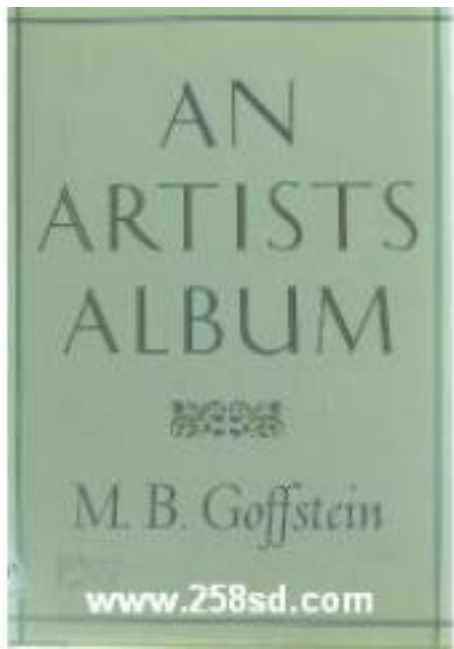


# An Artists Album



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From Publishers Weekly Goffstein's simplified, lyrical writing will ignite her readers' imaginations and teach them to see, to feel, not merely look at the obvious in great works. Small but excellent reproductions of paintings and drawings in this book are masterpieces by artists of different eras, whose styles were entirely dissimilar. Yet they are united by a common spirit that kept them striving to convey an idea or emotion of sorrow, awe, love. Goffstein reflects on Johannes Vermeer who created "spacious, light-filled paintings" of Delft in the 17th century. "Did the six daughters model for their father?" the author wonders. "We see girls with their features on the streets of New York. Are they the descendants of Vermeer?" Her acute sensibilities then fix our thoughts on the muses inspiring artists of the late 19th and 20th centuries. Here is Eugene Boudin, not the angel that Courbet called him ("to know the skies so well").

The last of Norman sailors, he was "bound to paint their contemplation of the sea and sky." The examples of art by Woodland Indians struck another chord in the author. Her photo displays Doll, by an Indian woman: "And look at her crooked smile. She's heard lies. She's seen starvation." Addressing Claude Monet, Goffstein reminds him how the poet Mallarme "tightly held the small painting you gave him . . ." as the world cherishes the beauties he immortalized on canvas. But above all, it's the struggle of Paul Cezanne that makes us profoundly aware that all great paintings cost the artist dear. "For beside the dream in his own mind, a great artist dies a failure." Copyright 1985 Reed Business Information, Inc. From School Library Journal Grade 10 Up A companion volume to Lives of the Artists (Farrar, 1982), An Artists Album is a collection of Goffstein's personal insights into the lives and works of Vermeer, Boudin, Cezanne, Monet and the Woodland Indians. Some of the brief comments are biographical, some are philosophical and some are imaginative musings, but all will require familiarity with the artists and their works. The text is cast in poetical language, uneven in quality. The reproduction of the paintings and drawings is excellent, but the selection of the works to represent the artists is disappointing overall. Of very limited appeal. Barbara Peklo Serling, Oneida City Schools, N.Y. Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. See all Editorial Reviews

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