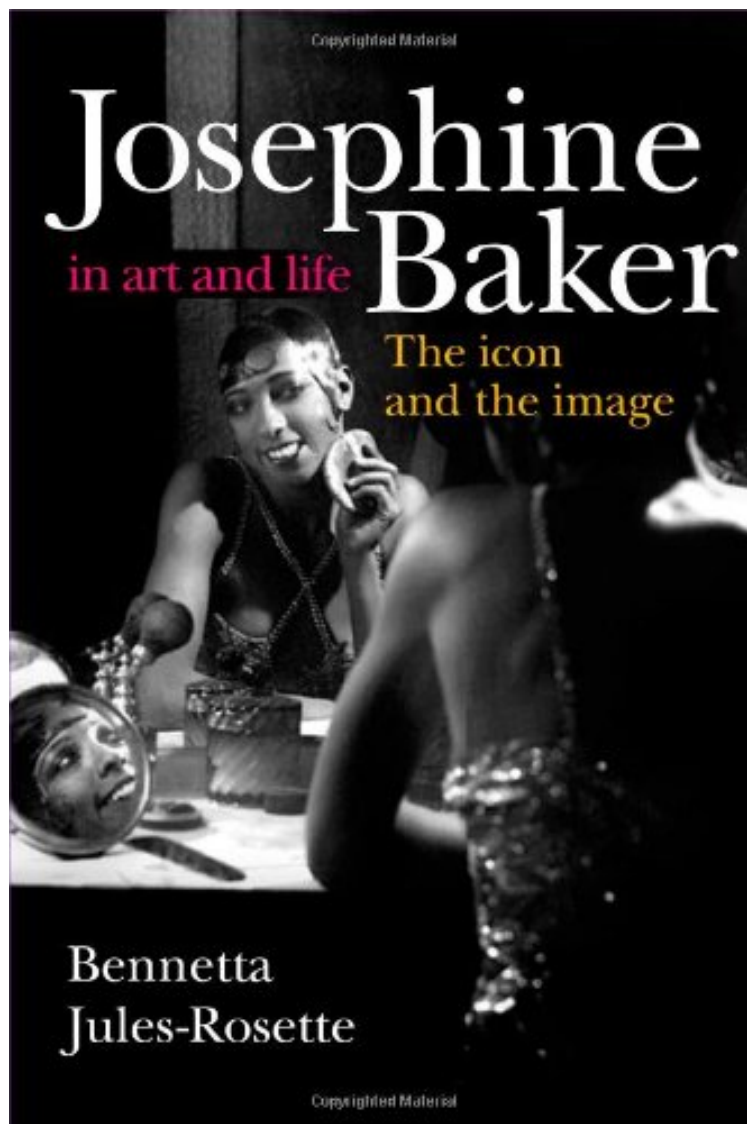


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Josephine Baker in Art and Life: The Icon and the Image

Bennetta Jules-Rosette

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Bennetta Jules-Rosette : Josephine Baker in Art and Life: The Icon and the Image before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Josephine Baker in Art and Life: The Icon and the Image:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. You go Josephine!By CustomerA wonderful biography of a wonderful woman! A must read! Travel her journey throughout the fun of Paris and the racism prevalent in the USA back then.2 of 11 people found the following review helpful. Josephine Baker in art and lifeBy TinaThe book arrived

in a timely manner and was in excellent condition, with a hand written thank you from the seller. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Superb Biography of Josephine Baker, Focusing on What was Behind her Great Artistry By B. Illes Highly recommend this study of Josephine Baker's tremendous gifts and artistry. Quote fascinating. This amazing star was a shining light in a world that was exciting, and still tinged with difficulties for a black female performer (it's a myth that Paris and Europe was whole heartedly accepting of her; but certainly more so than her native United States). She made the necessary adjustments to thread the needle between being seductive and not "threatening". She used her great gifts of comedy, and shrewd discernment of her audience, to make the largest impact she could. Of course she became very business savvy, and entertainment savvy, and that is why she's a legend. Hopefully she will be studied and remembered forever. This book will help that cause. Nicely written, plenty of illustrations.

Josephine Baker (1906-1975) was a dancer, singer, actress, author, politician, militant, and philanthropist, whose images and cultural legacy have survived beyond the hundredth anniversary of her birth. Neither an exercise in postmodern deconstruction nor simple biography, *Josephine Baker in Art and Life* presents a critical cultural study of the life and art of the Franco-American performer whose appearances as the savage dancer Fatou shocked the world. Although the study remains firmly anchored in Josephine Baker's life and times, presenting and challenging carefully researched biographical facts, it also offers in-depth analyses of the images that she constructed and advanced. Bennetta Jules-Rosette explores Baker's far-ranging and dynamic career from a sociological and cultural perspective, using the tools of sociosemiotics to excavate the narratives, images, and representations that trace the story of her life and fit together as a cultural production.

From Publishers Weekly: Savage dancer, Black Venus, exotic Jazz Age star, liberated new woman, gender-bending cross-dresser, mother, socialist, war hero and writer. Josephine Baker (1906-1975) was all of those in life and in the images she projected. In this vibrant if academic portrait of Baker, Jules-Rosette alerts the reader that this is "not a biography" but an exploration of "the complex construction of Baker's multiple images in art and life." The first part opens with the tourist attractions that Baker sparked, not with her birth, then moves through her stage performance history, and concludes with an analysis of her films and films about her. In Part II, Baker emerges as a fully independent figure, influencing the art and fashion worlds, and in Part III, Jules-Rosette discusses the obstacles Baker confronted as she struggled to promote her ahead-of-its-time multicultural worldview. Jules-Rosette's scholarly deconstruction, generously documented (including more than 50 illustrations) and supplemented with a chronology, particularly helpful in a thematically structured work, will reward Baker fans. As well, the book's careful documentation, ample bibliography and discography add tremendous value for readers engaged in cultural, ethnic, diaspora or women's studies. (Apr.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

From Booklist: Josephine Baker, a sexy and glamorous expat African American, took Jazz Age Paris by storm and left behind an array of sparkling images. Here she is, svelte and jubilant, dancing topless in a little banana-skirt; resplendent in a slinky beaded gown; smiling mischievously in tuxedo and top hat. Sociology professor Jules-Rosette saw Baker in person during the March on Washington in 1963, imposing in her French air force uniform. A century after her birth in St. Louis, Baker--revolutionary performer, cabaret owner, movie star, fashion plate, hero of the French Resistance, humanitarian, and mother of 12 adopted children of diverse backgrounds--is an indelible icon. And it is that status that Jules-Rosette so thoroughly analyzes as she deconstructs Baker's self-mythologizing ability to transform "her theatrical performances into social and political statements," and "dream of universal brotherhood." Jules-Rosette's rigorously academic approach, replete with priceless illustrations, is enlightening in spite of its pedantry. If readers turn first to *Josephine: The Hungry Heart* (1993) or *The Josephine Baker Story* (2000), they will more fully appreciate Jules-Rosette's insightful exegesis. Donna Seaman Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved. "Baker enthusiasts will be grateful for Jules-Rosette's challenges to other studies of Baker's life and legend. . . . It deserves a wide general readership and a significant place in the canon of Franco-American cultural studies and twentieth century French and American history."--Women's of Books