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Everything She Touched

The Life of Ruth Asawa

By Marilyn Chase

7¼ x 9¼ in, 224pp, Hardcover, B&W photos throughout

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Everything She Touched recounts the incredible life of American sculptor Ruth Asawa (1926–2013), a woman who wielded imagination and hope in the face of intolerance and who transformed everything she touched into art. This lively and compelling new book by journalist and author Marilyn Chase is the first biography of this major American artist.

Asawa's art is both extraordinarily beautiful and entirely unique. Her most famous works are her hanging wire sculptures—sinuous, intricate, and seemingly weightless metal pieces that she created from humble materials. They are widely celebrated and are now exhibited in museums and galleries all over the world.

Ruth Asawa was born and raised on a California farm. She survived the World War II-era Japanese American internment camps, and after the war traveled to Mexico and later attended the groundbreaking school at Black Mountain College, where she began experimenting with new forms of art.

Asawa forged an unconventional path in everything she did—whether raising a multiracial family of six children, founding a high school dedicated to the arts, or pursuing her own art practice independent of the New York art market. She also created iconic urban public art as well as hundreds of sculptures and works on paper.

In this compelling biography, Marilyn Chase brings Asawa's story to vivid life. She draws on Asawa's extensive archives and weaves together many voices—family, friends, teachers, and critics—to offer a complex and fascinating portrait of this extraordinary woman.

About the Author

Marilyn Chase is a journalist, author, and teacher. She spent over two decades at the *Wall Street Journal*, and her previous books include *The Barbary Plague: The Black Death in Victorian San Francisco*. As a continuing lecturer at U.C. Berkeley's Graduate School of Journalism, Chase now teaches reporting and writing to a new generation of journalists. She lives in San Francisco.

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