

De!Art Readers 2025 Book Selections and Meeting Dates

January 30 - VIRTUAL

Ninth Street Women by Mary Gabriel. Five painters (Joan Mitchell, Helen Frankenthaler, Lee Krasner, Elaine de Kooning, Grace Hartigan) revolutionize the modern art world in postwar America. (Non-fiction)

Note: This is not a quick read. Start reading early!

February 27 - VIRTUAL

The Art Forger by B.A. Shapiro. This mystery (with interesting twists) is about a young woman who is asked to paint a reproduction of one of the paintings stolen from Boston's Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum. (Fiction)

March 27 - VIRTUAL

The Feather Thief: Beauty, Obsession, and the Natural History Heist of the Century by Kirk Johnson. This book successfully combines many genres – biography, true crime, ornithology, history, travel, and memoir – to tell the story of an audacious heist of rare bird skins from a British Natural History Museum. (Non-fiction)

April 24 - IN PERSON AT MUSEUM

The Printmaker's Daughter by Katherine Govier. In this tale of 19th century Tokyo we meet the artist Oei, the daughter of famous Japanese artist Hokusai. The sights and sensations of an exotic, bygone era form the backdrop for an intimate, finely wrought story of daughterhood and duty, art and authorship, the immortality of creation and the anonymity of history. (Fiction)

May 29 - IN PERSON AT MUSEUM

Thunderclap: A Memoir of Art & Life & Sudden Death by Laura Cumming. In 1654, an explosion at a gunpowder store devastated the city of Delft, killing hundreds, including the extraordinary painter Carel Fabritius. Cumming explores this moment in art history while also writing about her own father, a painter. The impact of a painting and how it can enter our thoughts, influence our view and understanding of the world is the heart of this book. (Non-fiction)

June 26 - IN PERSON AT MUSEUM

The Last Masterpiece by Laura Morelli. Inspired by the incredible true story of the Monuments Women, the Fifth Army WACs, and the looted Florentine art collections during World War II, this historical novel plunges readers into the heart of war-torn Italy. (Fiction)

July 31 - IN PERSON AT MUSEUM

The Glassmaker by Tracy Chevalier. From the bestselling historical novelist, a rich, transporting story that follows a family of glassmakers based on the island of Murano, from the height of Renaissance-era Italy to present day. (Fiction)

August 28 - IN PERSON AT MUSEUM

Chasing Me to My Grave: An Artist's Memoir of the Jim Crow South by Winfred Rembert. Winfred Rembert grew up as a field hand on a Georgia plantation. He embraced the Civil Rights Movement, endured political violence, survived a lynching, and spent seven years in prison on a chain gang. Years later, seeking a fresh start at the age of 52, he discovered his gift and vision as an artist, and using leather tooling skills he learned in prison, started etching and painting scenes from his youth. (Non-fiction) **Note: The author tells his story using offensive language of the time and place where it occurred. He explains his reasons further in the book's Preface.**

September 25 - IN PERSON AT MUSEUM

The Bohemians by Jasmin Darznik. This novel about one of America's most celebrated photographers, Dorothea Lange, explores her early wild years in San Francisco that awakened her career-defining grit, compassion, and daring. (Fiction)

October 30 - IN PERSON AT MUSEUM

The Lioness of Boston by Emily Franklin. When Isabella Stewart Gardner opened her Italian palazzo-style home as a museum in 1903 to showcase her collection of old masters, antiques, and objects d'art, she was already well-known for scandalizing Boston's polite society. This fictional account of Isabella Stewart Gardner deftly depicts a woman coming into her own within the confines of high-society Boston then seen all the way through the Gilded Age. (Fiction)

November 20 - VIRTUAL

ArtCurious: Stories of the Unexpected, Slightly Odd and Strangely Wonderful in Art History by Jennifer Dasal. A colorful look at the world of art history, revealing some of the strangest, funniest, and most fascinating stories behind the world's great artists and masterpieces. Through these and other incredible, weird, and wonderful tales, **ArtCurious** presents an engaging look at why art history is, and continues to be, a riveting and relevant world to explore. (Non-fiction)