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and K. Sawyer -- 9. The Social Construction of Creative Lives; C.

Mockros and M. Csikszentmihalyi -- 10. New Conceptions and Research Approaches to Creativity: Implications of a Systems Perspective for Creativity in Education; M. Csikszentmihalyi and R. Wolfe -- 11. The Pauling; J. Nakamura and M. Csikszentmihalyi -- 12. The Motivational Sources of Creativity as Viewed from the Paradigm of Positive Psychology; J. Nakamura and M. Csikszentmihalyi -- 13. The Group as Mentor: Social Capital and the Systems Model of Creativity; C. Hooker, J. Nakamura and M. Csikszentmihalyi -- 14. The Artistic Personality: A Systems Perspective; S. Abuhamdeh and M. Csikszentmihalyi -- 15. Creativity through the Life Span from an Evolutionary Systems Perspective; M. Csikszentmihalyi and J. Nakamura -- 16. Cortical Regions Involved in the Generation of Musical Structures During Improvisation in Pianists; S.L. Bengtsson, M. Csikszentmihalyi and F. Ullen -- 17. Creativity and Responsibility; M. Csikszentmihalyi and J. Nakamura -- 18. Complexity and Creativity; G. Gute, J. Nakamura and M. Csikszentmihalyi.

Sommario/riassunto

This first volume of the Collected Works of Mihaly Csikszentmihalvi represents his work on Art and Creativity. Starting with his seminal 1964 study on creativity up to his 2010 publication in Newsweek, the volume spans over four decades of research and writing, and clearly shows Csikszentmihalyi's own development as an academic, psychologist, researcher and person. Unconventional and unorthodox in his approach, Csikszentmihalyi chose the topic of creativity as a field of study believing it would help him be a better psychologist and advance his understanding of how to live a better life. The chapters in this volume trace the history of the study of creativity back to the days of Guilford and research on IQ and Jacob Getzels' work on creativity and intelligence. Firmly grounded in that history, yet extending it in new directions, Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi started his life-long study on artistic creativity. His first extensive study at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago enabled him to observe, test and interview fine art students drawing in a studio. The study formed the very basis of all his work on the subject, and has resulted in several articles, represented in this volume, on such creativity-related concepts as problem solving versus problem finding, the personality of the artist, the influence of the social context, creativity as a social construction, developmental issues, and flow. The main contribution to the topic of creativity, and also the main concept explored in this volume, is the Systems Model of Creativity. Seven chapters in this volume discuss the development of this conceptual model and theory.