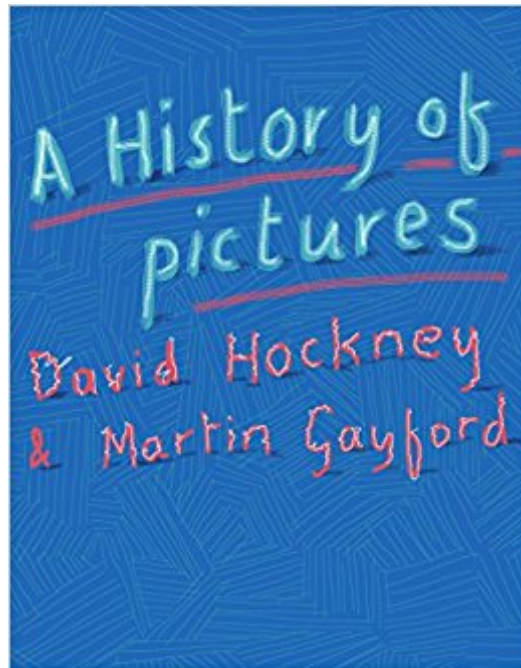




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# A History Of Pictures: From The Cave To The Computer Screen



## Synopsis

A picture, says David Hockney, is the only way that we can communicate what we see. Here, in a collaboration with art critic Martin Gayford, he explores the many ways that artists have pictured the world, sharing sparkling insights and ideas that will delight every art lover and art maker. Readers who thrilled to Hockney's Secret Knowledge know that he has an uncanny ability to get into the minds of artists. In A History of Pictures he covers far more ground, getting at the roots of visual expression and technique through hundreds of images – from cave paintings to frames from movies – that are reproduced. It's a joyful celebration of one of humanity's oldest impulses.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

David Hockney is one of the world's most popular painters and the author of the bestselling Secret Knowledge: Rediscovering the Lost Techniques of the Old Masters (2001). He lives in Los Angeles. Martin Gayford's many books include Man with a Blue Scarf: On Sitting for a Portrait by Lucian Freud (2013) and Rendez-vous with Art, with Philippe de Montebello (2014). He lives in Cambridge, England.

A provocative discussion on the history, techniques, etc of art, with exceptional reproductions.

I am always interested in reading what this artist has to say... really like the selection of works here..

Another reusable text I will refer to many times....awfully heavy, however....need a book stand...

I am the product of both art school studio and college art history courses and this book beats any I have seen! The conversation format between artist and critic works well--and there are illustrations of almost everything they mention. Anybody who takes photographs, paints, or uses an app on an iPad should love this book and find it changes their perspective on art!

Reading it slowly, as I have time. Very pleased.

The thesis of this book, which takes the format of a conversation between the authors, is that the history of painting is entwined with the history of photographic images. Simple as that sounds, it's an important contribution to our understanding of art history. Their conversation steers us through forgotten knowledge, and eventually brings us to the present, and a hopeful future of image making--all the while peppered with pictures in the way a lecture might be accompanied by slides. Personally, I'm grateful for the effort to put this knowledge out there. Sure, there's no consensus on the authors' perspective of the history of pictures, but I find what they have to say very compelling. In terms of writing, the book can read a bit like an panel discussion at times; there's no back and forth or disagreement, it's just an accumulation of thoughts. That starts to get dry about half way in, and make no mistake, this is a reader's book more than an art book, although there are more than enough reproductions to satisfy just about anyone. 5 stars because, after reading, it becomes clear that this was a work that really had to be written.

Fascinating, and the best of all worlds, a scholarly book that reads as a conversation. Years of Art School and Art History, not to mention scads of art books and monographic studies, this volume shines brightly. Great information, thoughts and insights. I found the combination of Hockney and Gayford to be brilliant, stimulating and difficult to put down.

Wish it had more Hockney and less Gayford. Gayford tends to dominate the writing and opinion (shocking!) instead of my wanting to hear more from Hockney and his thoughts. I'm generally overall pleased with the product though and any Hockney fan will like his observations... when he gets them in.

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