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NEW THIS WEEK

Young Rembrandt: A Biography

The celebrated Dutch writer Onno Blom immersed himself in Leiden, his hometown, the city in which Rembrandt was born in 1606 and where he spent his first 25 years. Blom tracked down old maps, sought out the Rembrandt family house and mill, and brings to life all the places Rembrandt would have known: the university, library, botanical garden, and anatomy theater. He investigated the concerns and tensions of the era, a time of plague and rebuilding after Spanish sieges, and examined the origins and influences that led to the paintings that marked the beginning of Rembrandt’s career as the paramount painter of the Dutch Golden Age. $30, hardcover.

NEW THIS WEEK

Iwígara: American Indian Ethnobotanical Traditions and Science

The belief that all life-forms are interconnected and share the same breath, known in the Rarámuri tribe as iwígara, has resulted in a treasury of knowledge about the natural world, passed down for millennia by native cultures. Ethnobotanist Enrique Salmón builds on this concept of connection and highlights 80 plants revered by North America’s Indigenous peoples. He teaches us the ways plants are used as food and medicine, the details of their identification and harvest, their important health benefits, plus their role in traditional stories and myths. Discover in these pages how the timeless wisdom of iwígara can enhance your own kinship with the natural world. $34.95, hardcover.
Piranesi’s house is no ordinary building: its rooms are infinite, its corridors endless, and its walls lined with thousands upon thousands of statues, each one different from all the others. Within the labyrinth of halls an ocean is imprisoned; waves thunder up staircases, rooms are flooded in an instant. There is one other person in the house, who visits Piranesi and asks for help with research into A Great and Secret Knowledge. But as Piranesi explores, evidence emerges of another person, and a terrible truth begins to unravel, revealing a world beyond the one Piranesi has always known. An astonishing new world, an infinite labyrinth, haunted by the tides and the clouds. $27, hardcover.

Bestselling author Edward Ball paints a portrait of his family’s anti-Black militant past that is part history, part memoir. Sifting through family lore, he reconstructs the story of his great-great grandfather, a white French Creole, who had a career in white terror that included massacres, night riding, masked marches, and street rampages, all part of a tireless effort that he and other Klansmen made to restore white power when it was threatened by the emancipation of 4,000,000 enslaved African Americans. To offer a non-white view of the Ku-Klux, Ball seeks out descendants of African Americans who were once victimized by “our Klansman” and shares their stories. $28, hardcover.

Despite a wingspan of six feet and a height of over two feet, looking like a small feathered bear, the Blakiston’s fish owl is one of the most mysterious birds on earth. Avian conservationist Jonathan Slaght and his team set out to locate the owls in the forests of eastern Russia to craft a conservation plan. This quest sends them on all-night monitoring missions in freezing tents, mad dashes across thawing rivers, and free-climbs up rotting trees to check nests for precious eggs. At the heart of this story are the fish owls themselves: cunning hunters, devoted parents, singers of eerie duets, and survivors in a harsh and shrinking habitat. Longlisted for the 2020 National Book Award. $28, hardcover.

An award-winning physician, scientist, and author makes the case that genetic females are stronger than males at every stage of life. Why is this, and why are we taught the opposite? With clear, captivating prose that weaves together eye-opening research, case studies, diverse examples ranging from the behavior of honeybees to American pioneers as well as experiences from his personal life and his own patients, Moalem explains why genetic females triumph over males when it comes to resiliency, intellect, stamina, immunity and much more. $27, hardcover.
**Artcurious: Stories of the Unexpected, Slightly Odd, and Strangely Wonderful in Art History**

Everyone knows Monet, thanks in no small part to ubiquitous reproductions of his water lilies on a million products. But did you know that Monet’s paintings were originally deemed unbelievably ugly and vulgar? And you probably know the tale of Vincent van Gogh’s suicide; were you aware there’s pretty compelling evidence that the artist didn’t die by his own hand but was accidentally killed, or even murdered. Or how about the fact that one of Andy Warhol’s most enduring legacies involves Caroline Kennedy’s moldy birthday cake and a collection of toenail clippings? Based on the popular ArtCurious podcast, this is a colorful look at the world of art history, revealing fascinating stories behind the world’s great artists and masterpieces. $17, paperback.

**Life Changing: How Humans Are Altering Life on Earth**

We are now living through the “post-natural phase,” where the fate of all living things is irrevocably intertwined with our own. We domesticated animals to suit our needs and altered their DNA. And this was only the beginning. As our knowledge grew, we found new ways to tailor the DNA of animals more precisely; we’ve now cloned police dogs and created a little glow-in-the-dark fish. Through climate change, humans have now affected even the most remote environments and their inhabitants, and studies suggest that through our actions we are forcing some animals to evolve at breakneck speed. Today, it’s not just the fittest that survive; sometimes it’s the ones we decide to let live. $28, hardcover.

**Time of the Magicians: Wittgenstein, Benjamin, Cassirer, Heidegger, and the Decade That Reinvented Philosophy**

Just published! As the horrors of World War I come to a close, the stage is set for a great intellectual drama that will unfold across the next decade. The lives and ideas of this extraordinary philosophical quartet will converge as they become world historical figures. But as World War II looms on the horizon, their fates will be very different. This book, which features not only philosophers but some of the most important economists, politicians, journalists, and artists of the century, traces the paths of these remarkable lives, illuminating with rare clarity their challenging and brilliant ideas. $30, hardcover.

**The Great Cat: Poems about Cats**

Poets across the continents and centuries have described the feline family—from kittens to old toms, pussycats to panthers—doing what they do best: sleeping, prowling, prancing, purring, sleeping some more, and gazing disdainfully at lesser beings like ourselves. Here are Yeats’s Minnaloushe, Christopher Smart’s Jeoffry, Lewis Carroll’s Cheshire Cat, T. S. Eliot’s Rum Tum Tugger, William Blake’s tyger and Rilke’s panther. Here are tributes from Sufi mystics, medieval Chinese poets, and haiku masters of imperial Japan, from Chaucer, Shelley, Borges, Neruda, Dickinson, and Shakespeare. Here are the cats of Mother Goose and the one who wore the hat for Dr. Seuss. $14.95, hardcover.
Organized thematically within a broadly chrono-
logical trajectory, this compelling book explores
how illusions perpetuated by magicians and fraud-
ulent mystics since the early 18th century can not
only deceive our senses but also teach us about
the inner workings of our minds. Mesmerism and
spiritualism gave rise to professional magicians
such as Houdini who set out to debunk paranor-
mal claims. The book also relates the interactions
between magicians, mys-
tics, and scientists over
the past 200 years. Illus-
trated throughout with
entertaining and bizarre
drawings, this unnerving
volume highlights how
unreliable our minds can
be. $35, hardcover.

A literary historian and
poet describes how
Gilgamesh is a work in
progress even now, an
undertaking that has
drawn on the talents and
obsessions of archaeolo-
gists, museum curators,
tomb raiders, and jihadis.
Fragments of the poem,
incised on clay tablets,
were scattered across a
huge expanse of desert
when it was recovered
in the 19th century and
had to be reassembled
and deciphered. Schmidt
reflects on the work of
leading poets whose own
encounters with the poem
are revelatory, and he
reads its many translations
and editions to bring it
vividly to life for readers.
$24.95, hardcover.

International bestseller!
A luminous portrait of
a marriage, of a family
ravaged by loss, and
an unforgettable re-
imagining of a boy
whose life has been all
but forgotten. In Tudor
England, with the black
deadth creeping across
the land, a penniless
young Latin tutor falls in
love with an extraordinary
young woman. Agnes
walks her family’s land
with a falcon on her
glove and, although
socially awkward, is a
gifted healer. Once she
settles with her husband
in Stratford-upon-Avon
she becomes a fiercely
protective mother and
a steadying force in the
life of her young husband
as he builds a career on
the London stage. But
then their young son
falls dangerously ill . . .
$26.95, hardcover.

New in paperback!
Acclaimed nature writer
Macfarlane delivers an
epic exploration of the
Earth’s underworlds as
they exist in myth, lit-
erature, memory, and
the land itself. Traveling
through the dizzying
expanse of geologic
time—from prehistoric art
in Norwegian sea caves,
to the blue depths of the
Greenland ice cap, to a
deep-sunk “hiding place”
where nuclear waste will
be stored for 100,000
years—he takes us on
an extraordinary journey
into our relationship with
darkness, burial, and what
lies beneath the surface
of both place and mind.
$17.95, paperback.
Atlas of a Lost World: Travels in Ice Age America

Renowned writer Craig Childs blends science and personal narrative to upend our notions of where the first people in the Americas came from and who they were. The first people in the New World were few, and their encampments fleeting. How they got here, persevered, and ultimately thrived is a story that resonates from the Pleistocene to our modern era, and it reveals how much has changed since the time of mammoth hunters as well as how little. Through it, readers will see the Ice Age and their own age in a whole new light. $17, paperback.

Vesper Flights

Just published! Best-selling author of H is for Hawk Helen Macdonald brings together a collection of her best loved essays, along with new pieces on topics ranging from nostalgia for a vanishing countryside to the tribulations of farming ostriches to her own private vespers while trying to fall asleep. Meditating on notions of captivity and freedom, immigration and flight, Macdonald invites us into her most intimate experiences: observing songbirds from the Empire State Building as they migrate through the Tribute of Light, watching tens of thousands of cranes in Hungary, seeking the last golden orioles in Suffolk’s poplar forests, and the unexpected guidance and comfort we find when watching wildlife. $27, hardcover.

A History of Islam in 21 Women

Beginning in 17th-century Mecca and Medina, this new book takes us around the globe: through 11th-century Yemen and Khorasan, into 16th-century Spain, Istanbul, and India, to 19th-century Persia and the African savannah, through 20th-century Russia, Turkey, Egypt and Iraq, before finally arriving in present-day Europe and America. From the first believer, Khadija, and the other women who witnessed the formative years of Islam to award-winning architect Zaha Hadid in the 21st-century, Hossein Kamal celebrates the lives and groundbreaking achievements of these extraordinary women in the history of Islam. $24.95, hardcover.

Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents

Beyond race, class, or other factors, there is a powerful caste system that influences people’s lives and behavior and the nation’s fate. Linking the caste systems of America, India, and Nazi Germany, Wilkerson explores eight pillars that underlie caste systems across civilizations, including divine will, bloodlines, stigma, and more. Using riveting stories about people like Martin Luther King, Jr., baseball’s Satchel Paige, a single father and his toddler son, even Wilkerson herself, she shows the ways that the insidious undertow of caste is experienced every day. Beautifully written, original, and revealing. $32, hardcover.
Japanese Tattoos: Meanings, Shapes, and Motifs

The culture of irezumi is deep and rich in meanings, shapes and motifs that have gone from color woodblock prints to being applied to the skin to beautify and protect their bearers. This richly illustrated book reveals the meaning and the secrets behind the most significant motifs from traditional Japanese tattooing such as mythological and supernatural creatures, animals, Buddhist deities, flowers, and historical characters. The origin and meaning of each visual representation is discussed with a brief review of the history of Japanese tattoo art, followed by each subject with a gallery of original designs by the author and a glossary. $29.95, hardcover.

The War for Gaul: A New Translation

Here is a book about an unnecessary war written by the ruthless general of an occupying army, a dramatic propaganda piece that forces the reader to identify with the conquerors and designed, like the war itself, to fuel the political ambitions of the author. While letting Caesar tell his battle stories in his own way, classicist James O’Donnell also fills in the rest of the story in a substantial introduction and notes that explain why The War for Gaul is the “best bad man’s book ever written,” a great book that, as O’Donnell says, “gets war exactly right and morals exactly wrong.” $27.95, hardcover.

Collision of Worlds: A Deep History of the Fall of Aztec Mexico and the Forging of New Spain

Spaniards led by Cortes joined forces with tens of thousands of Mesoamerican allies to topple the mighty Aztec Empire, a template for the forging of much of Latin America and the globalized world. The violent clash and the Aztec-Spanish war of 1519-21 and the new colonial order it created were millennia in the making, entwining cultural developments of both sides of the Atlantic. Mesoamerican archaeologist David Carballo offers perspective with a focus on the physical world, similarities and differences in trans-Atlantic perspective, and their interweaving in conquest and colonialism as well as the resilience of Native peoples. $34.95, hardcover.

The Pandemic Century: One Hundred Years of Panic, Hysteria, and Hubris

How can we understand the COVID-19 pandemic? In The Pandemic Century, a lively account of scares both infamous and less known, a medical historian combines reportage with the history of science and medical sociology to artfully reconstruct epidemiological mysteries and the ecology of infectious diseases. We meet dedicated disease detectives, obstructive or incompetent public health officials, and brilliant scientists often blinded by their own knowledge of bacteria and viruses—and see how fear of disease often exacerbates racial, religious, and ethnic tensions. $17.95, paperback.
**Forgotten Peoples of the Ancient World**

The ancient world of the Mediterranean and the Near East saw the birth and collapse of great civilizations. While several of these are well known, for all those that have been recorded, many have been unjustly forgotten. This thorough guide explores those civilizations that have faded from the pages of our textbooks but played a significant role in the development of modern society. From the Hyksos to the Hephthalites and everyone in between, this new book provides a unique overview of humanity’s history from approximately 3000 BC-550 AD. A wide range of illustrated artifacts and artworks as well as specially drawn maps help to tell the stories of 40 lost peoples and allow readers to take a direct look into the past. $34.95, hardcover.

**Hieronymus Bosch: The Complete Works**

Carlos Museum Bookshop best seller! Only 20 paintings and eight drawings are confidently assigned to this Netherlandish painter, but in their fantastical visions they have secured his place as one of the most cultish artists in history. This beautiful compact edition offers the complete and haunting Bosch world through full spreads and carefully curated details, encountering his hybrid creatures, his nightmarish scenarios, his religious and moral framework, and his pictorial versions of contemporary proverbs and idioms. Along the way, art historian and Bosch expert Stefan Fischer reveals the most important themes and influences in these cryptic, mesmerizing masterpieces. **Bargain price: $19.98**, hardcover.

**Mescaline: A Global History of the First Psychedelic**

This eye-opening history of mescaline extends from the ancient Americas to the present day, offering a rich narrative of mescaline’s many lives. The author draws on botany, pharmacology, ethnography, and the mind sciences as he explores how its mind-altering properties have been used by shamans, scientists, artists, and philosophers. Bestselling author Michael Pollan enthuses: “This is a terrific account of mescaline, the first psychedelic. Mike Jay has nailed it.” $26, hardcover.

**On the Road with Saint Augustine: A Real-World Spirituality for Restless Hearts**

Augustine, says Smith, is the patron saint of restless hearts, a guide who has been there, asked our questions, and knows our frustrations and failed pursuits. Augustine spent a lifetime searching for his heart’s true home and can be a pilgrim guide to a spirituality that meets the complicated world we live in. Addressing believers and skeptics alike, this book shows how Augustine’s timeless wisdom speaks to the worries and struggles of contemporary life, covering topics such as ambition, sex, friendship, freedom, parenthood, and death. $24.99, hardcover.
**Tell Them of Battles, Kings, & Elephants**

In 1506, a young Michelangelo is invited by the Sultan of Constantinople to design a bridge over the Golden Horn. Michelangelo flees Rome (and an irritated Pope Julius II) and arrives in Constantinople for this truly epic project—da Vinci’s design had already been rejected! Once there, he explores the beauty and wonder of the Ottoman Empire, sketching and describing his impressions along the way, and becomes immersed in cloak-and-dagger palace intrigues as he struggles to create what could be his greatest architectural masterwork. This stunning French novel is constructed from real historical fragments but expands outward in all directions. $19.95, hardcover.

**The Club: Johnson, Boswell, and the Friends Who Shaped an Age**

In 1763, the painter Joshua Reynolds proposed to his friend Samuel Johnson that they invite a few friends to join them every Friday at the Turk’s Head Tavern in London to dine, drink, and talk until midnight. The group came to include among its members Edmund Burke, Adam Smith, Edward Gibbon, and James Boswell. With the friendship of the “odd couple” Samuel Johnson and James Boswell at the heart of his narrative, Damrosch conjures up the exciting, often brutal world of late 18th-century Britain and an extraordinary group who helped to shape their age and our own. $20, paperback.

**Enlightened Contemporaries: Francis, Dōgen, & Rumi, Three Great Mystics of the Thirteenth Century and Why They Matter Today**

Linking Christian, Buddhist, and Islamic mystical teachings within a vibrant historical context, this newly published study shows how these three spiritual masters, all alive during the same century, not only complement each other but also remain profoundly relevant in the 21st century. It also deftly examines how they all engaged the world in the context of five shared themes: spiritual love, nature, the body, the role of women, and balancing retreat from society with active involvement. $16.95, paperback.

**Freedom: The Overthrowing of the Slave Empires**

This new study focuses not on abolitionism or the brutality and suffering of slavery, but on the resistance of the enslaved themselves—from sabotage and absconding to full-blown uprisings—and its impact in overthrowing slavery. The author also looks at the whole Atlantic world, including the Spanish Empire and Brazil, all of which revolved around the enslavement of 12 million Africans. Yet it declined, collapsed, and was destroyed by a complexity of forces that, to this day, remains disputed, but there is no doubting that it was in large part defeated by those it had enslaved. $27.95, hardcover.
A Garden Eden: Masterpieces of Botanical Illustration

From Byzantine manuscripts right through to 19th-century masterpieces, through peonies, callas, and chrysanthemums, these exquisite reproductions dazzle in their accuracy and their aesthetics. Whether in gently furled leaves, precisely textured fruits, or the sheer beauty and variety of colors, we celebrate an art form as tender as it is precise, and ever more resonant amid our growing awareness of our ecological surroundings and the preciousness of natural flora. A gorgeous book from the art publisher Taschen. **Bargain price: $19.98**, hardcover.

Scandals, Vandals, and Da Vincis: A Gallery of Remarkable Art Tales

Caravaggios, Rembrandts, Monets, the works of immortal artists … behind many of these brilliant paintings and sculptures are fascinating, unique histories, and award-winning writer Harvey Rachlin relates in exciting detail how nearly 30 of these works came to be created and how they survived burglary, forgery, revolutions, ransoms, vandals, scandals, religious sects, and shipwrecks to eventually come to their current resting places. $15, paperback.

Blooming Flowers: A Seasonal History of Plants and People

Newly published! This beautifully illustrated book looks at the wealth of floral associations that has been passed down in perfumes, poems, and paintings; in the design of buildings, clothes, and jewelry; and in nearly every religious, social, and political ritual. Exploring the first daffodils of spring and the last chrysanthemums of autumn, this is also a book about seasons. The author considers how the sunflower, poppy, rose, lily, and many other flowers have given rise to meaning, value, and inspiration throughout history, and why they are integral to so many different cultures. $22, hardcover.

Alaric the Goth: An Outsider’s History of the Fall of Rome

New! Stigmatized and relegated to the margins of Roman society, the Goths were violent “barbarians” who destroyed “civilization,” at least in the conventional story of Rome’s collapse. But a slight shift of perspective brings their history shockingly alive. Alaric grew up near the river border that separated Gothic territory from Roman. In stark contrast to the rising bigotry, intolerance, and zealotry among Romans during Alaric’s lifetime, the Goths, as practicing Christians, valued religious pluralism and tolerance. Marginalized and demonized, Alaric and the Goths rioted for three nights and struck fear into the hearts of the powerful. $26.95, hardcover.
Just published! In 668 BC, Ashurbanipal inherited the largest empire in the world, which stretched from the shores of the eastern Mediterranean to the mountains of western Iran, ruling from his massive capital at Nineveh in present-day Iraq. This survey features images of objects excavated from all corners of the empire and highlights the British Museum’s unrivaled collection of Assyrian reliefs, bringing to life the tumultuous story of Ashurbanipal’s reign: his conquest of Egypt, the crushing defeat of his rebellious brother, and his ruthless campaign against the Elamite rulers of southwest Iran. $45, paperback.

Follow an epic animal race, a quest for a disembodied hand, and an emu egg hunt in constellation stories from diverse cultures. A world expert on cultural understandings of cosmology, Anthony Aveni provides an unconventional atlas of the night sky, introducing readers to tales beloved for generations. The constellations included are not only the typical Greek and Roman myths but also star patterns conceived by a host of cultures, non-Western and indigenous, ancient and contemporary. $26, hardcover.

In this lavish French graphic novel, the lives of the citizens of Lantrevers are marked by suffering, unless they’re a member of the ruling class. Princess Tilda wants to deliver her people from famine and strife, but on the eve of her coronation, her younger brother usurps her throne and casts her into exile. With the help of her last remaining allies she travels in secret through the hinterland and learns of a bygone era when all men lived free and comfortable lives and discovers that there are many who are ready to revive this golden age at any cost. $29.99, hardcover.

People are looking elsewhere for the intensity and unity that religion once provided, making their own personal faiths—theistic or not—mixing and matching spiritual, ritualistic, personal, and political practices in order to create their own bespoke religious selves. In so doing, we’re carrying on a longstanding American tradition of religious eclecticism, DIY-innovation and “unchurched” piety. Our era is not the dawn of American secularism but rather a brand-bolstered resurgence of American pluralism, revved into overdrive by commerce and personalized algorithms. $28, hardcover.
Carlos Museum best seller! This charmingly illustrated, highly informative field guide to understanding art history explains the aesthetics of schools of painting from the Renaissance masters and Impressionists to the Cubists and Modernists. In the first part of the book, the author reveals how to read paintings by considering five key areas: shape and support, style and medium, compositional devices, genre, and the meaning of recurring motifs and symbols. The second part explores fifty paintings through extracted details, accompanied by insightful commentary, training the reader and viewer to understand context and discover meaning within art. $18.95, paperback.

How to Read Art: A Crash Course in Understanding and Interpreting Paintings

How do these things work? Where do they come from? What would life be like without them? And what would happen if we opened them up, heated them up, cooled them down, pointed them in a different direction, or pressed this button? The bestselling author of What If? here gives us the answers to these questions and so many more. Funny, interesting, and always understandable, this book is for anyone—age 5 to 105—who has ever wondered how things work and why. $24.95, hardcover.

Thing Explainer: Complicated Stuff in Simple Words

Newly published! Mathematics has always been a way of understanding and ordering the world, from sacred ancient texts and pre-Socratic philosophers to 20th-century logicians such as Russell and Frege and beyond. Here, Italian mathematician Paolo Zellini offers a brief cultural and intellectual history of mathematics from ancient Greece to India to our contemporary obsession with algorithms, showing how mathematical thinking is inextricably linked with philosophical, existential, and religious questions—and indeed with our cosmic understanding of the world. $27.95, hardcover.


Historian Jean Manco makes the latest genetic data—typically only available in scholarly research—engaging and accessible to the general reader and reveals data that have overturned the suppositions of population continuity that until recently were popular among geneticists and archaeologists. The result is an exciting new history of the English people and an entertaining analysis of their development. Featuring illustrations and charts to explain the recent research, this book is for anyone who is interested in the history of English ancestry and language. $16.95, paperback.

The Origins of the Anglo Saxons: Decoding the Ancestry of the English
Vermeer: The Complete Works

His works – only 35 of them - draw record visitor numbers at art institutions from Amsterdam to Washington, DC, and special crowd-control measures at the Mauritshuis, The Hague, where thousands flock to catch a glimpse of Girl with a Pearl Earring. In his lifetime, however, Vermeer’s fame barely extended beyond his native Delft and a small circle of patrons. After his death, his name was largely forgotten, except by a few Dutch art collectors. This compact Taschen edition presents the calm yet compelling scenes so treasured in galleries across Europe and the United States in one high quality monograph. **Bargain price: $19.98**, hardcover.

Gustav Klimt: Drawings and Paintings

One of our best-selling books of all time! In this beautiful and inexpensively priced monograph from the German publisher Taschen, all of Klimt’s major works are gathered alongside authoritative art historical commentary to trace the evolution of his astonishing oeuvre. With top quality illustration, we follow Klimt through his prominent role in the Secessionist movement of 1897, his candid rendering of the female body, and his lustrous golden phase when gold leaf brought a shimmering tone and texture to such beloved works as *The Kiss* and *Portrait of Adele Bloch Bauer I*. **$19.98**, hardcover.

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 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.

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 subtlest elements as well as what 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 rediscovered 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 the fashions and trends, people and politics, and loves and lifestyles of their time. **Bargain price: $19.98**, hardcover.
The Banished Immortal: A Life of Li Bai

In his own time (701-762), Li Bai’s brilliant poems, shaped by Daoist thought and filled with an irrepressible lust for life, were never given their proper due. Nonetheless, his lines rang out on the lips of tavern singers, soldiers, and writers throughout the Tang dynasty, and his deep desire for a higher, more perfect world gave rise to his nickname: the Banished Immortal. This is an extraordinary biography of a poet whose ability to live, love, drink, dance, and mourn without reservation produced some of the world’s most enduring verses. $17, paperback.

A Little History of Archaeology

This recent addition to the Yale Little History series tells the riveting stories of some of the great archaeologists and their amazing discoveries around the globe: ancient Egyptian tombs, Mayan ruins, the first colonial settlements at Jamestown, mysterious Stonehenge, the incredibly preserved Pompeii, and many, many more. In 40 brief, exciting chapters, the book recounts archaeology’s development from its 18th-century origins to its 21st-century technological advances. $15, paperback.

Dark Skies: A Journey Into the Wild Night

In this beautifully written narrative, the author explores nocturnal landscapes and investigates how our experiences of the night-time world have permeated our history, folklore, science, geography, art, and literature. She travels around Britain and Europe to learn more about nocturnal landscapes and humanity’s connection to the night sky, and delves into the history of the ancient rituals and seasonal festivals that for thousands of years humans have linked with the light and dark halves of our year. How has our relationship with darkness and the night sky changed over time? How have we used stars and other cosmic phenomena to tell stories about our lives and the land around us? $24, 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.
Frédéric Chaubin's award-winning architectural curiosity, *Cosmic Communist Constructions Photographed*, explores 90 buildings in 14 former Soviet Republics. In their puzzle of styles and their outlandish strategies, these buildings are extraordinary remnants of a collapsing Soviet Russian system. 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.

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; Freud’s *epistemophilia* (or love of knowledge); and the curiously insistent links between madness, magical thinking, and the desire for knowledge. **$35, hardcover.**

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.**
Where is the world’s very first art located? Overturning the traditional Eurocentric vision of our artistic origins, the authors seek out the earliest art on the planet. There are clues that even three million years ago distant human ancestors were drawn to natural curiosities that appeared representational such as the face-like “Makapasgat cobble” from South Africa, not carved but naturally weathered to resemble a human face. In the last 100,000 years people all over the world began to create art, as evidenced by the first paint palettes, hand carved fertility figures, and magnificent murals on cave walls. $29.95, hardcover.

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 whodunits. $16.99, paperback.

International best seller! To this day, no one has ever seen eels mating or giving birth, and we still don’t understand what drives them, after living for decades in freshwater, to swim great distances back to the ocean at the end of their lives. Drawing on a breadth of research about eels as well as his own experience fishing for eels, Swedish author Patrik Svensson researches this unusual animal. Researching the lives of eels delves into overarching issues about our roots and destiny, both as humans and as animals, and, ultimately, the biggest question of all: death. $28.99, hardcover.

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 as well as ensure that an annoying neighbor gets his comeuppance, and learn how to save a fortune on pregnancy tests—urinating on barley grains will answer that question. $24.95, 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, hardcover.

Could there be a civilization on a mote of dust? How much of your fate have you made? Using pleasingly paradoxical vignettes known as koans, which follow the ancient Zen tradition and have a flair for explaining complex science, physicist Anthony Aguirre tackles cosmic questions from the meaning of quantum theory and the nature of time to the origin of multiple universes, inviting the reader into an intellectual adventure of the highest order. Bestselling author/physicist Carlo Rovelli calls this “a gem of a book.” $18.95, paperback.
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.

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

Best seller! This thrilling history tracks three crucial books as they were passed hand to hand through seven cities over a thousand years. After the great library at Alexandria was destroyed, Baghdad, Cordoba, Toledo, Salerno, and Palermo were rare outposts of knowledge in a dark world. We enter into the sparkling intellectual life that flourished there, especially noting 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.

Jungle of Stone: The Extraordinary Journey of John L. Stephens and Frederick Catherwood, and the Discovery of the Lost Civilization of the Maya

This fascinating book recounts the remarkable story of the discovery of the ancient Maya. Enduring disease, war, and the torments of nature and terrain, Stephens and Catherwood meticulously uncovered and documented the remains of an astonishing civilization that had flourished in the Americas at the same time as classical Greece and Rome, and had been its rival in art, architecture, and power. They were the first to grasp the significance of the Maya remains, understanding that their antiquity and sophistication overturned the West’s assumptions about the development of civilization. $17.99, 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, hardcover.
Perhaps the most spectacular of all Greek vases, the Sarpedon krater—looted from an Etruscan tomb in 1971—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. Nigel Spivey explores this history in a concise, stylish book that braids together the creation and adventures of this extraordinary object with an exploration of its abiding influence as a stellar work of Greek art.

$25, hardcover.

This newly revised edition provides a readable and thorough overview of the Yoruba tradition and its influence in the West. The author describes the 16 Orisha, or spirit gods, and shows us how to work with divination, use the energy centers of the body to internalize the teachings of Yoruba, and create a sacred place of worship. The book also includes prayers, dances, songs, offerings, and sacrifices to honor the Orisha. $16.95, paperback.

Just published and imported from the UK! If you’ve ever wanted to learn how to read hieroglyphs, this book is the perfect guide, teaching the basics about deciphering Egyptian hieroglyphs with the help of hundreds of the most commonly used hieroglyphs arranged in easy-to-use tables with translations, plus examples from monuments, ancient documents, and museum exhibits. Fully illustrated throughout with line drawings, tables, and maps, this guide will enthral anyone who craves the satisfaction of actually understanding the writing which adorns Egyptian monuments and artifacts. $24.95, hardcover.
This fascinating and intimate insight into ancient Egyptian sex and sexuality 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 subjects. Sex was a prominent part of ancient Egyptian society, featuring heavily in religion, mythology and artwork. 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.

In Bed with the Romans

In Bed with the Ancient Egyptians

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

This fascinating and intimate insight into ancient Egyptian sex and sexuality 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 subjects. Sex was a prominent part of ancient Egyptian society, featuring heavily in religion, mythology and artwork. 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.

To writer, activist, and Emory alumna, 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 13th-century prescription for modern life. $27, hardcover.

Carlos Bookshop best seller! This enlightening look at Europe’s so-called Dark Ages defies the conventional view of European history between 400 and 1,000 AD. This is a work of remarkable scope and rigorous yet accessible scholarship. The author argues that these centuries were critical in the formulation of European identity. From Ireland to Constantinople and the Baltic to the Mediterranean, this narrative constructs a vivid portrait of the vast and varied world of Goths, Franks, Vandals, Arabs, Saxons, and Vikings. $23, paperback.

The Inheritance of Rome: Illuminating the Dark Ages, 400-1000
This introduction to archaeoastronomy focuses on Mesoamerica. Combining as it does the romance of space with the mystery of the past, the study of pre-Columbian skywatchers of the New World has drawn increasing scientific and popular attention in recent years. Aveni, one of the pioneers in this new interdisciplinary field, couples basic astronomy with archaeological and ethnological data to present a readable and entertaining synthesis of what is known of ancient astronomy in this hemisphere. $45, paperback.

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 technology and cultural customs that would redefine human civilization, as fabric 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 an ancient Chinese empress credited with inventing silk, Richard the Lionheart, and Bing Crosby. $23.95, hardcover.

Boudica, or Boadicea, queen of the Iceni, led a famous revolt against Roman rule in Britain in 60 AD, sacking London, Colchester, and St. Albans, and throwing the province into chaos. Although later defeated by the governor, Suetonius Paulinus, her rebellion sent a shock wave across the empire. This book is an account of what we know about the real woman from classical literature written for the consumption of readers in Rome, from the archaeological evidence, and from her extraordinary posthumous career as the earliest famous woman in British history. $29.95, paperback.

From the beautiful apsaras of Hindu myth to the swan maidens of European fairy tales, stories of flying women reveal the perennial fascination with and ambivalence about female power and sexuality. Anthropologist Serinity Young examines the motif of the flying woman in a wide variety of cultures and historical periods. She considers the Valkyries of Norse legend, who transport men to immortality; winged deities like the Greek goddesses Iris and Nike; figures of terror like the Furies, witches, and succubi. Throughout, Young demonstrates that female power has always been inextricably linked with female sexuality and how to control it. $29.95, hardcover.
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.

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.

Imported from the UK. Life for the average Egyptian had little connection with the pharaonic splendor of royal courts. The author draws from ancient manuscripts to tell the history of the ordinary population of ancient Egypt: often strange, at times amusing, ultimately very recognizable. We meet a number of fascinating people, including a woman who married a man twice her age and turned to the god Imhotep to help her conceive a son; Kenhirkhopshef, a man seemingly obsessed with making lists; and Paneb, the “bad boy” of Deir el-Medina. $16.95, paperback.

The lives of pharaohs and commoners alike were dominated by the need to honor, worship, and pacify the huge pantheon of deities, from the benevolent to the malevolent. This book examines the evolution, worship, and eventual decline of the numerous gods and goddesses that made Egypt the most theocratic society of the ancient world and made Egyptians, according to Herodotus, “more religious than any other people.” With hundreds of illustrations and specially commissioned drawings, this title remains the most comprehensive and authoritative guide to the deities that lay at the heart of Egyptian religion and society. $26.95, paperback.