



Art as Existence: The Artist's Monograph and Its Project

By Independent Writer Gabriele Guercio

MIT Press Ltd, United States, 2009. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Reprint. 218 x 174 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. The narrative of the artist's life and work is one of the oldest models in the Western literature of the visual arts. In *Art as Existence*, Gabriele Guercio investigates the metamorphosis of the artist's monograph, tracing its formal and conceptual trajectories from Vasari's sixteenth-century *Lives of the Painters, Sculptors, and Architects* (which provided the model and source for the genre) through its apogee in the nineteenth century and decline in the twentieth. He looks at the legacy of the life-and-work model and considers its prospects in an intellectual universe of deconstructionism, psychoanalysis, feminism, and postcolonialism. Since Vasari, the monograph has been notable for its fluidity and variety; it can be scrupulous and exact, probing and revelatory, poetic and imaginative, or any combination of these. In the nineteenth century, the monograph combined art-historical, biographical, and critical methods, and even added elements of fiction. Guercio explores some significant books that illustrate key phases in the model's evolution, including works by Gustav Friedrich Waagen, A. C. Quatremre de Quincy, Johann David Passavant, Bernard Berenson, and others. The hidden project...



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