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Picasso (Dover Fine Art, History Of Art)



Synopsis

For more than a generation, Gertrude Stein's Paris home at 27 rue de Fleurus was the center of a glittering coterie of artists and writers, one of whom was Pablo Picasso. In this intimate and revealing memoir, Stein tells us much about the great man (and herself) and offers many insights into the life and art of the 20th century's greatest painter. Mixing biological fact with artistic and aesthetic comments, she limns a unique portrait of Picasso as a founder of Cubism, an intimate of Apollinaire, Max Jacob, Braque, Derain, and others, and a genius driven by a ceaseless quest to convey his vision of the 20th century. We learn, for example, of the importance of his native Spain in shaping Picasso's approach to art; of the influence of calligraphy and African sculpture; of his profound struggle to remain true to his own vision; of the overriding need to empty himself of the forms and ideas that welled up within him. Stein's close relationship with Picasso furnishes her with a unique vantage point in composing this perceptive and provocative reminiscence. It will delight any admirer of Picasso or Gertrude Stein; it is indispensable to an understanding of modern art.

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Customer Reviews

For more than a generation, Gertrude Stein's Paris home at 27 rue de Fleurus was the center of a glittering coterie of artists and writers, one of whom was Pablo Picasso. In this intimate and revealing memoir, Stein tells us much about the great man (and herself) and offers many insights into the life and art of the 20th century's greatest painter. Mixing biological fact with artistic and aesthetic comments, she limns a unique portrait of Picasso as a founder of Cubism, an intimate of

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This book made absolute no sense to me. I could not see a beginning or end that gave me any sense for the life of Picasso. Unless you might be interested into a stream of thought, you will not get this book. I was extremely disappointed as it was assigned by our docent book club.

You get to the end without having learnt nothing but her own image of Picasso. This is a book not on Picasso, but on Stein's image of him. It is Art and literature and modernist prose. Which I thank with all my heart, but: Richardson's books have buried many books like this where Picasso has been enthroned like Sanson. I want no golden calves, but golden knowledge. My review: buy it if you just love books more than money, which is my case, by the way.

I've been reading Richardson's Picasso biography, and he refers so frequently to the Steins that I had to buy this book. I found it absolutely charming, witty, and typical Gertrude Stein. Her prose runs in circles, and she's consistently self-focused. She views herself as a pioneering art doyenne and one of the few who truly understood the art movements in Paris in the early part of the 20th century. But her affection for Picasso is undeniable, and that's what makes this book so wonderful to read. Picasso often felt that Gertrude in fact did *not* get what was going on with cubism and his and Braque's works. But she liked to have artistic company, Picasso liked that she bought so much of his work, so their relationship worked. This is a quick book to read - contrary to what another review suggests - and makes for a wonderful Saturday afternoon. It helps if you know something of Picasso's history, so read this with a collection of his work on the side.

It's not as good as I thought it would be in regards to Picasso's history but insightful for the Hypocrisy of Gertrude Stein; nonetheless it was a good read for Fans of Gertrude Stein. the reason I say the Hypocrisy because she acted as a friend to some and used her influence to further many Artist and sabotaged others based on her circle of influence. I guess that's a good lesson for any

Artist out there.

This is a wonderful little book. There are only about 50 pages of actual writing in this book. The rest is intro (which you can skip) and pictures. I will admit: I love Gertrude Stein's style. Of course, many do not- it can be a bit overwhelming. I believe she uses just enough of her style in this book to give it her own personal flair, but not enough to ruin it or complete take over with nonsense. It's a picasso portrayal from a different angle, but also a brief work of art of it's own. Read it in one pleasurable afternoon sitting.

It's a magnificent report on the life and works of a "first class genius", till the end of the '30s. An unforgettable classic in history of contemporary art. To be read together with Stein's "Autobiography of Alice B. Toklas".

Dead bug inside

A long-time fan of Gertrude Stein, I have recently read everything I could find on Picasso, and voila: the perfect combination. Stein is unbearably overbearing and pompous in her assessments of people, but her take on Picasso is prescient. They fit the two peas of a pod category and it's our loss that Picasso didn't do a profile of Gertrude to balance things out. This is a readable Stein looking into the soul of a mysterious artist. Kudos!

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