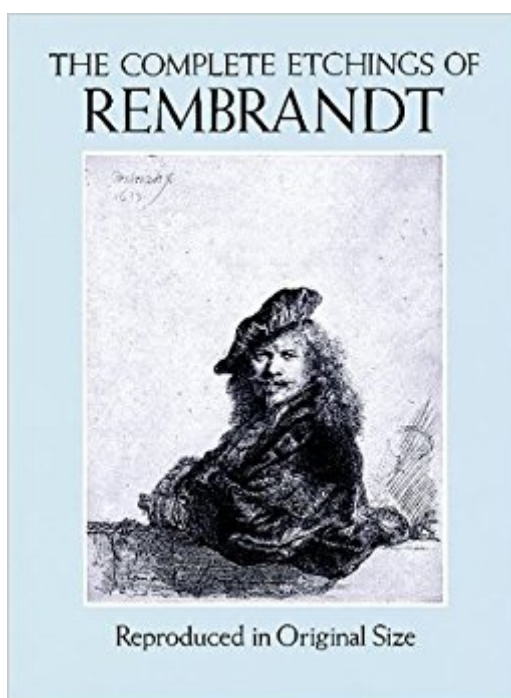


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The Complete Etchings Of Rembrandt: Reproduced In Original Size (Dover Fine Art, History Of Art)



Synopsis

Rembrandt is revered not only as a painter, but as a supreme master of drawing and etching as well. His work in etching spanned most of his career and embraced the wide range of subjects he pursued in his painting: portraits, landscapes, biblical scenes, pictures with allegorical and mythological themes, and more. This comprehensive collection contains Rembrandt's complete etchings – over 300 works – shown in their original size. They have been reproduced directly from a rare collection famed for its pristine condition, fresh, clean impressions, rich contrasts, and brilliant printing. Among the etchings included are: Self portrait drawing at a window (1648); Abraham's sacrifice (1655); Christ preaching ["The undered-guilder print"] (ca. 1643–49); Christ crucified between the two thieves ["The three crosses"] (1653); The return of the prodigal son (1636); The three trees (1643); Faust (ca. 1652); Jan Six (1647); The great Jewish bride (1635); The strolling musicians (ca. 1635). The etchings are reproduced in their actual size rather than from reduced photographs, which can depart significantly in quality from the originals. Fourteen oversize etchings, reproduced in reduction inside the book, are also included at full size on three sheets placed in a pocket at the back of the book. This handsome volume is filled with information critical to fully appreciating the extraordinary images it contains. Detailed captions point out features of special interest and provide vital information such as title, signature, date, collection, Bartsch number, state of impression reproduced, and total number of states. Also included are a chronology of Rembrandt's life and etchings, a discussion of the technique of etching in his time, and an excellent bibliography. Art lovers, scholars, students of etching, and anyone with an interest in Rembrandt and his work will find in this beautiful book a rare and exciting visual experience.

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Customer Reviews

Rembrandt is revered not only as a painter, but as a supreme master of drawing and etching as well. His work in etching spanned most of his career and embraced the wide range of subjects he pursued in his painting: portraits, landscapes, biblical scenes, pictures with allegorical and mythological themes, and more. This comprehensive collection contains Rembrandt's complete etchings—over 300 works—shown in their original size. They have been reproduced directly from a rare collection famed for its pristine condition, fresh, clean impressions, rich contrasts, and brilliant printing. Among the etchings included are: Self portrait drawing at a window (1648); Abraham's sacrifice (1655); Christ preaching ["The undered-guilder print"] (ca. 1643–49); Christ crucified between the two thieves ["The three crosses"] (1653); The return of the prodigal son (1636); The three trees (1643); Faust (ca. 1652); Jan Six (1647); The great Jewish bride (1635); The strolling musicians (ca. 1635). The etchings are reproduced in their actual size rather than from reduced photographs, which can depart significantly in quality from the originals. Fourteen oversize etchings, reproduced in reduction inside the book, are also included at full size on three sheets placed in a pocket at the back of the book. This handsome volume is filled with information critical to fully appreciating the extraordinary images it contains. Detailed captions point out features of special interest and provide vital information such as title, signature, date, collection, Bartsch number, state of impression reproduced, and total number of states. Also included are a chronology of Rembrandt's life and etchings, a discussion of the technique of etching in his time, and an excellent bibliography. Art lovers, scholars, students of etching, and anyone with an interest in Rembrandt and his work will find in this beautiful book a rare and exciting visual experience.

Rembrandt didn't invent etching, but he very nearly reinvented it. He did more with mixed processes, especially drypoint and etching, than anyone before him. He was also among the first to use etching as a drawing medium, giving it a freedom it had never had before. One distinctive feature of this book is that each print is reproduced full size. That gives the viewer unique insight into each work - was it small enough to fit the hand, or so big it had to be worked on a bench or table? Just how fine was that texture of lines? Even the biggest prints are presented full size, in a

set of oversized sheets that come with the book. Probably hundreds of authors have written about Rembrandt's art, especially his drawing and etchings. I don't have much to add except what I personally have learned from his work. As well as light and dark, Rembrandt modulates a picture in levels of detail. Look at B76, for example, "Christ presented to the people." The central figures have expression and nuance. Outliers, like those towards lower left are barely sketched in. It's a fascinating way for the artist to guide the viewer's attention. One author (I forget who) was asked to name the finest printmaker of all time. He started by eliminating Rembrandt, on the grounds that this master went so far past any mortal skill that he was outside of merely human history. This book shows just where that claim came from. //wiredweird

OK, this book may not reproduce the fineness of detail of Rembrandt's etchings nor us his quality of paper, but this is a low cost production. It is a good reference book on his etchings but don't expect gallery reproduction quality. All the etchings are reproduced at the original size and so there are a number of large works printed separately. If you want to see high quality, then you will need to hunt down the original. For me, it is a handy reference.

The reproductions are printed on good paper, [presumably] actual size, and are detailed so the book delivers on its title. The user experience, however, is looking at very small, extremely fine-lined drawings of which portions are very difficult to discern at the given size and in all-black ink with no tonal gradations. The dark areas of the piece called the Three Trees cloud out beyond readability. This piece and 95% of other pieces in the book would have benefited from being printed with a carefully chosen sepia to enliven and clarify the work at this scale. Many users will consider using a magnifying glass with this book. Personally, I will be looking for a replacement publication that offers Rembrandt's etchings enlarged for actual enjoyment of his compositions. Otherwise, I consider this best for the Rembrandt completist or the etching connoisseur. I would have liked to have seen a review like mine before purchasing.

This is a fine book. Dover is best known for publishing copy-free things and I have bought many of their publications. This is one of the best for a couple of reasons. Rembrandt is hard to beat as an artist who did amazing things with light and dark, with juxtaposing varying degrees of resolution in a single image and making it work, and with combining pathos, humor, and an unflinching gaze with formal excellence. It is also a "complete collection" of his etchings. My complaint is related to what also makes this a great buy. The book is indeed a complete collection, including some oversized

pieces that inevitably have to be folded. I think rather than having them in an envelope in the back cover, they would have been better as "foldouts" worked into the book in appropriate places (they are reproduced smaller within the book with a reference to the full-size work in the back).

Wonderful images

Excellent compilation

Very nice to see the etchings in actual size and in good quality print with the Bartsch numbers. However the paper is so thin that you have to be very careful with the book if you want it to stay in good shape.

I like to draw and I love to look at sketches and drawings. This book is exceptionally well produced. Because of the superior quality, I am able to study Rembrandt's actual strokes. Even if you don't draw yourself, you can still enjoy the work of a genius and marvel at his ability. For me, it was a wonderful purchase.

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