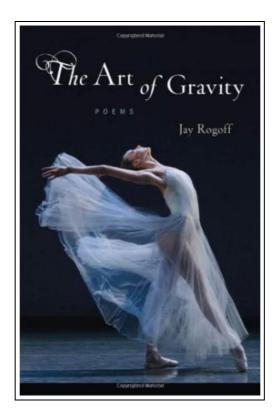
The Art of Gravity (Paperback)



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Reviews

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(Myah Williamson)

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Louisiana State University Press, United States, 2011. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. George Balanchine, one of the twentieth century s foremost choreographers, strove to make music visible through dance. In The Art of Gravity, Jay Rogoff extends this alchemy into poetry, discovering in dancing -- from visionary ballets to Lindy-hopping at a drunken party -- the secret rhythms of our imaginations and the patterns of our lives. The poems unfold in a rich variety of forms, both traditional and experimental. Some focus on how Edgar Degas s paintings expose the artifice and artistic self-consciousness of ballet while, paradoxically, illuminating how it creates rapture. Others investigate dance s translation of physical gesture into allegorical mystery, especially in Balanchine s matchless works. Rogoff pays tribute to superb dancers who grant audiences seductive glimpses of the sublime and to all of us who find in dance a redemptive image of ourselves. The poet reveals dance as an art of gravity in the illusory weightlessness of a dance that ends in mid-air, in the clumsiness of a Latin dance class s members trip- / ping over each other in the high school / gym, and in the exploration of ultimate Gravity -- a sonnet sequence titled Danses Macabres. Ultimately, Rogoff confronts with unflinching precision the dark consummation of all our dancing.



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