

**Michelangelo: Complete Works**

BY FRANK ZOLLNER, CHRISTOF THOENES  
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TASCHEN, £120

Michelangelo was a titan amongst artists, so perhaps it is fitting that he should be accorded this giant book, twice the height of a normal tome. The extra inches of page allow works such as the Sistine Chapel ceiling frescoes to be reproduced on a huge scale. Some of the details included give you the impression that you are up on scaffolding, peering at the figures from very close range – as the artist was when he painted them. Scale is important in art, and these colossal illustrations do bring you up close and personal with great works of art – sometimes excessively so, as with drawings reproduced above their actual scale. But there is a disadvantage to super-sizing art history. Unless you have a bookcase on a heroic scale, you will have nowhere to put this volume.