David Park, Painter: Nothing Held Back chronicles the brief but remarkably prolific career of American painter David Park. In his 49 years, he became an integral part of the San Francisco Bay art community in the early 1930s, and is counted as one of the immensely gifted artists who were part of the Bay Area Figurative Painting movement in its nascent beginnings in the 1950s. Park, who was drawing in perspective by the time he was five years old, began his professional career before the age of twenty, apprenticing together with sculptor Gordon Newell for sculptor Ralph Stackpoles monumental columns that were being erected in front of the Pacific Stock Exchange in California. His work was widely exhibited during his lifetime at institutions such as the Whitney Museum of Art, the San Francisco Museum of Art and the California Legion of Honor. In addition, Park was a faculty member of the San Francisco Art Institute and later the University of California, Berkeley. Together with the 100 paintings featured, this monograph shows an artist who possessed a life-long passion for painting.

My Personal Review:
David Park the man, and David Park the painter both come alive in his daughter's intimate memoir. For those who admire Park's paintings, reading this book will answer many questions about his background and his character. As author Helen Park Bigelow candidly points out, there are some mysteries that remain, but the book is the most complete portrait of Park that will ever be published. It is also the story of a marriage and of the family life of a man just selfish enough to be a painter, and of his devoted wife who overcame her own problems to care for him at the end of his life. Keep in mind, this isn't a book that has a critical tone, but rather a daughter's effort to tell us what she can about a father she always called "David." The chapter describing Park's final show in New York and his death of bone cancer is especially moving and compelling. Park was an American original whose work brought a hint of the anxiety of European expressionism into the American figurative tradition. As Henry Geldzahler once stated, he moved the tradition of the figure in painting forward. David and his works are worth knowing, and this book is a fitting tribute that
recalls Park with affection, respect and candor. The book also reproduces many of his works, including a moving selection of the works on paper he completed just prior to his death.

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David Park, Painter by Helen Bigelow - 5 Star Customer Reviews and Lowest Price!