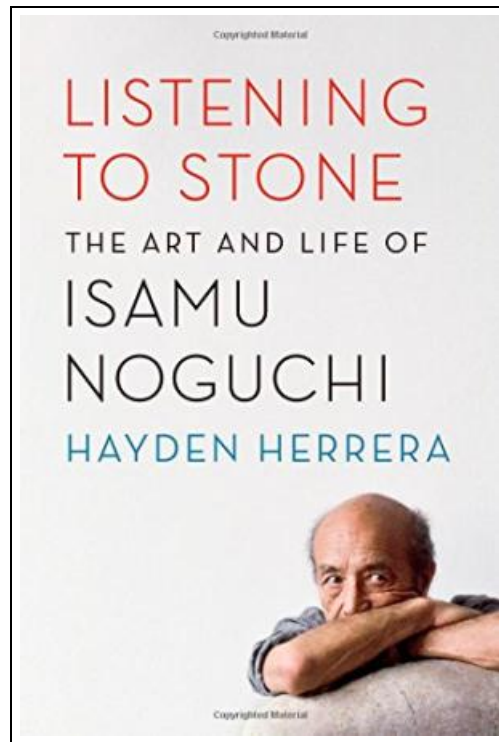


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LISTENING TO STONE: THE ART AND LIFE OF ISAMU NOGUCHI (HARDBACK)

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Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2015. Hardback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. Throughout the twentieth century, Isamu Noguchi was a vital figure in modern art. From interlocking wooden sculptures to massive steel monuments to the elegant Akari lamps, Noguchi became a master of what he called the sculpturing of space. But his constant struggle-as both an artist and a man-was to embrace his conflicted identity as the son of a single American woman and a famous yet reclusive Japanese father. It s only in art, he insisted, that it was ever possible for me to find any identity at all. In this remarkable biography of the elusive artist, Hayden Herrera observes this driving force of Noguchi s creativity as intimately tied to his deep appreciation of nature. As a boy in Japan, Noguchi would collect wild azaleas and blue mountain flowers for a little garden in front of his home. As Herrera writes, he also included a rock, to give a feeling of weight and permanence. It was a sensual appreciation he never abandoned. When looking for stones in remote Japanese quarries for his zen-like Paris garden forty years later, he would spend hours actually listening to the stones, scrambling from one to another until he found one that spoke to him. Constantly striving to take the essence of nature and distill it, Noguchi moved from sculpture to furniture, and from playgrounds to sets for his friend the choreographer Martha Graham, and back again working in wood, iron, clay, steel, aluminum, and, of course, stone. Noguchi traveled constantly, from New York to Paris to India to Japan, forever uprooting himself to reinvigorate what he called the keen edge of originality. Wherever he went, his needy disposition and boyish charm drew women to him, yet he tended to push...

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