

10 Shocking Things You Didn't Know About Robert Hughes

Robert Hughes, a renowned art critic and historian, is widely recognized for his contributions to the field of art. With a vast knowledge of art history and a unique perspective, Hughes has captivated audiences through his insightful critiques and engaging documentaries. While most people are familiar with his work, there are still some lesser-known facts about Robert Hughes that might surprise you. In this article, we will uncover ten shocking things you probably didn't know about this influential figure.

1. He Was Fluent in Several Languages

Although primarily known for his English publications and documentaries, Robert Hughes was actually fluent in several languages. Apart from English, he was able to speak French, German, Italian, Spanish, and Portuguese fluently. This multilingual ability allowed him to conduct research, converse with artists from different backgrounds, and delve deeper into the art world.

2. He Was a Talented Painter Himself

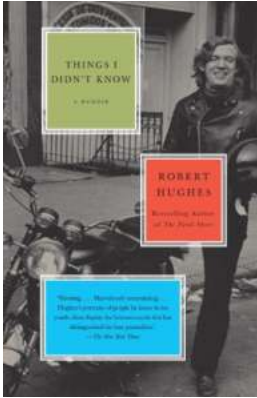
Before embarking on his career as an art critic and historian, Robert Hughes pursued painting. Although he eventually shifted his focus to art criticism, he continued painting throughout his life. His firsthand experience as an artist gave him a unique perspective and a deeper understanding of the artistic process, which he incorporated into his analyses.

Things I Didn't Know by Robert Hughes (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 1219 KB



Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 418 pages



3. He Graduated from University with a Law Degree

Contrary to popular belief, Robert Hughes didn't initially set out to become an art critic. He attended the University of Sydney with the intention of pursuing a law degree. However, his passion for art soon took over, leading him to change his career path and ultimately become one of the most renowned art critics of our time.

4. He Was Involved in Controversial Legal Battles

Aside from his contributions to the art world, Robert Hughes was involved in some significant legal battles. In 2010, he was involved in a high-profile court case where he faced charges of dangerous driving causing death. The incident, which occurred in Australia, became a focal point in the media. Despite the outcome, it added another layer of complexity to Hughes' life and character.

5. He Authored Numerous Bestselling Books

Throughout his career, Robert Hughes wrote several bestselling books that appealed to both art enthusiasts and the general public. His book "The Shock of the New" became a classic in the field of art criticism, providing a comprehensive

analysis of modern art. Other notable works include "American Visions" and "Barcelona," both of which became acclaimed bestsellers.

6. He Had Deep Connections within the Art World

Robert Hughes' extensive knowledge and insightful analyses earned him respect and admiration within the art world. He had personal connections with many influential artists, curators, and collectors. Artists like Lucian Freud and David Hockney were among his friends, allowing Hughes to gain unique insights into their artwork and share them with his audience.

7. He Received Numerous Prestigious Awards

Robert Hughes' contributions to art criticism and literature earned him numerous prestigious awards throughout his career. In 1987, he received the Frank Jewett Mather Award for Distinction in Art Criticism, followed by the Order of Australia in 1991. His documentary series "The Shock of the New" also won several awards, cementing his place as a leading authority in art history.

8. He Provided a Platform for Emerging Artists

Besides his extensive writings and documentaries, Robert Hughes actively supported emerging artists and provided them with a platform to showcase their work. He believed in the importance of fostering creativity and giving talented artists the recognition they deserved. Hughes' contributions to the art world went beyond criticism; he played a vital role in shaping the careers of many aspiring artists.

9. He Had a Passion for Travel

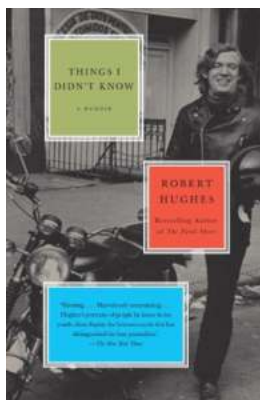
Robert Hughes' curiosity and thirst for knowledge took him to various corners of the globe. His love for travel allowed him to explore different cultures, visit art museums, and gain inspiration for his writings. Hughes firmly believed that

exposure to diverse environments was essential for a well-rounded understanding of art and the world in general.

10. His Legacy Continues to Inspire

Robert Hughes left an indelible mark on the world of art criticism and history. His accessible yet profound analyses continue to inspire scholars, artists, and enthusiasts around the world. Through his books, documentaries, and personal interactions, he shared his passion for art and left a lasting legacy that will continue to shape the future of the art world for generations to come.

Robert Hughes was undoubtedly a transformative figure in the world of art criticism. While his contributions to the field are well-known, these lesser-known facts shed light on the diverse aspects of his life and career. From his multilingual abilities to his personal connections with renowned artists, Robert Hughes' impact extends far beyond his written works. His passion, talent, and dedication to art continue to inspire and educate those interested in the world's rich artistic traditions.



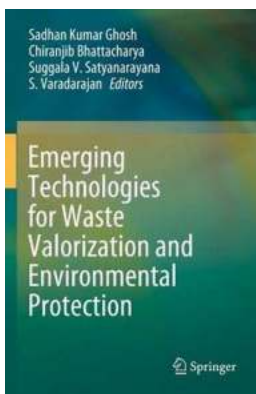
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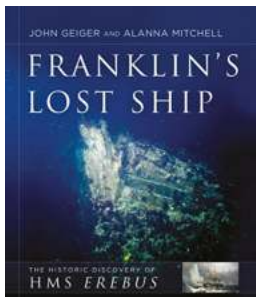


Robert Hughes has trained his critical eye on many major subjects, from the city of Barcelona to the history of his native Australia. Now he turns that eye inward, onto himself and the world that formed him. Hughes analyzes his experiences the way he might examine a Van Gogh or a Picasso. From his relationship with his stern and distant father to his Catholic upbringing and school years; and from his development as an artist, writer, and critic to his growing appreciation of art and his exhilaration at leaving Australia to discover a new life, Hughes' memoir is an extraordinary feat of exploration and celebration.



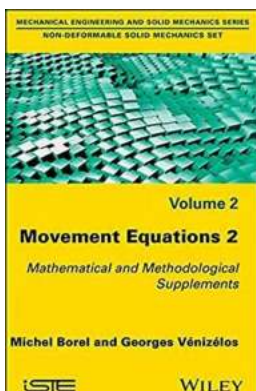
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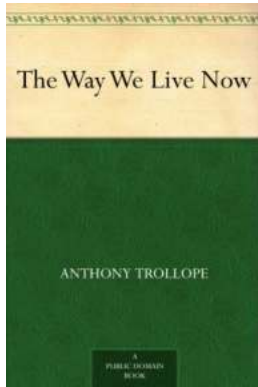
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