Welcome to Reaktion’s Spring and Summer season of books for 2020. Here are some of the highlights.

What does it mean to be human? Amanda Rees and Charlotte Sleigh’s witty and penetrating book steers us deftly through the issues and histories of humankind, machines and animals.


Maria Golia’s *Ornette Coleman* presents a sympathetic but gritty view of one of America’s greatest and most innovative jazz artists.

French historian Jacques Le Goff was renowned for his work on the Middle Ages. In *Heroes and Marvels of the Middle Ages* the heroic and the fabulous emerge in a tour de force of the history of the imagination.

Satish Padiyar’s *Fragonard: Painting Out of Time* reveals a secretive and brilliantly eccentric painter (and libertine) working within the vivacious society of eighteenth-century France.

Jeremy Adler’s *Johann Wolfgang von Goethe* and Andrei Zorin’s *Leo Tolstoy* are two new remarkable Critical Lives books on towering figures of German and Russian literature respectively.

Michael R. Leaman, *Publisher*
David Hayden, *Managing Director*
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Ornette Coleman’s career encompassed the glory years of jazz and the American avant-garde. Born in segregated Fort Worth, Texas, during the Great Depression, the African American composer and musician was the zeitgeist incarnate. Steeped in the Texas blues tradition, Ornette and jazz grew up together, as the brassy blare of big band swing gave way to bebop, a faster music for a faster, post-war world. At the dawn of the Space Age and New York’s 1960s counterculture, his music gave voice to the moment. Lauded by some, maligned by many, he forged a breakaway art sometimes called ‘the new thing’ or ‘free jazz’.

Featuring previously unpublished photographs of Ornette and his contemporaries, this is the compelling story of one of America’s most adventurous musicians and the sound of a changing world.
What does it mean to be human? And what, if anything, does it have to do with being a member of the animal species Homo sapiens? This dazzling book gets to the very heart of our rather unscientific motivations and prejudices, showing how they are of great use in resolving the world’s biggest problems. From beasts to aliens, widespread but often problematic links with six other beings are explored. Deep philosophical questions are tackled, including humanity’s common purpose, life’s meaning and what it means to be accepted as part of a community. Global in its outlook and illustrated by stunning pictures, Human is a powerful, funny and iconoclastic antidote to post-humanism.

Amanda Rees is Reader in Sociology at the University of York. She is the author of The Infanticide Controversy: Primatology and the Art of Field Science (2009) and Presenting Futures Past: Science Fiction and the History of Science (2019).

Charlotte Sleigh is Professor of Science Humanities at the University of Kent. She has published several books on the history, culture and representation of animals, including Ant (2003) and Frog (2012) for Reaktion, as well as The Paper Zoo (2016).
Of all the great British bands to emerge from the 1960s, none had a stronger sense of place than the Kinks. Often described as the archetypal English band, they were above all a quintessentially working-class band with a deep attachment to London.

Mark Doyle examines the relationship between the Kinks and their city, from their early songs of teenage rebellion to their album-length works of social criticism. He finds fascinating and sometimes surprising connections with figures as diverse as Edmund Burke, John Clare and Charles Dickens. More than just a book about the Kinks, this is a book about a social class undergoing a series of profound changes, and about a group of young men who found a way to describe, lament and occasionally even celebrate those changes through song.

Kinks: We’re not English
An illuminating and lively history of paganism in the West

Miracles of Our Own Making is a historical overview of magic in the British Isles, from the ancient peoples of Britain to the rich and cosmopolitan landscape of contemporary paganism. We explore the beliefs of the Druids, the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings, the alchemy of the Elizabethan court and the witch trials. We encounter grimoires, ceremonial magic and the Romantic revival of arcane deities. The influential and well-known – the Golden Dawn, Wicca and figures such as Aleister Crowley – are considered alongside the everyday ‘cunning folk’ who formed the magical fabric of previous centuries.

Ranging widely across literature, art, science and beyond, Liz Williams debunks many of the prevailing myths surrounding magical practice, past and present, while offering a rigorously researched and highly accessible account of what it means to be a pagan today.

Liz Williams holds a PhD in the History and Philosophy of Science from the University of Cambridge and is a widely published writer and journalist. She lives in Glastonbury, where she co-owns a witchcraft shop, and where she also lectures in creative writing.
If there is anything that distinguishes us from animals, it is our ability to understand that such a thing as the future exists and our willingness to try and look into it.

But how have people through the ages gone about making predictions? What were their underlying assumptions, and what methods did they use? Have increased computer power and the newest algorithms improved our success in anticipating the future, or are we still only as good (or as bad) at it as our ancestors?

From the ancients watching the flight of birds to the murky activities of Google and Facebook today, *Seeing into the Future* gives us an insight into the past, present and future of prediction.

Fragonard

Painting Out of Time

Satish Padiyar

‘A brilliant new account of Fragonard’s art that reveals some of its most intriguing secrets.’ – Ewa Lajer-Burcharth, William Dorr Boardman Professor of Fine Arts, Harvard University

‘Deeply erudite . . . [Padiyar] illuminates the whole field of later eighteenth-century art.’ – Thomas Crow, Rosalie Solow Professor of Modern Art, New York University

At the time of his death in 1806, the Rococo artist Jean-Honoré Fragonard had not painted for two decades. Following a period of huge public success, the painter’s reputation fell. Personally secretive, Fragonard created revealing images that undermined a normal sense of space and time. Satish Padiyar investigates the life and work of the last of the libertine painters of the ancien régime, a contemporary of Denis Diderot and Jean-Jacques Rousseau, and presents dramatic new perspectives on works such as The Progress of Love, painted for Madame du Barry, the infamous The Bolt and the ever-popular The Swing.

Satish Padiyar is Honorary Research Fellow at the Courtauld Institute of Art. His previous publications include Chains: David, Canova, and the Fall of the Public Hero in Postrevolutionary France (2007).

Investigates
the maverick personality of
the French painter
Jean-Honoré Fragonard

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What Is Time?
An Enquiry
Truls Wyller

We refer to time constantly and we measure its passing – but do we know what it actually is? In What Is Time?, Truls Wyller enquires into time’s complex nature, juxtaposing the latest scientific theories with our personal experience of chronology. The book examines the notion of time in physics, history, religion, anthropology, philosophy and literature, and Wyller concludes by proposing his own theory of time: that the temporal character of any series of events is essentially practical, and derived from human life.

Written from a philosophical perspective, the book gives an accessible, rounded portrait of the nature of time, and is essential reading for those who wish to gain a deeper understanding of the motion of our everyday existence.

Truls Wyller is Professor Emeritus at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim. He is the author of many books, including Objectivity and Self-consciousness (2000) and The Size of Things: An Essay on Space and Time (2010).
A Philosophy of Simple Living

Jérôme Brillaud

‘Thoughtful and beautifully written . . . a must-read in our era of noise and distraction.’ – Phillip John Usher, New York University

‘A powerfully insightful work that deserves wide attention.’
– Brendan Gleeson, author of The Urban Condition

Today, simple living is a rallying cry for anti-consumerists, environmentalists and anyone concerned with humanity’s effect on the planet. But what is so revolutionary about a simple life? Why are we so fascinated with simplicity today? Why do we still sometimes resist simplifying our lives?

A Philosophy of Simple Living brings together an array of people, practices and movements, from Henry David Thoreau to Steve Jobs, and from Cynics and Quakers to voluntary simplicity and degrowth. Written in elegant, spare prose, this book will inspire all who wish to simplify their lives and convince many that a good life is a simple life.

Jérôme Brillaud is Lecturer in French at the University of Manchester. He is the author of Sombres lumières (2011) and essays on early modern philosophy and literature.

Charts the ideas, motivations and practices of simplicity from antiquity to the present day

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Blood Rush

*The Dark History of a Vital Fluid*

Jan Verplaetse

‘Circling around a dark, unfathomable beyond, *Blood Rush* cuts violently across a cultural modernity that celebrates rationality and science. Both rigorous and highly creative, it will leave many readers awestruck.’

– Raymond Corbey, Professor of Philosophy of Science and Anthropology, Leiden University

As a young man Jan Verplaetse saw a hare suspended from a meat hook, skinned and gutted. What struck him so forcefully at the time was not the animal but the blood gently dripping from its mouth. His reaction prompted the start of a quest he undertakes in this book – to investigate our fascination with blood, the most vital of fluids.

*Blood Rush* shows how, throughout history, blood has had the capacity to intoxicate us. In his deeply researched and provocative narrative, Verplaetse moves from antiquity to the present, from magic to experimental psychology, from philosophy to religion and scientific discoveries, to demonstrate why blood both repels and attracts us.

Jan Verplaetse is Associate Professor in Moral Philosophy at Ghent University, Belgium. He is the author of *Localizing the Moral Sense* (2009) and co-editor of *The Moral Brain* (2009).

Explores our fascination with and horror of blood, the most vital of fluids.
The People’s Porn
A History of Handmade Pornography in America
Lisa Z. Sigel

*The People’s Porn* is the first history of American handmade and homemade pornography, which offers the back story to the explosion of amateur pornography on the Internet. In doing so, it is a much-needed counterweight to the historical and ideological arguments that dominate most discussions about pornography. Critics focus on mass-produced materials and make claims about pornography as plasticized or commodified. In contrast, this book looks at what people made rather than what they bought, revealing how people thought about sexuality for themselves. Whalers and craftsmen, prisoners and activists, African Americans and feminists, all made their own pornography. *The People’s Porn* challenges preconceptions as it tells a new and fascinating story about American sexual history.

When students gathered in a London coffeehouse and smoked tobacco, Yorkshire women sipped sugar-infused tea or a Glasgow family ate a bowl of Indian curry, were they aware of the mechanisms of imperial rule and trade that made such goods readily available?

In *Eating the Empire*, Troy Bickham unfolds the extraordinary role that food played in shaping Britain during the ‘long’ eighteenth century (c. 1660–1837), when coffee, tea and sugar went from rare luxuries to some of the most ubiquitous commodities in Britain, reaching even the poorest and remotest of households. Bickham reveals how the trade in the empire’s edibles underpinned the emerging consumer economy, fomenting the rise of modern retailing, visual advertising and consumer credit, and, via taxes, financed the military and civil bureaucracy that secured, governed and spread the empire.

Troy Bickham is Professor of History at Texas A&M University. He is the author of *The Weight of Vengeance: The United States, the British Empire, and the War of 1812* (2012), *Making Headlines: The American Revolution as Seen through the British Press* (2009) and *Savages within the Empire* (2005).
‘Lesley Coote’s scholarly study broadens our understanding of the interconnectivity of medieval outlaw tales.’
– Alexander L. Kaufman, Reed D. Voran Distinguished Professor of Humanities, Ball State University, Indiana

Robin Hood is one of the most enduring and well-known figures of English folklore. Yet who was he? Lesley Coote re-examines the early tales about Robin in light of the stories, both English and French, that surrounded them. In the process, she returns to questions such as ‘Where did Robin come from?’ and ‘What did these stories mean?’

The Robin who reveals himself is as spiritual as he is secular and as much an insider as he is an outlaw. And in the context of current debates about national identity and Britain’s relationship with the wider world, Robin emerges to be as European as he is English – or perhaps, as the author suggests, that is precisely the quality that made him fundamentally English all along.

Lesley Coote is Lecturer in Medieval Studies and Medievalism at the University of Hull. She has published widely on the Middle Ages and is the co-editor of Robin Hood in Outlaw/ed Spaces (2016) and Robin Hood and the Outlaw/ed Literary Canon (2018).
Heroes and Marvels of the Middle Ages
Jacques Le Goff

Heroes and Marvels of the Middle Ages is a history like no other: it is a history of the imagination, presented through two celebrated groups of the period. One group consists of heroes: Charlemagne, El Cid, King Arthur, Orlando, Pope Joan, Melusine, Merlin the Wizard, and also the fox and the unicorn. The other is the miraculous, represented here by three forms of power that dominated medieval society: the cathedral, the castle and the cloister.

This imaginative history is a continuing story that presents the heroes and marvels of the Middle Ages as the times defined them: venerated, then bequeathed to future centuries where they have continued to live and transform through remembrance of the past, adaptation to the present and openness to the future.

A renowned specialist in the Middle Ages and member of the École des Annales, Jacques Le Goff (1924–2014) was Director of Studies at the School for Advanced Studies in the Social Sciences, Paris. He was the author of many books, including The Middle Ages Explained in Pictures (2013).
Scenes and Traces of the English Civil War
Stephen Bann

‘This book is the product of subtle reasoning and considerable scholarship . . . What emerges from this study is how deeply an awareness of the violent reversals of fortune, caused by this war, entered the English psyche.’ – Frances Spalding, CBE, FRSL

‘This is the mature work of a master scholar, superbly researched and written and pioneering a new field.’ – Ronald E. Hutton FBA, Professor of History, University of Bristol

The English Civil War has become a frequent point of reference in contemporary political debate. A bitter and bloody series of conflicts, it shook the very foundations of seventeenth-century Britain. This is the first attempt to portray the visual legacy of this period, as passed down, revisited and periodically reworked over two and a half centuries of subsequent English history.

Highly regarded art historian Stephen Bann deftly interprets the mass of visual evidence accessible today, from ornate tombs and statues to surviving sites of vandalism and iconoclasm, public signage and historical paintings of subjects, events and places.


An original exploration of how the English Civil War has been portrayed over the centuries

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Acts Against God
A Short History of Blasphemy
David Nash

A phenomenon that spans human experience, from the ancient world right up to today’s ferocious religious debates, blasphemy is an act of individuals, but also a widespread and constant presence in cultural, political and religious life. *Acts Against God* is the first accessible history of this crime – its prosecution, its impact and its punishment and suppression.

The book begins in ancient Greece with the genesis of blasphemy’s link with the state. From here we move on to blasphemy in the medieval world, in the Reformation and the Enlightenment. The book concludes with the twenty-first century, with individuals and the state seeking to adopt blasphemy as the means to resist the secular and the globalization of culture.

David Nash is Professor of History at Oxford Brookes University. He has been researching, lecturing and publishing on the history of blasphemy for thirty years, and is the author of *Blasphemy in Modern Britain, 1789 to the Present* (1999) and *Blasphemy in the Christian World* (2010).
In the first book devoted to representations of Jesus Christ in contemporary photography, Nathalie Dietschy presents a rich range of images from the 1980s to the present day.

Acclaimed photographers such as Catherine Opie, Wang Qingsong, Joan Fontcuberta, Greg Semu, Andres Serrano, David LaChapelle, Renee Cox and Bettina Rheims offer fresh – and often provocative – depictions of Christ that address issues from race to sexuality to gender. *The Figure of Christ in Contemporary Photography* guides the reader through these alternative representations, analysing the complex social, political and cultural issues that the photographs bring to light.

Nathalie Dietschy is an art historian who works in the Faculty of Arts at the University of Lausanne, Switzerland. She is the co-editor of *Jésus en représentations* (2011) and *Le Christ réenvisagé* (2016).
Otter
Daniel Allen

‘A beautifully presented volume as charming and captivating as its subject matter . . . you will love this one.’ – Daily Mail

‘A captivating account of our changing relationship with the otter.’ – BBC Wildlife

‘[A] fine furry paean’ — The Guardian

Although rarely seen in the wild, the otter is admired for its playful character and graceful aquatic agility, which were established in the popular imagination through books and films such as Tarka the Otter and Ring of Bright Water. This, however, is just a small part of their story – throughout history the otter has also been widely hunted for its fur and to prevent it from killing fish. Sadly, all thirteen species of otter are now considered threatened, and their survival is by no means certain.

In Otter, Daniel Allen reveals how the animal’s identity has been shaped by human interactions. This wide-ranging book includes anecdotes from folklore, sports and popular literature, as well as exploring the ongoing efforts towards the otter’s conservation.

Daniel Allen is a human geographer with expertise in cultural, historical and environmental geography. He is also an affiliate member of the IUCN/SSC Otter Specialist Group.
Deep Song
The Life and Work of Federico García Lorca
Stephen Roberts

Federico García Lorca is Spain’s most famous writer, and an icon of its culture. He is the author of a series of innovative works that changed the face of Spanish poetry and drama.

In this new biography Stephen Roberts seeks out the roots of the man and his work in the places in which Lorca lived and died: the Granadan countryside where he spent his childhood; the Granada and Madrid of the 1910s, ’20s and ’30s where he was educated and first achieved success as a writer; and the mountains outside Granada where his body lies in an undiscovered grave. The book provides a full portrait of a complex and brilliant man, as well as giving new insights into the works that made his name.

Stephen Roberts is Associate Professor and Reader in Modern Spanish Literature and Intellectual History at the University of Nottingham. He has published widely on the literature, film and thought of Spain.

Deep Song
The Life and Work of Federico García Lorca
Stephen Roberts

A full portrait of the complex and brilliant Spanish poet and dramatist Federico García Lorca

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Patterns of Russia

*History, Culture, Spaces*

Robin Milner-Gulland

‘The author’s vivacious style brings the vast and often unfamiliar cultural world of the early Russian lands within the reach of all interested readers.’ – Simon Dixon, Sir Bernard Pares Professor of Russian History, University College London

*Patterns of Russia* shows how the public face of Russia developed and evolved through its distinct architecture, its astonishing art and its varied spaces. What emerges is a clear picture of how Russians fashioned their identity and the national monuments associated with it, in their setting – the Russian landscape – as well as elements of traditional material culture. Written in a concise and jargon-free style, tellingly illustrated, this book will appeal to all those with an interest in the history and culture of this complex country.

Robin Milner-Gulland is Emeritus Professor of Russian and East European Studies at the University of Sussex, and an eminent translator, author and editor of works on Russian topics. He is the author of *Cultural Atlas of Russia and the Former Soviet Union* (2nd edn, 2002) and *The Russians* (*The Peoples of Europe*) (1997), and translator of *Icon and Devotion* (Reaktion, 2002).

A remarkable overview of Russian history and culture, from the medieval period to the twentieth century
The Simple Truth
The Monochrome in Modern Art
Simon Morley

‘An indispensable introduction to the intriguing material, optical and philosophical challenges posed by the monochrome.’
– Malcolm Bull, Professor of Art and the History of Ideas, University of Oxford

‘Brilliantly explores the labyrinthine complexities of this apparently simple form of abstract art’ – David Batchelor, artist

The monochrome – a single-colour work of art – is highly ambiguous. For some it epitomizes purity, and is art reduced to its essence. For others it is just a stunt, the emperor’s new clothes. Why are monochromes so admired, yet such an easy target of scorn? In this illuminating book Simon Morley unpacks the meanings of the monochrome as it developed internationally over the twentieth century to today. In doing so he explores more general questions such as how artists have understood what they make, how critics variously interpret it and how art is encountered by viewers.

Simon Morley is an artist and writer. He is currently Assistant Professor at Dankook University, Republic of Korea, and is the author of Writing on the Wall: Word and Image in Modern Art (2003) and Seven Keys to Modern Art (2019), and editor of The Sublime (Documents of Contemporary Art) (2010).
Tokyo Before Tokyo
*Power and Magic in the Shogun’s City of Edo*
Timon Screech

Tokyo today is one of the world’s mega-cities, and the centre of a scintillating, hyper-modern culture – but not everyone is aware of its past. Founded in 1590 as the seat of the warlord Tokugawa family, Tokyo, then called ‘Edo’, was the locus of Japanese trade, economics and urban civilization until 1868, when it mutated into Tokyo and became Japan’s modern capital.

This beautifully illustrated book presents important sites and features from the rich history of Edo, drawn from contemporary sources such as diaries, guidebooks and woodblock prints. These include the huge bridge on which the city was centred, the vast castle of the shogun, sumptuous Buddhist temples, bars, kabuki theatres and the Yoshiwara, Edo’s famous red-light district.

Timon Screech is Professor in the History of Art at SoAS, University of London, and a Fellow of the British Academy. He is the author of many books, including *Sex and the Floating World: Erotic Images in Japan, 1700–1820* (2nd edn, Reaktion, 2009).
Food Adulteration and Food Fraud

Jonathan Rees

‘The problem [of adulterated food] may be timeless, but, as this book shows, the responses are ever evolving, culturally dependent, and worth more attention.’ – Benjamin R. Cohen, Associate Professor of Engineering Studies, Lafayette College

What do we really know about the food we eat?
A firestorm of recent food-fraud cases – from the honey-laundering scandal in the USA, to the forty-year-old frozen ‘zombie’ meat smuggled into China, to horsemeat passed off as beef in the UK – suggests fraudulent and intentional acts of food adulteration are on the rise.

Jonathan Rees examines the complex causes and surprising effects of adulteration and fraud across the global food chain. Covering comestibles of all kinds from around the globe, Rees describes the different types of contamination, the role and effectiveness of government regulation and our willingness to ignore deception if the groceries we purchase are cheap or convenient. Pithy, punchy and cogent, Food Adulteration and Food Fraud offers an important insight into this vital problem with our consumption.

Jonathan Rees is Professor of History at Colorado State University – Pueblo. His work on food history includes Refrigeration Nation (2013) and Before the Refrigerator (2018).
Leo Tolstoy
Andrei Zorin

‘I know of no other biography of Tolstoy as succinct, as objective, as readable or as thought-provoking as Andrei Zorin’s.’
– Donald Rayfield, Emeritus Professor of Russian and Georgian, Queen Mary, University of London

‘Andrei Zorin has produced a masterpiece where erudition and intellectual elegance intersect.’ – Hans Ulrich Gumbrecht, Albert Guérard Professor in Literature, Emeritus, Stanford University

When he arrived in Moscow in 1851, a young Leo Tolstoy set himself three immediate aims: to gamble, to marry and to obtain a post. At that time he managed only the first. The writer’s momentous life would be full of forced breaks and abrupt departures, from the death of his beloved parents to an abandonment of the social class into which he had been born.

Andrei Zorin skilfully pieces together Tolstoy’s life, offering an account of the novelist’s deepest feelings and motives, and a brilliant interpretation of his major works, including the celebrated novels War and Peace and Anna Karenina.

Andrei Zorin is Professor and Chair of Russian at the University of Oxford. He is the author of several books on Russian literature and culture, including On the Periphery of Europe, 1762–1825: The Self-invention of the Russian Elite (2018, co-authored with Andreas Schönle).

An insightful biography of Leo Tolstoy, one of the greatest novelists of all time

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This new critical biography provides a complete picture of German novelist, playwright and poet Johann Wolfgang von Goethe. The book offers fresh, thought-provoking interpretations of all the major works, including novels such as *The Sorrows of Young Werther* and *The Elective Affinities*, plays such as *Egmont* and *Iphigenia in Tauris*, and Goethe’s greatest work, *Faust*. Alongside these works the incidents of his life are analysed, including his love affairs and his meetings with the great people of the age, such as Napoleon Bonaparte.

Jeremy Adler shows how Goethe’s encyclopedic interest in many fields influenced later thinkers such as Charles Darwin and Sigmund Freud, Émile Durkheim and Susan Sontag. Goethe has often been called the last Renaissance man. This biography shows that Goethe was in fact the first of the moderns – a maker of modernity.

Jeremy Adler is Professor Emeritus of German and Senior Research Fellow at King’s College London. He has published and edited books on many topics, including Goethe, visual poetry, Kafka, exile literature, Elias Canetti and Hölderlin. He reviews and writes for the *New York Times Book Review*, the *Times Literary Supplement*, the *London Review of Books* and the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*.
The most celebrated French storyteller of the nineteenth century, Guy de Maupassant was a master of the modern short story. Offering an intriguing picture of French life, the enduring appeal of his stories derives from understated artistry, extreme craftsmanship and the universality of his characters and their aspirations and misfortunes.

In this insightful and compelling biography, the only one in English currently available, Christopher Lloyd situates Maupassant’s life and work in the literary and social context of nineteenth-century France. Lloyd skilfully introduces the reader to Maupassant’s most famous works, such as Boule de suif, Bel-Ami and Pierre et Jean, as well as highlighting the important stages and achievements of his life and legacy.

Christopher Lloyd is Emeritus Professor of French at Durham University. His publications on Maupassant include Maupassant: Bel-Ami (1988) and Maupassant, conteur et romancier (1994).
As the first black author in America to make his living exclusively by writing, Langston Hughes inspired a generation of writers and activists. One of the pioneers of jazz poetry, Hughes led the Harlem Renaissance, while Martin Luther King invoked his signature metaphor of dreaming in his speeches.

In this new biography, W. Jason Miller illuminates Hughes’s status as an international literary figure through a compelling look at the relationship between his extraordinary life and his canonical works. Drawing on unpublished letters and manuscripts, Miller addresses Hughes’s often ignored contributions to the civil rights movement of the 1960s and his complex and well-guarded sexuality, and repositions him as a writer, rather than merely the most beloved African American poet of the twentieth century.

London
City of Cities
Phil Baker

City of cities, the modern world’s first great metropolis, London has shaped everything from clothing to youth culture. It has a unique place in the world’s memory, even as its role has changed from the capital of the planet to its playground, and as its lived history has mutated into the heritage industry.

Londoner Phil Baker explores the city’s history, and the London of today, balancing well-known major events with more curious and eccentric details. He reveals a city of almost unmatched historical density and richness. For Baker, London turns out to be Gothic in all senses of the word, enjoyably haunted by its own often bloody past. And despite extensive redevelopment, as he shows in this engaging and insightful book, some of the magic remains.

Phil Baker’s previous books include a critical study of Samuel Beckett and a cultural history of absinthe. He lives in London and walks everywhere.
Madrid

Midnight City

Helen Crisp and Jules Stewart

‘There is no better guide to Madrid. A treasure trove of fascinating anecdotes and details, not to be missed.’
– Jason Webster, author ofViolencia: A New History of Spain

‘Impressively knowledgeable and well-researched. A joy to read!’
– Ainhoa Paredes, journalist and London correspondent for Spanish tv channel Telecinco

Spain’s top city for tourism, Madrid attracts more than six million visitors a year. Helen Crisp and Jules Stewart relate the story of a city and its people through the centuries, while their carefully curated listings give a nod to well-known attractions and sights, as well as hidden gems. Spain’s art capital, with its ‘Golden Triangle’ of museums and myriad art galleries, Madrid is also a city of dazzling nightlife, with a profusion of cafés and bars. This is the story of a vibrant, energetic city, one that remains an enigma to many outsiders.

Helen Crisp is a writer and editor in the healthcare field. She has been exploring the hidden corners and backstreets, little-known shops, galleries and museums of Madrid for more than 25 years.

Jules Stewart is a journalist and author of many books, including Madrid: A Literary Guide for Travellers (2018). He has an abiding affection for Madrid, where he lived for twenty years.

CITYSCOPES
March 2020 • History
ISBN 978 1 78914 219 8
216 x 138 mm • 248 pp
105 illustrations, 75 in colour
Hardback • £14.95/$22
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World Rights: Reaktion
Immensely skilful and inventive, Hans Holbein moulded his approach to art-making during a period of dramatic transformation in European society and culture: the emergence of humanism, the impact of the Reformation on religious life and the effects of new scientific discoveries. Most people have encountered Holbein’s work – Henry VIII was forever defined for posterity by his memorable portrait – but little is widely known about the artist himself.

This overview of Holbein looks at his art through the changes in the world around him. Offering insightful and often surprising new interpretations of visual and historical sources that have rarely been addressed, Jeanne Nuechterlein reconstructs what we know of the life of this elusive figure, illuminating the complexity of his world and the images he generated.

Jeanne Nuechterlein is Reader in the Department of History of Art at the University of York. She is the author of Translating Nature into Art: Holbein, the Reformation, and Renaissance Rhetoric (2011) and Deputy Editor of the journal Art History.
Artemisia Gentileschi and Feminism in Early Modern Europe
Mary D. Garrard

Artemisia Gentileschi is by far the most famous woman artist of the pre-modern era. Her art addresses issues that resonate today, such as sexual violence and women’s problematic relationship to political power. Her powerful paintings with their vigorous female protagonists chime with modern audiences, and she is celebrated by feminist critics and scholars.

This book breaks new ground by placing Gentileschi in the context of women’s political history. Mary D. Garrard shows that Gentileschi most likely knew or knew about contemporary writers such as the Venetian feminists Lucrezia Marinella and Arcangela Tarabotti. She discusses recently discovered paintings, offers fresh perspectives on known works and examines the artist anew in the context of feminist history.

This beautifully illustrated book gives a full portrait of a strong woman artist who fought back through her art.

Mary D. Garrard is Professor Emerita of Art History at American University, Washington, D.C. Her books include Artemisia Gentileschi: The Image of the Female Hero in Italian Baroque Art (1989) and Brunelleschi’s Egg: Nature, Art and Gender in Renaissance Italy (2010).
A new interpretation of Tycho Brahe’s pivotal role in the emergence of empirical science

Tycho Brahe and the Measure of the Heavens
John Robert Christianson

‘With gripping detail and brilliant illustrations, this book will be essential reading for anyone interested in the cosmos and culture of early modernity.’ – Simon Schaffer, Professor of History of Science, University of Cambridge

The Danish aristocrat and astronomer Tycho Brahe personified the inventive vitality of Renaissance life in the sixteenth century. Brahe lost his nose in a student duel, wrote Latin poetry and built one of the most astonishing villas of the period, as well as the observatory Uraniborg, while virtually inventing team research and establishing the fundamental rules of empirical science.

This illustrated biography presents a new and dynamic view of Tycho’s life, reassessing his gradual separation of astrology from astronomy, and his key relationships with Johannes Kepler, his sister, Sophie, and his kinsmen at the court of King Frederick II.

John Robert Christianson is Professor Emeritus of History at Luther College, Decorah, Iowa, and was made a Knight of the Royal Norwegian Order of Merit by King Harald V in 1995. He is the author of On Tycho’s Island (2000) and co-editor of Tycho Brahe and Prague: Crossroads of European Science (2002).

RENAISSANCE LIVES
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Mars

Stephen James O’Meara

Mars is a small world with a big reputation. This mysterious planet – with volcanoes that dwarf Mount Everest, a canyon system that would stretch fully across the USA and curious landscapes that may support life – has fascinated us for centuries.

In the most up-to-date account available of the elusive ‘Red Planet’, Stephen James O’Meara follows our longstanding love affair with this bewildering world, from the musings of humanity’s first stargazers, to the imaginings of science-fiction writers and film-makers, to the latest images and discoveries from orbiting spacecraft and robotic rovers. The book also reviews plans for piloted missions to Mars, and what it will take for those missions to succeed.

Stephen James O’Meara is an award-winning astronomer and the author or co-author of more than a dozen books, including *A Dictionary of Space Exploration* (2018). He is a columnist and editor for *Astronomy* magazine, associate editor of *GeminiFocus* and asteroid 3637 is named O’Meara in his honour.
Mole

Steve Gronert Ellerhoff

Though moles are rarely seen, they live in close proximity to humans around the world. Gardeners and farmers go to great lengths to remove molehills from their fields and gardens; mole-catching has been a profession for the past two millennia. Moles are also close to our imagination, appearing in myths, fairy tales and comic books as either wealthy, undesirable grooms or seekers of enlightenment.

In Mole Steve Gronert Ellerhoff examines moles in nature, as well as their representation throughout history and across cultures. Balancing evolution and ecology with photographs and artworks, Ellerhoff provides new insight into this exceedingly private mammal.

Jellyfish

Peter Williams

Jellyfish are, like the mythical Medusa, both beautiful and potentially dangerous. Found from pole to tropic, these mesmeric creatures form an important part of the sea’s plankton and vary in size from the gigantic to the minute. Perceived as alien creatures and seen as best avoided, jellyfish nevertheless have the power to fascinate: with the sheer beauty of their translucent bells and long, trailing tentacles; with a mouth that doubles as an anus; and without a head or brain.

Drawing upon myth and historical sources as well as modern scientific advances, this book examines our ambiguous relationship with these ancient and yet ill-understood animals, describing their surprisingly complex anatomy, weaponry and habits, and their vital contribution to the ocean’s ecosystem.

Peter Williams, who lives in Oxford, has a life-long interest in natural history and the contributions animals make to our culture. He is the author of Snail (Reaktion, 2009), also in the Animal series.
Chrysanthemum

Twigs Way

Drawing its allure from the gold of the sun and the rule of emperors, the chrysanthemum winds its way through ancient Chinese culture into the gardens of French Impressionist painters and onto the pages of American novels. The flower signifies both life and death, as parts of Europe associate it with mourning while others celebrate it for its golden rays that light the autumnal gloom.

In this fascinating book, Twigs Way follows the fortunes of the flower through philosophy, art, literature and death, recounting the stories of the men and women who became captivated by it. With a range of vibrant illustrations, including works by Hiroshige, Monet and Mondrian, it will appeal to lovers of art, flowers, history and culture.

Twigs Way is a lecturer, writer and speaker who has worked in historic landscapes and gardens for over thirty years. She is a regular contributor to BBC Countryfile and her previous books include Carnation (Reaktion, 2016), A Passion for Gardening (2015) and Garden Gnomes: A History (2009). She lives in Cambridgeshire.
Berries

Victoria Dickenson

What is it about the small fruits of field and wood that encourages rapture? These gifts of the earth – flagrant in hedgerows, carpeting the forest floor or colouring the uplands – are so ubiquitous as to be commonplace and so extraordinary that we have woven them into our folklore, fables and art. Strawberries, brambles, blueberries and raspberries were painted in the frescoes of Pompeii, twined into the borders of medieval miniatures and embroidered on silks and linens. Today the huge demand for these nutrient-rich fruits is pushing berry cultivation into new territories, from South America to Scandinavia, and changing the nature of our relationship with these much-loved fruits.

In this delightful, surprising and occasionally juicy exploration, Victoria Dickenson traces the humble berry’s journey across cultures and through centuries with humour and passion.

Victoria Dickenson is Adjunct Professor, Rare Books and Special Collections, at McGill University Library in Montreal and the author of Rabbit (2013) and Seal (2016), both published by Reaktion. A devoted amateur botanist, she spends summers in the berry-covered island of Newfoundland, where she has learned to savour the tiny, delicious fruits of field, forest and bog.
Beans are considered a basic staple in most kitchen cupboards, yet these humble foodstuffs have a very long history: there is evidence that beans have been eaten for 9,000 years. Whether dried, frozen or canned, beans have substantial nutritional and environmental benefits, and can easily be made into a wholesome, satisfying meal. From garbanzos to lentils, and from favas to soybeans, Beans: A Global History narrates the rich story of these small yet mighty edibles.

Featuring historic and modern recipes that celebrate the wide variety of bean cuisines, this book chimes with the modern trend for healthy eating, and takes readers on a vivid journey through the gastronomical, botanical, cultural and political history of beans.

Natalie Rachel Morris is a food systems instructor, food and culture scholar and trained culinarian. She is the founder of the award-winning farm and food directory Good Food Finder and works at Arizona State University. She lives in Phoenix, Arizona.
Avocado
A Global History
Jeff Miller

The avocado is the iconic food of the twenty-first century. It has gone from a little-known regional food to a social media darling in less than a hundred years. This is an astounding trajectory for a fruit that isn’t sweet, becomes bitter when it is cooked and has perhaps the oddest texture of any fruit or vegetable. But the idea that this rich and delicious fruit is also healthy despite being fatty and energy-dense gives it unicorn status among modern eaters, especially millennials.

Through lively anecdotes, colourful pictures and delicious recipes, Jeff Miller explores the meteoric rise of the avocado, from its co-evolution with the megaherbivores of the Pleistocene to its acceptance by the Spanish conquistadores in Mexico and its current dominance of food consumers’ imagination.

Jeff Miller is Associate Professor of Hospitality Management at Colorado State University. He is the co-author of Food Studies: An Introduction to Research Methods (2009) and was named Culinary Educator of the Year in 2017.

An exploration of the meteoric rise of the now ubiquitous avocado
‘Rensch tells his story in beautiful prose, and evinces a commitment to humanity, justice, and a different sort of society that is all too rare today.’
– Bhaskar Sunkara, author of The Socialist Manifesto: The Case for Radical Politics in an Era of Extreme Inequality

No Home for You Here is a memoir of a life lived in the shadow of Ronald Reagan. Raised in rural Ohio, Adam Theron-Lee Rensch tells a story of a millennial trying, and failing, to leave behind the shame of growing up poor in the middle of nowhere. Interweaving personal narrative and political criticism with recent social and political history, No Home for You Here shows how the interrelationship of class, culture and identity stifles working-class solidarity by constructing an imagined cultural divide that those in power use to maintain the status quo. No Home for You Here is a timely, passionate call for class consciousness in an era of economic crisis and staggering inequality.

Adam Theron-Lee Rensch was born and raised in Ohio. He writes regularly on topics ranging from class inequality and contemporary politics to pop culture and aesthetics. He lives in Chicago.
Hinterland
America’s New Landscape of Class and Conflict
Phil A. Neel

‘Neel writes in a visceral and stunning style of the slow apocalypse he everywhere finds . . . Hinterland is the geography lesson I’ve been looking for all year.’
– Rachel Kushner, ‘Book of the Year’, Bookforum

‘Imagine Patrick Leigh Fermor and Karl Marx on a road trip through the hubs and corridors of rust-belt America . . . Ambitious, polemical, brilliant.’ – Arlie Hochschild, author of Strangers in their Own Land: Anger and Mourning on the American Right

Over the last forty years, the landscape of the USA has been fundamentally transformed. It is partially visible in the ascendance of glittering coastal hubs for finance, infotech and the so-called ‘creative class’. But this is only the tip of an economic iceberg, the bulk of which lies in the darkness of the declining heartland or on the dimly lit fringe of sprawling cities. This is America’s hinterland.

Drawing on his direct experience of recent popular unrest, Phil A. Neel provides a close-up and intimate view of this landscape in all its grim but captivating detail.

Phil A. Neel was raised in a mobile home in the Siskiyou Mountains, on the border of California and Oregon. He writes regularly on diverse topics and currently lives in Seattle.
Utamaro and the Spectacle of Beauty
Revised and Expanded Second Edition
Julie Nelson Davis

‘This beautifully illustrated volume presents an engaging argument.’ – The Art Book

‘Davis has written a book that skilfully synthesizes a broad range of historical, cultural and artistic data’
– Print Quarterly

Japanese artist Kitagawa Utamaro (1753–1806) was one of the most influential artists working in the genre of *ukiyo-e*, ‘pictures of the floating world’, in late eighteenth-century Japan, and was widely appreciated for his prints of beautiful women. In this book, Julie Nelson Davis draws on a wide range of period sources, makes a close study of selected print sets and reinterprets Utamaro in the context of his times. Offering a new approach to issues of the status of the artist and the construction of gender, identity, sexuality and celebrity in the Edo period, and now in an updated edition containing a new preface and many new images, this book is a significant contribution to the field, and will be a key work for readers interested in Japanese arts and cultures.

Julie Nelson Davis is Professor of the History of Art (Modern East Asian) at the University of Pennsylvania.
Laughing Shall I Die
Lives and Deaths of the Great Vikings
Tom Shippey

‘Spirited, engaging and frequently very funny . . . an unmissable read for anyone interested in the Vikings.’
– BBC History Magazine

‘A fast-paced, exhilarating account of the psychology of the marauding Vikings.’ – Wall Street Journal


In this robust new account of the Vikings, Tom Shippey explores their mindset, and in particular their fascination with scenes of heroic death. The book recounts many of the great bravura scenes of Old Norse literature, including the Fall of the House of the Skjoldungs, the clash between the two great longships Ironbeard and Long Serpent and the death of Thormod the skald. The most exciting book on Vikings for a generation, Laughing Shall I Die presents them for what they were: not peaceful explorers and traders, but bloodthirsty warriors and marauders.

Tom Shippey is Professor Emeritus at Saint Louis University, Missouri. His books include J.R.R. Tolkien: Author of the Century (2001), The Road to Middle Earth (4th revd edn, 2004), and Hard Reading: Learning from Science Fiction (2016).

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Communist Posters

Mary Ginsberg

‘A visual feast and an illuminating global study.’
– Publishers’ Weekly

‘An important addition to the work on communication and legitimation in communist countries . . . Recommended.’
– Choice

One of the common features of communist regimes is the use of art for revolutionary means. Posters in particular have served as beacons of propaganda – vehicles of coercion, instruction, censure and debate – in every communist nation. They have promoted the authority of state and revolution, but have also been used as an effective means of protest.

This is the first truly global survey of the history and variety of communist poster art. Each chapter is written by an expert in the field and examines a different region of the world: Russia, China, Mongolia, Eastern Europe, North Korea, Vietnam and Cuba. This beautifully illustrated, comprehensive survey will appeal to a wide audience interested in art, history and politics.

Mary Ginsberg has had a career in international finance, and latterly has been a curator at the British Museum, London. She is the author of The Art of Influence: Asian Propaganda (2013).

Now available in paperback, this is the first truly global survey of communist poster art
Great Economic Thinkers
An Introduction – from Adam Smith to Amartya Sen
Edited by Jonathan Conlin

Introduction by D’Maris Coffman, Professor in Economics and Finance of the Built Environment, University College London. With contributions by Michelle Baddeley, Victoria Bateman, Emmanuelle Bénicourt, Katia Caldari, Jonathan Conlin, Mário Graça Moura, Karen Horn, Helen Paul, Joseph Persky, Paul Prew and Scott Scheall

Great Economic Thinkers presents an accessible introduction to the lives and works of the most influential economists of modern times: Adam Smith, David Ricardo, John Stuart Mill, Karl Marx, Alfred Marshall, Joseph Schumpeter, John Maynard Keynes, and Nobel Prize winners Friedrich Hayek, Milton Friedman, John Forbes Nash Jr, Daniel Kahneman, Amartya Sen and Joseph Stiglitz.

Free from jargon and equations, the book describes key economic concepts – from the role played by the division of labour to wages and rents, cognitive biases, game theory and liberalism – showing how they have come to shape our society today.

Jonathan Conlin is Senior Lecturer in History at the University of Southampton. His books include Tales of Two Cities: Paris, London and the Making of the Modern City (2013), Evolution and the Victorians (2014) and Adam Smith (Reaktion, 2016).
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