

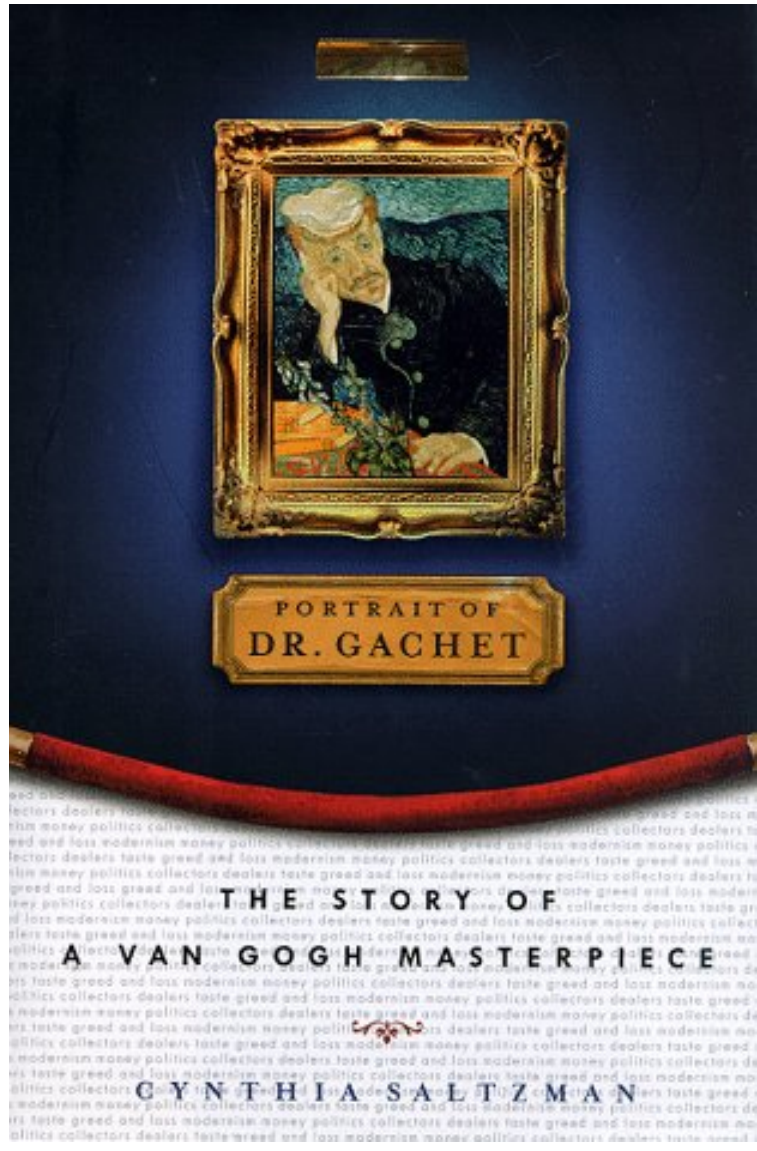
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Cynthia Saltzman

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[Get free] Portrait of Dr. Gachet : The Story of a Van Gogh Masterpiece : Modernism, Money, Politics, Collectors, Dealers, Taste, Greed, and Loss

Portrait of Dr. Gachet : The Story of a Van Gogh Masterpiece : Modernism, Money, Politics, Collectors, Dealers, Taste, Greed, and Loss

Cynthia Saltzman : Portrait of Dr. Gachet : The Story of a Van Gogh Masterpiece : Modernism, Money, Politics, Collectors, Dealers, Taste, Greed, and Loss before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Portrait of Dr. Gachet : The Story of a Van Gogh Masterpiece : Modernism, Money, Politics, Collectors, Dealers, Taste, Greed, and Loss:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The Provenance, History, and Fortunes of the book about Gachet, mentor to Vincent van Gogh Durigh His Last drays.By Francis V. ScalziA very well written and scholarly account of the provenance and future fortunes (literally, in the monetary sense !) of a book about the eccentric physician who served as friend and mentor, of sorts, to Vincent van Gogh's during his last days, in Auver Sur Oise,and the s act of his suicide.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Diana LVery interesting book. Biographical and historical, shedding light on the talented and complicated master!0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Loses sight of the forest for a billion detailsBy GeorginaThis brilliant painting by Van Gogh deserves a better book. She over writes, barrages us with details, and he writing is opaque and dull. One tidbit that was mildly interesting was that Nazi Goring owned this piece and Lola Kramarsky sold the painting in 1990 after spending 50 years with it but this is the key, why did she sell it and what did it mean to her? Half a century with something and Saltzman just dashes this off in another set of endless trivia that is concocted to "sell" the book. Pity.

In 1990, one of Vincent van Gogh's last paintings, 'Portrait of Dr. Gachet, ' was sold for the astonishing price of \$82.5 million. This fascinating book reconstructs the painting's journey and becomes a rich story of modernism and the forces behind the art market. 'Portrait of Dr. Gachet' was one of van Gogh's last paintings, completed just weeks before his suicide. Depicting the eccentric physician who was attempting to treat the artist, this painting was viewed by van Gogh as a summation of his ideas about portraiture. Cynthia Saltzman's book reconstructs the journey of this revolutionary and haunting painting, in which, as van Gogh wrote, he strove to capture the 'heartbroken expression of our time.' As Saltzman superbly shows, this painting not only evokes the ethos of modern life but also illuminates the ways in which art, politics, and the market have intersected in the 20th century. Affected by broad social and cultural change, the painting's fate was also influenced by innovations in the way art was sold and displayed, and by the growing role of dealers and museums.

.com Only a few weeks before his 1890 suicide, Vincent van Gogh painted a portrait of Paul-Ferdinand Gachet, a local physician the painter had been fruitlessly consulting about his depression. Upon his death, the painting, like much of van Gogh's work, went to his brother, Theo. A few years later, Theo's widow sold it for 300 francs (worth, then, \$58). In 1990, a wealthy Japanese businessman paid \$82.5 million at a Christie's auction for it and promptly hid it away in a Tokyo warehouse, where it presumably remains to this day. Cynthia Saltzman traces the painting's provenance through a century of art collecting and cultural politics. Along the way, the portrait passes through--among others--the hands of early modernist collectors, the Nazi regime (where it was shown as part of an exhibit of "degenerate" art), and New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art. In addition to a detailed account of the circumstances of each change of possession (it slipped out of the Nazis' hands, for example, when Herman Goerring needed a quick transfusion of hard currency), Saltzman provides a sensitive appraisal of the changing critical reputation of van Gogh and of the fluctuating market for "masterpieces" on canvas. Portrait of Dr. Gachet is an art history which never loses sight of the fact that art history is always a subset of a larger history.From Publishers WeeklySaltzman's meticulously researched narrative shows how historical forces and turning points in individual lives have determined the fate of a celebrated painting. The story begins in Auvers-sur-Oise, France, where a disturbed Vincent van Gogh churned out his last work before his suicide in 1890. Physician Paul-Ferdinand Gachet, a melancholic amateur painter, did little to alleviate van Gogh's suffering, but he posed for the portrait that captured, in van Gogh's own words, "the heartbroken expression of our time." Over the next century, the painting had 13 owners; it was hung in private homes and world-famous museums, and traveled to Copenhagen, Frankfurt, Amsterdam and New York. Confiscated as "degenerate art" by the Nazis and smuggled out of Germany during WWII, it was on loan off and on for 50 years to New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art, before fetching \$82.5 million at auction. Since the death of its last owner, a Japanese paper magnate, its whereabouts are unknown, and the art world waits for the masterpiece to resurface. Meanwhile, though this book's detail about art dealers and collectors may be more than the casual reader wishes to know, the capsule biography of van Gogh, the criminality of Nazi art thieves and the fevered May 15, 1990, art auction at Christie's provide gripping real-life drama. In all, Saltzman (a former reporter for Forbes and the Wall Street Journal) offers an illuminating case study of provenance. Eight pages of bw illustrations not seen by PW. Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc.From Library JournalWeeks before his suicide in 1890, van Gogh painted a portrait of his physician in a melancholy pose and uncannily labeled it "the heartbroken expression of our time." This is a richly detailed, dramatic account of the amazing journey of the portrait from its creation in a French village to the record-breaking \$82.5 million paid for it by a Japanese industrialist a century later. After several ownerships, it was placed in a Frankfurt museum only to be confiscated by the Nazis and deposited in a Berlin warehouse. When the avaricious Hermann Goring sold the canvas, it was acquired by a Jewish investment banker living in Amsterdam, who fled to New York with Dr. Gachet. Saltzman, a former reporter, weaves a spellbinding narrative involving the global art market, political upheavals, connoisseurs, dealers, and the sad visage of Dr. Gachet, which is now again on the auction block. Recommended for all audiences.?Joan Levin, MLS, ChicagoCopyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc.