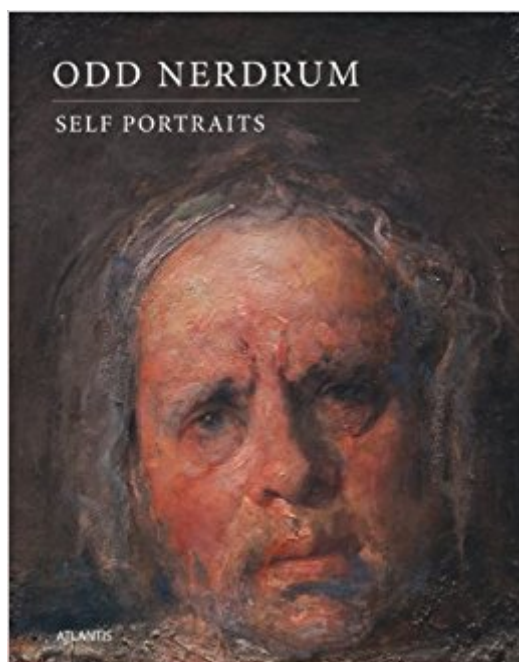


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Odd Nerdrum: Self Portraits



Synopsis

For a painter who took his earliest bearings from Rembrandt, and who has defiantly espoused the values of old master painting, the self-portrait is a natural enough genre to pursue. For Odd Nerdrum, the attractions of self-portraiture run much deeper, however. Nerdrum has frequently alluded to the “conflicted preoccupation with origins and personal identity” that his paintings express, and traces this preoccupation to his discovery that his father was not the father he had known growing up, but a previous lover of his mother’s. Also abandoned by his mother at an early age, he recollects of his early years: “I was a beggar in a world ruled by others. The person I found in the mirror was myself, I saw myself reflected in my own eyes, not those of others.” Nerdrum’s difficult childhood and the isolation he has endured as a painter have greatly intensified the relevance of the self-portrait, a genre at which he has excelled, and for which he has become particularly well known. This volume collects Nerdrum’s self-portraits for the first time, with more than 100 color reproductions.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book was under 10 dollars when I got it and the content was definitely worth the money. The drawback was that it seemed as if the photos taken were low resolution. As an artist, it is great to see details of pieces, which was done in this book, but the photos at detail level were quite pixelated. Overall a good book but didn't go the extra mile.

Item arrived on time & as described, very pleased.

good book to reference Odd Nerdrum paintings.

I own several of Nerdrum's other books and consider myself very familiar with the artist and his work. *Odd Nerdrum: Self Portraits* while worthwhile in concept or as an introduction to Nerdrum's work, is a big disappointment for anyone with experience with the artist. I'm sad to give it two stars. First, it's a very modest book both in scope and in execution. Nerdrum's self portraits are some of his most compelling paintings, but this book does not do them justice. The full page images are adequate (though images from *Odd Nerdrum: Paintings, Sketches and Drawings*, or *Odd Nerdrum: Themes* are FAR better), but the full bleed detail shots, the pictures so valuable in his previous books (the ones that show off Nerdrum's beautiful technique) are absolutely horrible. Several are terribly pixelated as if printing low quality images at full stretched orientation (imagine a 300 x 300 pixel image printed at full page resolution - pixels were practically a quarter inch wide!). And I don't mean one or two images, but dozens of pages devoted to these "detail" photographs. Totally useless and self defeating. And the book itself is of far lesser quality than previous publications. Hardcover, but cheaply made. Not a linen cover with dust jacket like we've grown to expect. A printed hardcover, no jacket. With glaring bright red blanks inside. The works depicted are not, I repeat: not, new or comprehensive. Several self portraits found in previous books are not covered here. Granted, a handful of pictures (literally, 4 or 5) contained in this book were not previously published in those aforementioned, they're not new work. (And worst of all, the image quality is so poor that you might as well not see them.) Nerdrum is a beautiful artist (or kitsch, as he'd prefer). I wholeheartedly recommend any of his previous publications. Even *Odd Nerdrum: Kitsch, More than Art* is a far better selection of work by the artist, and that's not a 'picture-book'. If you find this book on the discount shelves for

Overall this is a solid new survey on the self portraits of Odd Nerdrum. As one reviewer noted the reproductions are uneven, but overall most are solid enough for the price. I also own *Kitsch More than Art*, but that is a very different kind of book in terms of overall production and retail price. That is a stunning book; this is a more straightforward catalogue, almost more like a gallery publication. I have a beat up copy of *Themes*, which I've noticed also has inconsistent reprints. Really the early Nerdrum books (*Paintings* and *Storyteller* and *Self Revealer*) had the best reprints and those are impossible to track down for a decent price. But I digress.....this all to say that I'm happy *Self Portraits* was published because it is nice to have one book devoted to this particular group of work,

one that has had a central role in his work since the beginning of his career. It is also nice to have a book that I can refer to in the painting studio that I'm not worried about getting trashed. It has more than enough quality reproductions for the list price. I recommend it for anyone generally interested in contemporary figurative painting, or specifically hungry for a Nedrum book. This includes both the newly introduced fan of his work to the completist and anyone in between.

I recently discovered Odd Nerdrum's work and picked up this new book of his self-portraits. Nerdrum's paintings are amazing. I never expected to see such a classical style taken on by a 20th century painter...it's like an edgier Rembrandt! The book's reproductions include full-page images of his work, as well as magnified details, which gave me a great feel for Nerdrum's technique. The book has a nice medium size format, so you can appreciate the images and actually read the text. I understand the other reviewer's complaint about the chosen works having appeared in other books, but this is easily the most affordable Nerdrum book out there. Most of his older books are out of print and go for more than \$100. Overall I think this is an excellent introductory publication that I imagine will also be of interest to longtime fans of the artist. Recommended!

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