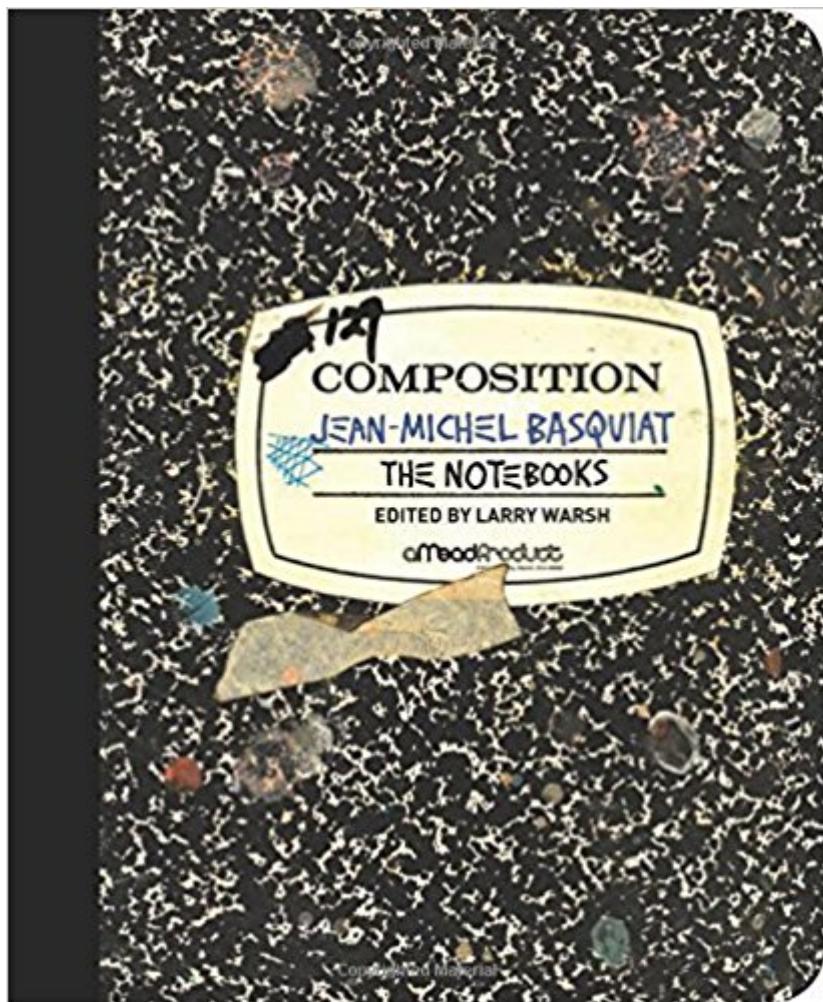


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The Notebooks



Synopsis

Brooklyn-born Jean-Michel Basquiat (1960-88) was one of the most important artists of the 1980s. A key figure in the New York art scene, he inventively explored the interplay between words and images throughout his career, first as a member of SAMO, a graffiti group active on the Lower East Side in the late 1970s, and then as a painter acclaimed for his unmistakable Neoexpressionist style. From 1980 to 1987, he filled numerous working notebooks with drawings and handwritten texts. This facsimile edition reproduces the pages of eight of these fascinating and rarely seen notebooks for the first time. The notebooks are filled with images and words that recur in Basquiat's paintings and other works. Iconic drawings and pictograms of crowns, teepees, and hatch-marked hearts share space with handwritten texts, including notes, observations, and poems that often touch on culture, race, class, and life in New York. Like his other work, the notebooks vividly demonstrate Basquiat's deep interests in comic, street, and pop art, hip-hop, politics, and the ephemera of urban life. They also provide an intimate look at the working process of one of the most creative forces in contemporary American art.

Book Information

Hardcover: 304 pages

Publisher: Princeton University Press (May 26, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0691167893

ISBN-13: 978-0691167893

Product Dimensions: 7.6 x 0.8 x 9.7 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.7 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 14 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #407,955 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #81 in Books > Arts & Photography > Other Media > Graffiti & Street Art #211 in Books > Arts & Photography > Individual Artists > Artists' Books #678 in Books > Arts & Photography > Collections, Catalogs & Exhibitions

Customer Reviews

One of Art World's Top Ten Art Books to Read during Thanksgiving, 2015 "This carefully reproduced facsimile edition of renowned visual artist Basquiat's eight notebooks provides us a glimpse into the mind of a visionary artist. On nearly every page, readers will ponder over why and how Basquiat chose to string together these specific word marks and often bizarre phrases. The

notebooks function as a sort of incubator for Basquiat's artistic process as well as a finished product in their own right . . . a vital part of Basquiat's legacy and an invaluable window into his ingenious and whimsical mind."--Publishers Weekly"Seeing and reading the pages in the gallery certainly make one want to spend more time with Basquiat's writing, and Princeton University Press's forthcoming facsimile of the notebooks provides this time for closer study. . . . The book offers the intimate reading experience one expects when engaging with an artist's private musing."--Megan N. Liberty, Hyperallergic"The Notebooks by Jean-Michel Basquiat is one of the most interesting books published in recent memory. . . . A book for all seasons--it is a text and an art object at once, adding a new dimension to our knowledge of Basquiat's thought. It brings us under the surface or behind the scenes, whichever metaphor you prefer, showing the artist at his most protean, and pure, stained with the life that rarely slows down long enough to capture it in words."--Stephan Delbos, BODY"This beautiful book . . . Expands our understanding of what this artist created in the too-short time he spent at work."--Colin Rafferty, Key Reporter"The Notebooks gathers passages selected from Basquiat's eight notebooks in one fascinating volume that will reveal many lesser-known talents and quirks of SAMO to his ever-growing number of fans worldwide."--Lorena Muñoz-Alonso, Artnet News

"Jean-Michel Basquiat's journals are, by turns, cryptic, revelatory, beautiful, and unsettling. They provide a rare point of entry into the life and imagination of one of the twentieth century's most gifted and enigmatic artists."--Adam Bradley, University of Colorado, Boulder, and author of Book of Rhymes: The Poetics of Hip Hop

I bought this for my boyfriend who is a huge fan of Basquiat. I found it very interesting and well put together. It is a great book for people who are fans of the artist.

I purchased this for my brother. He is an admirer of Basquiat and he loved the book!

wonderful book

Perfect in every way

Awesome Art. The sickest journal entries. Inspired.

Great!

For the die-hard Basquiat fan this is a welcome addition to the library. This book presents pages from several of Jean-Michel Basquiat's notebooks in facsimile form. The paper is made to look and feel like the lined notebook paper Basquiat was using. Inside are page after page of words, sentences, and phrases. There are a few doodles here and there but if you are looking for pictures or paintings this is not the book for you. There is also nothing in the way of essays as this is meant to capture the feel of Basquiat's actual notebooks. The writings inside are interesting to read but probably only to those Basquiat fans who have all of his other books and are still looking for more. This is definitely not the place to start if it's your first Basquiat book or if you're looking for a collection of his paintings. Recommended only for the Basquiat fan who has everything else.

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