



## Vermeer (Basic Art Series 2.0)

*Norbert Schneider*

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## Vermeer (Basic Art Series 2.0) Norbert Schneider Surfaces and secrets: A spellbinding realism and intrigue

Though numbering just 35 known works, the oeuvre of **Johannes Vermeer** (1632—1675) is hailed as **one of the most important and inspiring portfolios in art history**. His paintings have prompted a *New York Times* bestseller, a film starring Scarlett Johansson, and record visitor numbers at art institutions from Amsterdam to Washington.

Vermeer's subjects focus on daily domestic activities, from letter writing to music playing to preparations in the kitchen. The scenes astound with their **meticulous detail, majestic planes of light**, and with Vermeer's extraordinary ability to draw out **narrative intrigues**. In such beloved paintings as *Lady Standing at a Virginal*, *A Lady Writing a Letter with Her Maid* and, most famously, the enigmatic, wide-eyed, and enchanting *Girl with a Pearl Earring*, Vermeer evokes not only the effects of substance and texture, but also the many stories and secrets that reside beneath the surface.

Featuring all Vermeer's known works and succinct, accessible texts, this essential introduction explores Vermeer's leading place in art history and his unique ability to transform oil paint into a living, breathing scene of human life.

### 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

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