



GEORGES
BRAQUE
A Life
ALEX DANCHEV

Georges Braque: A Life

By Alex Danchev

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Together with Picasso and Matisse, Georges Braque is unquestionably one of the three great pillars of twentieth-century art. Here is the first full-length biography of this remarkable figure. A pioneer of modern art and founder of Cubism, Georges Braque was a creative genius and tireless innovator, constantly pushing back the boundaries of the possible. In this magisterial work, Alex Danchev taps a wide range of new sources to reveal the heart and mind of one who helped usher in the greatest revolution in the ways of seeing since the Renaissance and changed the face of modern art.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Though he created both the ideas and the first canvases of the cubist movement, Georges Braque is frequently overshadowed by his celebrated colleague Pablo Picasso. English critic Danchev's detailed biography, the first full-length study of Braque, reveals the reason why: Braque was that rare artist who was just as happy working and producing as seeking glory, an individual who didn't require the fawning attention that others, like Picasso, seemed to subsist on. Braque's friendship with Picasso is extensively explored and, although their relationship had slight sexual undertones (Picasso liked to refer to Braque as his "wife," and he "pursued Braque as relentlessly as he did any woman... over a far longer period"), Danchev makes it clear that their friendship was based on artistic affinity more than anything else. Intriguing revelations about Braque's much-protected private life abound, including discussions of his military service and his unswervingly faithful marriage to Marcelle Vorvanne. Danchev's intimate, conversational tone may put off readers with a preference for more formal biographies, but those with a penchant for lively prose and some familiarity with art history terminology will relish Danchev's meticulous contribution to the study of cubism.

Illus. (Nov. 15)

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From [Booklist](#)

Starred Review Georges Braque (1882-1963), cocreator, along with Picasso, of cubism, was a patient and steadfast artist given to hard work rather than extravagant gestures. As Danchev makes clear in the first full-length biography of this pivotal yet overlooked French painter, Braque's paradigm-altering paintings are not expressions of ecstasy or despair but, rather, of constancy, the fruits of a sustained exploration of form, space, light, and rapport. The son of a housepainter, a strong and good-looking man who liked to box and drive fast cars, Braque, inspired by Cezanne, brought to art a love of craft and intense curiosity about the structure of matter. Deliberate and contemplative, he was the opposite of mercurial Picasso, with whom he forged an intimate and fertile alliance, "the most phenomenal in the history of art," according to Danchev, who examines their complex interaction with supple insight. At once comprehensive and buoyant, Danchev is fluent in facts and penetrating in his analysis of this deeply private man, a philosophical artist utterly devoted to his work and his wife, who found new ways of understanding nature and perception, dissonance and harmony. *Donna Seaman*

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About the Author

Alex Danchev is the author of several acclaimed biographies. He writes regularly for the *Times Literary Supplement* and is a contributor to the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*. He is a professor at the School of Politics at the University of Nottingham. He lives in England.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Kenneth Williams:

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Michelle Porter:

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