



Encountering Genius: Houdon's Portraits of Benjamin Franklin

By Hinton, Jack. Meighan, Melissa. Lins, Andrew.

Philadelphia Museum of Art. 1 Paperback(s), 2011. soft. Book Condition: New. When he arrived in Paris in December 1776 seeking support for America's struggle for independence, Benjamin Franklin caused a sensation: nobles vied to entertain him, and artists scrambled to portray him. Although several sculptors produced busts of the visiting diplomat, perhaps the best-known image of Franklin was created in 1778 by Jean-Antoine Houdon, who would become the leading portrait sculptor of the period. Featuring dozens of color photographs and close-ups, this book investigates the making of Houdon's marble bust of Franklin—perhaps the finest version realized—shedding new light on this enduring portrait. The Frenchman's compelling busts of George Washington and Gouverneur Morris are also discussed, along with other examples of Houdon's remarkably sensitive and lifelike portraiture. 92.



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