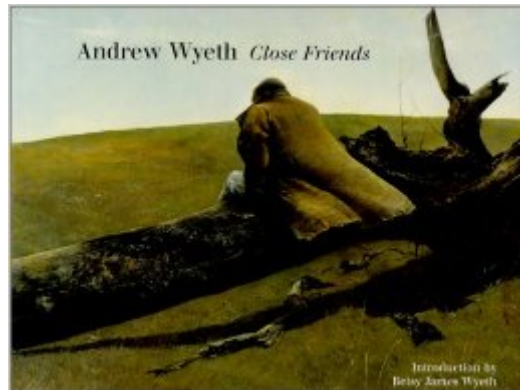


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Andrew Wyeth: Close Friends



Synopsis

Generally regarded as "America's Painter," realist Andrew Wyeth is perhaps the most well known of the artistic Wyeth family dynasty which includes his father N. C. Wyeth, sister Henriette Hurd, and son Jamie Wyeth. Although most recent explorations of this artist have focused on his family and on the Helga pictures, this unique publication chronicles seven decades of an under-appreciated yet historically relevant aspect of his relationship to home and community. "Andrew Wyeth: Close Friends" is the first critical look at a significant body of paintings and works on paper depicting Wyeth's African-American friends and neighbours in Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania, a quaint village on the Brandywine River where he has lived since birth. Beginning in the 1930s, many of Wyeth's African-American neighbours served as his models both in and out of the studio. Images of over 20 individuals are included, as well as depictions of their homes, farms, and meeting places. Wyeth's own words annotate the reproductions of his paintings and drawings and offer a rare glimpse into the mind of this truly individual artist. In her brief introduction, the artist's wife and collaborator, Betsy James Wyeth, recounts her arrival in Chadds Ford as a young bride and her immediate connection to the community she found there. "Andrew Wyeth: Close Friends" includes over 100 colour reproductions of major tempera and watercolour paintings and numerous black and white images of graphite drawings. Works reproduced are drawn from public and private collections, with a large number from the personal collection of the Wyeths. In addition to a foreword by museum director R. Andrew Maass, the book includes family photographs and facsimiles of personal correspondence. Betsy James Wyeth came to Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania in 1940 as the new bride of painter Andrew Wyeth. She has collaborated with her husband on several exhibitions and publications. The Wyeths divide their time between Chadds Ford and Midcoast, Maine.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

If you have nearly every Andrew Wyeth book and decided to skip this one, think again! I checked this out by looking at one at the public library and counted over 50 paintings and drawings not found in his other books. It is an absolute must buy for Wyeth fans. The thing that struck me most as an artist and photographer was the many way he found of posing his subjects. It is a textbook on portrait painting, and the reproductions are very good, as good as you are going to get with Wyeth. I find that I go back to this one time and again.

The book reproduces 120 paintings and drawings, and also includes quite a few photographs and several handwritten letters. Most images come with comments from the artist, but those aren't as extensive as in "Autobiography". Unlike the latter book, "Close Friends" is organized thematically, not chronologically: a set of pictures of Willard Snowden, followed by a set of pictures of Sarita Daniels, then a set of portraits of Tom Clark, and so on. I'd say around 80% of the reproductions are of high quality, but the book has its share of images that are much too dark, and a few blurry ones. Formatting is almost exactly the same as in "Autobiography". While I wouldn't recommend this as the first Wyeth book to buy, for fans of the artist this is an indispensable volume. Apart from well-known pictures such as "The Drifter" and "April Wind", included are rarely seen oil paintings from the early 1930s ("Bill Loper with Big Tree Trunk", "High Wind", "Burial at Archies") and some of the earliest temperas ("Fall at Archies" from 1937 being a particularly interesting one). Then there are hard-to-find temperas such as "Oliver's Cap" and "Heat Lightning", a terrific reproduction of the drybrush "Granddaughter", a portrait of Snowden done with tempera on brown wrapping paper, and numerous other fascinating images. Also, contrary to what some reviews may lead you to believe, the book contains not only portraits, but also landscapes, interiors, still lifes, etc. All in all, if you're a fan, definitely buy this. Not only a chance to look at some rare works, but also a way to learn about all kinds of Chadds Ford people the Wyeths interacted with. You'll find information missing even from Merryman's biography.

Andrew Wyeth never disappoints me. The subject matter, his neighbors, was handled with the same sensitivity and skill of his other subjects. The sense of empathy with the people and their placement in the rural world in which both painter and subjects lived is moving.

I have been unable to get my hands on this book. I needed to do research on a particular Andrew Wyeth print - the artist, the subject and the person selling this print. I was able to get all the information from the library and wanted a copy of this book to help explain a "note" from the artist on this print. The book arrived in a timely manner and was in good condition. I will now look to for future hard to find books.

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I found the book in a very good condition. I'm very happy with the purchase. I'd repeat with this dealer.

EXCELLENT

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