

Basquiat Isms

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a collection of essential quotations and other writings from artist and icon jean michel basquiat one of the most important artists of the late twentieth century jean michel basquiat explored the interplay of words and images throughout his career as a celebrated painter with an instantly recognizable style in his paintings notebooks and interviews he showed himself to be a powerful and creative writer and speaker as well as image maker basquiat isms is a collection of essential quotations from this godfather of urban culture in these brief compelling and memorable selections taken from his interviews as well as his visual and written works basquiat writes and speaks about culture his artistic persona the art world artistic influence race urban life and many other subjects concise direct forceful poetic and enigmatic basquiat s words like his art continue to resonate select quotations from the book i cross out words so you will see them more the fact that they are obscured makes you want to read them i think there are a lot of people that are neglected in art i don t know if it s because of who made the paintings or what but um black people are never really portrayed realistically or i mean not even portrayed in modern art since i was 17 i thought i might be a star the more i paint the more i like everything i think i make art for myself but ultimately i think i make it for the world

one of the most important artists of the late twentieth century jean michel basquiat explored the interplay of words and images throughout his career as a celebrated painter with an instantly recognizable style in his paintings notebooks and interviews he showed himself to be a powerful and creative writer and speaker as well as image maker basquiat isms is a collection of essential quotations from this godfather of urban culture in these brief compelling and memorable selections taken from his interviews as well as his visual and written works basquiat writes and speaks about culture his artistic persona the art world artistic influence race urban life and many other subjects concise direct forceful poetic and enigmatic basquiat s words like his art continue to resonate

born in brooklyn in 1960 jean michel basquiat lived to the age of only twenty seven his meteoric career as an artist had lasted no more than eight years the one time teenage runaway and high school dropout was first included in a group exhibition in 1980 and almost immediately knew considerable success enjoying his first solo exhibition just two years later basquiat quickly became a notable figure on the international art scene mixing with dealers and artists among these was andy warhol with whom he established a close working relationship borrowing from graffiti and street imagery cartoons mythology and religious symbolism basquiat s drawings and paintings explore issues of race and identity providing social commentary that is both shrewdly observed and biting characterized by their intensely personal nature and the raw almost aggressive handling of paint these works have an enduring power to move and to confound viewing the heady world of the 1980s art scene from the beginning of a new century we are able to look at basquiat s achievements with increasing objectivity rather than explore his persona this book aims to demonstrate the lasting quality of basquiat s work itself as well as its uniqueness within modern art it strives not only to reevaluate his principal works but also to explain basquiat s continuing interest as a major painter

a collection of fascinating quotations from the legendary artist and graffiti pioneer

the brief career of a man who went from a teenage graffiti writer to an international art star dying at age 27 of a drug overdose is profiled in this first biography of the charismatic figure photos

accompanying a major traveling exhibition this first ever survey of the rarely seen notebooks of basquiat features the artist s handwritten notes poems and drawings along with related works on paper and large scale paintings with no formal training jean michel basquiat 1960 1988 succeeded in developing a new and expressive style to become one of the most influential artists in the postmodern revival of figurative during the 1980s in a series of notebooks from the early to mid 1980s never before exhibited basquiat combined text and images reflecting his engagement with the countercultures of graffiti and hip hop in new york city as well as pop culture and world events filled with handwritten texts poems pictograms and drawings many of them iconic images that recur throughout his artwork teepees crowns skeleton like

silhouettes and grimacing masks and these notebooks reveal much about the artist's creative process and the importance of the written word in his aesthetic with over 150 notebook pages and numerous drawings and paintings this important book sheds new light on basquiat's career and his critical place in contemporary art history

now available in paperback this exciting book charts jean michel basquiat's groundbreaking career basquiat first came to prominence when he collaborated with al diaz to spray paint enigmatic statements under the pseudonym samo from there he went on to work with others on collages xerox art postcards performances and music before establishing his reputation as one of the most important painters of his generation this book places his collaborations in a wider art historical context and looks at his career through the lens of performance six thematic chapters offer compelling research with essays from poet christian campbell on samo curator carlo mccormick on new york new wave writer glenn o brien on the downtown scene academic jordana moore saggese on basquiat's relationship to film and television and music scholar francesco martinelli on basquiat's obsession with jazz this insightful survey also features rare archival material and extensive illustrations demonstrating how basquiat's legacy remains more powerful and relevant than ever today

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