



The Power of Art

By Simon Schama

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

The Power of Art By Simon Schama

"Great art has dreadful manners," Simon Schama observes wryly at the start of his epic and explosive exploration of the power, and whole point, of art. "The hushed reverence of the gallery can fool you into believing masterpieces are polite things; visions that soothe, charm and beguile, but actually they are thugs. Merciless and wily, the greatest paintings grab you in a headlock, rough up your composure, and then proceed in short order to re-arrange your sense of reality. . . ."

With the same disarming force, *The Power of Art* propels us on an eye-opening, breathtaking odyssey, zooming in on eight extraordinary masterpieces, from Caravaggio's *David and Goliath* to Picasso's *Guernica*. Jolting us far from the comfort zone of the hushed art gallery, Schama closes in on intense make-or-break turning points in the lives of eight great artists who, under extreme stress, created something unprecedented, altering the course of art forever.

The embattled heroes—Caravaggio, Bernini, Rembrandt, David, Turner, Van Gogh, Picasso and Rothko—each in his own resolute way, faced crisis with steadfast defiance, pitting passion and conviction against scorn and short-sightedness. The masterpieces they created challenged convention, shattered complacency, shifted awareness and changed the way we look at the world.

With vivid storytelling and powerfully evocative descriptive passages, Schama explores the dynamic personalities of the artists and the spirit of the times they lived through, capturing the flamboyant theatre of bourgeois life in Amsterdam, the passion and paranoia of Revolutionary Paris, and the carnage and pathos of Civil War Spain.

Most compelling of all, *The Power of Art* traces the extraordinary evolution of eight "eye-popping" world-class works of art. Created in a bolt of illumination, such works "tell us something about how the world is, how it is to be inside our skins, that no more prosaic source of wisdom can deliver. And when they do that, they answer, irrefutably and majestically, the nagging question of every reluctant art-conscript . . . 'OK, OK, but what's art really for?'"

 [Download The Power of Art ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Power of Art ...pdf](#)

The Power of Art

By Simon Schama

The Power of Art By Simon Schama

"Great art has dreadful manners," Simon Schama observes wryly at the start of his epic and explosive exploration of the power, and whole point, of art. "The hushed reverence of the gallery can fool you into believing masterpieces are polite things; visions that soothe, charm and beguile, but actually they are thugs. Merciless and wily, the greatest paintings grab you in a headlock, rough up your composure, and then proceed in short order to re-arrange your sense of reality. . . ."

With the same disarming force, *The Power of Art* propels us on an eye-opening, breathtaking odyssey, zooming in on eight extraordinary masterpieces, from Caravaggio's *David and Goliath* to Picasso's *Guernica*. Jolting us far from the comfort zone of the hushed art gallery, Schama closes in on intense make-or-break turning points in the lives of eight great artists who, under extreme stress, created something unprecedented, altering the course of art forever.

The embattled heroes—Caravaggio, Bernini, Rembrandt, David, Turner, Van Gogh, Picasso and Rothko—each in his own resolute way, faced crisis with steadfast defiance, pitting passion and conviction against scorn and short-sightedness. The masterpieces they created challenged convention, shattered complacency, shifted awareness and changed the way we look at the world.

With vivid storytelling and powerfully evocative descriptive passages, Schama explores the dynamic personalities of the artists and the spirit of the times they lived through, capturing the flamboyant theatre of bourgeois life in Amsterdam, the passion and paranoia of Revolutionary Paris, and the carnage and pathos of Civil War Spain.

Most compelling of all, *The Power of Art* traces the extraordinary evolution of eight "eye-popping" world-class works of art. Created in a bolt of illumination, such works "tell us something about how the world is, how it is to be inside our skins, that no more prosaic source of wisdom can deliver. And when they do that, they answer, irrefutably and majestically, the nagging question of every reluctant art-conscript . . . 'OK, OK, but what's art really for?'"

The Power of Art By Simon Schama Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #413941 in Books
- Brand: ECCO
- Published on: 2006-11-07
- Released on: 2006-11-07
- Ingredients: Example Ingredients
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 1.26" h x 7.88" w x 10.00" l, 3.50 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover

- 448 pages

 [Download The Power of Art ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Power of Art ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online The Power of Art By Simon Schama

Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Starred Review. Schama presents eight remarkable artists who created their masterworks against a backdrop of personal and professional distress. From politically charged commentaries (David, Picasso, Turner and Rembrandt) to intensely personal visions of the world (van Gogh and Rothko) and the reinvention of the divine (Bernini and Caravaggio), Schama takes these masters' hallowed works off the museum wall and drags them through in the mud and muck that went into their creation: Bernini's savage attack on his mistress with a razor, Caravaggio's rapacious gutter lifestyle, Turner's hands-on (and more) approach to painting, David's willingness to follow his political allegiances no matter the cost. Schama's approach succeeds admirably in breaking away from conventional art history; throughout, he comes across like a cool British uncle talking about art late into the night. He renders these canonical works and their creators immediate and hip, conveying what it might have been like to be shocked by their audacity and sheer newness. This book should be of great value in a classroom, making an enormously appealing introduction for students encountering these artists for the first time. Though professional art historians will not find much new here in the way of research and analysis, anyone even remotely interested in art will find much to enjoy.

Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

About the Author

Simon Schama is University Professor of Art History and History at Columbia University in New York. His award-winning books include *Scribble, Scribble, Scribble*; *The American Future: A History*; National Book Critics Circle Award winner *Rough Crossings*; *The Power of Art*; *The Embarrassment of Riches: An Interpretation of Dutch Culture in the Golden Age*; *Citizens: A Chronicle of the French Revolution*; *Dead Certainties (Unwarranted Speculations)*; *Landscape and Memory*; *Rembrandt's Eyes*; and the *History of Britain* trilogy. He has written and presented forty television documentary films for the BBC, PBS, and The History Channel, including the Emmy-winning *Power of Art*, on subjects that range from John Donne to Tolstoy.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Mary Davis:

The feeling that you get from The Power of Art will be the more deep you looking the information that hide in the words the more you get serious about reading it. It does not mean that this book is hard to be aware of but The Power of Art giving you enjoyment feeling of reading. The author conveys their point in certain way that can be understood through anyone who read that because the author of this guide is well-known enough. This book also makes your own personal vocabulary increase well. Therefore it is easy to understand then can go along, both in printed or e-book style are available. We highly recommend you for having this specific The Power of Art instantly.

Richard Swisher:

This The Power of Art usually are reliable for you who want to be considered a successful person, why. The reason of this The Power of Art can be on the list of great books you must have is definitely giving you more than just simple examining food but feed you actually with information that perhaps will shock your prior knowledge. This book is usually handy, you can bring it just about everywhere and whenever your conditions throughout the e-book and printed ones. Beside that this The Power of Art giving you an enormous of experience for instance rich vocabulary, giving you trial of critical thinking that we understand it useful in your day task. So , let's have it and revel in reading.

Lou Whisenhunt:

People live in this new day of lifestyle always make an effort to and must have the time or they will get large amount of stress from both way of life and work. So , whenever we ask do people have free time, we will say absolutely indeed. People is human not really a robot. Then we inquire again, what kind of activity have you got when the spare time coming to you of course your answer will probably unlimited right. Then do you try this one, reading textbooks. It can be your alternative inside spending your spare time, typically the book you have read is usually The Power of Art.

Henry Vance:

The book untitled The Power of Art contain a lot of information on it. The writer explains her idea with easy method. The language is very simple to implement all the people, so do certainly not worry, you can easy to read the idea. The book was written by famous author. The author gives you in the new period of literary works. It is easy to read this book because you can keep reading your smart phone, or product, so you can read the book inside anywhere and anytime. In a situation you wish to purchase the e-book, you can wide open their official web-site and also order it. Have a nice go through.

**Download and Read Online The Power of Art By Simon Schama
#CUZQRFMI09HN**

Read The Power of Art By Simon Schama for online ebook

The Power of Art By Simon Schama Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read The Power of Art By Simon Schama books to read online.

Online The Power of Art By Simon Schama ebook PDF download

The Power of Art By Simon Schama Doc

The Power of Art By Simon Schama MobiPocket

The Power of Art By Simon Schama EPub

CUZQRM109HN: The Power of Art By Simon Schama