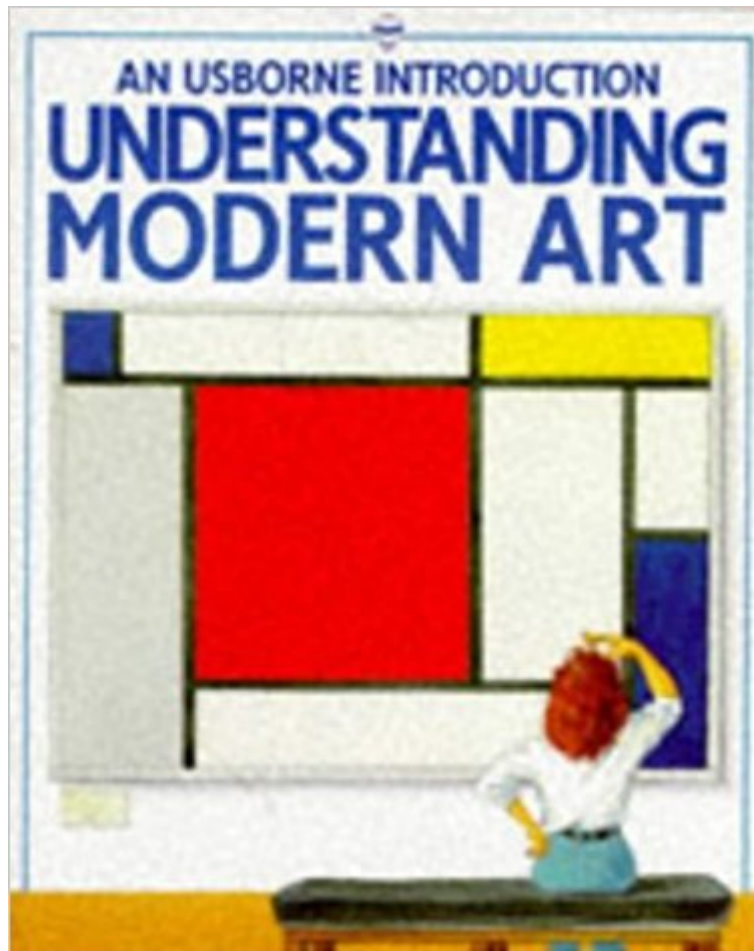




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# Understanding Modern Art (An Usborne Introduction)



## Synopsis

-- Wide variety of styles discussed to help readers know what to look or listen for to enhance their enjoyment-- Puts the arts in historical context

## Book Information

Series: An Usborne Introduction

Paperback: 64 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 2 customer reviews

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## Customer Reviews

This is an excellent, easy-to-read textbook for anyone from a fourth-grader to a grown-up with some art sophistication. It is not a large book, but each page is packed with images and explanations and sensible, sensitive, and thought-provoking commentary that explains who the artist was, and what influenced the artist. The book explains how modern art came to be, and what preceded it, and some background on the works and the artists. The best works are chosen, and the explanations are excellent. The book also shows the propaganda art of the Nazis and Soviets of the 20th century, and contrasts that with other works, such as Guernica. I could not have dreamed that such a fine book existed. It makes explaining and showing art to children, and adults, much simpler. The works included are usually the best examples of the artists. The book does an excellent job of providing context and explanation, and provides the names of other art that is not in the book that is illustrative of the style, -ism, or artist. We purchased this book so that our daughter would have some context, background, and appreciation before visiting MoMA in NYC. She loves it. We read a few pages before bed together every night. Very enjoyable, and a worthwhile book for older children.

I am an art history professor at the University level. I often teach what we call the "art in the dark"

class: large 100+ students survey of art history course that often end up as a weekly 3 hour lecture with slides, in the dark, with confused or sleeping students. My area of study being contemporary conceptual art, I tend to agree with them and bore myself talking about Gothic churches. I recently decided to teach everything by theme covering artworks that are representations of that theme throughout art history, from caves to contemporary. (ex: the female form, Religion in Art, etc). It gives me the opportunity to cover Modern and contemporary art that would usually get squeezed at the end of the semester. This book has helped me vulgarized my academic jargon to a more approachable way of explaining things. I don't know if I agree about everything that is said in this book, but it is an interesting resource. I wouldn't suggest it if you want an history or Modern art book with disambiguation. This is merely a booklet. There is nothing new in there and just the most usual images and artists found in common survey books. Oriented towards the motivated student or the volunteer docent at the museum.

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