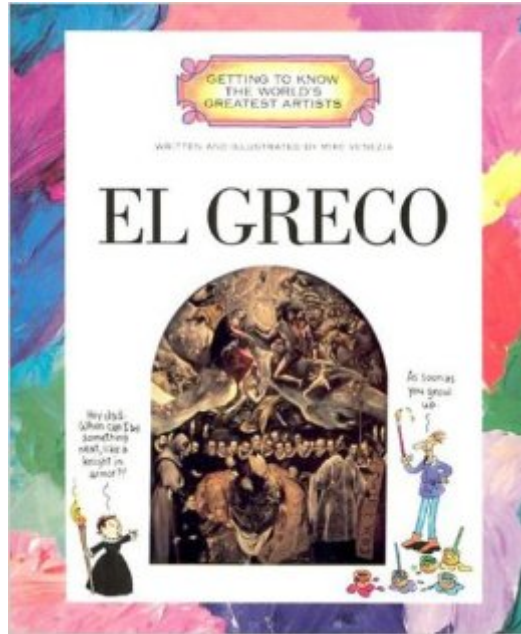


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# El Greco (Getting To Know The World's Greatest Artists)



## Synopsis

This series meets National Curriculum Standards for: Social Studies: Culture

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 870L (What's this?)

Series: Getting to Know the World's Greatest Artists

Library Binding: 32 pages

Publisher: Scholastic Library Publishing (September 1, 1997)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0516205862

ISBN-13: 978-0516205861

Product Dimensions: 9.5 x 8.2 x 0.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.4 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (4 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #725,100 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #205 in [Books > Children's Books](#)  
[> Arts, Music & Photography > Art > History](#) #300 in [Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Art](#)

Age Range: 6 and up

Grade Level: 1 and up

## Customer Reviews

"El Greco," by Mike Venezia, is a visually striking introduction to the life and work of this great artist. Venezia uses reproductions of classic paintings, a simple but compelling text, and his own humorous cartoons to bring El Greco and his world to life. This book is part of a series designed to introduce the world's great artists to children. "El Greco" begins with the great painter's birth on the island of Crete in the 16th century, and takes the reader along on El Greco's travels through Europe. Not only does the book include many full-color reproductions of El Greco's works, but it also includes reproductions of works by artists who influenced him. We get a fascinating portrait of El Greco as a family man, traveler, and artistic innovator. Venezia's cartoons provide entertaining complements to the text and reproductions. This is a truly beautiful and educational book. El Greco's remarkable use of color and light, and his passionate treatment of the human form give his work both visual and emotional impact after all these centuries. If your child has an interest in art, this book would make a good addition to the family library.

From time to time I have heard about various hypotheses concerning physical ailments that would explain the striking artwork of Domenikos Theotokopoulos, known as El Greco ("the Greek") when he became a famous painter in Spain. But Mike Venezia explains the effect in terms of El Greco creating movement by twisting and stretching out the figures in his paintings. Part of his distinctive technique involved using crackling, electric colors and mysterious lighting. Tracing his journey from Greece to Spain, Venezia looks at how El Greco was influenced by Venetian artists like Titian and Tintoretto, and provides examples of the work of those artists to help young readers understand the point. There is a nice comparison offered between paintings of "The Assumption of the Virgin" by both Titian and El Greco. The book ends with some nice analysis of the "Burial of Count Orgaz." What I really like about Venezia's "Getting to Know the World's Greatest Artist" series is that it focuses on art appreciation, and explaining the uniqueness of each artist, more than it does on their biography. Of course, it is the latter that usually serves as the inspiration for Venezia's humorous cartoons. There are over two dozen such books in this series and they are a wonderful way of introducing young child (and some adults) to the wonderful world of art.

Getting to Know the World's Greatest Artists, El Greco is another entertaining and informative edition in this fantastic collection by Mike Venezia. These books are perfect for exposing elementary and junior high aged students to a large variety of artists and styles of art. Last year, in Art History, my daughter did a coloring page of Burial of Count Orgaz, it was one of the most challenging she was asked to do all year; leaving her humbled and in awe. I wish we had read this book at that time. We dug out her art binder and enjoyed reviewing the El Greco and the other artist's work she attempted to replicate.

This book has beautiful pictures, the story about the artist is concise but very informative, illustrations help to tell the story in an entertaining, attractive way.

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