

## PRAISE FOR *THE CREATIVE HABIT*

“Exhibiting imagination as well as intellect, with good dollops of generosity of spirit as well as curiosity about her own karma thrown in, [Tharp] has written an engagingly personal, down-to-earth how-to book for the aspiring artist.”  
—Kai Maristed, *Los Angeles Times*

“In opening up her creative process, she shows us the perseverance, discipline, risk-taking, continuous self-assessment, and mountains and mountains of hard work that have taken her to the top of the ladder.”  
—Sarah Kaufman, *The Washington Post*

“Tharp’s book is much more than a good read. It is a call to action and practice that can help anyone, no matter how stuck in routine, to be more creative. . . . Tharp’s distinguished history in creative work permeates this book and is evident on every page.”  
—Lance Brunner, *Lexington Herald-Leader (Kentucky)*

“*The Creative Habit* is written in straightforward prose and a personal voice that makes it a better reading than the usual self-help book. It will benefit anyone in pursuit of innovative thinking. . . . Ms. Tharp has valuable insights to share, and it’s to her credit that she did.”  
—Pia Catton, *The New York Sun*

“[F]un, liturgical, and bossy.”  
—Heidi Benson, *San Francisco Chronicle*

“Tharp has written a straightforward volume of uncomplicated exercises that anyone interested in creative work will find valuable. . . . I’ll hold on to this book forever.”  
—Theodore Bale, *Boston Herald*

“[W]ith candor and humility, Tharp portrays herself as both a student and master of creativity. [S]he also imparts inspiration from writers, athletes, and business executives. What makes Tharp’s book most inspiring is her convincing argument that the immortal creative masters . . . were not born to be great. They achieved greatness through hard work, inspiring rituals, and creative habits.”  
—Pam Lilley, *The Plain Dealer (Cleveland)*

“[T]here’s nothing simplistic or fuzzy-minded in [Tharp’s] down-to-earth advice on gaining skills and finding inspiration, or in the useful exercises she offers to anyone who longs to think out of the box, from engineers and corporate types to composers and writers.”  
—Misha Berson, *The Seattle Times*

“Tharp’s observations are dead on and much-needed in this age of youth-worship and self-expression-above-all. . . . Similarly, it is illuminating to follow Tharp’s creative process as she details specific projects, from early works like *The Fugue* to *Movin’ Out*.”  
—Claudia La Rocco, *The Associated Press*

“Twyla Tharp’s new book is an ideal gift for anyone planning to lead a creative life. With characteristic rigor, chutzpah, and humor, Tharp demystifies every step of the creative process. . . . Like her ballets, this book has an exhilarating momentum. It assumes the desire to create, projects a feeling of freedom, and lends the courage to tackle problems along the way. Anyone who wants to jump-start her or his dreams will appreciate this book.”  
—Wendy Perron, *Dance Magazine*

“Not just for dancers and choreographers, Tharp’s straight-talking how-to guide should be required reading for all creative people.”  
—Astrida Woods, *Show Business Weekly*

# TWYLA THARP

# THE CREATIVE HABIT

## LEARN IT AND USE IT FOR LIFE

A PRACTICAL GUIDE

WITH MARK REITER

SIMON & SCHUSTER PAPERBACKS

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Page 18: “Two Sketches of Beethoven by J. D. Böhm, between 1820 and 1825” (courtesy of Beethovenhaus, Bonn), from Oscar G. Sonneck, ed., *Beethoven: Impressions by His Contemporaries* (Dover Publications, 1926).

Page 153: Buster Keaton, *Steamboat Bill, Jr.* (United Artists, 1928), 3 stills; courtesy of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

Page 172: Two sketches of waves, from *The Notebooks of Leonardo da Vinci*, compiled and edited from the original manuscripts by Jean Paul Richter (Dover Publications [1970]).

Page 241: (Left) Rembrandt, *Artist in His Studio*, c. 1627–28; photograph © 2003 Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. (Right) Rembrandt, *Self Portrait with Two Circles*, c. 1665; courtesy of the English Heritage Photographic Library/Kenwood House.