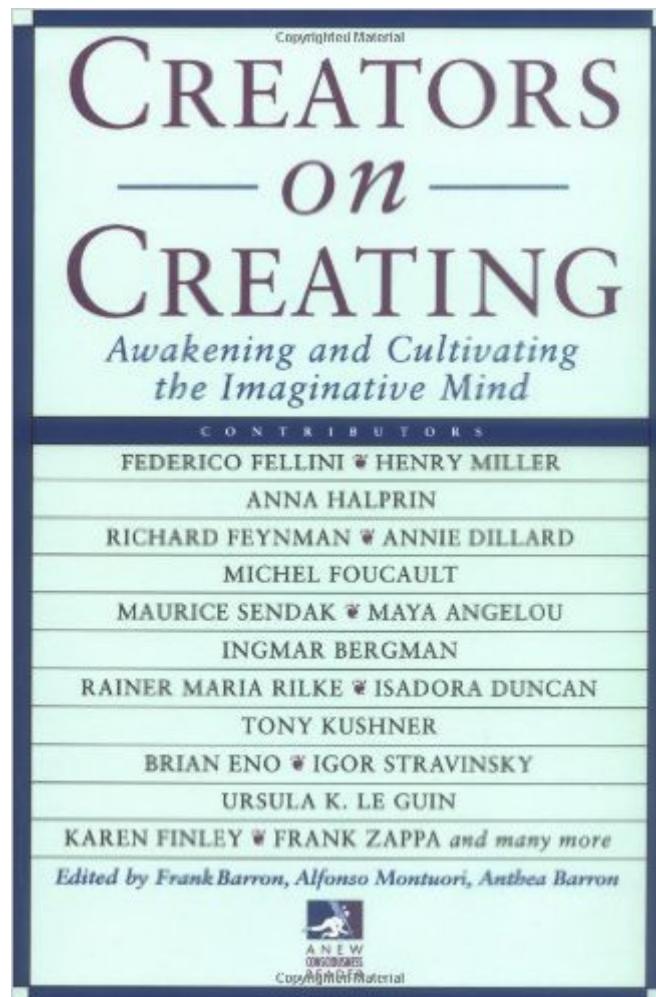


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Creators On Creating: Awakening And Cultivating The Imaginative Mind (New Consciousness Reader)



Synopsis

This collection of over three dozen essays ponders the essence of creativity. Includes selections from Henry Miller, Federico Fellini, Rainer Maria Rilke, Isadora Duncan, Frank Zappa, and Mary Shelley. A New Consciousness Reader.

Introduction /< Frank Barron1. Why Don't You Try to Write? /< Henry Miller2. Miscellany /< Federico Fellini3. The Interviewer /< Pamela Travers4. The Process Is the Purpose /< Anna Halprin5. The Name and Nature of Poetry /< A. E. Housman6. Letters to Merline /< Rainer Maria Rilke7. Lost in the Woods /< Cathy Johnson8. The Dignified Professor /< Richard Feynman9. The Screwdriver /< Kary Mullis10. Living in the Medium /< J. G. Bennett11. The Symbolism of Poetry /< William Butler Yeats12. Heaven and Earth in Jest /< Annie Dillard13. The Genesis of Frankenstein /< Mary Shelley14. First Years /< Carl G. Jung15. Visibility /< Italo Calvino16. The Order of Things /< Michel Foucault17. The Plunge into Colour /< Marion Milner18. Evening over Sussex: Reflections in a Motor Car /< Virginia Woolf19. Edge of Taos Desert /< Mabel Dodge Luhan20. The Shape of Music /< Maurice Sendak.21. A Life in the Day of Maya Angelou /< Maya Angelou22. The Magic Lantern /< Ingmar Bergman23. The Second Line /< Sidney Bechet24. Is It a Fiction That Playwrights Create Alone? /< Tony Kushner25. Odyssey /< Irving Oyle26. The Magic of Words /< N. Scott Momaday27. Why World Music? /< Brian Eno28. How to Manage an Advertising Agency /< David Ogilvy29. Anatomy /< Leonardo da Vinci30. Composing a Symphony /< Peter Ilich Tchaikovsky31. The Genesis of Orpheus /< Muriel Rukeyser32. Poetics of Music /< Igor Stravinsky33. All About Music /< Frank Zappa34. Zen in the Art of Archery /< Eugen Herrigel35. The Mother Cry of Creation /< Isadora Duncan36. License for Madness /< Karen Finley37. Lessons from the Past /< Laurence Olivier38. Creation Myth /< Mat Callahan39. The Fisherwoman's Daughter /< Ursula K. Le Guin.

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Customer Reviews

This particular book is one of a series entitled The New Consciousness Reader edited/authored by reputable experts in the fields of healing, spiritual growth, personal development and psychology. This particular book is an absolutely compelling compilation of both original and classic writings by an assemblage of Creators writing about Creating - Awakening and Cultivating the Imaginative Mind. Frank Barron is professor emeritus of psychology at the University of California, Santa Cruz and is known as a leading expert on the study of creativity. Dr. Montuori is associate professor at the California Institute of Integral Studies in San Francisco. Anthea Barron lives in Santa Cruz. Sections of this work include The Uncovered Heart, The Opened Mind, The Web of Imagination, The Creative Ecology, The Dedication to Mastery, and The Courage to Go Naked. Authors and authorized pieces include 39 individual readings from the likes of Laurence Olivier, Frank Zappa, Igor Stavinsky, da Vinci, Tony Kushner, Maurice Sendak, Michael Focault, Carl Jung, Rainer Maria Rilke, Henry Miller, Annie Dillard and William Butler Yeats --- to name only a few. Each section contains an important orienting introduction written by Dr. Alfonso. I adored the splendid variety contained in this volume. Admittedly, some of the names of the authors whose pieces were shared here, I have never heard of them before. It is the diversity of the insights, stories and thoughts that truly made me come back for more each day, until I had devoured the entire volume. I grew by reading this book. I'm certain you will too. In the introduction, Frank Barrone writes: "creativity is a quest for meaning. It is an attempt to penetrate the mystery of the self, and perhaps the even greater mystery of Being.

I picked up this book idly and became interested in it. The selections are good. The creative mind is both full and empty. Serendipity means coming on an unexpected treasure. Cathy Johnson explains that her father had an unshakable need to wander. Richard Feynman reports that teaching is an interruption, but that the questions of the students are often a source of new research. When Feynman felt burnt out at Cornell someone threw a plate in the cafeteria. He saw it wobble so he started to figure out the motion of a rotating plate. It was effortless. It was easy. It was like uncorking a bottle. His mind started to flow. Kary Mullis, molecular biologist, notes that important inventions almost always cross disciplines. Mullis discovered the PCR, Polymerase chain reaction. It is widely

used by molecular biologists. What is necessary for creative activity may be quite destructive of other kinds of activity. Yeats thought that rhythm prolongs contemplation. Annie Dillard sees herself as an explorer and also a stalker. Italo Calvino relates that in devising a story the first thing that comes to mind is an image. In the actual writing of the story, the words, the verbal aspect start to become more important. Imagination is a repertory of what is potential. The imagination is a kind of electronic machine. Michel Foucault suggests that utopias afford consolation although they have no real locality. Those who have creative power find the strength of mind to reject what is not true. Mabel Dodge Luhan describes an experience with peyote where she had a momentary glimpse of life given by an expansion of consciousness. Creativity lives and dies within an ecology. Maya Angelou believes that black American art is rooted in music. N.

Creators on creating, by Frank Barron, Alfonso Montouri, and Anthea Barron is an engaging collection of essays that span the length and width of the creative field. While many books on creativity seem to focus on one narrow area this book offers us a glimpse into a myriad of creative worlds featuring such fascinating figures as Federico Fellini, Mary Shelley, Frank Zappa, and Maya Angelou. Frank Barron states in the introduction that "it is no exaggeration at all to say that creativity is the key to a more advanced humanity, a key to the realization of human potential and the control of human destructiveness" (p. 1). Barron's unflinching belief in creativity as a transformative force in the world is clear and he exhorts us to engage ourselves with the book and not see it as just a book to read. Barron concludes his introduction with a broad examination of the nature of creativity, finally developing the underlying theme of freedom as necessary to creativity. The book is divided into six sections, each with a theme. The uncovered heart (section 1) is defined as "uncovering the center of the self" (p. 25) and contains thoughts from writers, poets, dancers, and one filmmaker you just may have heard of, Fellini? The opened mind (section 2) explores the generative aspect of the creative mind and reminds that the opened mind "thrives on difference and remains open to the contradictory" (p. 57). The web of imagination (section 3) touches on the weaving of unusual webs. The authors observe "the value of imagining lies in the originality and strength of the pattern created" (p. 89). The creative ecology (section 4) reminds us that " a creative human ecology is made up of a multiplicity of natural phenomena, people, experiences, and action" (p. 127).

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