# The Unerring Eye of Art World Avatars Dominique and John De Menil



Double Vision: The Unerring Eye of Art World Avatars Dominique and John de Menil by William Middleton

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Language	: English
File size	: 431182 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled	
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 745 pages
X-Ray	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported



Dominique and John de Menil were two of the most influential art collectors of the 20th century. Their collection, which now resides in the Menil Collection in Houston, Texas, is one of the most important and comprehensive collections of modern and contemporary art in the world.

The de Menils began collecting art in the 1940s. They were drawn to the work of young, emerging artists who were challenging the boundaries of contemporary art. Their collection quickly grew to include works by some of the most important artists of the 20th century, including Mark Rothko, Jackson Pollock, Robert Rauschenberg, Andy Warhol, Jasper Johns, Cy Twombly, Agnes Martin, Donald Judd, Dan Flavin, Ellsworth Kelly, and Sol LeWitt.

The de Menils were not only interested in collecting art, but also in supporting the artists they collected. They were instrumental in helping to establish the careers of many of the artists in their collection. They also founded the Rothko Chapel in Houston, which is a non-denominational chapel that houses a series of Rothko paintings.

The de Menils' legacy as art collectors is immense. Their collection is a testament to their unerring eye for quality and their commitment to supporting contemporary art. The Menil Collection is a must-see for anyone interested in modern and contemporary art.

#### Dominique de Menil

Dominique de Menil was born in Paris in 1904. She was the daughter of a wealthy industrialist and a devout Catholic. She was educated in France and Switzerland, and she studied art history at the Sorbonne. In 1931, she married John de Menil, an American oilman. The couple moved to Houston in 1941.

Dominique de Menil was a passionate advocate for modern art. She believed that art could be a force for good in the world, and she used her collection to promote understanding and tolerance. She was also a supporter of civil rights and social justice, and she used her influence to speak out against racism and discrimination.

Dominique de Menil died in 1997. She is remembered as one of the most important art collectors of the 20th century, and her legacy continues to inspire artists and collectors today.

#### John de Menil

John de Menil was born in Minneapolis in 1904. He was the son of a wealthy lumberman and a devout Catholic. He was educated at Yale University and Harvard Law School. In 1931, he married Dominique de Menil. The couple moved to Houston in 1941.

John de Menil was a successful businessman and a philanthropist. He was also a passionate supporter of modern art. He served on the board of the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, and he was a major donor to the Menil Collection. He also founded the Rothko Chapel in Houston.

John de Menil died in 1973. He is remembered as one of the most influential art collectors of the 20th century, and his legacy continues to inspire artists and collectors today.

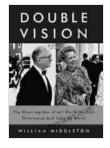
#### **The Menil Collection**

The Menil Collection is a museum in Houston, Texas, that houses the art collection of Dominique and John de Menil. The collection includes more than 17,000 works of art, ranging from ancient to contemporary. The collection is particularly strong in modern and contemporary art, and it includes works by some of the most important artists of the 20th century.

The Menil Collection is a must-see for anyone interested in modern and contemporary art. The collection is beautifully displayed in a series of lightfilled galleries, and it is free to the public. The museum also offers a variety of educational programs and events.

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