

*'Bright Stars is a compelling reflection on the concept of legacy. Bryan's wide-ranging assessment of artists we lost too soon proves that longevity in art is rewarded to the stars that burn the brightest, however fleeting their lives and careers.'* – MARIA BALSHAW, DIRECTOR OF TATE



# Bright Stars

Great Artists Who Died Too Young

By Kate Bryan

Illustrations by Anna Higgin

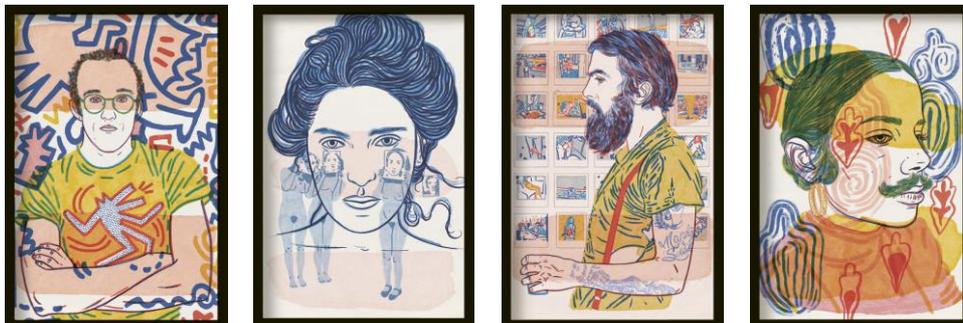
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Some of the world's greatest and most-loved artists died under the age of forty. But how did they turn relatively short careers into such long legacies? What drove them to create, against all the odds? And how can we use these stories to re-evaluate artists lost to the shadows, or whose legacies are not yet secured? In *Bright Stars*, Kate Bryan examines the lives and legacies of 30 great artists who died too young.

Most artists have decades to hone their craft, win over the critics and forge their reputation, but that's not the case for the artists in this book. Art heavyweights Vincent van Gogh and Jean-Michel Basquiat have been mythologised by their early deaths, playing a key role in their posthumous fame. Others, such as Aubrey Beardsley and Noah Davis, were driven to create knowing their time was limited. For some, premature death, compounded by gender and racial injustice, meant being left out of the history books – as was the case with Amrita Sher-Gil, Charlotte Salomon and Pauline Boty, now championed by Kate Bryan in this important re-appraisal. And, as Caravaggio and Vermeer's stories show us, it can take centuries for forgotten artists to be given the recognition they truly deserve.

With each artist comes a unique and often surprising story about how lives full of talent and tragedy were turned into brilliant legacies that still influence and inspire us today. This is a celebration of talent so great it shines on.



*'Bryan's writing pops and zings like a Basquiat painting – and reminds us why truly great artists are immortal.'* – NOEL FIELDING

## The Artists

Keith Haring, Jean-Michel Basquiat, Caravaggio, Dash Snow, Vincent van Gogh, Amedeo Modigliani, Francesca Woodman, Ana Mendieta, Félix González-Torres, Raphael, Yves Klein, Gordon Matta-Clark, Robert Mapplethorpe, Egon Schiele, Paula Modersohn-Becker, Amrita Sher-Gil, Johannes Vermeer, Robert Smithson, Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec, Aubrey Beardsley, Noah Davis, Eva Hesse, Charlotte Salomon, Umberto Boccioni, Gerda Taro, Joanna Mary Boyce, Pauline Boty, Helen Chadwick, Khadija Saye, Bartholomew Beal.

## About Kate Bryan

Kate Bryan is an arts broadcaster, curator, mentor and writer. Her first book, *The Art of Love* (White Lion Publishing, 2019) profiled 30 artist couples across 150 years exploring the passionate, challenging and loving relationships behind some of the world's greatest works of art. Bryan is Head of Collections for Soho House acquiring new work for all new sites globally and custodian to the permanent collection of nearly 6000 artworks. Bryan has written and presented television programmes for Sky Arts, Sky Arte Italia, BBC Two and BBC Four. She is the presenter of *Inside Art* and a judge on the annual Sky Arts competition programmes *Portrait Artist of the Year* and *Landscape Artist of the Year*. @katebryan\_art

*“Kate Bryan marshalls a wealth of fascinating detail about artists’ lives cut sadly short... and in sprightly prose brings their work vividly to life.” – JOAN BAKEWELL*

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