

### GENIUS AND MADNESS

Lunatics, Psychopaths and the  
Measure of Genius

BY **MASSIMO CENTINI**

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Plato used to say that madness is a gift of the Gods. It is true that mental disorder has often been associated with artistic production, and the alleged connection between the two has always intrigued philosophers, playwrights and poets. The figures of the lunatic artist, the tormented musician, the distraught poet, belong to our collective imaginary.

This book is a dense, careful analysis of the relationship between creative genius and mental disorder at all levels, from melancholia to psychopathology. The author focuses on this challenging subject from the analytical, anthropological point of view; at the same time, his investigation approaches the question with the awareness that in the creative mind lies one of the unfathomable mysteries of human life.

The book includes pictures that will guide the reader in the journey towards the discovery of the connection between 'genius and madness'.

**MASSIMO CENTINI** is a Cultural Anthropologist. He has published a considerable number of books, and works for universities and museums. He has also been Professor of Cultural Anthropology at the Institute of Design of Bolzano. Currently he teaches Cultural Anthropology at the Fondazione Università Popolare (Turin) and is a lecturer of History of Criminology at MUA - Movimento Universitario Altoatesino (Bolzano).

