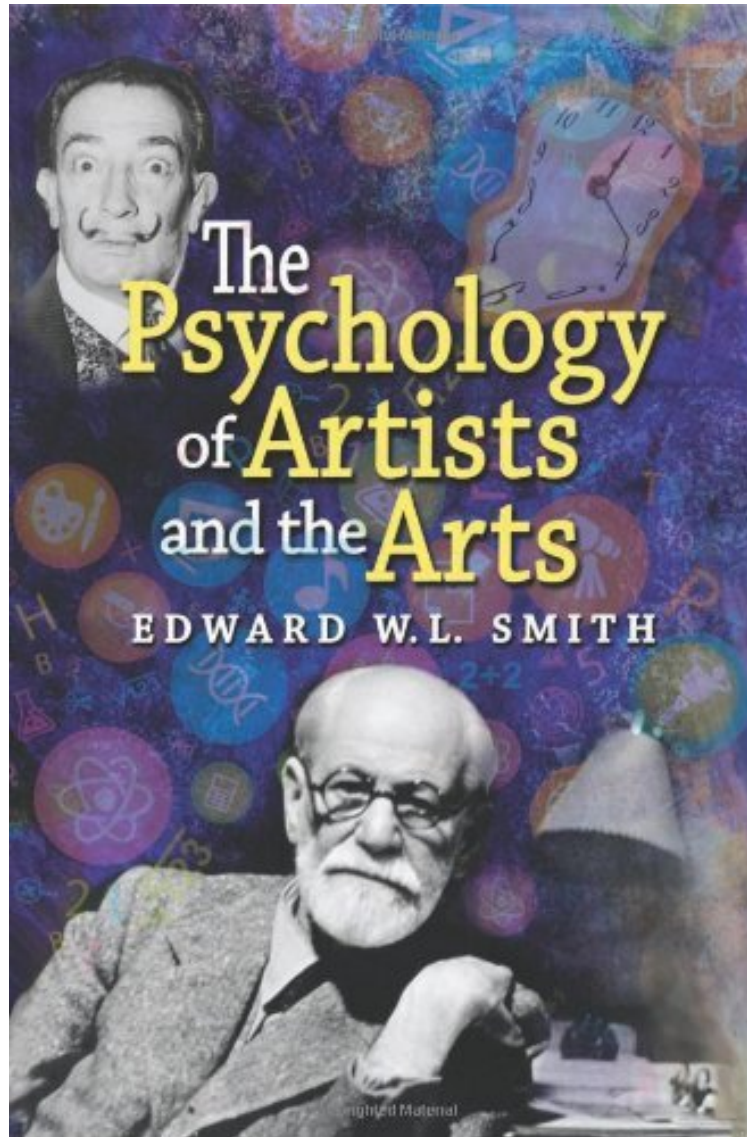


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The Psychology of Artists and the Arts

Edward W.L. Smith

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Edward W.L. Smith : The Psychology of Artists and the Arts before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Psychology of Artists and the Arts:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Beautifully written, beautifully thought-through, simply beautiful! By Robert Kramer Edward W. L. Smith writes with Occam's razor. As someone who has read hundreds of bloated articles and books on art, artists and creativity, I am in awe of Edwards W. L. Smith's lucid masterpiece. This book sweeps away the last 80 years of academic hemming-and hawing, to produce the most brilliant psychology of art since Otto Rank's great work, "Art and Artist" (1932). Not only does Smith grasp the sweet spots of the most brilliant

psychodynamic writers in the field, including the incomparable Rank, but he also superimposes a layer of his own profoundly beautiful insights on top. Can a book be too good? As I gorged on this book, I felt my caloric intake of insights exceed my daily limit. With gemlike chapters on Freud, Rank and others, this astonishingly rich work will endure into the 22nd century and beyond. I plan to break my diet to re-read this book each year I live. Robert Kramer, PhD, The Chicago School of Professional Psychology (Washington DC campus) robertkramer@thechicagoschool.edu

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Great book! By L. Locker This book was quite enjoyable. The author examines the psychology of art and creativity from the perspective of such figures as Freud and Jung. It's a scholarly work, but the author does a good job of making concepts accessible for those who might not have a background in psychology or the arts. Overall, an excellent book for those interested in the creative process, historical and psychological perspectives on the arts, as well as the domain of psychology itself. A unique and well written book!

This book offers the first comprehensive examination of the psychodynamic theories of artistic creativity and the arts. Neither oversimplifying the complexity of these theories, nor bogging down in pedantic discourse, it honors the depth and richness of the work of Freud, Adler, Kris, Reich, Jung, and several lesser-known theorists, while making their theories readily accessible to the educated reader. After discussing the role of theory, the work offers each concept as a readily usable template for describing and understanding a work of art, whether painting, sculpture, music, dance, film, poetry, or prose. With these theories at hand, anyone interested in the arts will possess a far richer vocabulary for describing the artistic experience and a deeper understanding of the artist's creativity.

"Offers a comprehensive psychodynamic analysis of art and the artist as interpreted by the great minds of psychotherapy" --Reference Research Book News.

About the Author After 18 years as a practicing psychotherapist, Edward W.L. Smith was the founding director of the clinical training for the doctor of psychology program at Georgia Southern University, where he is now professor emeritus. He is the author or editor of several books on psychotherapy.