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Merce Cunningham



Synopsis

Artwork by Merce Cunningham. Edited by Germano Celant. Contributions by David Vaughn. Text by Melissa Harris.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Still active at the age of 80, Cunningham has investigated movement that is independent from story, music, or costume but coexists with those elements. Influenced by the work of avant-garde composer John Cage, Cunningham employs chance techniques to create movement that is defined by time and space and has worked with other original musicians and artists, including Robert Rauschenberg, Andy Warhol, and David Tudor, among many others. With the exception of a new article by David Vaughan, the Cunningham company's archivist, this bilingual (Spanish and English) volume considers the artist's career via more than 20 previously published articles and interviews, some quite obscure. The host of authors, including dancer Karole Armitage, choreographer/filmmaker Yvonne Rainer, critic Roger Copeland, and composer Earle Brown, examine different aspects of Cunningham's work, focusing on his numerous innovations. A wonderfully eclectic mix of black-and-white photos of performances, sets, costumes, musical scores, performance spaces, composers, artists, and dancers underscores Cunningham's versatility and many contributions to the performing arts. An ideal companion to *Merce Cunningham: Fifty Years* edited by David Vaughan (LJ 3/1/98), this is recommended for both public and academic libraries. A Joan Stahl, National Museum of American Art, Washington, DC Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.

I never really got into Merce Cunningham's work, but I respect him as one of the best avant-garde Modern dance choreographer of his time. I love the honesty of his work. It was a great read. I learned a lot.

I love it. It gives me some messages about merce cunningham, and I will read over carefully. Best wishes for cunningham when he is in heaven.

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