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Forty-One False Starts: Essays on Artists and Writers

By Janet Malcolm

Farrar, Straus and Giroux. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 320 pages. Dimensions: 8.2in. x 5.3in. x 0.9in. A National Book Critics Circle Finalist for Criticism. A deeply Malcolmian volume on painters, photographers, writers, and critics. Janet Malcolm's *In the Freud Archives* and *The Journalist and the Murderer*, as well as her books about Sylvia Plath and Gertrude Stein, are canonical in the realm of nonfiction. As is the title essay of this collection, with its forty-one false starts, or serial attempts to capture the essence of the painter David Salle, which becomes a dazzling portrait of an artist. Malcolm is among the most intellectually provocative of authors, writes David Lehman in *The Boston Globe*, able to turn epiphanies of perception into explosions of insight. Here, in *Forty-one False Starts*, Malcolm brings together essays published over the course of several decades (largely in *The New Yorker* and *The New York Review of Books*) that reflect her preoccupation with artists and their work. Her subjects are painters, photographers, writers, and critics. She explores Bloomsbury's obsessive desire to create things visual and literary; the passionate collaborations behind Edward Weston's nudes; and the character of the German art photographer Thomas Struth, who is haunted by the Nazi...



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