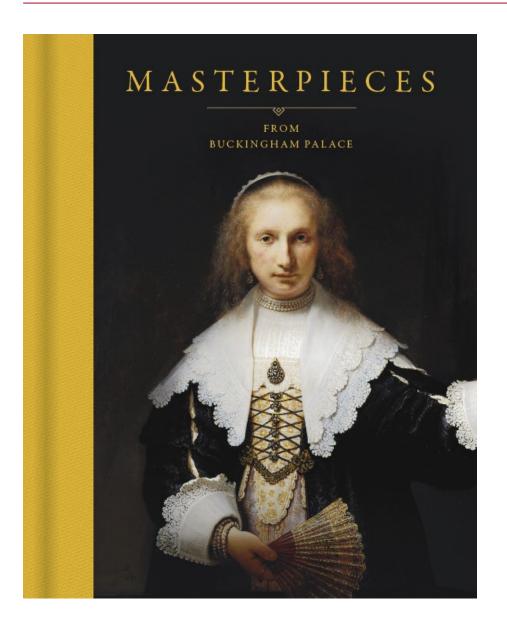


Masterpieces from Buckingham Palace



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- Showcases 65 of the greatest works of art in the Royal Collection
- Includes masterpieces by Vermeer, Rembrandt, Canaletto, Titian and Reynolds
- Accompanies the exhibitions at The Queen's Gallery, The Palace of Holyroodhouse 30 October 2020–28 February 2021 and at The Queen's Gallery, Buckingham Palace 19 March 2021–14 November 2021







Many of the paintings in this publication will be familiar to those interested in Old Masters, with household names including Vermeer, Rembrandt, Canaletto and Titian, and many of them are securely attributed and dated.

Rather than re-treading the old boards of provenance and attribution, this catalogue seeks to engage with a different, perhaps riskier and more subjective line of questioning: not when these works were painted and by whom, but why should we concern ourselves with them at all?







The book opens with an essay by the Surveyor of The Queen's Pictures, Desmond Shawe-Taylor, on how to look at Old Master Paintings: in his words 'the key question here is not what makes a good painting; but what is there to enjoy in a painting?'. This gives the reader the tools to consider the works in the book, considering the various facets and merits of composition, drawing, colour, expression, accuracy and design.

This is followed by a brief look at the history of the Picture Gallery at Buckingham Palace, by Assistant Curator Isabella Manning, and how the works entered the Collection.





Vermeer

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Canaletto

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Sir Peter Paul Rubens

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The catalogue entries, which follow the essays, encourage readers to look at the works in a new way, considering how Claude paints a sky, for example, how Rubens models the landscape through his use of colour, or how Titian uses contrast to add gravitas to a portrait.



About the authors

DESMOND SHAWE-TAYLOR is

Surveyor of The Queen's Pictures and has written many publications for the Royal Collection Trust, including Masters of the Everyday (2015), The First Georgians (2014), Dutch Landscapes (2010) and The Conversation Piece (2009).

Prior to his appointment to the Royal Household, Desmond was Director of Dulwich Picture Gallery.

ISABELLA MANNING is Assistant Curator of Paintings, Royal Collection Trust.

