



# The Self-Portraits of Francisco Goya

*John J. Ciofalo*

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## **The Self-Portraits of Francisco Goya** John J. Ciofalo

With his numerous self-portraits, Francisco Goya was alone among visual artists of the Romantic period in responding to the genre of autobiography which became popular in the late eighteenth century. Across a range of media and styles, Goya tested, expanded and eventually obliterated the conventional boundaries of the genre, discovering its infinite expressive possibilities. Goya used the self-portrait to comment on royalty, literature, society, religion, sex, and death; as well as his own art, genius, and self. In this study John J. Ciofalo examines a broad sampling of Goya's oeuvre through the lens of self-portraiture. In doing so, Ciofalo offers new interpretations of some of Goya's most famous works, including *Los Caprichos*, *Family of Carlos IV*, *The Disasters of War*, and the 'black' paintings. Interdisciplinary in scope, this book provides fresh and illuminating perspectives on a notoriously enigmatic artist.

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