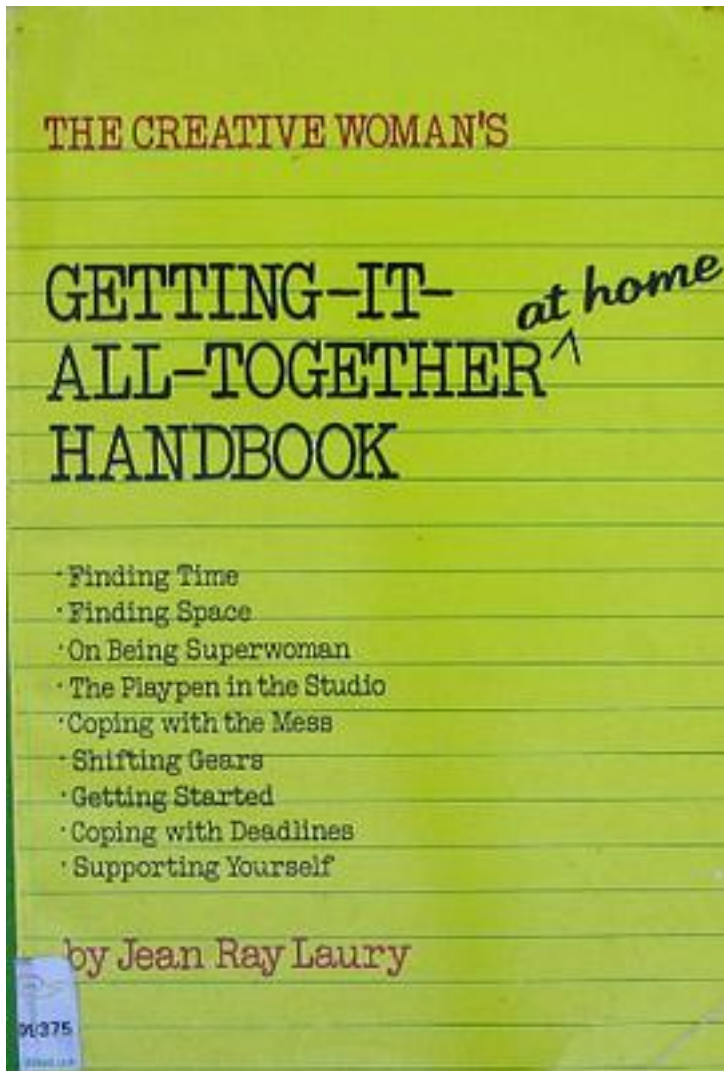


The Creative Woman's Getting-It-All-Together Handbook



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著者:Jean R. Laury

出版者:

出版时间:1988-12

装帧:

isbn:9780961480400

Introduction
There is a lot of sifting and stirring going on in kitchens today and not all of it goes into the muffins. Priority-shifting has prompted many women to shut the door to the laundry or pantry and open the door to a studio. A diminishing concern about the brightness of their washes allows more time for their creative work. One result of this stirring and sifting is a blending of roles—a mixing of ingredients which may not always be compatible. The combination of roles in which a woman performs as artist/mother/home-maker[wife requires a tremendous amount of "getting it all together." How does she manage? She finds no set formulas. While no one woman knows everything about getting it together—every woman knows something about it. Obviously—by pooling our "somethings" we have access to a lot of information and an opportunity to discover some new perspectives on ourselves. Abundantly creative women all over the country are producing work under varying conditions and pressures. Some artists flower working full time in studios away from home—but most of them create their work at the kitchen table with children scampering underfoot—dinner simmering on the stove—and a husband observing (somewhat apprehensively) the creative milieu. What motivates the creative woman? Where does she learn to juggle her various roles? Can she successfully combine a serious professional career with homemaking—and child-rearing? Here are responses from women of all ages—at various stages in their careers—who have achieved differing degrees of success. Most are involved with fiber arts as well as with teaching—designing—photographing—writing—or lecturing. Yet their commitments seem equally applicable to women in all areas of creative work which are pursued individually. The painter—musician—poet—composer—illustrator—or sculptor will find much that pertains to her. The woman who manages any small business—publication—mail-order or free-lance work will also find parallels. Portions of the book deal with the pressures on any working woman—whether she works in her home or away. Many fiber artists have contributed to this book in writing—through conversations—and in group discussions. Their willingness to share their experiences in an open—perceptive—and honest way has been overwhelming and touching. It is their purpose and mission to help other women find pleasure in meeting to some greater degree their own creative needs—to help them recognize their alternatives—and (perhaps most of all) to let them know that their problems and frustrations are not isolated and individual—but are shared by all women who combine creative pursuits with some of the more traditional woman's roles.

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