



# Degas: The Painter of Modern Life

**Walter Sickert**

**George Moore**

**Anna Gruetzner Robins**

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Degas was a celebrity in Britain in his lifetime, thanks originally to George Moore's pioneering essay, *The Painter of Modern Life*. When Degas died Moore reprised the essay with some further recollections, in part as a riposte to the memoir published by Degas's great admirer and follower, Walter Sickert. Sickert's essay, sparkling, engaged, witty and occasionally combative, is amongst the best of his writings. Together these memoirs represent some of the most vivid responses to Impressionism in English – as well as painting an intimate picture of arguably the most important and most influential – and the most humane – of the painters of the later 19th century. Hitherto difficult to find, these essays are reprinted here with an introduction by Anna Gruetzner Robins, and are illustrated with 30 pages of colour plates covering the span of Degas's dazzling career.