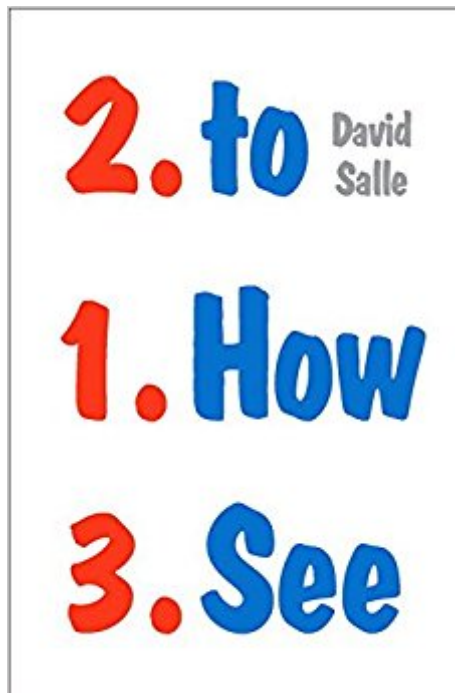




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# How To See: Looking, Talking, And Thinking About Art



## Synopsis

A master class in contemporary art by one of the preeminent painters of our time. How does art work? How does it move us, inform us, challenge us? Internationally renowned painter David Salle's incisive essay collection illuminates the work of many of the most influential artists of the twentieth century. Engaging with a wide range of Salle's friends and contemporaries—from painters to conceptual artists such as Jeff Koons, John Baldessari, Roy Lichtenstein, and Alex Katz, among others—How to See explores not only the multilayered personalities of the artists themselves but also the distinctive character of their oeuvres. Salle writes with humor and verve, replacing the jargon of art theory with precise and evocative descriptions that help the reader develop a personal and intuitive engagement with art. The result: a master class on how to see with an artist's eye. 30 illustrations

## Book Information

Hardcover: 288 pages

Publisher: W. W. Norton & Company; 1 edition (October 18, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0393248135

ISBN-13: 978-0393248135

Product Dimensions: 6.4 x 1 x 9.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.3 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.7 out of 5 stars 18 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #44,320 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #7 in Books > Arts &

Photography > Individual Artists > Essays #105 in Books > Arts & Photography > History &

Criticism > Criticism #215 in Books > Arts & Photography > History & Criticism > History

## Customer Reviews

"If John Berger's Ways of Seeing is a classic of art criticism, looking at the  
of art, then David Salle's How to See is the artist's reply, a brilliant series of reflections on how artists think when they make their work. The  
of art has perhaps never been better explored. - Salman  
Rushdie "David Salle's brilliant canvases changed everything, and now his  
luminescent eye and voice have married in a book that is destined to alter not only how we look at  
art, but the language we use to describe it. His essays are a gift that, in addition to feeding  
one's process of intellection, nourishes one's art loving soul.

Transcendent. — Hilton Als — “David Salle is widely known as one of our most daring and intelligent painters, but he is also an eloquent critic. *How to See* is a marvel of incisive and intimate observation. For all his audacity as a painter, Salle seems touchingly proud to be a part of the family of art and to derive his pictorial forms from what he calls the shared DNA of art, raising the possibility that all masterworks are in fact a group project. — Deborah Solomon — “David Salle’s thoughtful, intelligent, beautifully written essays inspire us to think about, and look at, art in wholly new ways. He makes difficult subjects (and artists) seem effortless, transparent, and he wears the depth and breadth of his knowledge of art and art history so lightly that we hardly notice how much we are learning. *How to See* is a pure pleasure to read. — Francine Prose — “David Salle writes about art with a joyous lucidity that is both bracing — nothing, absolutely nothing, escapes his notice — and utterly disarming. He guides his readers through the complex world of contemporary art with a rare generosity of spirit, a dazzling skill at description, and a radiant honesty that are as challenging as they are irresistible. — Ingrid Rowland — “David Salle asks of other art not, where does this belong? but, what does this make me feel and think about? Salle subtly and persuasively reminds us that all art, even the most seemingly recalcitrant, is there to be looked at, and that what artists do is, exactly, teach us how to see. — Adam Gopnik — “David Salle has a sharp, thrilling eye and an uncanny ability to reorder and make new the act of seeing. These perceptive, far-ranging essays are drawn from deep knowledge and experience — reading this book feels like having a conversation about art with the smartest person in the room. — Emma Cline — “Wonderful. — Joan Juliet Buck — “Lovely to read — [How to See] is serious but never solemn, alert to pleasure, a boulevardier’s crisp stroll through the visual world. — Dwight Garner, *New York Times* — “An upbeat, non-combative approach to art criticism — [F]resh, engaging. — Roger White, *New York Times Book Review* — “Witty, chatty, intimate, sharp. — Lorin Stein, *The Paris Review* — “[Salle] writes about art that he admires with passion and a discerning eye — Illuminating. — Glen Roven, *Los Angeles Review of Books* — “A trenchant and light-on-its-feet collection of critical essays... about art, artists, fame, and, if you read it closely enough, what it’s like to have been David Salle for all these years. — Carl Swanson, *New York Magazine* — “A remarkable painter whose writing is as fresh, vital, and startling as his canvases, Salle — talks about artists and their work in witty, jargon-free, and eminently accessible prose. — Tirdad Derakhshani, *Philadelphia Inquirer* — “How to See is an exhilarating and cathartic experience — an offering of passion and generosity, and a

pulsing invitation to the reader to find the same in the act of seeing. — Simone Grace Seol, The National Book Review — “[A] breath of fresh air — | Salle is the perfect art tour guide: literate, thoroughly entertaining, and insightful. — Kirkus — “Sharp insights and an affable tone make this collection equivalent to a hearty discussion with a mentor — ecommended for anyone interested in visual arts. — Publishers Weekly

David Salle’s paintings are in the permanent collections of the Museum of Modern Art, the Whitney Museum of American Art, the Guggenheim Museum, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the National Gallery in Washington, DC, the Los Angeles County Art Museum, Tate Modern, the National Galerie Berlin, and many others. He lives in New York City.

I hoped my wife would add it to her book sharing group, but no....

I thoroughly enjoyed reading this book and was sad when I finished. I no longer had his clear, witty and original prose to look forward to reading. I especially loved the lessons at the end and the essay on Lichtenstein. I highly recommend

First person writing that is insightful, direct and useful in contemplating the contemporary artworld.

How to really look at art in a new light.

Maybe it takes an artist to write about artists, but this collection of essays and descriptions of artists' work, life and personalities is wonderful. Almost every essay sent me off to the rabbit hole looking for more examples of the art discussed, and so I found the book very expansive. Have a laptop at hand as you read and explore and enjoy at will.

Do you want to feel part of the New York arty IN group? Reading this book is the next best thing. The writing is entertaining and the stories give you an insight into how the art world has been operations. Whether you like "modern art" or not, you will be wiser after you read this....

About 4/5 of the essays are good and insightful. 1/5 were not in keeping with the others.

Pure Inspiration!!!

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