



The Lives of the Muses: Nine Women and the Artists They Inspired

Francine Prose

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In her fascinating and provocative new book, National Book Award finalist Francine Prose explores the complex relationship between artist and muse. *The Lives of the Muses* is a collection of exquisitely written biographical essays on nine remarkable women and the artists they inspired. Among the nine muses there are many variations on the theme: from the young Alice Liddell, who inspired Oxford don Charles Dodgson to write *Alice in Wonderland*, to celebrities in their own right such as Gala Dali and Yoko Ono, who defy the stereotype of the muse as a passive beauty put on a pedestal and oppressed by a male artist. The muses are: Hester Thrale (Samuel Johnson); Alice Liddell (Lewis Carroll); Elizabeth Siddal (Dante Gabriel Rossetti); Lou Andreas-Salome (Nietzsche, Rilke and Freud); Gala Dali (Salvador Dali); Lee Miller (Man Ray); Charis Weston (Edward Weston); Suzanne Farrell (George Balanchine); and Yoko Ono (John Lennon).

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