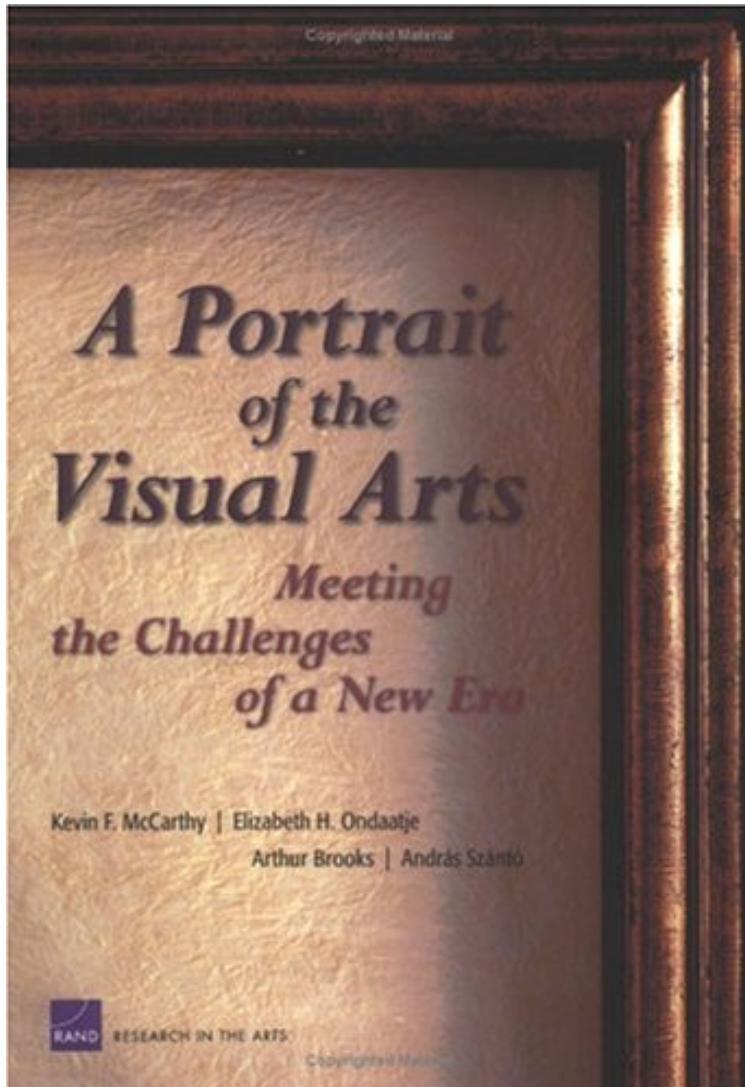


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## A Portrait of the Visual Arts: The challenges of a New Era

*Kevin F. McCarthy*

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**Kevin F. McCarthy : A Portrait of the Visual Arts: The challenges of a New Era** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Portrait of the Visual Arts: The challenges of a New Era:

The third in a series that examines the state of the arts in America, this analysis shows, in addition to lines around the block for special exhibits, well-paid superstar artists, flourishing university visual arts programs, and a global expansion of collectors, developments in the visual arts also tell a story of rapid, even seismic change, systemic

imbalances, and dislocation. Using the performing arts as a comparison, this book shows that the visual arts appear better suited to the changing consumption and life styles of American consumers. Their visual character, for example, makes them easily and readily experienced. They require less time commitment than other art forms and their appreciation can be tailored to Americans' patterns of leisure consumption. But is the current picture as rosy as rising attendance figures and art price indices suggest? And will this success continue into the future? Using a systemwide approach to examine the visual arts in the context of the broader arts environment and to identify the major challenges they face, this book examines the possible answers to these questions. Earlier books in the series include *The Performing Arts in a New Era* (MR-1367-PCT, 2001) and *From Celluloid to Cyberspace: The Media Arts and the Changing Arts World* (MR-1552-RF, 2002).

**From the Inside Flap** Providing information about developments in the visual arts world, this book promotes analysis of the sector, describing the characteristics of visual arts consumers (collectors and appreciators), artists, finances, and organizations. **About the Author** Kevin F. McCarthy (Ph.D., Sociology, University of Wisconsin) is a senior social scientist at RAND who has led studies on the arts, immigration, and demographic issues. Arthur Brooks is Associate Professor of Public Administration at the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University. He writes a regular column for the *Wall Street Journal*. He lives with his family in Syracuse, New York.