

Taschen

MANET (I) #BASICART

Gilles Néret

BA

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A fresh look

Pivotal paintings of modernity

Lampooned during his lifetime for his style as much as his subject matter, French painter **Édouard Manet** (1832–1883) is now considered a crucial figure in the history of art, bridging the transition from Realism to Impressionism.

Manet's work combined a painterly technique with strikingly modern images of contemporary life, centered on the urban Paris experience. He recorded the **city's parks, bars, and cabarets, often delighting in the frisson of underground or provocative content**. The Paris salon rejected his *Déjeuner sur l'herbe* with its juxtaposition of fully dressed men and a nude woman, while the steady gaze and unabashed pose of the prostitute **Olympia**, a very modern reworking of Titian's *Venus of Urbino*, caused a society scandal.

This richly illustrated book introduces Manet's work and his uniquely influential combination of Realism, Impressionism, and reworked Old Masters that would become **paradigms of a brave new world for generations of modernists** to come.

About the series:

Each book in TASCHEN's Basic Art series features:

- a detailed chronological summary of the life and oeuvre of the artist, covering his or her cultural and historical importance
- a concise biography
- approximately 100 illustrations with explanatory captions

The author:

Gilles Néret (1933–2005) was an art historian, journalist, writer, and museum correspondent. He organized several art retrospectives in Japan and founded the SEIBU Museum and the Wildenstein Gallery in Tokyo. He directed art reviews such as *L'Œil* and *Connaissance des Arts* and received the Élie Faure Prize in 1981 for his publications. His TASCHEN titles include *Salvador Dalí: I dipinti*, *Matisse* and *Erotica Universalis*.

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