



## Advanced Information Sheet

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**Title:** Nat Tate – an American artist 1928-1960

**Author**

William Boyd

**Format**

Hardback, 160 x 210mms portrait

**ISBN:** 1 901785-01-7

**Extent:** 72 pp

**Publication date**

April 1998

**Illustrations**

29 b & w, 5 colour, integrated

**Price :** £9.99/\$15.99

**Category :** art, fiction

**Source** 21 Publishing

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### Description

'On an assignment in New York, William Boyd visited a group show where he chanced upon a drawing by an artist called Nat Tate. Intrigued by what he saw, he began to unravel the sad but intriguing story of this Abstract Expressionist painter whose brief career ended tragically, and almost without a trace, at the age of 31.'

Such is the nominal explanation for Boyd's enthralling and hilarious fake biography. At heart, this is an investigation of authenticity: what make something real as opposed to invented? The answer lies, almost exclusively, in the way it is presented. Photos, documentation, personal reminiscence by others, acknowledgments, notes, copyright declarations, permissions, and, of course, the 'monograph' format itself.

Nat Tate is both an unusual spoof and also a fascinating investigation of the blurry line between the invented and the authentic, the wholly false and the utterly real.

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### Selling Points

- A unique book by one of Britain's most popular writers.
- The uncovering of the spoof created a storm of publicity in both New York and London.
- The book can be enjoyed both as straight art biography and as fiction
- Scattered throughout the book are clues to its 'real' status.

### Quotes

'A moving account of an artist too well understood for his time.' Gore Vidal

'Novelist William Boyd's slim monograph on a little-known American painter may be his masterpiece.' The Independent

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