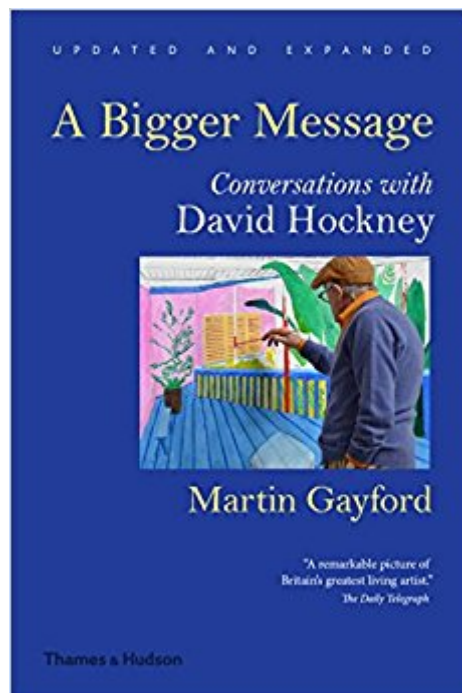




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# A Bigger Message: Conversations With David Hockney (Revised Edition)



## Synopsis

“Sumptuously illustrated, this radiant volume encapsulates what it truly means to be a visual artist. David Hockney’s exuberant work is highly praised and widely celebrated; he is perhaps the world’s most popular living painter. But he is also something else: an incisive and original thinker on art. This new edition includes a revised introduction and five new chapters which cover Hockney’s production since 2011, including preparations for the Bigger Picture exhibition held at the Royal Academy in 2012 and the making of Hockney’s iPad drawings and plans for the show. A difficult period followed the exhibition’s huge success, marked first by a stroke, which left Hockney unable to speak for a long period, followed by the vandalism of the artist’s Totem tree-trunk, and the tragic suicide of his assistant shortly thereafter. Escaping the gloom, in spring 2013 Hockney moved back to L.A. A few months later, Martin Gayford visited Hockney in the L.A. studio, where the fully-recovered artist was hard at work on his *Comédie humaine*, a series of full-length portraits painted in the studio. The conversations between Hockney and Gayford are punctuated by surprising and revealing observations on other artists—Van Gogh, Vermeer, and Picasso among them—and enlivened by shrewd insights into the contrasting social and physical landscapes of Yorkshire, Hockney’s birthplace, and California. 181 illustrations, 154 in color

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“[A Bigger Message] has an energy and vividness that can only be called cinematic”  
- San Francisco Chronicle  
“Five new chapters have been added to this volume, originally published in 2011. The world’s most popular living painter discusses his life and art with art critic Martin Gayford.”  
- Library Journal  
“A substantially expanded edition of Gayford’s intriguing hybrid Q&A, art criticism and memoir. A Bigger Message enriches our own understanding not only of England’s most famous living painter but of the bigger picture, as well.”  
- San Francisco Chronicle

Martin Gayford is the chief art critic for Bloomberg News and the author of the acclaimed *Rendez-vous with Art*, with Philippe de Montebello, and *Man With a Blue Scarf: On Sitting for a Portrait by Lucian Freud*.

What a delightfully written book about an artist who is willing to share so much about himself with the reader. The dialogue is easy and enjoyable to read with the right balance of conversations along with informative facts and illustrations. It is easy to see why Hockney’s persona is bigger than his art, no other contemporary artist has studied the science and art of making two dimensional art from the three dimensional world as much as Hockney and then been willing to answer questions about his philosophy and art and also be filmed numerous times while painting makes him perhaps the most revealed and beloved artist of our time. Any book on Hockney becomes dated quickly as he is constantly reinventing his art, this book adds some of his latest endeavors into technology and photography using 9 cameras at the same time to record a scene that earlier would have just used one camera. Wow, what a genius, let’s hope he lives and produces for another 20 years! The reproductions of his work are numerous, but many are too small to be enjoyed to their fullest, also the quality of the paper is below most standards for art reproductions but fine for the text and perhaps it is part of the balancing act between the text and images. The dialogue and author’s note make for easy and enjoyable reading, the chapters are short making it easy to read several during a break. If you are a Hockney fan and want to see examples of his latest works and thoughts then buy this soon before it sells out like many of his other recent art books.

Martin Gayford’s new book about David Hockney is not a biography, but rather a series of on-going conversations Gayford had with Hockney over a ten or so year period in many locations. Most were at Hockney’s house in a secluded area in East Yorkshire, where he moved after having lived in Los Angeles for many years. The conversations, which make up the basis of the book, give full rein to

Hockney's endless interest in almost every kind of creative endeavor. David Hockney is 74 years old and has been immersed in creativity of one sort or another since childhood. He's dabbled in photography, computer graphics, stage design, and many other forms in addition to his well-known paintings. He seems to be constantly asking questions about how and why both living things and art - in all its forms - come to life. The influences of past artists and designers on his work is readily acknowledged by Hockney. He's had a prodigious creative output in the past 55 years and until I read Gayford's book, I never realised how pervasive Hockney's influence has been on current artists. He seems to be an on-going link from past creativity to current and future creativity. Author Martin Gayford knows what questions to ask David Hockney to get the best and most interesting answers. He's a long-time art critic in London and knows artists and their foibles and seems to work with those foibles to make fascinating articles and books. I've read his recent book on Lucien Freud, which was every bit as well-written as this one on David Hockney. For anyone wanting to know more about David Hockney, his genius and the work that flows from that genius, this is a good book to read. Gayford includes examples of most of the artwork being discussed - that work by Hockney as well as other artists - as well as a good timeline of Hockney's life. Reading this book is a wonderful experience.

Hockney is eloquent and generous about his thoughts and processes... he is a special teacher... and his love of inquiry and experiment is exciting...this is the best book on art I've ever read....

Maybe you don't like or "get" Hockney, but you have to love and respect him. He is a powerhouse of ideas, energy and enthusiasm. A working artist who has only gotten better, and BIGGER with time. Returning to roots at age 76, looking again at the landscape of his youth, first through tradition means such as charcoal, then using new technology, such as an iPad and video. His ability to "see" pattern and detail while remaining fresh in his application is enviable, and makes for inspirational viewing. This is a great conversation between old friends about new work.

'A Bigger Message: Conversations with David Hockney'. The conversational format works well with such a well-spoken subject, like David Hockney. The revelations he makes about his art and art in general are most interesting, especially for anyone who maybe teaching art or photography courses. It is also a well presented and attractive book. An easy book to dip in and out of or read straight through. Well worth the time and effort.

Great to get into the mind of a wonderful artist. Written over a long period it really covers, almost incidentally a lot of issues about seeing, drawing and using technology as a new art tool. Also inspirational that an eighty year old can keep up and learn and master new things.

Inspiring, Martin Gayford did a wonderful job again, interviewing David Hockney. I found it refreshing and inspirational.

Superb - a must read for anyone connected to the arts

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