



# What Makes a Masterpiece: Artists, Writers, and Curators on the World's Greatest Art

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*What Makes a Masterpiece* explores the most important works of art ever created, from the Chauvet Cave to Cézanne. It covers art from Africa to China, Japan to South and Central America, Persia to Sri Lanka, as well as a large selection of European works from Ancient Greece to Impressionism. Little-known treasures such as the Iberian *Lady of Elche* or a Maya relief from Palenque appear alongside well-loved classics such as Masaccio's *Expulsion of Adam and Eve* or Degas's *Little Dancer*, creating a fascinating and unique collection of groundbreaking and beautiful works.

The book brings together an impressive list of authors: artists such as Antony Gormley and Avigdor Arikha, writers including Marina Warner and Philip Pullman, and cultural figures like Germaine Greer and Quentin Blake appear alongside curators and directors from the Louvre, Prado, Museo di San Marco, Berlin Gemäldegalerie, Metropolitan Museum of Art, National Gallery of Art, British Museum, and the National Gallery, London. Intimate knowledge combines with unique insight (and some startling new interpretations) to create fresh analyses of these works, of as much interest to art historians as to the general reader. 280 color illustrations

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**What Makes a Masterpiece: Artists, Writers, and Curators on the World's Greatest Art From Books Bibliography**

- Sales Rank: #859622 in Books
- Brand: Books
- Published on: 2010-10-31
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 10.50" h x 1.40" w x 8.20" l, 3.47 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 304 pages

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#### About the Author

Christopher Dell holds a degree in the History of Art from the Courtauld Institute, London. He has written and edited several books on art and visual culture, including Freemasonry, Mythology, What Makes a Masterpiece, and Monsters: A Bestiary of the Bizarre.

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