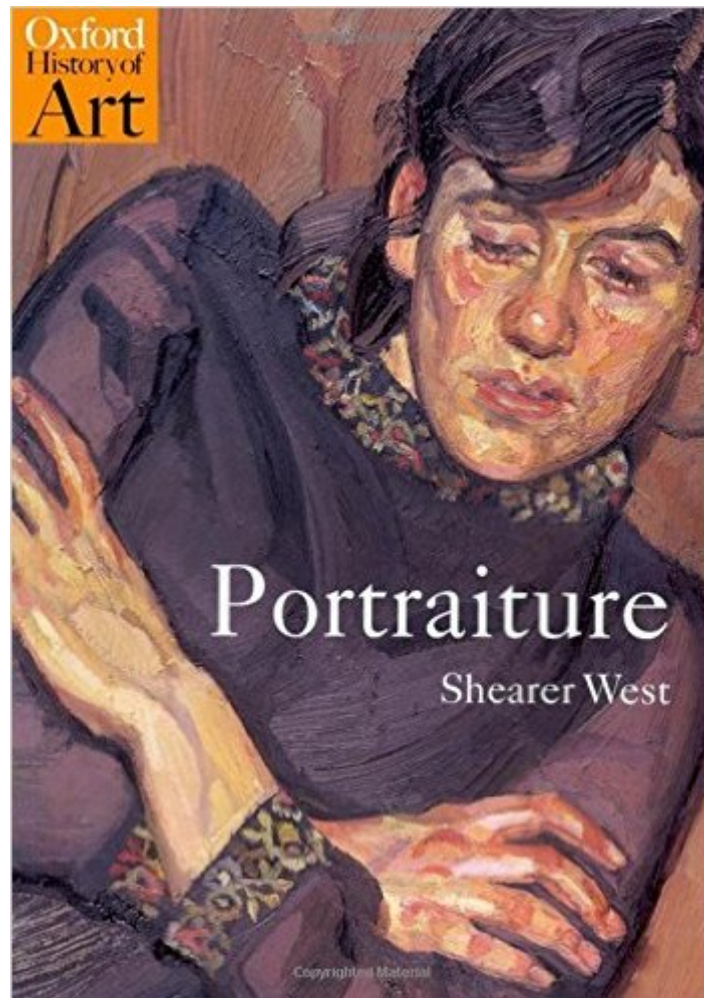


The book was found

Portraiture (Oxford History Of Art)



Synopsis

This fascinating new addition to the acclaimed Oxford History of Art series explores the world of portraiture from a number of vantage points, and asks key questions about its nature. How has portraiture changed over the centuries? How have portraits represented their subjects, and how have they been interpreted? The book provides a clear, yet thorough overview of the history of portraiture in terms of social, political, economic, and psychological factors over a broad time span. Issues such as identity, modernity, and gender are considered within their cultural and historical contexts. Shearer West uncovers intriguing aspects of portraiture—a genre that has often been seen as purely representational, featuring examples from African tribes to Renaissance princes, and from "stars" such as David and Victoria Beckham to everyday people. West examines the many meanings and uses of portraits throughout the ages and includes a wide range of artists from Botticelli to Picasso, and Hans Holbein to Frida Kahlo. In the process, she reveals the faces of the past in an exciting new way. Beautifully illustrated throughout, this book is a unique and accessible introduction to the history of portraiture.

Book Information

Series: Oxford History of Art

Paperback: 256 pages

Publisher: Oxford University Press; 1 edition (May 6, 2004)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0192842587

ISBN-13: 978-0192842589

Product Dimensions: 9.3 x 0.6 x 6.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (11 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #597,486 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #132 in [Books > Arts & Photography > History & Criticism > Themes > Portraits](#) #135 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Painting > Portraits](#) #828 in [Books > Textbooks > Humanities > Art History](#)

Customer Reviews

If you are an art lover, connoisseur, art history student, fashion designer, or someone who wants to explore the mysterious world of portraiture this book is an excellent choice. The author assumed the difficult task of providing a clear, comprehensive overview of the history of portraits and portraiture from the ancient world, through the Renaissance to modern art. I would give this book the best rating

possible. You ask why? The answer is simple. As an art lover, I am particularly interested in the evolution of portraits and portraiture of the Renaissance and Baroque and this book covers the whole range of my interest and beyond. In this lavishly illustrated book the author, Shearer West, explains why the portrait as a work of art occupies the central position in art history, gives easy to remember definitions of portraits and portraiture, and studies the diversity of portrait forms and functions. She discusses in-depth how portraiture changed and developed over the centuries and paints a unique, intriguing relationship of artist, sitters, patron/s and viewer. She also reveals who and why commissioned the portraits and how a portrait can reflect and represent the social status of the sitter (rich or poor, powerful or subjugated, professional or servant) in different historical periods. The history of portraiture could not be completed without a broad-range of methods and tricks, sometimes very funny, used by artists to present themselves to the publicity. Her investigation of the complexities of contemporary portraiture, of the 1950's onwards, is clear and convincing. This fascinating book is enriched with 146 high quality illustrations with well written, highly informative commentary to each painting.

This is an excellent survey of portrait art from ancient to modern times with a great bibliography, lots of references, and good illustrations. I appreciated the historic timeline and a list of websites for further research. I'd recommend this book for anyone interested in portraiture. As a portrait artist I thoroughly enjoyed it. For some reason, art historians have largely ignored portraiture as a field of research. My only criticism is that I found the book a bit dry, lacking creative insight and humor. The emphasis on painting, at the expense of drawing and sculpture is also a notable shortcoming.

The next time that I teach portrait painting, I will require that students purchase this book. It is a good overview, providing general themes as well as specific examples. An early chapter on the functions of portraiture, for instance, covers the full breadth of what a portrait can be or mean, and underscores that a portrait is much more than a likeness.

I study and teach art history. This is an excellent introduction to portraiture. It is clearly written, and while it is partially chronological within each chapter, it is more a discussion of the issues involved in using physical means to represent personality and interior states than it is a survey of existing portraits. It is one of few portraiture surveys that addresses things like gender (of both artist and sitter). While it, like other portraiture surveys, skips medieval and non-western images of individuals, the focus on thematic issues makes it widely applicable.

Informed and informative. Even reading just the introduction will help the reader articulate notions surrounding portraiture.

This is a better written essay than the plates which are not always true color rendition. I would have like more plates.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Portraiture (Oxford History of Art) The Art of Pastel Portraiture Portraiture (Essays in Art and Culture) The Oxford Handbook of The History of Analytic Philosophy (Oxford Handbooks) New England / New Spain: Portraiture in the Colonial Americas, 1492–1850 (Symposium) Van Dyck: The Anatomy of Portraiture Face Value: Portraiture in the Age of Abstraction Inventing Marcel Duchamp: The Dynamics of Portraiture (MIT Press) Persian Painting: The Arts of the Book and Portraiture Early Hellenistic Portraiture: Image, Style, Context Flash Techniques for Location Portraiture: Single and Multiple-Flash Lighting Techniques Portraiture Unplugged: Natural Light Photography Art: Painting For Artists - Styles: Acrylic And Oil Painting (art history, art books, art theory, art techniques Book 2) Archaic and Classical Greek Art (Oxford History of Art) African-American Art (Oxford History of Art) Early Medieval Art (Oxford History of Art) The Oxford Companion to Popular Music (Oxford Quick Reference) The Oxford Dictionary of Dance (Oxford Quick Reference) Oxford Bible Atlas 4th (fourth) Edition by Curtis, Adrian published by Oxford University Press, USA (2009) The Oxford Handbook of Quaker Studies (Oxford Handbooks)

[Dmca](#)