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Art Up Close: From Ancient to Modern

AnnMarie Hamar

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d'Harcourt, Claire. *Art Up Close: From Ancient to Modern*. Chronicle Books LLC, 2003. ISBN 2020596946. \$19.95. 64 pp.

Reviewer: Hamar, AnnMarie

Reading Level: Primary

Rating: Outstanding

Genre: Informational books

Subject: Art appreciation--Juvenile literature; Picture puzzles--Juvenile literature; Books--Reviews;

This oversized picture book takes young readers on a unique journey through art history. Rather than following the standard text-illustration format of so many books, author Claire d'Harcourt has compiled a kind of "I Spy" book featuring twenty-three works of art. Each selection is framed by ten to twelve enlargements of details that children and adults can search for within the artwork. Every illustration covers a two-page spread and is a clear, crisp reproduction.

d'Harcourt covers a wide variety of styles and media from early Christian mosaics to tapestries, Impressionism, and the abstract expressionism of Jackson Pollock. She also includes art of other cultures--an Egyptian papyrus, Japanese wood block print, Arabic manuscript, and Aztec codex. Information at the end of the text features the key to finding the highlighted details in each painting as well as information on the artist and the artwork itself. Without doubt, this is one of the best art books for children that I have seen.