

12-1991

[Review of] Biographies of Creative Artists: An Annotated Bibliography

Robert A. Aken
University of Kentucky, robaken@uky.edu

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Aken, Robert A., "[Review of] Biographies of Creative Artists: An Annotated Bibliography" (1991). *Library Faculty and Staff Publications*. 154.

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Digital Object Identifier (DOI)

<http://dx.doi.org/10.5860/CHOICE.29-1886>

Notes/Citation Information

Published in *CHOICE*, v. 29, no. 4, 29-1886.

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Choice

www.cro3.org

doi: 10.5860/CHOICE.29-1886

CHOICE December 1991 vol. 29 no. 04

29-1886

NX90

91-6744 CIP

Stievater, Susan M., comp. **Biographies of creative artists: an annotated bibliography**. Greenwood, 1991. 210p indexes afp ISBN 0824049489, \$28.00

Stievater (Buffalo State College) has compiled this briefly annotated and selective guide to biographies of "creative artists" with the intention of identifying the more "readable" (p. ix) material available. Arranged alphabetically by artist, the entries contain birth and death dates, one or two sentences of identification of the artist, bibliographic information and 50 to 100 word annotations of up to three full-length biographical works. All works cited are in English. Annotations, based on book reviews and the compiler's examination, are critical and give a good, brief description of each work. Creative artists include literary writers (nearly 300), visual artists (58), composers and musicians (39, all classical), and theater and dance performers (8). Indexing provides access by art form, country of origin, women subjects, and authors of biographies. Stievater emphasizes that the work is "highly selective" (p. ix), with selection determined primarily by a work's readability and its concentration on the life and work of the artist without critical emphasis. This leads, unfortunately, to admitted omissions of major artists if works of this type were not available. This specialized tool will prove of use, but selectors and users should keep its selectivity in mind.

--R. A. Aken, *University of Kentucky*

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