NEW THIS WEEK

What Great Paintings Say: 100 Masterpieces in Detail

This important addition to our understanding of art history’s masterworks puts some of the world’s most famous paintings under a magnifying glass to uncover their smallest and most subtle elements and all they reveal about a bygone time, place, and culture. Guiding our eye to the minutiae of subject and symbolism, this bestselling study allows even the most familiar of pictures to be re-discovered through myriad intricacies and intrigues. As we pick apart each painting and then reassemble it like a giant jigsaw puzzle, these celebrated canvases captivate not only in their sheer wealth of details but also in the witness they bear to fashions and trends, people and politics, loves and lifestyles of their time.

Bargain price: $19.98, hardcover.

NEW THIS WEEK

Caravaggio: The Complete Works

Each painting of Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio (1571-1610) appears from recent top-quality photography, allowing for a vivid encounter with the artist’s ingenious repertoire of looks and gestures, as well as numerous detail shots of his boundary-breaking naturalism.
whether a grubby foot or the soft folds of a sagging stomach. Five accompanying chapters trace the complete arc of Caravaggio’s career from his first public commissions in Rome through to his growing celebrity status, while the book’s detailed chronology traces his tempestuous personal life, in which drama loomed as prominently as in his chiaroscuro canvases. **Bargain price:** $19.98, hardcover.

**NEW THIS WEEK**

**Abandoned Places**

Belgian airline pilot Henk Van Rensbergen indulged a passion for finding and photographing the most wonderful, secret, haunting, and long forgotten places in the world. While his crew was resting at the pool between flights, he explored deserted city palaces, overgrown factories, or desolate areas of nature, finding beauty in the decay. This engaging book of photographs, a revised edition with new material, lets us wander through abandoned places, including Abkhazia, a break-away region bordering Georgia and Russia and the newest must-visit for every urban explorer. $22.50, hardcover.

**The Precipice: Existential Risk and the Future of Humanity**

If all goes well, human history is just beginning. Our species could survive for billions of years—enough time to end disease, poverty, and injustice, and to flourish in ways unimaginable today. But this vast future is at risk. With the advent of nuclear weapons, humanity entered a new age, where we face existential catastrophes—those from which we could never come back. Since then, these dangers have only multiplied, from climate change to engineered pathogens and artificial intelligence. If we do not act fast to reach a place of safety, it will soon be too late. Drawing on over a decade of research, *The Precipice* explores the cutting-edge science behind the risks we face. It puts them in the context of the greater story of humanity: showing how ending these risks is among the most pressing moral issues of our time. And it points the way forward, to the actions and strategies that can safeguard humanity. $30.00, hardcover.
Italian, Latin, and Spanish as well as visual and material evidence. He explores the crucial decisions that created and preserved this vast empire, analyzes Charles’s achievements within the context of both personal and structural factors, and scrutinizes the intimate details of the ruler’s life for clues to his character and inclinations. The result is a unique biography that interrogates every dimension of Charles’s reign and views the world through the emperor’s own eyes. $35.00, hardcover.

Epidemics and Society: From the Black Death to the Present

This sweeping, multidisciplinary exploration of the major epidemics since the Black Death reveals the impact of diseases, ranging from bubonic plague to Ebola on both medical and social history, and examines the contemporary question of our preparedness against the next generation of diseases. Author Frank M. Snowden is Professor Emeritus of History and History of Medicine at Yale University, and this book is part of Yale’s Open Courses book series based on the author’s undergraduate lecture course at Yale during the immediate aftermath of SARS and Ebola, which (as Guardian critic Tim Adams wrote recently) “exposed for him the vulnerability of modern society to sudden outbreaks of infectious diseases… Snowden examined not only how the modern world was created in response to the primary plague event, the Black Death, but also how that event still shadows the response of governments to epidemics… Of all the conditions that promote virulent disease, hubris emerges across the centuries as a prime mover… In an updated introduction to his book, Snowden traces a comparable arrogance in our own leaders, who have allowed global inequalities to foster the illusion that infectious diseases, old and new, are a thing of the past.” Know your enemy or enemies! $22.00, paperback.

Black Death at the Golden Gate: The Race to Save America from the Bubonic Plague

The passing away of a Chinese immigrant in San Francisco on March 6, 1900, would have been unremarkable if a city health officer hadn’t noticed a swollen black lymph node—a sign of bubonic plague. Empowered by racist pseudo-science, officials rushed to quarantine Chinatown; if the devastating disease was not contained, San Francisco would become the American epicenter of an outbreak that had already claimed 10 million lives worldwide. Meanwhile, the city fathers and industrialists of the state mounted a cover-up to obscure the threat, while federal health officer Rupert Blue spearheaded a relentless crusade for sanitation, patrolling the squalid streets of the city, examining gory black buboes, and dissecting diseased rats that put the fate of the entire country at risk. $26.95, hardcover.

Empress: The Astonishing Reign of Nur Jahan

This bestseller by Emory professor Ruby Lal is new in paperback! When it came to hunting, she was a master shot. An ingenious architect, she innovated the use of marble in her parents’ mausoleum on the banks of the Yamuna River, which inspired her stepson’s Taj Mahal. She was both celebrated and reviled for her political acumen.
and diplomatic skill. In 1611, 34-year-old Nur Jahan, daughter of a Persian noble and widow of a subversive official, became the 20th and most cherished wife of the Emperor Jahangir. While other wives were secluded behind walls, Nur ruled the vast Mughal Empire alongside her husband, and governed in his stead as his health failed and his attentions wandered from matters of state. Nur led troops into battle to free Jahangir when he was imprisoned by one of his own officers. She signed and issued imperial orders, and coins of the realm bore her name. This is a deeply researched and evocative biography that awakens us to a fascinating history. $19.95, paperback.

**Scientifica Historica: How the World’s Great Science Books Chart the History of Knowledge**

This beautifully illustrated, essay-based survey reviews those books that marked the development of science from ancient civilizations to the new millennium. It’s divided into five eras and explores the leading scientific pioneers, discoveries, and books within them: the Ancient World, including the first-ever scientific documents produced and translated; Renaissance in Print, exploring the effects of the invention of the printing press and the exploration of the seas and skies; Modern Classical, surveying the nineteenth century and the development of science as a profession; Post-Classical, dissecting the twentieth century and the introduction of relativity, quantum theory, and genetics; and The Next Generation, the period from 1980 to the modern day, showing how science has become accessible to the general public. This book also includes a list of the 150 greatest science books published. $35.00, hardcover.

**Genesis: The Deep Origin of Societies**

A Carlos Museum Bookshop favorite author! An endlessly fascinating work of scientific thought and synthesis, *Genesis* is Pulitzer Prize-winning naturalist Edward O. Wilson’s twenty-first-century statement on Darwinian evolution. Asserting that religious creeds and philosophical questions can be reduced to purely genetic and evolutionary components, and that the human body and mind have a physical base obedient to the laws of physics and chemistry, Wilson demonstrates that the only way for us to fully understand human behavior is to study the evolutionary histories of nonhuman species. At least 17 of these species—among them the African naked mole rat and the sponge-dwelling shrimp—have been found to have advanced societies based on altruism and cooperation. $15.95, paperback.

**Frédéric Chaubin: CCCP**

Frédéric Chaubin’s award-winning architectural curiosity, *Cosmic Communist Constructions Photographed*, explores 90 buildings in 14 former Soviet Republics. Each of these structures expresses what Chaubin considers the fourth age of Soviet architecture, an unknown burgeoning that took place from 1970 until 1990. In their puzzle of styles and their outlandish strategies, these buildings are extraordinary remnants of a collapsing Soviet Russian system. In their diversity and local exoticism, they testify both to the vast geography of the USSR and the encroaching end.
of the Soviet Union, the holes in a widening net. At the same time, they immortalize many of the ideological dreams of the country and its time, from an obsession with the cosmos to the rebirth of identity. **Bargain price: $19.98, hardcover.**

**Notes from an Apocalypse: A Personal Journey to the End of the World and Back**

We’re alive in a time of worst-case scenarios: climate change, crumbling alliances, a pandemic bringing the global community to a halt. How is a person supposed to live in the shadow of such a grim future? Dublin-based writer Mark O’Connell is consumed by these questions and, as the father of two young children, he finds them increasingly urgent. Here he crosses the globe in pursuit of answers, touring survival bunkers in South Dakota, venturing to New Zealand where billionaires are retreat- ing and banking on civilization’s collapse. He engages with would-be Mars colonists, prep- pers, and right-wing conspiracists. And he bears witness to those places, like Chernobyl, that the future has already visited—real-life portraits of the end of the world as we know it. Both investigative and deeply personal, this is an affecting, humorous, and surprisingly hopeful meditation on our present moment. $27.95, hardcover.

**How the World Thinks: A Global History of Philosophy**

Julian Baggini sets out to expand our horizons, exploring the philosophies of Japan, India, China, and the Muslim world as well as the lesser-known oral traditions of Africa and Australia’s first peoples. Interviewing thinkers from around the globe, Baggini asks questions such as: why is the West more individualistic than the East? What makes secularism a less powerful force in the Islamic world than in Europe? And how has China resisted pressures for greater political freedom? $12.99, paperback.

**Irrationality: A History of the Dark Side of Reason**

From sex and music to religion and war, irrationality makes up the greater part of human life and history. Challenging conventional thinking about logic, natural reason, dreams, art and science, pseudoscience, the Enlightenment, the internet, jokes, lies, and death, Irrationality shows how history reveals that any triumph of reason is temporary and reversible, and that rational schemes, notably including many from Silicon Valley, often result in their polar opposite. Illuminating unreason at a moment when the world appears to have gone mad again, Irrationality is fascinating, provocative, and timely. $29.99, hardcover.

**The Ends of the World: Volcanic Apocalypses, Lethal Oceans, and Our Quest to Understand Earth’s Past Mass Extinctions**

Using the visible clues five past devastations have left behind in the fossil record, The Ends of the World takes us inside “scenes of the crime” from South Africa to the New York Palisades to tell the story of each extinction. Brannen examines the fossil record—which is rife with creatures like dragonflies the
size of sea gulls and guillotine-mouthed fish—and introduces us to the researchers on the front lines who, using the forensic tools of modern science, are piecing together what really happened at the crime scenes of the Earth’s biggest who-dunits. $16.99, paperback.

**The Madness of Knowledge: On Wisdom, Ignorance, and Fantasies of Knowing**

Many human beings have considered the powers and the limits of human knowledge, but few have wondered about the power that the idea of knowledge has over us. Here is the first book to investigate this emotional inner life of knowledge: the lusts, fantasies, dreams, and fears that the idea of knowing provokes; in-depth discussions of the imperious will to know; of Freud’s *epistemophilia* (or love of knowledge); and the curiously insistent links between madness, magical thinking, and the desire for knowledge. $35.00, hardcover.

**Atlas Obscura: The Second Edition**

Created by the founders of AtlasObscura.com, the vibrant online travel community, this completely revised and updated second edition includes 120 new entries that offer readers even more of the most unusual, curious, bizarre, and mysterious places on earth as well as a full-color gatefold Atlas Obscura road trip map with a dream itinerary. Oversized, beautifully packaged, compellingly written, scrupulously researched, and filled with photographs, illustrations, maps, charts, and more, it is the book that inspires equal parts wonder and wanderlust. $37.50, hardback.


**Transcendence: How Humans Evolved Through Fire, Language, Beauty, and Time**

What enabled us to go from simple stone tools to smart phones? How did bands of hunter-gatherers evolve into multinational empires? In *Transcendence*, Gaia Vince argues that modern humans are the product of a nuanced co-evolution of our genes, environment, and culture that goes back into deep time. She explains how, through four key elements—fire, language, beauty, and time—our species diverged from the evolutionary path of all other animals, unleashing a compounding process that turned itself into something marvelous. $30.00, hardcover.

**Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind**

A runaway bestseller around the world! Dr. Yuval Noah Harari spans the whole of human history, from the very first humans to walk the earth to the radical—and sometimes devastating—breakthroughs of the Cognitive, Agricultural, and Scientific Revolutions. He explores how the currents of history have shaped our human societies, the animals and plants around us, and even our personalities. Have we become happier? Can we ever free our behavior from the heritage of our ancestors? And what, if anything, can we do to influence the course of the centuries to come? $24.99, paperback.
Musical obsessive Ted Gioia tells a 4,000-year history of music as a global source of power, change, and upheaval. He shows how social outcasts have repeatedly become trailblazers of musical expression: slaves and their descendants, for instance, have repeatedly reinvented music, from ancient times all the way to the jazz, reggae, and hip-hop sounds of the current day. He reclaims the story of music for the riffraff, insurgents, and provocateurs from Sappho to the Sex Pistols to Spotify. $35.00, hardcover.

Art has the power to change our lives. For many, becoming an artist is a lifelong dream. But how to make it happen? In How to Be an Artist, art critic Jerry Saltz of New York magazine, one of the art world’s most celebrated and passionate voices, offers an indispensable handbook for creative people of all kinds. Saltz offers invaluable insight into what really matters to emerging artists: originality, persistence, a balance between knowledge and intuition, and that most precious of qualities, self-belief. Teeming with full-color artwork from visionaries ancient and modern, this beautiful and useful book will help artists of all kinds—painters, photographers, writers, performers—realize their dreams. $22.00, hardcover.

What is consciousness? Is the mind a machine? What makes each of us a person? How do our bodies relate to our minds? Rowan Williams, former Archbishop of Canterbury, addresses these frequently asked questions with lucid meditations that draw from findings in neuroscience, philosophy, psychology, and literature. $12.00, paperback.

In the summer of 1885, three Frenchmen arrived in London for a few days’ intellectual shopping: a prince, a count, and a commoner with an Italian name. In time, each of these men would achieve a certain level of renown, but who were they then and what was the significance of their sojourn to England? Answering these questions, Julian Barnes unfurls the stories of their lives which play out against the backdrop of the Belle Époque in Paris. Our guide through this world is Samuel Pozzi, the society doctor, free-thinker and man of science with a famously complicated private life who was the subject of one of John Singer Sargent’s greatest portraits. In this vivid tapestry of people (Henry James, Sarah Bernhardt, Oscar Wilde, Proust, James
Whistler, among many others), place, and time, we have a fresh portrait of the Belle Époque; an illuminating look at the long-standing exchange of ideas between Britain and France; and a life of a man who lived passionately in the moment but whose ideas and achievements were far ahead of his time. $26.95, hardcover.

Ancient Egyptian Magic: A Hands-On Guide

Newly published! In the ancient world, if you needed a love charm, wanted to contact your dead wife, or needed the ability to fly like a bird, the magicians of Egypt were the ones who could make it happen. Historian Christina Riggs explores how the Egyptians thought about magic, who performed it and why, and helps readers understand why we’ve come to think of ancient Egypt in such a mystical way. Here you can learn how to cure scorpion bites, ensure that an annoying neighbor gets his comeuppance, and how to save a fortune on pregnancy tests—urinating on barley grains will answer that question. $24.95, hardcover.

Legendary Ladies: 50 Goddesses to Empower and Inspire You

From the beloved author and artist behind Bad Girls Throughout History comes this lushly illustrated book of goddesses from around the world: Aphrodite, the Greek goddess whose love overcame mortality; Mazu, the Chinese deity who safely guides travelers home; and Lakshmi, the Hindu provider of fortune and prosperity. These powerful deities and many more are celebrated in gorgeous artwork and enlightening essays that explore the feminine divine and encourage readers to empower themselves. $19.95, hardcover.

The Map of Knowledge: A Thousand-Year History of How Classical Ideas Were Lost and Found

This thrilling history tracks three crucial books as they were passed hand to hand through seven cities during a perilous thousand-year journey of survival. After the great library at Alexandria was destroyed, Baghdad, Cordoba, Toledo, Salerno, and Palermo were rare outposts of knowledge in a dark world, where dedicated scholars collected, translated, and shared texts. This book takes us into the sparkling intellectual life that flourished there, highlighting the role played by Arab scholars in improving the cornerstone ideas of Western thought, and how foundational works on math, astronomy, and medicine by Euclid, Ptolemy, and Galen eventually reached Venice, the major center of scientific printing, where their legacy was assured. $17.95, paperback.

Princesses Behaving Badly: Real Stories from History—Without the Fairy-Tale Endings

Real princesses didn’t always get happy endings. Sure, plenty were graceful and benevolent leaders, but just as many were ruthless in their quest for power, and all of them had skeletons rattling in their majestic closets. Princess Stephanie von Hohenlohe was a Nazi spy. Empress Elisabeth of the Austro-Hungarian Empire slept
wearing a mask of raw veal. Princess Olga of Kiev slaughtered her way to sainthood. And Princess Lakshmibai waged war on the battlefield with her toddler strapped to her back. $16.99, paperback.

The Mushroom at the End of the World: On the Possibility of Life in Capitalist Ruins

Matsutake is the most valuable mushroom in the world, and a weed that grows in human-disturbed forests across the northern hemisphere. Through its ability to nurture trees, matsutake helps forests to grow in daunting places. It is also an edible delicacy in Japan, where it sometimes commands astronomical prices. In all its contradictions, matsutake offers insights into areas far beyond just mushrooms and addresses a crucial question: what manages to live in the ruins we have made? A tale of diversity within our damaged landscapes, this book follows one of the strangest commodity chains of our times to explore the unexpected corners of capitalism. Here, we witness the varied and peculiar worlds of matsutake commerce: the worlds of Japanese gourmets, capitalist traders, Hmong jungle fighters, industrial forests, Yi Chinese goat herders, Finnish nature guides, and more. By investigating one of the world’s most sought-after fungi, The Mushroom at the End of the World presents an original examination into the relation between capitalist destruction and collaborative survival within multispecies landscapes, the prerequisite for continuing life on earth. $19.95, paperback.

The Maze: A Labyrinthine Compendium

Mazes have been a part of civilization for at least 4,000 years. The idea of the maze taps into so many subconscious notions: the game, the quest, the spiritual journey. This beautifully illustrated book will delight lovers of mazes, acting as a guide, directory, and puzzle book combined. Specially commissioned illustrations represent 60 real and imagined mazes from around the world with a bird’s eye view of each maze so that readers can make their own journey. Each maze is also accompanied by a fascinating and witty short history. $29.99, hardback.

The Sarpedon Krater: The Life and Afterlife of a Greek Vase

Perhaps the most spectacular of all Greek vases, the Sarpedon krater depicts the body of Sarpedon, a hero of the Trojan War, being carried away to his homeland for burial. It was decorated some 2,500 years ago by Athenian artist Euphronios, and its subsequent history involves tomb raiding, intrigue, duplicity, litigation, international outrage, and possibly even homicide. How this came about is told by Nigel Spivey in a concise, stylish book that braids together the creation and adventures of this extraordinary object with an exploration of its abiding influence. Spivey takes the reader on a dramatic journey, beginning with the krater’s looting from an Etruscan tomb in 1971 and its acquisition by the Metropolitan Mu-
seum of Art, New York, followed by a high-profile lawsuit over its status and its eventual return to Italy. He explains where, how, and why the vase was produced, retrieving what we know about the life and legend of Sarpedon. Spivey also pursues the figurual motif of the slain Sarpedon portrayed on the vase and traces how this motif became a standard way of representing the dead and dying in Western art, especially during the Renaissance. Fascinating and informative, The Sarpedon Krater is a multifaceted introduction to the enduring influence of Greek art on the world.

$25.00 hardcover.

The Source of Self Regard: Selected Essays, Speeches, and Meditations

Here is Toni Morrison in her own words—a rich gathering of her most important essays and speeches spanning four decades. These pages give us her searing prayer for the dead of 9/11, her Nobel lecture on the power of language, her searching meditation on Martin Luther King Jr., and her heart-wrenching eulogy for James Baldwin. She looks deeply into the fault lines of culture and freedom: the foreigner, female empowerment, the press, money, “black matter(s),” human rights, the artist in society, and the Afro-American presence in American literature. $16.95, paperback.

Zen: A Short Introduction

According to Alan Watts, “Zen taste deplores the cluttering of a picture or of a room with many objects.” In that sense, this minimalist book embodies the aesthetic of Zen itself. As with brushstrokes in a Japanese ink painting, the words have been used sparingly and arranged precisely, with no unnecessary detail. In seven brief chapters, Watts captures the essence of Zen Buddhism as a religion and a way of life. He explains fundamental Zen concepts, introduces revered Zen thinkers, places Zen within the broader context of Eastern religion, and traces the influence of Zen in the arts. Illustrated with calligraphy and drawings by the author, this reprint of an old classic will delight fans of Alan Watts, while introducing new readers to a legendary author who infused groundbreaking scholarship with literary brilliance. $16, hardcover.

In Bed with the Ancient Egyptians

In this fascinating and intimate insight into ancient Egyptian sex and sexuality, author Charlotte Booth demystifies an ancient way of life, drawing on archaeological evidence and the written record to build a picture of what really went on in the bedrooms of the pharaohs and their In.

In Bed with the Ancient Egyptians

Sex was a prominent part of ancient Egyptian society. It featured heavily in religion, mythology and artwork, and was not considered the taboo it is sometimes treated as in modern cultures. This book examines all aspects of ancient Egyptian sex lives, from idealized beauty and attitudes towards sexuality, to representations of fertility in art and the relationship between sex and religion. Many of the trials and tribulations that were faced are as relevant today as they were in the past: marriage, divorce and adultery are all discussed as well as
prostitution, homosexuality, sexual health and fertility. $16.95, paperback

The Selected Poems of Tu Fu: Expanded and Newly Translated by David Hinton

Tu Fu (712-770 C.E.) has for a millennium been widely considered the greatest poet in the Chinese tradition. Most of Tu Fu’s best poems were written in the last decade of his life, as an impoverished refugee fleeing the devastation of civil war. In the midst of these challenges, his always personal poems manage to combine a remarkable range of possibilities: elegant simplicity and great complexity, everyday life and grand historical drama, private philosophical depth and social engagement in a world consumed by war. Gary Snyder wrote: “Tu Fu said ‘A poet’s ideas are noble and simple.’ But Tu Fu does not seem so simple to us. One of the world’s finest poets is made available here.” $18.95, paperback.

How to Drink: A Classical Guide to the Art of Imbibing

Far more than merely another history of exploration, The Boundless Sea shows how maritime networks gradually formed a continuum of interaction and interconnection. Working chronologically, Abulafia moves from the earliest forays of peoples taking hand-hewn canoes into uncharted waters, to the routes taken daily by supertankers in the thousands. History on the grandest scale and scope, written with passion and precision, this is a project few could have undertaken. Abulafia, whom The Atlantic calls “superb writer with a gift for lucid compression and an eye for the telling detail,” proves again why he ranks as one of the world’s greatest storytellers. $39.95, hardcover.

Cultural Amnesia: Necessary Memories from History and the Arts

This international bestseller is an encyclopedic A-Z masterpiece, the perfect introduction to the very core of Western humanism. Author Clive James rescues, or occasionally destroys, the careers of many of the greatest thinkers, humanists, musicians, artists, and philosophers of the twentieth century. Soaring to Montaigne-like heights, Cultural Amnesia is precisely the book to burnish these memories of a Western civilization that James fears is nearly lost. $19.95, paperback.
Devotions: The Selected Poems of Mary Oliver

Carefully curated, these 200 plus poems feature Oliver’s work from her very first book of poetry, No Voyage and Other Poems, published in 1963 at the age of 28, through her most recent collection, Felicity, published in 2015. This timeless volume, arranged by Oliver herself, showcases the beloved poet at her edifying best. Within these pages, she provides us with an extraordinary and invaluable collection of her passionate, perceptive, and much-treasured observations of the natural world. $30.00, hardcover.

Gene Smith’s Sink: A Wide-Angle View

As a photo essayist at Life magazine in the 1940s and ’50s, W. Eugene Smith established himself as an intimate chronicler of human culture. When Smith died at age 59 in 1978, he left behind eighteen dollars in the bank and 44,000 pounds of archives. His death certificate read “stroke,” but, as was said of the immortal jazzman Charlie Parker, Smith died of “everything,” from drug and alcohol benders to weeklong work sessions with no sleep. In Gene Smith’s Sink, Stephenson merges traditional biography with rhythmic digressions to revive Smith’s life and legacy. Traveling across twenty-nine states, Japan, and the Pacific, Stephenson profiles a lively cast of characters, including the playwright Tennessee Williams, to whom Smith likened himself; the avant-garde filmmaker Stan Brakhage, with whom he once shared a Swiss chalet; the artist Mary Frank, who was married to his friend Robert Frank; the jazz pianists Thelonious Monk and Sonny Clark, whose music was taped by Smith in his loft; and a series of obscure caregivers who helped keep Smith on his feet. $15.00, paperback.

Uncommon Grounds

A comprehensive story of coffee from its discovery on a hill in ancient Abyssinia to the advent of Starbucks. Mark Pendergrast (bestselling author of For God, Country & Coca-Cola) reviews the dramatic changes in coffee culture over the past decade, from the disastrous “coffee crisis” that caused global prices to plummet to the rise of the Fair Trade movement and the “third-wave” of quality-obsessed coffee connoisseurs. As the scope of coffee culture continues to expand, Uncommon Grounds remains more than ever a brilliantly entertaining guide to the currents of one of the world’s favorite beverages. $24.99, paperback.

The Age of Surveillance Capitalism: The Fight for a Human Future at the New Frontier of Power

In this masterwork of original thinking and research, Shoshana Zuboff provides startling insights into the phenomenon that she has named surveillance capitalism: a global architecture of behavior modification threatening human nature in the twenty-first century just as industrial capitalism disfigured the natural world in the twentieth.
Vast wealth and power are accumulated in ominous new “behavioral futures markets,” where predictions about our behavior are bought and sold, and the production of goods and services is subordinated to a new “means of behavioral modification.” The threat has shifted from a totalitarian Big Brother state to a ubiquitous digital architecture: a “Big Other” operating in the interests of surveillance capital. One of the most celebrated recent books of nonfiction. $22.99, paperback.

The Secret Lives of Color

Kassia St. Clair’s best-selling book turns her lifelong obsession with colors and where they come from (Van Gogh’s chrome yellow sunflowers or punk’s fluorescent pink, for example) into a unique study of human civilization. A former assistant books and arts editor at The Economist, her popular columns on color for Elle Decoration sparked this book. $20.00, hardcover.

The Golden Thread: How Fabric Changed History

From colorful 30,000-year-old threads found on the floor of a Georgian cave to the Indian calicoes that sparked the Industrial Revolution, The Golden Thread weaves an illuminating story of human ingenuity. Design journalist Kassia St. Clair guides us through the technological advancements and cultural customs that would redefine human civilization from the fabric that allowed mankind to achieve extraordinary things (traverse the oceans and shatter athletic records) and survive in unlikely places (outer space and the South Pole). She peoples her story with a motley cast of characters, including Xiling, the ancient Chinese empress credited with inventing silk, to Richard the Lionhearted and Bing Crosby. $23.95, hardcover.

Craeft: An Inquiry Into the Origins and True Meaning of Traditional Crafts

Archaeologist and medieval historian Alexander Langlands reaches back as far back as the Neolithic period to recover our lost sense of craft, combining deep history with detailed scientific analyses and his own experiences making traditional crafts. Craeft brims with vivid storytelling, rich descriptions of natural landscape, and delightful surprises that will convince us to introduce more craft into our lives. $16.95, paperback.

The Rumi Prescription: How an Ancient Mystic Poet Changed My Modern Manic Life

To writer, activist, and Emory Alum, Melody Moezzi, Rumi’s writings became a lifeline. In The Rumi Prescription, we follow her path of discovery as she translates Rumi’s works for herself – to gain wisdom and insight in the face of a creative and spiritual roadblock. With the help of her father, who is a lifelong fan of Rumi’s poetry, she immerses herself in this rich body of work, and discovers a thirteenth-century prescription for modern life. $27.00, hardcover.
**Mythos: The Greek Myths Reimagined**

A new modern collection of Greek myths, stylishly retold by legendary writer, actor, and comedian Stephen Fry. Fry transforms the adventures of Zeus and the Olympians into emotionally resonant and deeply funny stories without losing any of their original wonder. $29.95, hardcover.

**The Shadow of Vesuvius: A Life of Pliny**

When Pliny the Elder perished at Stabiae during the eruption of Vesuvius in 79 AD, he left behind an enormous compendium of knowledge, his 37-volume *Natural History*, and a teenaged nephew who revered him as a father. Grieving his loss, Pliny the Younger inherited the Elder’s notebooks—filled with pearls of wisdom—and his legacy. Interweaving the younger Pliny’s *Letters* with extracts from the Elder’s *Natural History*, Daisy Dunn paints a vivid, compellingly readable portrait of two of antiquity’s greatest minds. $29.95, hardcover.

**Lives of the Ancient Egyptians**

This book by noted Egyptologist Toby Wilkinson includes stories of god-kings from great rulers such as Khufu and Ramesses II to less famous monarchs such as Amenemhat I and Osorkon; powerful queens such as Tiye, the beautiful Nefertiti, and the infamous Cleopatra; as well as ordinary women who are often overlooked in official accounts: Hemira, a humble priestess from a provincial Delta town, and Naunakht, whose will reveals the trials and tribulations of family life. $16.95, paperback.

**When Women Ruled the World: Six Queens of Egypt**

Hatshepsut, Nefertiti, and Cleopatra controlled the totalitarian state as power-brokers and rulers. Egyptologist Kara Cooney delivers a fascinating tale of female power, exploring the reasons why it has seldom been allowed through the ages—and why we should care. $16.99 paperback.

**The Fall of the Ancient Maya: Solving the Mystery of the Maya Collapse**

Ancient Maya civilization thrived in the tropics of Central America for more than a thousand years and produced some of the world’s finest architecture and art. Then it mysteriously vanished, leaving a landscape of ruins smothered by forests. The Classic Maya collapse is one of the great puzzles of history, ranking alongside the fall of Rome as a massive civilization-wide catastrophe that changed the course of history and an enigma that has intrigued scholars for generations. Orig. $34.95 hardcover, sale priced at $9.98.
Humans have “subdued 75 percent of the land surface, concocted a wizardry of industrial and medical marvels, strung lights all across the darkness.” We tinker with nature at every opportunity; we garden the planet with our preferred species of plants and animals, many of them invasive; and we have even altered the climate, threatening our own extinction. Yet we reckon with our own destructive capabilities in extraordinary acts of hope-filled creativity: we collect the DNA of vanishing species in a “frozen ark,” equip orangutans with iPads, and create wearable technologies and synthetic species that might one day outsmart us. This wondrous overview of our time takes us on an exhilarating journey through our new reality, introducing us to many of the people and ideas now creating, perhaps saving, our future and that of our fellow creatures. Orig. $27.95 hardcover, sale priced at $7.98.

The Future Is History: How Totalitarianism Reclaimed Russia

The award-winning New Yorker contributor and journalist Masha Gessen reveals how, in the space of a generation, Russia surrendered to a more virulent and invincible new strain of autocracy. In this National Book Award-winning book, Gessen follows the lives of four people born at what promised to be the dawn of democracy. Each of them came of age with unprecedented expectations, some as the children and grandchildren of the very architects of the new Russia, each with newfound aspirations of their own. Gessen charts their paths against the machinations of the regime that would crush them all, and against the war it waged on understanding itself, which ensured the unobstructed reemergence of the old Soviet order in the form of today’s terrifying and seemingly unstoppable mafia state. Powerful and urgent, The Future Is History is a cautionary tale for our time and for all time. Orig. $28.00 hardcover, sale priced at $7.98.

Lives in Ruins: Archaeologists and the Seductive Lure of Human Rubble

The names of these legendary archaeological sites conjure up romance and mystery. Archaeological research tantalizes us with possibilities (Are modern humans really part Neandertal?). Marilyn Johnson’s Lives in Ruins is an absorbing and entertaining look at the lives of contemporary archaeologists as they sweat under the sun for clues to the puzzle of our past. Johnson digs and drinks alongside archaeologists, chases them through the Mediterranean, the Caribbean, and even Machu Picchu, and excavates their lives. Her subjects share stories we rarely read in history books, about slaves and Ice Age hunters, ordinary soldiers of the American Revolution, children of the first century, Chinese woman warriors, sunken fleets, and mummies. What drives these archaeologists is not the money (meager), the jobs (scarce), or the working conditions (dangerous), but their passion for the stories that would otherwise be buried and lost. Orig. $25.99 hardcover, sale priced at $6.98.
It seems that ever since mankind was kicked out of the Garden of Eden for eating the forbidden fruit, we’ve been trying to get back in. Or at least, we’ve been wondering where the garden might have been. St. Augustine had a theory, and so did medieval monks, John Calvin, and Christopher Columbus. But when Darwin’s theory of evolution permanently altered our understanding of human origins, shouldn’t the search for a literal Eden have faded away? In Paradise Lust, Brook Wilensky-Lanford introduces readers to the enduring modern quest to locate the Garden of Eden on earth. It is an obsession that has consumed Mesopotamian archaeologists, British irrigation engineers, and the first president of Boston University among many others. These quixotic Eden seekers all started with the same brief Bible verses, but each ended up at a different spot on the globe: Florida, the North Pole, Ohio, China, and, of course, Iraq. Orig. $25.00 hardcover, sale priced at $5.98.

**Palimpsest: A History of the Written Word**

Why does writing exist? What does it mean to those who write? Born from the interplay of natural and cultural history, the seemingly magical act of writing has continually expanded our consciousness. Portrayed in mythology as either a gift from heroes or a curse from the gods, it has been used as both an instrument of power and a channel of the divine, a means of social bonding and of individual self-definition. Now, as the revolution once wrought by the printed word gives way to the digital age, many fear that the art of writing and the nuanced thinking nurtured by writing, are under threat. But writing itself, despite striving for permanence, is always in the midst of growth and transfiguration. Orig. $26.95 hardcover, sale priced at $7.98.

**The Black Death: A Personal History**

A Carlos Museum Bookshop bestseller! In this fresh approach to the history of the Black Death, John Hatcher, a world-renowned scholar of the Middle Ages, recreates everyday life in a mid-fourteenth century rural English village. By focusing on the experiences of ordinary villagers as they lived and died during the Black Death (1345–50 AD), Hatcher vividly places the reader directly into those tumultuous years and describes in fascinating detail the day-to-day existence of people struggling with the tragic effects of the plague. Dramatic scenes portray how contemporaries must have experienced and thought about the momentous events—and how they tried to make sense of it all. $18.00, paperback.

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