

Happy
birthday,

Mr. **HOCKNEY**



Self-Portraits

In celebration of David Hockney's eightieth birthday and his long and continuing artistic career, this gallery features a selection of self-portraits made over the past sixty-five years. Laced with wit and sensitivity, these works—created for Hockney's own interest and not for sale—display an intense scrutiny of his features over time. The artist, at first reluctant to study himself, eventually created a number of series of self-portraits at different moments in his life, often drawing them on a daily basis. These images also underscore the artist's ceaseless experimentation with different techniques and evolving technology, and the results inject energy into the long-standing and august tradition of artistic self-representation.



Photographs

In celebration of David Hockney's eightieth birthday and his long and continuing artistic career, this gallery features a selection of the artist's photographs from the 1980s, including *Pearblossom Hwy., 11–18th April 1986, #2*, one of his most iconic works.

Photography has played an integral role in Hockney's practice since the 1960s, when he used a 35mm camera first to document family, friends, holidays, and travel and then to create studies for paintings. Convinced that the decisive moment captured in most photographs presents a static view that is contrary to how we actually see, he explored ways to invest photographs with a sense of time and his own presence. The Polaroid SX-70 camera enabled him to create multiple views of subjects in instantaneous prints that he then assembled into grids. Both these Polaroid composites and the photo collages that followed anticipated the current practices of digital layering and compositing of images with computer software.



This material was published in 2017 to coincide with the J. Paul Getty Museum exhibition *Happy Birthday, Mr. Hockney*, at the Getty Center.

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