For centuries, the art world was a male preserve. Exceptionally talented and ambitious women became successful artists, only to be written out of the history of Western art. But how have women really seen themselves? What can self-portraits tell us about the way women have lived and worked? This book examines the subject, revealing a vibrant, colourful but largely overlooked genre. The two earliest self-portraits come from 12th-century manuscripts in which nuns gaze at us across eight centuries. In 1630 Artemisia Gentileschi depicted herself powerfully as the very personification of painting. From Adelaide Labille-Guiard to Angelica Kauffmann, in the 18th century, women signalled in their different ways ambition, femininity and the artists calling. In this century, growing freedom and awareness have allowed for an increasingly intimate self-scrutiny, in the work of such artists as Gwen John and Paula Modersohn-Becker. Frida Kahlo's The Broken Column of 1944, shows her confined by the steel that supports her damaged spine. Sarah Lucas portrays herself as a tough, masculine outsider in photographs such as Self Portrait with Fish. And when Cindy Sherman explores identity by transforming herself, she poses the questions that all the women in this book have faced when they see themselves - and help all of us to see ourselves too.

My Personal Review:
This book about women artists seen by themselves is very useful for Art History education. But it's also very interesting for everybody wanting to know more about women artists and Art HERstory.

I've read the book in its Dutch translation "kijken naar onszelf". For all those who can understand Dutch: het is een zeer interessant boek, waarin de auteur de geschiedenis van de vrouwelijke kunstenaars behandelt vanuit de zelfportretten die deze vrouwen van zichzelf hebben gemaakt. Daarbij plaatst zij de vrouwen in de sociaal-maatschappelijke context waarin zij leefden en dat geeft een goed beeld van de situatie. Het toont ook de moeilijkheden die vrouwelijke kunstenaars door de eeuwen heen
hebben moeten overwinnen om te kunnen existeren in de kunstwereld die een mannenwereld was/is. Het boek behandelt de vrouwen vanaf de renaissance tot eind 20e eeuw.

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Seeing Ourselves: Womens Self-Portraits by Frances Borzello - 5 Star Customer Reviews and Lowest Price!