



Art in Fiction

The Forest Lover by Susan Vreeland (Carr)

It was Emily Carr (1871-1945) not Georgia O'Keeffe or Frida Kahlo who first blazed a path for modern women artists. Vreeland brings to life this fiercely independent and underappreciated figure. From illegal potlatches in tribal communities to prewar Paris, where her art was exhibited in the famed Salon d'Automne, Carr's story is as arresting as it is vibrant.

The Girl with a Pearl Earring by Tracy Chevalier (Vermeer) F Che

History and fiction merge seamlessly in this luminous novel about artistic vision and sensual awakening as seen through the eyes of the young woman who was the inspiration behind one of Vermeer's finest paintings.

Girl in Hyacinth Blue by Susan Vreeland (Vermeer) F Vre

The eight interlinked stories in this impressive debut collection revolve around a single painting by Vermeer.

Keeping the World Away by Margaret Forster F For

The story of an actual early 20th century painting and its fictional adventures through the century and of the women whose lives it touches.

Luncheon of the Boating Party by Susan Vreeland (Renoir) F Vre

Narrated by Renoir and seven of the models and using settings in Paris and on the Seine, Vreeland illuminates the gusto, hedonism, and art of the era. With a gorgeous palette of vibrant, captivating characters, she paints their lives, loves, losses, and triumphs in a brilliant portrait of her own.

Lydia Cassatt Reading the Morning Paper by Harriet Scott Chessman F Che

Set in Paris in 1880, this mock-memoir entices the reader into the world of Mary Cassatt's early impressionist paintings through her sister Lydia, who Chessman sees as the artist's most inspiring muse.

Me and Kaminski by Daniel Kehlman (fictional artist) New Books, Fic Keh

Sebastian Zollner's failure as a journalist is matched only by his personal failures: his girlfriend is moving in a new lover before Sebastian even knows he's been dumped. Searching for the break that will redeem him in the eyes of his peers, he heads off on a wild goose chase into the mountains to interview the eccentric, legendary painter Manuel Kaminski, with the hope of writing his biography.

Pictures at an Exhibition by Sara Houghteling New Books, F Hou

Set in a Paris darkened by World War II, Sara Houghteling's sweeping and sensuous debut novel tells the story of a son's quest to recover his family's lost masterpieces, looted by the Nazis during the occupation.

Portrait of an Unknown Woman: a novel by Vanora Bennett New Books, Fic Ben

The year is 1527. The great portraitist Hans Holbein, who has fled the reformation in Europe, is making his first trip to England under commission to Sir Thomas More. In the course of six years, Holbein will become a close friend to the More family and paint two nearly identical family portraits. But closer examination of the paintings reveals that the second holds several mysteries...

The Painted Kiss by Elizabeth Hickey (Klimt) F Hic

Vienna in 1886 was a city of beautiful architecture, elegant cafes, grand opera houses and a thriving and adventurous artistic community. It was there that twelve-year-old Emilie Floege met the controversial libertine and painter Gustav Klimt. THE PAINTED KISS follows the developing relationship between the moody, brilliant Klimt and Emilie.

The Shell Seekers by Rosamond Pilcher (fictional artist) F Pil

An oil painting done by the patriarch of the Keeling family is the unifying thread of this bestselling story set in London and Cornwall from World War II to present.

Spending: a utopian divertimento by Mary Gordon (fictional artist) F Gor

Monica Szabo, a middle-aged, moderately successful painter, encounters B, a wealthy commodities broker who collects her work. B volunteers to be her muse, offering her everything that male artists have always had to produce great art: time, space, money, and sex.

Theft: a love story by Peter Carey F Car

From the two-time Booker Prize-winning author comes this new novel about obsession, deception, and redemption, at once an engrossing psychological suspense story and a work of highly charged, fiendishly funny literary fiction.

Vanished Smile: The Mysterious Theft of Mona Lisa by R.A. Scotti New Books, Non-F 759.5 SCO

Part love story, part mystery, Vanished Smile reopens the case of the most audacious and perplexing art theft ever committed. Scotti turns the tantalizing clues into a story of the painting's transformation into the most familiar and lasting icon of all time.

The World to Come by Dara Horn F Hor

A million-dollar painting by Marc Chagall is stolen from a museum during a singles' cocktail hour. The unlikely thief is Benjamin Ziskind, a lonely former child prodigy who writes questions for quiz shows and who is sure the painting used to hang on the wall of his parents' living room.