



Encyclopedia of Artists: 6-volume set

By Andrea Cimabue

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A comprehensive, profusely illustrated guide to the world of art for young adults, this six-volume set is a fact-packed introduction to the masters and concepts of Western art. Featuring painters, sculptors, and printmakers from the Middle Ages through the present, the series has been produced through the exacting efforts of leading art historians and written in vivid, engrossing style that will be easily accessible to teenage readers.

The first five books in the set contain biographical entries on 222 artists in the familiar A-Z format. Each double-page entry follows a consistent pattern. Its centerpiece is a brief essay focusing on the distinguishing characteristics of the artist's life and work. The essay is supplemented with a quick-reference biography sidebar and a feature box on the artist's style. Each profile is illustrated in color with up to two color reproductions of the works that best define the artist's style and contributions to the art of the time. Cross-references to other artists and movements follow each entry. Every volume features a timeline spanning the major movements of Western art. The final volume collects entries on the major schools and movements in art--from Abstraction through Barbizon school and dada to Vorticism--as well as a series index and a glossary with suggestions for further reading.

Equally conducive to both serious research and browsing, this elegant set offers consistent visual treatment of the artists and multiple points of comparison.

Young adult art aficionados will discover that an attractive page design coupled with lucid, energetic writing and exquisite scholarship hold the key to discovering the greatest talents in history and their artistic legacy.

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Encyclopedia of Artists: 6-volume set By Andrea Cimabue Bibliography

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Editorial Review

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The purpose of this encyclopedia, intended for young adults, is to provide a comprehensive, highly illustrated introduction to Western art and artists from the Middle Ages to the present day. Each of the 223 entries for painters, sculptors, and printmakers comprises a double-page spread and includes a description of the artist's life and work; a data file listing key facts about the artist, including important works; comparable artists and relevant glossary terms; a feature box that discusses the artist's style in detail; and a large illustration that clarifies some aspect of the artist's work. The selection of artists includes not only the usual Old Masters and Impressionists, but also some who might be less familiar, such as Charles Demuth, Angelica Kauffmann, and Horace Pippin. The sixth volume consists of entries about major periods and movements from *Abstract art* to the *Utrecht School*, a glossary, an index, and a list of resources for further reading. A time line begins each volume.

Art books carry the added burden of informing the reader about the topic or artist and also reproducing the work of the artist so that the reader has an accurate representation of the work. This set succeeds admirably on both fronts. It packs a lot of information in a small amount of space but does not seem cramped. The full-page photographs of the artwork are clean and true to color, and the explanation of the artist's style and contributions fits well with the artwork represented. The entries for the art styles and movements are clear, with representative illustrations. Boldface cross-references within the text would have been useful, as would an indication on the spines of the range within each volume, so that each book doesn't have to be pulled off the shelf to see what is in it.

That aside, this compact set is an excellent resource for beginning research on an artist or a style. Its small shelf footprint will ensure that it can fit on the shelves of even the smallest library. A comparable work, *Great Artists of the Western World* (Marshall Cavendish, 1987) covers only 36 artists though it provides much more information on each. *RBB*

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Review

"Clear and attractive organization of text and art reproductions is evident throughout....An impressive and easy-to-use resource for students and browsers seeking succinct yet authoritative information."--School Library Journal

"An excellent addition to any middle or high school library collection."--Book Report

"A comprehensive, richly illustrated six-volume introduction to Western art and artists written primarily for young people....A valuable resource for school libraries and/or artrooms."--School Arts Magazine

"A time line of art movements and styles in the front of each volume is an added bonus to visualize the overlap. This well-written set could be a useful tool for students needing to do introductory art history research."--VOYA

"An excellent addition to any middle or high school library collection."--Book Report

About the Author

William Vaughn, Consulting Editor, is Professor of the history of art at Birkbeck College, University of London.

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