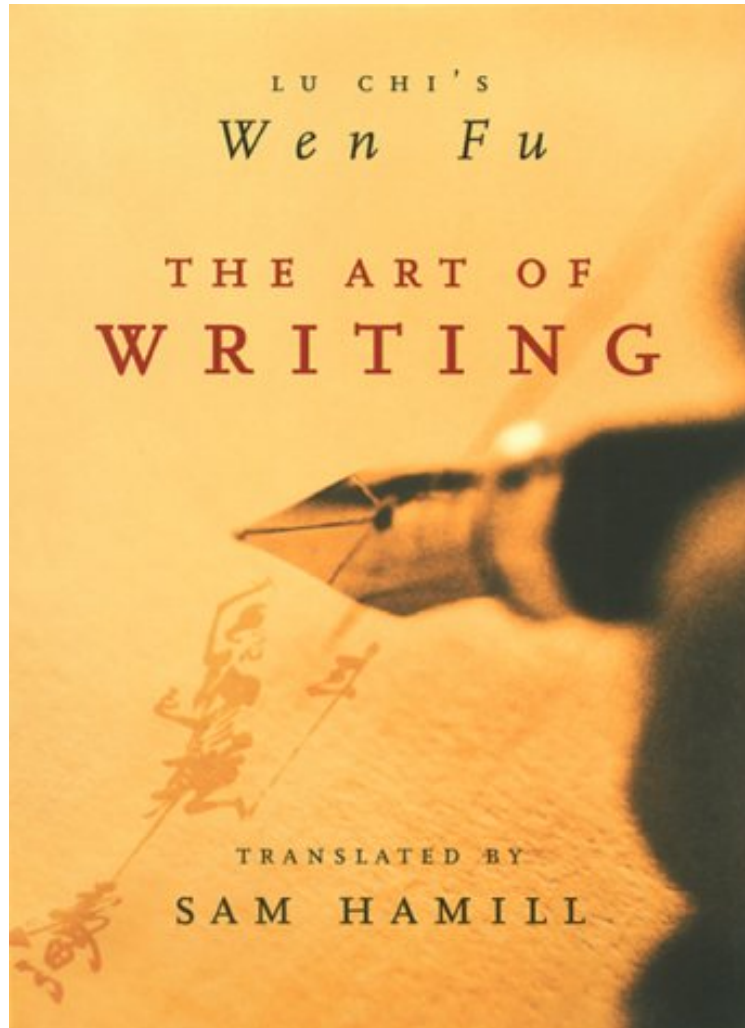


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From Brand: Milkweed Editions : The Art of Writing: Lu Chi's Wen Fu before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Art of Writing: Lu Chi's Wen Fu:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. If Lao Tzu wrote a book on writing...By Tao1stA quick and inspirational read, "The Art of Writing" strips away the technical and verbose over analyzing of what it is to write and strikes at the soul of what it is to be a writer. A poetic dive into the waters of creativity, the text addresses the importance of being sincere in execution and subject matter, the reality of writer's block, where inspiration can be found, etc. It reads like a flowery version of the Tao Te Ching at times, but I mean that in a good way. Never pretentious, it strives to inspire, rather than school. It may come off as arty for some, but for me, it struck all the "write" chords ;)0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Emory Holmes IIA masterwork by a

master little known in the West. 2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A sublime work from both writers. By Customer I am humbled and grateful to learn that Sam Hamill led the Poets against the war, just a week after getting a copy of Lu Chi's work. That effort, like Lu Chi's work, could well be an honest warrior's work, as poet's work. My perspective for these author's work is rooted in my being a modest (unaccomplished) student of Chinese, Indian and Japanese thought and martial arts for more than 30 years. To read Lu Chi, Sam Hamill is transparent - it is like watching Meryl Streep play Julia Child, or consummate Aikido proponent, Bob Poresky use Ikkyo to defend against the 15 attacks. Their signature piece is in leaving not a trace of themselves apparent. And like these masterful artists, in this translation it seems that Lu Chi's work rings through effortlessly and true. Likewise, it also seems to me that Lu Chi's essay is as relevant to martial arts or perhaps any art, as it is to writing, at least in several significant ways. He calls for and insists on honesty in work. Each word, no more or less than truth. And how do you know? This book directs you, as well. In similar manner it directs you to where your truth, or story, or character, or interpretation arises. This I suspect is the place where writer's revision takes place, as it is for rehearsal for actors, and training for martial artists. Heed where Lu Chi directs the writer. Coming from that place seems to be what gives birth to mastery. Lu Chi appears to do all this effortlessly, too by capturing the essence of classical thought. It suggests that, as it appears as true today, in Lu Chi's writing and Sam's honest translation, as it was 17 hundred years ago, is why its called classical. And as for writers reading this review, Sam's work also illuminated for me why so many accomplished poets translate. This work, which appears to transcend personality, may well define the essence of his character as a writer. Cheers

Written in 200 C.E., the Wen Fu is one of the first Chinese works about the use of language. Discussing the joys and problems that face both writer and reader, it is for those who wish to engage the art of letters at its deepest level. "These timeless poems delve into the heart of writing." - Cleveland Plain Dealer Poet

.com It's hard to believe that a book written around 200 A.D. can so poignantly cut to the quick of writing's agony and ecstasy. Everything that concerns the writer is beautifully addressed, from writer's block ("Sometimes the door remains bolted") to language's limitations ("all their real jewels cannot fill the cup I make of my fingers"), upwards to the writer's re-vision of themes ("a common song sung to a great melody is another way to find beauty") and the joy of creating ("in a single yard of silk, there is infinite space"). This book offers a fresh perspective out of an ancient text. Language Notes Text: English (translation) Original Language: Chinese