

(Free and download) Capital Culture: J. Carter Brown, the National Gallery of Art, and the Reinvention of the Museum Experience

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Neil Harris

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Neil Harris : Capital Culture: J. Carter Brown, the National Gallery of Art, and the Reinvention of the Museum Experience before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Capital Culture: J. Carter Brown, the National Gallery of Art, and the Reinvention of the Museum Experience:

10 of 10 people found the following review helpful. On the MallBy Christian SchlectAn interesting book focused on the career of J. Carter Brown, the legendary leader for three decades at the National Gallery of Art. Professor Harris

provides the reader with a nicely written look back on an exciting time for culture in our nation's capital. (Having said this, one should not look to this book for much on the theater, music, or dance.) While the main story here is about Mr. Brown and the National Gallery's rise as a force in the rarified world of top-flight fine art museums, there are side trips to the Smithsonian Institution and the many spirited aesthetic disputes involving our capital city's urban development since the 1970s, such as the fight to build the World War II memorial on the Mall and the one to tear down the Rhodes Tavern. At times, it seems to me, the author does rely too heavily on contemporary news articles about the various special art shows that are mentioned in this book. If you are interested in Mr. Brown, the Smithsonian, the funding and management of modern art museums, how "international blockbuster art shows" are pulled off, urban planning, and/or the special diplomatic and cultural life of Washington, D.C., this would be a very good purchase. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Growth of the National Gallery of Art By bookworm I found this book very interesting reading, especially the rivalry between the National Gallery of Art and the Smithsonian and to learn of the way blockbuster shows are prepared and the vying of the National's Capital with the NY museums. J. Carter Brown was a great asset to the National Gallery and did much to curry favor with private collectors. It is truly an art form to obtain works of art for all museum goers to enjoy. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A LOOK AT THE CULTURE OF DC DURING THE LAST HALF OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY By mtp This biography gave me what I had hoped for; a clear picture of culture in our capita and the impact of politicians in it. It also gave me a picture of a great American family the Browns of Providence RI. Finally for the years from the late 60's to the 90s it showed me many of the battles that made Washington what it is today in appearance. Carter Brown as director of the National Gallery and Chairman of the Fine Arts commission had a large hand in all of this as did Dillon Ripley as director of the Smithsonian Institution who is also profiled in this fine book. Mark Patterson

American art museums flourished in the late twentieth century, and the impresario leading much of this growth was J. Carter Brown, director of the National Gallery of Art in Washington, DC, from 1969 to 1992. Along with S. Dillon Ripley, who served as Smithsonian secretary for much of this time, Brown reinvented the museum experience in ways that had important consequences for the cultural life of Washington and its visitors as well as for American museums in general. In *Capital Culture*, distinguished historian Neil Harris provides a wide-ranging look at Brown's achievement and the growth of museum culture during this crucial period.

Capital Culture impresses on several counts. Harris has conducted a deep dive into the papers of Carter Brown and the Brown family; National Gallery of Art records; newspapers and magazine accounts of the period; and numerous interviews with friends and museum colleagues. . . . His organizational skill is praiseworthy: He has shaped this mountain of material into a highly readable, nimble narrative that skillfully segues from one topic to the next.