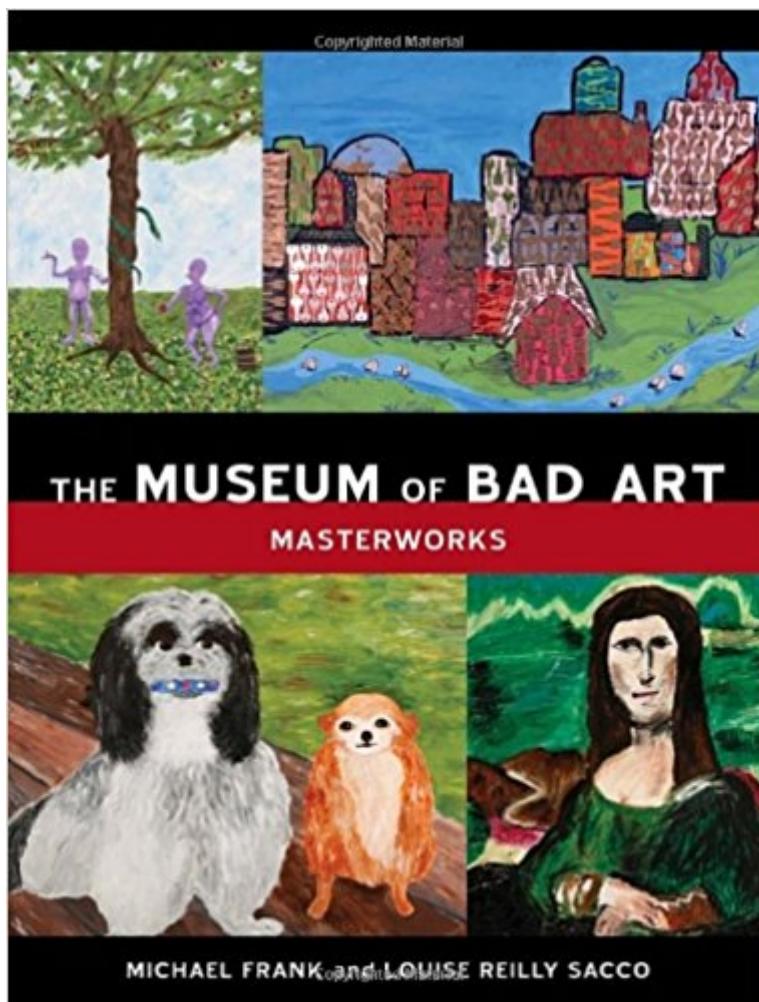


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# The Museum Of Bad Art: Masterworks



## Synopsis

Located in the basement of a theater, the Museum of Bad Art (MOBA) is a unique institution dedicated to the celebration of artistic effort, however misguided. The Museum of Bad Art: Masterworks presents a pulsating collection of more than seventy never-before-published pieces of artwork from MOBA's permanent collection. Comprised largely of canvases found discarded on curbside trash piles or obtained for a pittance at thrift stores, this innovative compilation occupies a niche previously ignored in the international community of art collection, preservation, and interpretation. If the subjectivity of art appreciation were ever in doubt, this astonishing assortment of artistic commentaries will fan the flames of controversy. It is clear that many of these artists suffered for their art; now it's your turn. A photographic catalog of 70 exquisitely bad pieces of master artwork from the permanent collection of the Museum of Bad Art in Dedham, Massachusetts. Featuring profiles of select MOBA artists as well as the stories behind the art. *Reviews*  
Boston Globe 4/30/08: Shopping Tip of the Day. A

## Book Information

Hardcover: 128 pages

Publisher: Ten Speed Press; F 1st Printing edition (May 1, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1580089119

ISBN-13: 978-1580089111

Product Dimensions: 6.3 x 0.6 x 8.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.4 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars 21 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #245,699 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #26 in Books > Travel > United States > Massachusetts > Boston #290 in Books > Arts & Photography > Collections, Catalogs & Exhibitions #472 in Books > Humor & Entertainment > Humor > Love, Sex & Marriage

## Customer Reviews

\* A photographic catalog of more than 70 exquisitely bad pieces of master artwork from the permanent collection of the Museum of Bad Art (MOBA) in Dedham, Massachusetts. \* Featuring profiles of select MOBA artists as well as the stories behind the art.

LOUISE REILLY SACCO is the permanent acting interim executive director of the Museum of Bad Art. A founding member of the MOBA team, she originally served as director of financial

enablement. A marketing consultant and cohost of the Frugal Yankee Radio Hour, she lives in Needham, Massachusetts.Â THE AUTHOR SCOOP What else do you do besides running the Museum of Bad Art (MOBA)?I'm co-host of the Frugal Yankee Radio Hour, a weekly show. I'm a fan photographer at Fenway Park. How did you get involved with MOBA?I was on the founding team in 1994. Initially, I was Director of Financial Enablement. But, as so often happens in an arts organization, I hung on when other founders were distracted by families, lucrative alternative careers, or death. Persistence paid off and I was named Acting Interim Executive Director. (There was dissension within the Board of Directors about the titles, so I got both Acting and Interim.) When, in a stunning media coup, MOBA was mentioned in the National Enquirer, the Board decided to make my position permanent. Do you have formal art training?Mike & I are proud of our OJT (On the Job Training) and believe that a degree in art could disqualify a person from a leadership at MOBA. Even the founding Esteemed Curator was a few credits short of an art degree and fought any pressure or inclination to complete that credential until he left MOBA. Does the MOBA collection ever travel? Yes. We've had exhibitions in Virginia, Ottawa, New York, and several in the Boston area. Before you ask us to come to your city, just line up a corporate sponsor and space, or a museum with some funding. We're ready to pack the art and hop on a plane. What's next for MOBA A second location (Opening Date: April 2008) in the basement of another movie house: The Somerville Theatre in Davis Square, Somerville. Sign up for our newsletter, [subscribe@MuseumofBadArt.org](mailto:subscribe@MuseumofBadArt.org) to get all the info. Michael FRANK is the curator-in-chief of the Museum of Bad Art. A professional musician and entertainer with enviable balloon-twisting skills, he lives in Boston, Massachusetts.Â THE AUTHOR SCOOP What else do you do besides running the Museum of Bad Art (MOBA)?As Mike the Hatman, I perform at children's events, making funny balloon hats. I teach guitar. I play with dance bands and for stage shows. How did you get involved with MOBA?As soon as I became aware of MOBA, I helped in any way I could. When the first Rejection Collection Auction was held in a vacant store in a mall, I put my musical and organization talents to work and led an all-kazoo band through the mall to help gather a crowd for the auction. When the position of Curator was open, I pointed out that I had donated more art to MOBA than anyone other than the founders, and that I already have a tuxedo. The title of Esteemed Curator was retired along the the holder of the title, so I was named Curator-in-Chief. Do you have formal art training?Louise & I are proud of our OJT (On the Job Training) and believe that a degree in art could disqualify a person from a leadership at MOBA. Even the founding Esteemed Curator was a few credits short of an art degree and fought any pressure or inclination to complete that credential until he left MOBA. Does the MOBA collection ever travel? Yes. We've had exhibitions in Virginia,

Ottawa, New York, and several in the Boston area. Before you ask us to come to your city, just line up a corporate sponsor and space, or a museum with some funding. We're ready to pack the art and hop on a plane. What's next for MOBAA second location (Opening Date: April 2008) in the basement of another movie house: The Somerville Theatre in Davis Square, Somerville. Sign up for our newsletter, [subscribe@MuseumofBadArt.org](mailto:subscribe@MuseumofBadArt.org) to get all the info.Â

These paintings are an inspiration. They make me want to create my own horrible masterworks. I would love to be displayed in the MOBA.

As an art history major, I have a special love-hate relationship with kitsch, which is why the first MOBA book is one of my all-time favorites. This second one is also a great book for any art library, with some real high points. However, it doesn't quite measure up to the original volume, which is why I gave it four stars instead of five. It may be that the presentation suffers a bit from the smaller trim size (it's quite small, if you didn't pick that up from the description). And it may be that the novelty factor was completely co-opted by the first book. But I also think that some of the selections aren't quite as unabashedly ghastly as the ones in the first book. I have indeed enjoyed perusing it and chortling on multiple occasions, but a little more selectivity and a lower bar, and I might have awarded it that coveted fifth star.

It is a gift, but there was a tear on the front cover...thought it was kinda appropriate for a book about bad art...recipient will get a kick out of it, but would have preferred an undamaged item.

What a fun ride it is through these selections from the Museum of Bad Art,.....yes, it really exists and I'm saving up my money to go there! As an art teacher and artist myself, I can appreciate these "bad" works that have been rescued from rather deserving destruction by kind souls seeking to find equality even for works that just don't,.....work that is. And it's not just anything that qualifies for this collection,....there are rather strict criteria that each work must meet before becoming part of the collection. This is such a fun little book that everyone who likes art at all should have a copy. It makes fantastic toilet reading and sure beats those everyday magazines that find their way into the powder rooms of America.

Many museums throughout the world display bad art, but this is one of only a handful of museums in the entire world which does so knowingly and intentionally- Paintings which have been rescued

from garbage cans, dumpsters and charity thrift stores... The didactics are very cleverly written, Michael Frank and Louise Reilly Sacco have quite obviously spent a lot of time studying classical as well as modern art...

Bad Art. Truly Bad Art. Probably the best book on Bad Art that has been written and compiled in the history of Bad Art.

This collection of artwork aspiring to be mediocre is a gem! I loved it, and truly enjoyed the commentary which was added to each item. Let's face it, the comments are what really made the book. The artwork, whether found in a garbage can, bought at a flea market or anonymously donated, truly is awful. Not even modern art awful. Just awful.

And another great book.

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