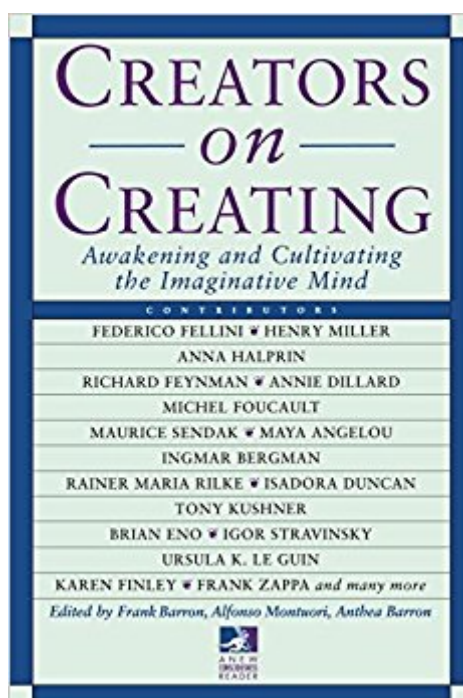


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Creators On Creating: Awakening And Cultivating The Imaginative Mind (New Consciousness Reader)



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Customer Reviews

In this collection of essays by the world's most renowned creative-types--Ingmar Bergman, Maurice Sendak, Frank Zappa, and Maya Angelou--we learn time and again that the act of creation is a willingness to encounter the unknown. If we never risk losing control and wallow in the murky depths of our beings, how will we ever meet our potential? Laurence Olivier talks about going naked. Federico Fellini romances the virtue of passion. Mary Shelley speaks frankly about the genesis of Frankenstein. This is chicken soup for the soul of any creator.

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Creators on Creating: Awakening and Cultivating the Imaginative Mind does far more than inform the reader about the creative process: it invites them to explore it, and it does so through an illuminating amalgamation of works on the subject of creativity, organized loosely into six collections: the uncovered heart, the opened mind, the web of imagination, the creative ecology, the dedication to mastery, and the courage to go naked. Each collection takes as task an exploration of its theme through the words and works of respected creators throughout time, and through each, presents the reader with varying degrees of information, interpretation, and invitation. Each collection also features a brief introduction from the editors, helping turn their motives transparent and stating often times very directly the connections they hope will become evident for the reader. The third collection, the web of imagination, for example, presents six authors, each selected for the

purpose of representing diversity in either or both the creative contribution or the author's constitution. What I mean by this is that the editors took care to not only present different ideas, but also present ideas of different people | people from different socio-historical positions, people from different genders, people from different geographical locations, with the aim of bringing the reader as close as possible to these ideas within these collections. This collection among the six features works by Mary Shelley, Carl G. Jung, Italo Calvino, Michel Foucault, Marion Milner, Virginia Woolf, and Mabel Dodge Luhan. And Mary Shelley, for example, invites the reader to explore "The Genesis of Frankenstein" and specifically, Shelley's representation of her experience in the creative process as one where product comes not from the void but instead from the chaos of the materials of our lives and experiences. For Shelley, these came together for her in a dream-like state, whereby her imagination revealed the images and sequences and narrative we've come to know and appreciate of her literary achievement.

Shelley's perspectives are joined by the other five, who together reveal aspects of the creative process as a weaving together of parts into a whole. For anyone hoping to better understand their own experiences or hoping to better explore their untapped creative potential, *Creators on Creating: Awakening and Cultivation the Imaginative Mind* will not disappoint | but it will, at times, frustrate as much as it delights, and challenge as much as it affirms. And for any researcher hoping to understand and broadly represent the rather varied subject of creativity, it proves a powerful scholarly piece, rich with thoughtful contributions and organization.

Creators on Creating is a unique book edited by Frank Barron, Alfonso Montuori, and Anthea Barron. The editors have brought together many of the great creative minds in history: essays from great minds such as Isadora Duncan, Carl Jung, Frank Zappa, and several other creative minds can be found. Their writings are designed to inspire creativity within the reader. The editors exhibit a wonderful job in organizing the book, splitting it into six sections; *The Uncovered Heart*, *The Opened Mind*, *The Web of Imagination*, *The Creative Ecology*, *The Dedication to Mastery*, and *The Courage to Go Naked*. Each of these sections flowed together nicely. The sections provided individual aspects of creativity and creators; their journeys and creations. Each essay includes the story behind these great minds and how they channel their creativity. I like how the book is composed of essays allowing the reader to open the book anytime and be able to read a short essay from any of these great minds and be inspired, whether you have an hour or only a few minutes. One of my

favorite parts includes Mary Shelley. Shelley tells her story of Frankenstein being created when she was a little girl, her inspirations and how her writing evolved throughout her life. Another part I find fascinating is the writing by Da Vinci on the anatomy of the human body. He writes of his experience in dissection and the processes he endured to obtain the knowledge he discovered. His love of creativity and knowledge gave him the drive to accomplish his endeavors and create the foundation of anatomy. His love of knowledge and inquiry is inspiring to me. Da Vinci said, "until I came to an end and had a complete knowledge; this I repeated twice, to learn the differences". This book is an essential for anyone looking to find their creative inspirations.

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