

RECOMMENDED READING LIST:

A Picture Paints A Thousand Words

<https://www.grc.qld.gov.au/homepage/108/library-lovers-book-group-online>

Non Fiction

The Botanical Art of William T. Cooper / Wendy Cooper.

William T. Cooper was one of the world's most esteemed bird painters. In his paintings, birds nibble at plump red berries, they rest on twisted vines and branches covered with lichen, and they clutch forest fruits and leaves in their claws. These botanical details, the backdrops to his bird portraits, are the subject of this lavishly illustrated book written by his botanist wife, Wendy Cooper.

Children of the Dreamtime / Helen Baldwin ; edited by Laura Murray.

Children of the Dreamtime presents a vivid picture of the Aboriginal people of central Australia, their way of life and the environment in which they live. In her work artist Helen Baldwin shows us the beauty she perceives in the Australian outback and the people who first made it their home.

Ken Done : art design life / Amber Creswell Bell.

A comprehensive and extensively illustrated monograph on the art and design of Ken Done, celebrating the man, his life's work and his legacy.

Picturing a Nation : the art and life of A.H. Fullwood / Gary Werskey.

The untold story of a major Australian artist. ... In this pioneering, richly illustrated biography, Gary Werskey brings Fullwood and his extraordinary career as an illustrator, painter, and war artist back to life, while casting a new light on the most fabled era in the history of Australian art.

A Brush with Birds : paintings and stories from the wild / Richard Weatherly.

A skilled falconer and artist, Richard has spent more than fifty years observing birds and their natural habitats around the world, from Antarctica to Zimbabwe to New Guinea, Australia and America. In *A Brush with Birds*, Richard accompanies his stunning paintings and sketches with fascinating insights, anecdotes and knowledge gathered throughout his career.

Yornadaiyn Woolagoodja / Yornadaiyn Woolagoodja.

This stunning book is a biography and a generous sharing of Yorna's Culture and traditional beliefs. Explore the meaning of Country, Lalai ('Creation'), Wandjina, Woongudd (the 'Snake'), in the author's Country in the Kimberley region of Western Australia.

Full of extraordinary images of the landscape, rock art, stone arrangements and the artist's paintings, *Yornadaiyn Woolagoodja* is a feast for anyone interested in this rich Cultural heritage. Special feature boxes on Joonba ('Corroborree'), Native Title, Permission and Respect, Sugarbag, Ancestors' Bones, Collecting Turtle and many more.

Margaret Olley : a generous life / QAGOMA

Margaret Olley was a deeply charismatic figure, mentor and friend, and exerted an enduring influence on a number of Australian artists, particularly in Queensland. This richly illustrated gift book pays tribute to Olley's art, friendships and philanthropy, and demonstrates her ongoing legacy.

Blood Mystic / George Gittoes.

Equal parts artist and warrior, George is world-famous for waging war on war with art, circus, photography and film. "Soldiers die for flags. For me it is art," he says.

George has been shot, stabbed, bombed, beaten, tortured, drowned and jailed. He has worked with Andy Warhol, dined with Fidel Castro, plotted with Julian Assange, been feted by Mandela, blessed by Mother Theresa, sneezed on by the Dalai Lama.

Tom Roberts / Anne Gray

This publication accompanies the exhibition Tom Roberts at the National Gallery of Australia, Canberra and discusses Tom Roberts's life and work and provides details on individual iconic works by Roberts from around Australia

A Bone of Fact / David Walsh.

David Walsh - the creator of *Mona* in Hobart - is both a giant and an enigma in the Australian art world. A multi-millionaire who made his money gambling, David has turned a wild vision into a unique reality; he is in turns controversial, mysterious and idolised. *A Bone of Fact* is his utterly unconventional and absorbing memoir

Body Art / commentary text by Deborah Hill.

A bride's nose piercing on her wedding day, soldiers comparing their flash tattoos in the 1940s, face painting at a sporting match, a Yamatji woman's tattoo of the spirit of all Aboriginal women ... the meanings behind body art are as varied as the individuals who wear them. Body adornments and modifications are rarely applied without a story for the wearer and even more rarely do they go without eliciting a response. Documenting an array of contemporary and historical forms of altered bodies from Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific in a collection of powerful images

Let's Face it : the history of the Archibald Prize / Peter Ross.

"With the ease of a seasoned journalist, Peter Ross guides the reader through the disputations and sometimes rocky history of Australia's most famous art prize. ..

Russell Drysdale : defining the modern Australian landscape / Christopher Heathcote.

Russell Drysdale: Defining the modern Australian landscape takes a fresh look at one of the nation's major modern artists, surveying Drysdale's approach to landscape across painting, drawing and photography. Using original research, Christopher Heathcote highlights what the artist saw as urgent issues facing Australia mid-century, revealing the underpinning symbolism of Drysdale's outback imagery.

Life in Colour : National Geographic photographs / foreword by Jonathan Adler ; [editor], curated by Annie Griffiths ; text by Susan Tyler Hitchcock.

"Life in Color "is arranged by color in a rainbow of beauty. Each chapter, devoted to a color, begins with a short, inspiring essay that explores the qualities, meaning, and symbolism of that color, written in the same warm and lovely voice that guided the reader through "Visions of Earth."

The Moth / preface by Neil Gaiman ; edited by Catherine Burns.

Before television and radio, before penny paperbacks and mass literacy, people would gather on porches, on the steps outside their homes, and tell stories. The storytellers knew their craft and bewitched listeners would sit and listen long into the night as moths flitted around overhead. The Moth is a non-profit group that is trying to recapture this lost art, helping storytellers old hands and novices alike hone their stories before playing to packed crowds at sold out live events. The very best of these stories are collected here.

Fiction

The Curiosities / Susan Gloss.

Finding a job turns out to be difficult for an art historian . . . until Nell sees the ad seeking a director for a new non-profit organisation called the Mansion Hill Artists' Colony. The colony is the brainchild of the late, unconventional society dame Betsy Barrett, who left behind her vast fortune and a killer collection of modern art to establish an artist-in-residency program to be run out of her lakeside mansion. The executor of Betsy's estate simply hands Nell a set of house keys and wishes her luck.

The Portrait of Molly Dean / Katherine Kovacic.

A swirl of history, art, intrigue and murder that brings 1930s Melbourne to life. Gideon Haigh's unsolved murder comes to light after almost seventy years. In 1999, art dealer Alex Clayton stumbles across a lost portrait of Molly Dean, an artist's muse brutally slain in Melbourne in 1930.

The Last Painting of Sara de Vos / Dominic Smith.

In 1631, Sara de Vos is admitted as a master painter to the Guild of St. Luke's in Holland, the first woman to be so recognized. Three hundred years later, only one work attributed to de Vos is known to remain--a haunting winter scene, *At the Edge of a Wood*, which hangs over the bed of a wealthy descendant of the original owner. An Australian grad student, Ellie Shipley, struggling to stay afloat in New York, agrees to paint a forgery of the landscape, a decision that will haunt her. Because now she's curating an exhibit of female Dutch painters, and both versions threaten to arrive.

The Paris Secret / Karen Swan.

Somewhere along the cobbled streets of Paris, an apartment lies thick with dust and secrets: full of priceless artworks hidden away for decades. High-flying fine art agent Flora from London, more comfortable with the tension of a million-pound auction than a cosy candlelit dinner for two, is called in to assess these suddenly discovered treasures. As an expert in her field, she must trace the history of each painting and discover who has concealed them for so long.

Burnt Siena / Sarah Wisseman.

In the magical and historically rich city of Siena, Italy, old paintings are as common as cobblestones. But what if some of those paintings are forgeries? And what if your employers at a respected firm of art conservators might be smuggling antiquities? ...

The Ten Thousand Things : a novel / John Spurling.

Wang is an extraordinarily gifted artist. His paintings are at once delicate and confident; in them, one can see the wind blowing through the trees, the water rushing through rocky valleys, the infinite expanse of China's natural beauty. But this is not a time for sitting still, and as *The Ten Thousand Things* unfolds, we follow Wang as he travels through an empire in turmoil. In his wanderings, he encounters, among many memorable characters, other master painters of the period.

The Da Vinci Deception / Thomas Swan.

Following three years of intensive preparation, well-fed art dealer Jonas Kalem is ready to offer to the world the discovery he's long been hinting at; Retired art historian Giorgio Burri has been waiting to start the ball rolling on authenticating the bogus drawings; unwitting American chemist Eleanor Shepard has been spending a year in Florence looking for likely sources of 500-year-old paper and charcoal; and Kalem's light-fingered assistant Tony Waters stands ready for whatever crasser skullduggery his boss may command.

The Painting / Alison Booth.

A young Hungarian woman confronts her family's past in an engrossing quest for a stolen painting.

***Watercolours* / Adrienne Ferreira.**

Eleven-year-old Novi just wants to blend in, but it isn't easy when you're named after a type of silkworm and have the most eccentric family in town. A descendant of the first Italian silk-growers in northern New South Wales, he is an obsessive artist with a habit of drawing the stories of the people around him and a secret conviction that the river murdered his grandfather. Drawing on the little-known history of silk growing in Australia, *Watercolours* explores how people are shaped by their links to the past and their relationship to the place in which they live. This surprising and poignant debut novel explores the struggle between art and censorship, personal faith and self-doubt, and celebrates the beautiful clarity and colour a child's eye-view can bring to the adult world.

***The Russian Master : a novel* / by Ian Callinan.**

Davenport Jones, acknowledged expert on 20th century European art, is invited to join the staff of Londys, an old and distinguished London firm of auctioneers. His task is to induce a famous Russian master to consign his life's work for auction by the firm. Davenport becomes infatuated with the artist's niece who is fighting her cousin for custody of the collection. The novel follows Davenport's at times hilarious progress through the tangled art market of London, his wooing of the beautiful young niece, the reappearance of his former wife, the proceedings of a London tribunal that decides questions of ownership, and reaches its unexpected conclusion in a dacha in St Petersburg.

***Once in Broome...* / Sally Bin Demin.**

In this montage of memoir, art, silk paintings and photographs, Sally Bin Demin remembers her childhood growing up in Broome during the 1940s and 1950s. As one of the 'after the war kids', Sally's lifestyle was embedded in the many cultural traditions of the people who lived in the old pearling town. She had the world at her doorstep.

***The War Artist* / Simon Cleary.**

When Brigadier James Phelan returns from Afghanistan with the body of a young soldier killed under his command, he is traumatised by the tragedy. An encounter with young Sydney tattoo artist Kira leaves him with a permanent tribute to the soldier, and it is a meeting that will change the course of his life. What he isn't expecting on his homecoming is a campaign of retribution from the soldiers who blame him for the ambush and threaten his career. With his marriage also on the brink, his life spirals out of control. Years later, Phelan is surprised when Kira re-enters his life seeking refuge from her own troubles and with a young boy in tow. She finds a way to help him make peace with his past, but she is still on the run from her own.

The War Artist is a timely and compelling novel about the legacy of war, the power of art and the possibility of atonement.

***Killing Commendatore* / Haruki Murakami**

In *Killing Commendatore*, a thirty-something portrait painter in Tokyo is abandoned by his wife and finds himself holed up in the mountain home of a famous artist, Tomohiko Amada. When he discovers a previously unseen painting in the attic, he unintentionally opens a circle of mysterious circumstances. To close it, he must complete a journey that involves a mysterious ringing bell, a two-foot-high physical manifestation of an Idea, a dapper businessman who lives across the valley, a precocious thirteen-year-old girl, a Nazi assassination attempt during World War II in Vienna, a pit in the woods behind the artist's home, and an underworld haunted by Double Metaphors.

***The Henna Artist* / Alka Joshi.**

Escaping from an abusive marriage, seventeen-year-old Lakshmi makes her way alone to the vibrant 1950s pink city of Jaipur. There she becomes the most highly requested henna artist-and confidante-to the wealthy women of the upper class. But trusted with the secrets of the wealthy, she can never reveal her own...