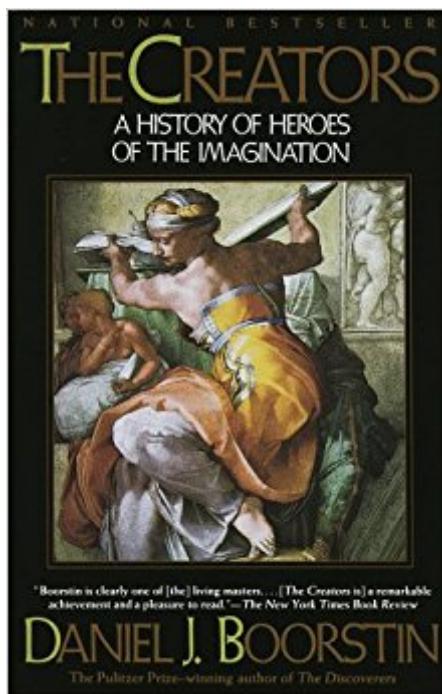


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The Creators: A History Of Heroes Of The Imagination



Synopsis

By piecing the lives of selected individuals into a grand mosaic, Pulitzer Prize-winning historian Daniel J. Boorstin explores the development of artistic innovation over 3,000 years. A hugely ambitious chronicle of the arts that Boorstin delivers with the scope that made his *Discoverers* a national bestseller. Even as he tells the stories of such individual creators as Homer, Joyce, Giotto, Picasso, Handel, Wagner, and Virginia Woolf, Boorstin assembles them into a grand mosaic of aesthetic and intellectual invention. In the process he tells us not only how great art (and great architecture and philosophy) is created, but where it comes from and how it has shaped and mirrored societies from Vedic India to the twentieth-century United States.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Historian Daniel J. Boorstin brings his customary depth and range to this compelling book on Western art, taking on everything from European megaliths (Stonehenge, for example) to Benjamin Franklin's autobiography ("the first American addition to world literature"). Boorstin does not aim at being comprehensive--he much prefers to linger over certain "heroes of the imagination" as he surveys human accomplishment in the fields of architecture, music, painting, sculpting, and writing--yet *The Creators* certainly feels comprehensive, as Boorstin carefully places everything he describes within a grand tradition of aesthetic achievement. Boorstin knows that good history demands good writing, and his prose makes this big book easy to absorb. "This is a story," he writes, "of how creators in all the arts have enlarged, embellished, fantasized, and filigreed our experience"--an apt description of the role art plays in our life and an equally apt description of the

way Boorstin interprets it for readers. (The Creators also is the second volume of a trilogy that starts with The Discoverers and concludes with The Seekers, although none of these books requires any knowledge of the others.) --John J. Miller

Boorstin's companion volume to The Discoverers --a one-week PW bestseller and a BOMC main selection in cloth--chronicles 3000 years of artistic invention, while providing entertaining biographical profiles of Dante, Leonardo, Goethe, Ben Franklin, Picasso and dozens more.

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After reading 'The Discoverers', which I loved, I was disappointed with 'The Creators'. I suspect that Boorstin, who is a brilliant gatherer and expounder of facts, is out of his depth when analyzing the creative instinct. I am particularly interested in music, and I found that he gives brief biographies of Mozart, Beethoven, and Wagner, and some analysis of the SOCIAL impact of their music, but no real analysis of the music itself (e.g. Wagner's revolutionary use of tonality). Without that, I don't think there is much point in writing the book.

For some reason, I thought this book would focus more on the personalities of various "creators" (historically significant composers, painters, writers etc.) and their lives and processes, and less on the pure history of art. So I was a bit disappointed, but, as I said, my expectations were probably off. If you are looking for a good reference book about the history of ideas, creative and otherwise, and the philosophical and intellectual trends that have made the western civilization what it is today -- this is absolutely it! It is thoroughly informative and written in very smooth prose that is easy to read and think about.

Daniel Boorstin is one of my favorite historians. I read his books in the 90s, and although I was well versed in world history, his clear writing style, and unique talent for making the connections between seemingly far flung events, personalities, and creations opened up a new way of thinking about our world and ways we interact with it.

The author (Boorstin) was such a prolific writer that while being grilled by the Senate for confirmation as Librarian of Congress, he was asked if he would write during business hours. He said no, but wrote every evening, late into the nights, and I am grateful that he did so. This book and the others in this series have been around for a while, but the material covered is iconic, and will not

go out of date. The organization is lucid, and segues nicely from chapter to chapter. I highly recommend this book and the entire series.

Book came really quickly and in good condition, and it was reasonably priced. Thanks!

Fabulous! Daniel Boorstin's gift to the curious and knowledge-seeking soul. Together with Discoverers and Seekers, this book forms a formidable trilogy that should be the dream of any writer. Encyclopedic in its sweep and brilliant in detail, a rarely achieved feat

Great book but words to small for vision

A superb author who brings unique insight to historical individuals and events. It is so well written and a pleasure to read. And undoubtedly your knowledge of humankind will expand exponentially.

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