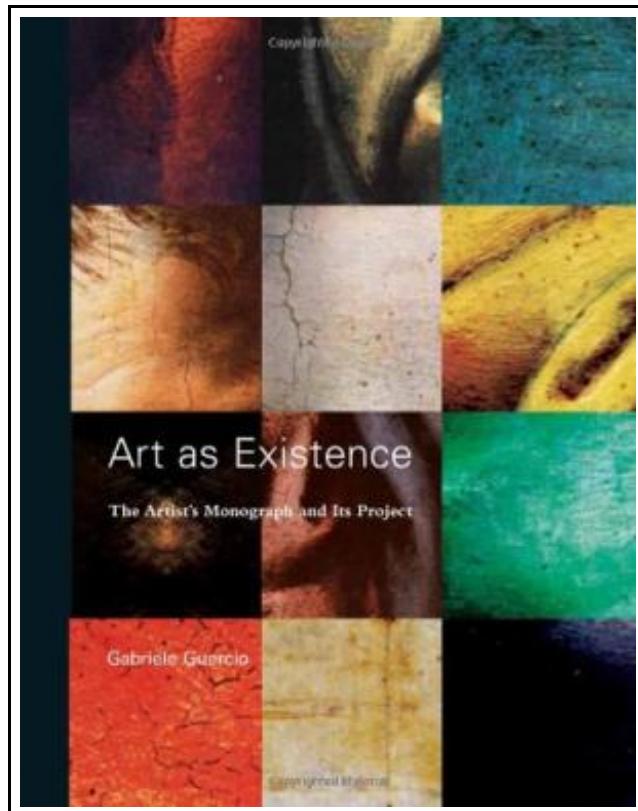


Art as Existence: The Artist's Monograph and Its Project (Hardback)



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Reviews

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ART AS EXISTENCE: THE ARTIST S MONOGRAPH AND ITS PROJECT (HARDBACK)

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MIT Press Ltd, United States, 2006. Hardback. Book Condition: New. 241 x 185 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. The narrative of the artist s life and work is one of the oldest models in the Western literature of the visual arts. In *Art as Existence*, Gabriele Guercio investigates the metamorphosis of the artist s monograph, tracing its formal and conceptual trajectories from Vasari s sixteenth-century *Lives of the Painters, Sculptors, and Architects* (which provided the model and source for the genre) through its apogee in the nineteenth century and decline in the twentieth. He looks at the legacy of the life-and-work model and considers its prospects in an intellectual universe of deconstructionism, psychoanalysis, feminism, and postcolonialism. Since Vasari, the monograph has been notable for its fluidity and variety; it can be scrupulous and exact, probing and revelatory, poetic and imaginative, or any combination of these. In the nineteenth century, the monograph combined art-historical, biographical, and critical methods, and even added elements of fiction. Guercio explores some significant books that illustrate key phases in the model s evolution, including works by Gustav Friedrich Waagen, A. C. Quatremere de Quincy, Johann David Passavant, Bernard Berenson, and others. The hidden project of the artist s monograph, Guercio claims, comes from a utopian impulse; by commuting biography into art and art into biography, the life-and-work model equates art and existence, construing otherwise distinct works of an artist as chapters of a life story. Guercio calls for a contemporary reconsideration of the life-and-work model, arguing that the ultimate legacy of the artist s monograph does not lie in its established modes of writing but in its greater project and in the intimate portrait that we gain of the nature of creativity.

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