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Cave Paintings to Picasso: The Inside Scoop on 50 Art Masterpieces

AnnMarie Hamar

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Reviewer: AnnMarie Hamar  
Reading Level: Primary  
Rating: Outstanding  
Genre: Informational;  
Subject: Art appreciation--Juvenile literature; Art history--Juvenile literature; Masterpiece, Artistic--Juvenile literature; Book--Reviews;

Sayre, a Distinguished Professor of Art History at Oregon State University, has written several books on art for adults; he now shares his passion for art with young readers. His collection of 50 masterpieces covers a time period ranging from circa 22,000 B.C. to 1964. A timeline on each page marks the date of the art work’s creation. A variety of styles from oil and watercolor to illustration and Chinese ink are incorporated. Sayre includes artists from a wide spectrum, such as Monet, Picasso, DaVinci, Cassatt, Hokusai, and Magritte. Sayre’s selections are not simply limited to paintings and sculptures; also included are the Bayeux Tapestry, the Book of Kells, Native American art, and the Easter Island Ancestor Figures. Sayre describes how each piece was created and the type of media the artist used. Sayre’s lively and easy-to-follow narrative is complemented by clear and colorful reproductions of each of the 50 masterpieces. As well, a two-page glossary at the end of the text explains selected art terms.