Foreword

During the past few decades, the literature on creativity has increased tremendously both in breadth and depth. What has been missing up to now is a broad and well-grounded perspective on what the scholarship on creativity can and should contribute to humanity at large.

It is time for this vacuum to be filled; and the present volume is an important step in that direction. The chapters that follow encompass many different cultural perspectives, including China and Australia; several methodological perspectives, from neurophysiology to phenomenology; and examine a variety of populations, from schoolchildren to leading thinkers.

Because of the inclusiveness of its vision, the book cannot plumb in depth any single line of research; it is therefore most useful as a guide to new ideas, fresh approaches, and possible applications of this essential potential of the human mind. As such it is a fundamental contribution to the next phase of creativity research: that in which a mature science begins to be applied to the improvement of everyday life.

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