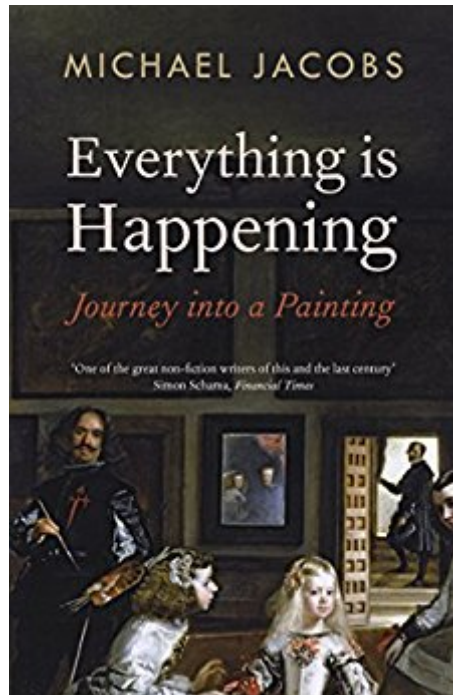


The book was found

Everything Is Happening: Journey Into A Painting



Synopsis

Michael Jacobs was haunted by Velázquez's enigmatic masterpiece *Las Meninas* from first encountering it in the Prado as a teenager. In *Everything is Happening* Jacobs searches for the ultimate significance of the painting by following the trails of associations from each individual character in the picture, as well as his own memories of and relationship to this extraordinary work. From Jacobs' first trip to Spain, to the complex politics of Golden Age Madrid, to his meeting with the man who saved *Las Meninas* during the Spanish Civil war, via Jacobs' experiences of the sunless world of the art history academy, Jacobs dissolves the barriers between the past and the present, the real and the illusory. Cut short by Jacobs' death in 2014, and completed with an introduction and coda of great sensitivity and insight by his friend and fellow lover of art, the journalist Ed Vulliamy, this visionary, meditative and often very funny book is a passionate, personal manifesto for the liberation of how we look at painting.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The title of the book is as idiosyncratic as Michael Jacobs's text. Since the age of seventeen,

Jacobs has been fascinated by Spain in general, by art and by Velasquez's painting Las Meninas in particular. In just a little over a hundred discursive and engaging pages he tells us about all this (not in chronological order!): his schooldays; the impact the painting has always made on him; his time as an art student; the several occasions, from his teenage years onwards, when he had travelled to the Prado to see that painting (pages which involve descriptions of his journeys and the encounters he had on the way); the character of Madrid; a bit on Spanish literature; the researches he had carried out on and off during his life, not only in libraries but also in meetings with specialists and with people who had been involved in taking the painting out of Spain during the Civil War and returning it afterwards; the various spaces in which the painting had been displayed; and the influence it has had on later painters like the French Impressionists and then of course Picasso. Jacobs had started writing this book around 2012 but died in 2014 before he could finish it. He had discussed it with his close friend Ed Vuillamy, whose contributions to this book are just a few pages shorter than the 106 pages of Jacobs's own text. Vuillamy must have worked very hard and in a very short time - truly a labour of love. He has provided an introduction of 29 pages of factual information about the life and times of Velasquez, about the painting itself and about some of the interpretations that have been made of this enigmatic work.

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