



The Art of Youth: Crane, Carrington, Gershwin, and the Nature of First Acts

Nicholas Delbanco

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The Art of Youth is a moving inquiry into the nature of artistic prodigies who did their major work at an early age. Renowned novelist Nicholas Delbanco gives us a triptych of indelible portraits: the American writer Stephen Crane (immortalized by *The Red Badge of Courage*); British artist Dora Carrington (called “the most neglected serious painter of her time”); and the legendary composer George Gershwin (*Rhapsody in Blue*, *Porgy and Bess*).

All three lived colorful, productive lives before dying early, at an average age of thirty-five. In this learned and elegant book, Delbanco discovers what it is we mourn in authors who pass away so young, and muses on his own life—one marked by both early success and longevity.

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