

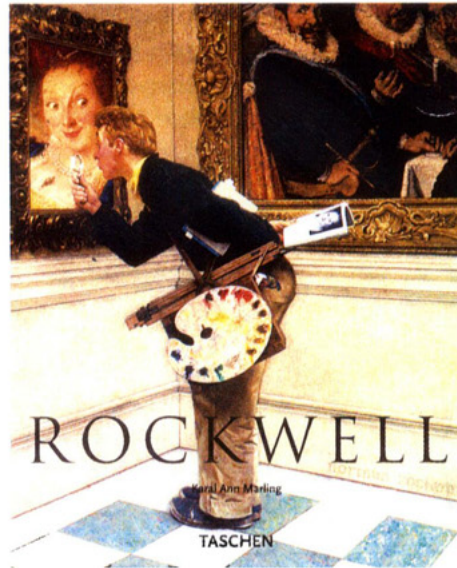
## Stormin' Norman

**John Swinfield on paintings warm with the breath of America.**

It's either love or hate. I'm in the first category. And yes, of course Norman Rockwell is corny and romanticised and down home and apple pie and awfully Uncle Sam... and why not? That's precisely why he's such a star. See the detail, the composition, the reporter in his work. Note the draughtsmanship, his unerring eye, the wit, the humanity; Rockwell is the consummate story-teller, always inviting, accessible. His paintings are warm with the breath of America.

He has his detractors, and many of them; but who in that tedious chorus which chants about one-dimensional art and cloying sentimentalism could ever hope to reach his level of craft?

At just £4.99 this is a super little bargain. Also in the series is Raphael and Vasarely, the Hungarian abstractionist. I haven't read those, but Rockwell is well written and beautifully illustrated, with a selected bibliography and a useful chronology tracking Rockwell from birth to triumphant success ('cos that's what he was, both commercially and creatively; critics? Go take a jump off Brooklyn Bridge).



**ROCKWELL**  
By Karal Ann Marling  
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