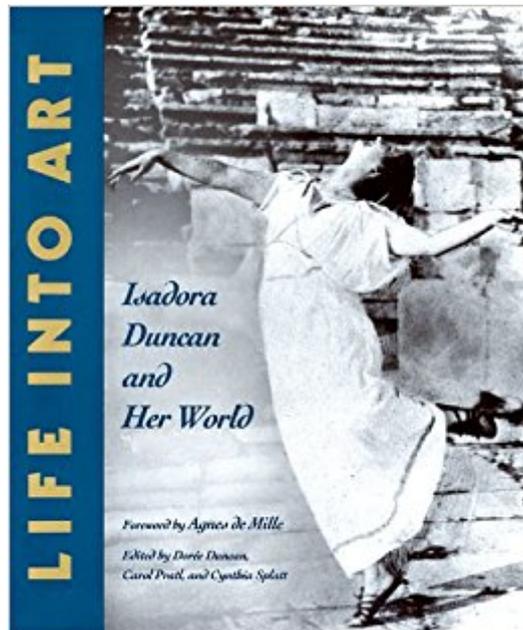


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Life Into Art: Isadora Duncan And Her World



Synopsis

Isadora Duncan was the mother of modern dance and a pioneering feminist. This book reveals the woman in over 250 photographs and works of art - Raymond Duncan's photographs of his sister rehearsing in their Paris studio, Auguste Rodin's sketches of the young dancer, a constructivist portrait of Isadora by Anenkov during her final years in Russia - many of which are from the Duncan family's private collections. The illustrations and text offer a portrait of this great modernist in the context of her 20th-century artistic community.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A marvelous collection of photos, images, and text about this revolutionary woman. More than just a performance artist, Isadora Duncan helped to usher in modernism and her artist contributions are here beautifully captured in text and image. Many of these pictures have never before been printed, at least in material I've seen, and the captioning of the photos provides detailed information.

As a modern dancer and historian who has done, and continues to do, extensive study on the early 20th Century, my respect for Isadora Duncan has become even more enriched due to the influence of Doree Duncan's book, resplendent with photographs by Raymond Duncan, Isadora's brother and Doree's grandfather. The Duncans, as a family, show the return to the ancient Greek, -Egyptian, and -Roman concept of the dancer's role in interpreting ideas, with the dancer using his or her body the way a writer uses words. Not only did I gain a richer and deeper knowledge of this amazing

pioneer, but I was given tremendous insights on Raymond Duncan and his classical Greek movement, which included entire colonies in which members dressed in classical Greek style robes, designed by Duncan himself, which they, Duncan included, wove, and sandals made by Duncan and others of his movement. I was fascinated to learn that Raymond Duncan shunned modern dress and wore these robes most of his adult life, and still was regarded as a strong capable loving husband, father, brother, and uncle, and highly respected by the arts community of early 20th Century America and Europe. While this book is one of the best studies I have ever read on Isadora Duncan, I strongly believe it is a springboard for anyone wishing to further his or her understanding of the other great American pioneer, about whom I know very little, but whose philosophy and work needs to once again be brought to the forefront: Raymond Duncan. I find this book essential for the libraries of anyone wishing to return to the eccentric yet practical ideals of early 20th Century arts.

This brilliant collaboration by Cynthia Splatt et. al is an invaluable resource for dancers and historians. Though it has been a few years since I gave it a thorough read, I will say that it altered my shallow perception of a paradigm-shifting figure in the history of dance. I enjoyed the many photos and illustrations and the insights provided by those close to the dancer and her world.

I knew a great deal about Isadora Duncan, and now I know more. I'd never seen these photographs and sketches.

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