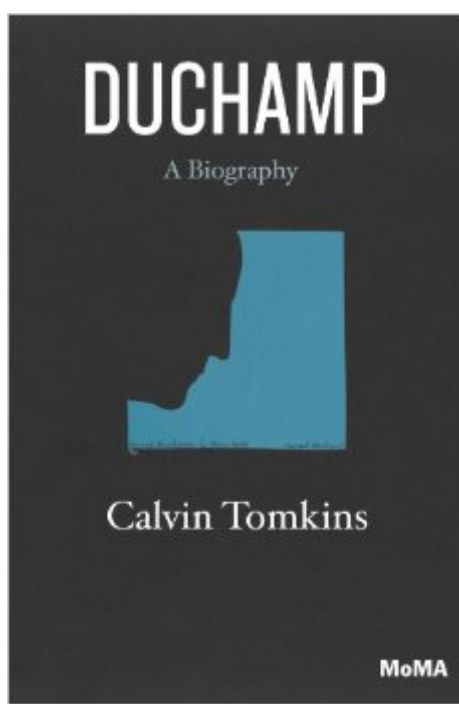


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Duchamp: A Biography



Synopsis

First published to great acclaim in 1996, New Yorker writer and art critic Calvin Tomkins's biography of the influential artist Marcel Duchamp (1887–1968) has been out of print for many years. Now, The Museum of Modern Art, New York, is publishing a new and revised edition of the landmark biography to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Duchamp's first Readymade, *Bicycle Wheel*, a later version of which is in MoMA's collection. Duchamp is widely considered one of the most important artists of the twentieth century, yet his personal life remained an enigma throughout his avidly scrutinized career. Tomkins, from his unique vantage point as both an accomplished art critic and a friend of Duchamp's since the late 1950s, presents a piercing portrait of Duchamp, adeptly analyzing his art and career while also recounting his personal life, influences and relationships. This thoroughly researched, eminently readable book is by far the most authoritative Duchamp biography.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (3 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

Duchamp A Biography is an updated edition of the book which first came out in 1998. For both new and old fans this is an engaging biography that brings to life one of the most fascinating artists of the twentieth century. This is primarily a text book but there are illustrations and photographs throughout. For this new edition some of Duchamp's artworks are reproduced in color where previously they had been in black and white. Also newly added and updated for this 2014 edition is material about Duchamp's love affair with Maria Martins which set into motion his last major work, *Etant donné*. And there is also more in-depth information about that final work which had come to

light since the biography was first published. The production values of the book are fair. The paper and reproductions are crisp and clean, but the paperback binding is a bit flimsy. However, for the content, this book gets five stars and highly recommended for those interested in Duchamp and twentieth century art.

Fascinating, bold, and insightful. A vivid biography of Duchamp. Thanks

We saw him speak at the New Orleans museum of art with his wife truly an evening to remember. I received this book as a gift it is without a doubt a insightful biography Tomkins explains that he is not a art critic because he actually likes the artists !

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