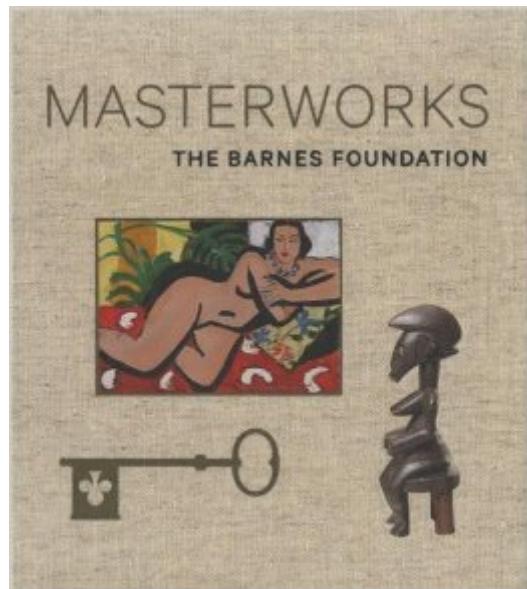


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The Barnes Foundation: Masterworks



Synopsis

The Barnes Foundation, established by scientist, entrepreneur, and educator Dr. Albert C. Barnes in 1922, is home to a legendary art collection. Barnes assembled one of the world's largest and finest groups of post-impressionist and early modern paintings, with holdings by such luminaries as Renoir, Cézanne, Matisse, Picasso, Rousseau, Modigliani, Soutine, Manet, Monet, Seurat, Degas, Van Gogh, and Gauguin. The Foundation's collection also holds significant examples of American art, including works by Demuth, Glackens, and the Prendergasts; African sculpture; Native American ceramics, jewelry, and textiles; Asian paintings, prints, and sculptures; medieval manuscripts and sculptures; Old Master paintings by El Greco, Rubens, Titian, and others; ancient Egyptian, Greek, and Roman art; and American and European decorative arts and metalwork. The presentation of the collection reflects Barnes's educational and aesthetic approach: symmetrical ensembles, or wall compositions, combine works of different periods, mediums, cultures, and styles for the purpose of comparison and study. Texts by Judith F. Dolkart and Martha Lucy explore the Barnes Foundation's collection, educational mission, ensembles, and individual works. Large color plates, little-seen archival photographs, and numerous gatefolds illustrate 150 of the greatest hits of the collection and twenty gallery ensembles.

Book Information

Hardcover: 374 pages

Publisher: Skira Rizzoli (May 22, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0847838064

ISBN-13: 978-0847838066

Product Dimensions: 9 x 1.5 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars (See all reviews) (54 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #83,366 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #58 in Books > Arts & Photography > Collections, Catalogs & Exhibitions

Customer Reviews

As an artist who has MANY artbooks, I really like this one. The images are large enough to really see the paintings well. Showing how the paintings were displayed in the original Barnes home/museum was very well done. Very often, art books may have fine images, but the text leaves something to be desired. This one, however, was excellent in that regard and I highly recommend

this book because of these two things both coming together so well - good images, and informative, well-written accompanying text.

This is a great book to read prior to your first tour of the Barnes Foundation in Philadelphia. It introduces Dr. Barnes as entrepreneur, art collector and educator; and provides an excellent overview of his collection, key wall ensembles in the galleries, and of individual paintings. It also highlights selected African sculptures, and pieces of functional and decorative metalwork. This book is used by Barnes art and aesthetics students as a key resource, and makes a wonderful gift. There is one caveat: it does not include all collection items, nor picture all gallery walls. However, it does address all the major artworks. To plan your visit, I suggest you use this book in conjunction with the Barnes audio tour available on the foundation's website, and also obtain a map and visitor guide with floor plan in advance. Finally, on your visit take time to savor the gardens, walkways and architecture of the building. They were all designed with great purpose and relate to the art collection. For more insights, see the book *The Architecture of the Barnes Foundation: Gallery in a Garden, Garden in a Gallery* by the architects Tod Williams and Billie Tsien . Enjoy!

If you are from a slow paced rural area like me or from the metropolis you will be shocked by the best thing in Philadelphia, and there are many great things in Philly. Nothing beats a visit to the Barnes. I love the Barnes, but was so overwhelmed I needed to view the art work at a slow pace. This book was perfect. Get it prior to your visit to the Barnes for best use, but if you have already visited this is a great review and very helpful in getting a grip on what you have seen.

Museum guide very helpful BEFORE visiting Phila. PA newly-opened museum of many 100s of never-seen masterpieces. Book help you plan your visit & tour of the ~2 doz. rooms, so can maximize use of limited time, 2 ~ 3 hours allowed, in afternoons. Can study details of paintings so know what to appreciate when seeing them. Can buy from for same or less\$ at Museum Shop & so have before visit. Also Google search Barnes Museum for virtual tour & interesting info before visit. We enjoyed this large detail book, and our visit.

This book is the next best thing to going to the Barnes Foundation. I highly recommend going to the museum, but if you can't make a trip to Philadelphia, this book gives a great "sense" of what it is like there. This is the "official" book. I'd recommend buying it on rather than trucking it home in your luggage.

I visited Philadelphia's phenomenal Barnes Foundation, a magnificent museum of fine arts, because a friend recommended it. I was wowed by the refined environment that envelopes impressionists, such as Renoir. After an art overload in the museum, I visited the gift shop, where I found "Masterworks". I was reluctant to purchase this ten-pound tome and ship it to my friend. I regretted the decision upon returning to Orlando, and searched . Aha! There it was, as a "like new" used volume at half the cost. It was only four bucks to ship to Marianne in Sherman Oaks, California, and my friend is thrilled with the book.

Only one previous book showed the major works of the Barnes Foundation in color because according to Dr. Barnes's will the paintings could not be reproduced in color printing, which he did not trust to be accurate. Now, however, after the new and meticulous recreation of the Barnes Collection in downtown Philadelphia, the Foundation has created a fine book that not only shows the great works in careful color, but reproduces the room settings that were so important in Dr. Barnes's view of how the works should be displayed â " in ensembles of carefully chosen works of art with assorted metalwork and decorative objects, furniture, ceramics, tableware and sculptures. the result is an excellent souvenir of a visit to the Barnes or a preview to a visit that will serve the viewer/reader very well. the texts include many comments and insights by Foundation teachers that reveal much about how Dr. Barnes believed we should see and understand the works he selected.

An inclusive look at the Barnes Foundation's art work in their new museum. The book fulfills the wishes of everyone who wanted a gallery guide after visiting the Barnes in Merion,Pa.

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