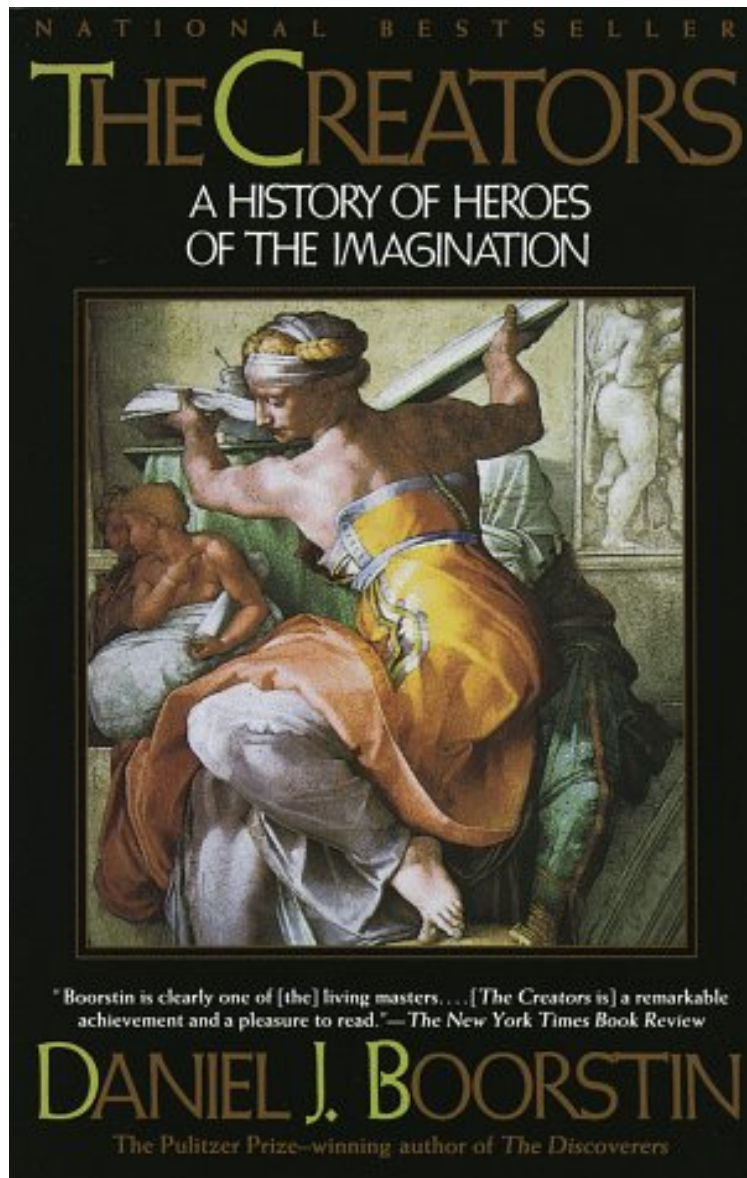


(Mobile book) The Creators: A History of Heroes of the Imagination

The Creators: A History of Heroes of the Imagination

Daniel J. Boorstin

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Daniel J. Boorstin : The Creators: A History of Heroes of the Imagination before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Creators: A History of Heroes of the Imagination:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Boorstin is not as good with Creators as he is with Discoverers By jon pollard 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.4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Informative but occasionally uninspiringBy Nina MurrayFor 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.3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Daniel Boorstin is one of my favorite historians. I read his books in the 90sBy J. GranlundDaniel 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.

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.

.com 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. MillerFrom Publishers WeeklyBoorstin'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. Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc.From Library JournalWhile the ultimate subject of former Librarian of Congress Boorstin's encore to his best seller *The Discoverers* (LJ 11/15/83) is the culture of the "literate West," the great episodes/great persons theme justifies the grandiose subtitle. In this work of breadth and uncontested erudition, readers will almost assuredly find a topic or two outside their ken but invested here with vivid clarity. Most of the chapters are actually self-contained essays, many tours de force, but while these stories display a certain connectedness, there is little of the continuity and change that characterizes historical discourse. Boorstin's heroes include obvious choices but also baffling selections, e.g., Jacob Burckhardt, the man who defined the Renaissance in modern times. Women, specifically Virginia Woolf, are relegated to a single chapter of their own. He generally ignores "low" entertainment except when posterity has awarded it the imprimatur of high culture. Ironically, his account suggests the artist's quest for freedom in this world is a Western axiom, despite the McCarthy legacy. This is a very long but completely engrossing book that academic and public libraries must acquire.- Scott H. Silverman, Bryn Mawr Coll. Lib., Pa.Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc.