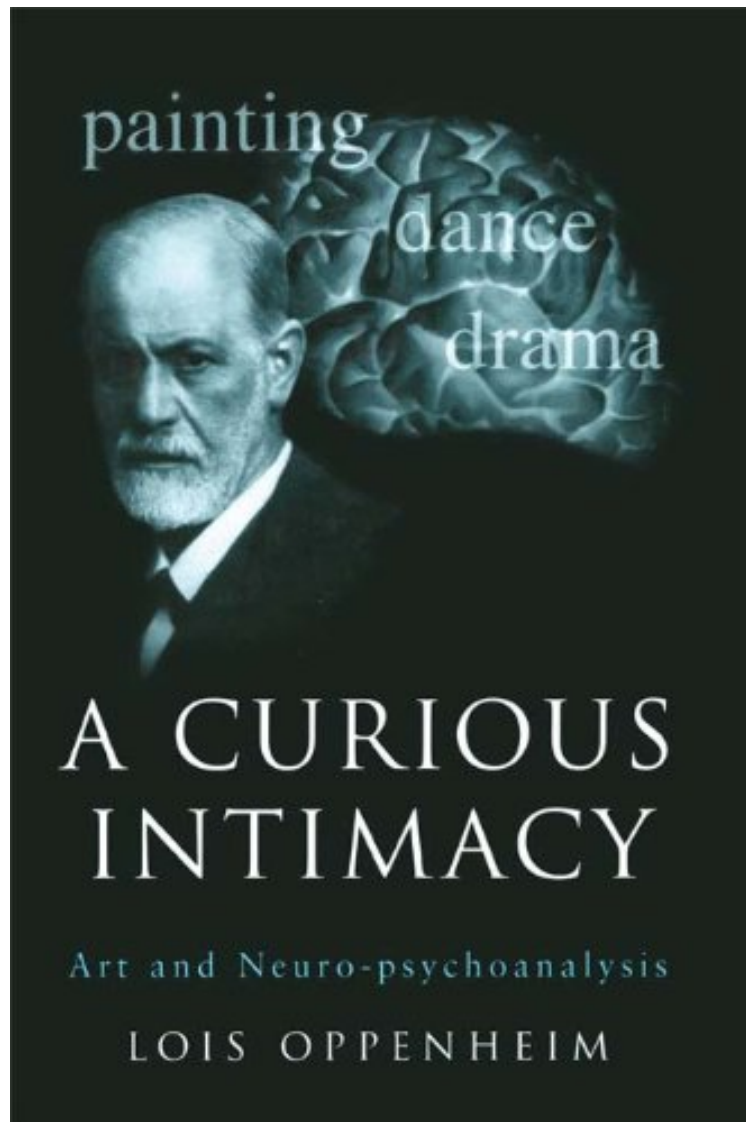


## A Curious Intimacy: Art and Neuro-psychoanalysis

*Lois Oppenheim*

*audiobook / \*ebooks / Download PDF / ePub / DOC*



 Download

 Read Online

#3250073 in eBooks 2013-01-11 2013-01-11 File Name: B00AZKVQRG | File size: 51.Mb

**Lois Oppenheim : A Curious Intimacy: Art and Neuro-psychoanalysis** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Curious Intimacy: Art and Neuro-psychoanalysis:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. connection between physiology and artistic style with special attention on Beckett, Klee and Martha Graham By Henry Berry "I will argue in this book that, insofar as a number of dynamic somatically based tensions are inherent in the creative process--that there is a discharge of bodily drive in representation--neurophysiological function is significant (in more than obvious ways for both making and reception of art." Oppenheim continues that what she more precisely wants to show is that [following quote in italics in original] "the primary impulse of creativity is homeostatic in as much as creativity serves to augment self-awareness and it is on

awareness of self that homeostasis depends." In conjunction with this latter quote, the author makes a reference to the influential work of Antonio Damasio on physiology as a means for homeostasis both biologically and mentally. Artistic creativity is a special case of this physiological theory with implications for neuro-psychoanalysis and self-awareness that is only in the relatively early stages of exploration and study. Since artists feel more intensely, are finely attuned to their inner lives, are instinctively compulsive, and perceive more acutely and elaborately than average persons, their means for homeostasis both mentally and bodily sought by all persons is idiosyncratic and specialized. Oppenheim examines in depth the different art of the writer Samuel Beckett, the artist Paul Klee, and the dancer Martha Graham as these fill out her neuro-psychoanalytic subject matter and illustrate her related perspective. She's a professor of French and head of the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures at Montclair (NJ) State U. "A Curious Intimacy" is right at the leading edge of carrying the contemporary medical and life sciences field of neuroscience into the particular field of art.

What can neuroscience contribute to the psychodynamic understanding of creativity and the imagination? *A Curious Intimacy* is an innovative study into the interrelation between art and neuro-psychoanalysis which significantly narrows the divide between the humanities and the sciences. Situating our grasp of the creative mind within the historical context of theories of sublimation, Lois Oppenheim proposes a change in paradigm for the study of the creative process, questioning the idea that creativity serves, above all, the reparation of early object relationships and the resolution of conflict. The book is divided into two parts. Part One, *Art and the Brain*, introduces the field of neuro-psychoanalysis and examines the contribution it can make to the discussion of gender and art. Part Two, *A New Direction for Interdisciplinary Psychoanalysis*, draws on the verbal and visual artistry of Samuel Beckett, Paul Klee and Martha Graham to put to the test the proposed new direction for applied psychoanalysis. Lois Oppenheim concludes by addressing the future of psychoanalysis as it becomes increasingly informed by neuroscience and raising questions about what the neurobiology of emotion and feeling has to tell us about the creative experience of an individual and what might constitute a 'neuro-psychoanalytic aesthetics'. *A Curious Intimacy* will have great appeal for all those interested in the study of imagination and creativity. It will also be of particular interest to students across the humanities and sciences and to psychotherapists and psychoanalysts wanting to explore the contribution that neuro-psychoanalysis can make to our understanding of the creative process.

About the Author Distinguished Scholar, Professor of French and Chair of the Department of French, German, and Russian at Montclair State University