

through the  
**EYE**  
of the  
**ART-**  
**IST**

FRANK JOSEPH GOES



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In *Through the Eye of the Artist*, Dr Frank Goes seeks or negates the connection between eye disorders and the work of the artist painter. Sometimes an eye condition drives the painter to a higher level of accomplishment or a change of style or media. Yet it can mean fin de carrière for another artist. Dr Goes also studies how eye disorders and blindness are portrayed in painting. Rembrandt, Turner, Munch, Dürer, Degas, Picasso, Pissarro, Monet, Titian, Van Gogh and Le Corbusier pass the revue. Special attention was paid to the quality of reproduced images.

Dr Frank Goes, an ophthalmologist, opened the first out-patient ophthalmic surgical center in the Benelux countries in 1984, and since 1992, using the excimer laser for vision correction, the Goes Eye Center offered groundbreaking surgery. Throughout his work, Dr Goes has delivered more than 450 lectures and published 270 learned articles, has written nine books, realized 16 films and organized 45 congresses and symposia, and is a member of 15 scientific and 14 cultural associations. In 2009, Dr Goes received the *Life Time Achievement Award* from the American Academy of Ophthalmology and four times won the *Gold Medal for Professional Merits*, Governor of Maharashtra, India, (2009, 2012, 2014, 2016). Since 2013 Dr Goes has been an ambassador to *Light for the World*, a Non-Government Organization, that finances eye hospitals in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

*Through the Eye of the Artist* is an in-house edition and appears in Dutch and English. Contact [frank@goes.be](mailto:frank@goes.be)

# THROUGH THE EYE OF THE ARTIST

by

**Frank Joseph Goes**

The new book by Frank Goes is an attractive resource for historical facts and anecdotes in the history of ophthalmology.

It takes us on a journey through different eras, trying to explain how different disorders might have influenced artists' sight and their work. This is not a very original subject, but it is one that has been plagued by many myths and misconceptions.

The book starts with a short review of eyes in mythology, the iconography of blindness in history, as well as symbols and legends. Then, the author describes in different chapters artists who suffered from different eye disorders, namely refractive errors, color vision deficiency, cataract, glaucoma, vitreous diseases, retinal diseases, inflammatory eye disorders, strabismus and loss of an eye, and neurological and mental disorders.

A separate chapter is devoted to the mysterious eye diseases of Edgar Degas. Interestingly the last chapter discusses a few popular misconceptions about famous painters, like Vincent van Gogh, John Constable, El Greco, Amadeo Modigliani, Hans Holbein Junior, and their eye disorders, leading to their specific style in at least some paintings.

The book is edited with the greatest care, and its many high quality illustrations offer additional value.

Andrzej Grzybowski, MD, PhD

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*Frank Joseph Goes.*  
***Through the Eye of the Artist.***

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