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One Foot on the Rockies: Women and Creativity in the Modern American West (Calvin P. Horn Lectures in Western History and Culture)

Joan M. Jensen

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Joan M. Jensen : One Foot on the Rockies: Women and Creativity in the Modern American West (Calvin P. Horn Lectures in Western History and Culture) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised One Foot on the Rockies: Women and Creativity in the Modern American West (Calvin P. Horn Lectures in Western History and Culture):

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Finding a Voice in the WestBy W. SteinhurstA moving critical study on those silences that confronted women artists in the West, focusing on professional, non-professional, and traditional women artists' struggles to find voices and to cope with markets for their work. Jensen discusses several artists whose careers were shadowed or distorted by husbands, some of whom were themselves artists or collectors. She also treats extensively the history of a Native American basket maker's struggles with market forces, traditional cultural artmaking and art-using practices, discrimination, and family forces. Covering late pioneer days through the rise of Hollywood and spanning painting, photography, literature, dance, and crafts, the book surprised me with its concise and compelling portrayals of many societies and art worlds. Jensen communicates immediate and personal interpretations of the "lifeways" of silenced and near silenced women artists, as well as some who succeeded--at their

great cost--in finding a voice.

This stimulating book examines the experience of women artists in the American West. The women studied here range from Joseppa Dick, Pomo basketmaker, to Georgia O'Keeffe; from dancer Isadora Duncan to African-American writer Ntozake Shange and dozens of other women who lived in a fertile crescent that Jensen calls the Pacific Southwest during the last century. By recovering the work of so many writers, painters, photographers, and craftswomen, Jensen expands the history of women in the West. She also explores the cultural climate necessary to support creative work and considers questions of tradition and memory, examining the forms available to writers such as Buffalo Bird Woman, Christine Quintasket, Ruth Benedict, Sui Sin Far, and Agnes Smedley. Finally she engages the theories of history and creativity that determine what society chooses to remember and preserve.

The experiences of Georgia O'Keeffe and other women artists who lived in or moved to the West are captured in a history of women in the west which examines the influences on female artists and their audiences. Chapters probe the creation of works, audiences and marketplaces for women's art, examining feminist art movements and the role of culture and tradition in women's artistic creations. -- Midwest Book From the Publisher A Volume in the Calvin P. Horn Lectures in Western History and Culture From the Inside Flap A highly readable exploration of the factors that enhanced and restricted the success of women artists in the West during the 20th century.