Welcome to Reaktion’s Autumn and Winter season of books for 2019. Here are some of the highlights.

Adam Mars-Jones is one of our most acute critics. 
*Second Sight* is a collection of Mars-Jones’s sharp, insightful and deeply amusing writing on cinema from the 1980s to the present day.

*Fabulosa!* by Paul Baker is a wonderfully entertaining and informative history of Britain’s secret gay language, Polari, from street to stage, from its heyday and decline, through to its recent revival.

In *Venus Betrayed* Julia Frey explores the private world of the great French painter Édouard Vuillard. Original, well-argued and lavishly illustrated, this will be an essential book for all who are interested in French art.

In her challenging new book *Licentious Worlds*, Julie Peakman puts sex at the centre of the history of empires and exploration, placing women back into the imperial equation as both exploited and exploiter.

Nicholas P. Money’s *The Selfish Ape* is the story of the human race’s place in the universe, our drive for dominance and our plunge towards extinction. Beautifully written and convincingly argued, it is one of the most important books Reaktion has published.

David Hayden, *Managing Director*
Michael R. Leaman, *Publisher*

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Second Sight
The Selected Film Writing of Adam Mars-Jones
Adam Mars-Jones

The film review can be a little art form, not just a consumer guide, as this collection shows. Covering more than thirty years of film releases, celebrated critic Adam Mars-Jones guides us through the most entertaining, most appalling, most fantastic films of his viewing lifetime, interleaving his original film reviews with new insights and reflections.

Mars-Jones answers the questions that no other book has ever bothered to ask. What is Twister really about? How many Steven Spielbergs are there? (Spoiler: he counts thirteen.) How many of them are worth anything? Who had the greatest slow-burn career in the movies? (Clue: he taught Montgomery Clift how to roll a cigarette.) Which science-fiction film features the most haunting use of slime? Funny, combative and revealing, Second Sight is a celebration of the art form that maintains the strongest hold on the modern imagination.

Adam Mars-Jones is Research Professor in Creative Writing at Goldsmiths, University of London. He was the first film reviewer for The Independent (1986–97) and currently writes on film for the Times Literary Supplement. His books include the novels Pilcrow (2008) and Cedilla (2011) and the 2015 memoir Kid Gloves (2015).
Fabulosa!
The Story of Polari,
Britain’s Secret Gay Language
Paul Baker

Polari was a language used chiefly by gay men in the first half of the twentieth century. It offered its speakers a degree of public camouflage, a way of expressing humour and a means of identification. Its colourful roots are varied – from the Cant used by eighteenth-century criminals to dancers’ slang – and in the mid-1960s it was thrust into the limelight by the characters Julian and Sandy on the BBC radio show *Round the Horne* (‘Oh Mr Horne, how bona to vada your dolly old eke!’).

Paul Baker recounts the story of Polari with skill, erudition and tenderness. He traces its origins and describes its linguistic nuts and bolts, explores the environments in which it was spoken, explains the reasons for its decline and tells of its unlikely re-emergence in the twenty-first century.

With a cast of drag queens, sailors, Dilly boys and macho clones, *Fabulosa!* is an essential document of recent history and a fascinating, fantastically readable account of this funny, filthy and ingenious language.

Paul Baker is Professor of English Language at Lancaster University. He has written sixteen books, including *American and British English* (2017) and, with Jo Stanley, *Hello Sailor! The Hidden History of Gay Life at Sea* (2003). He regularly gives talks and workshops about Polari and is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts.
‘A fascinating and complex story, beautifully told with clarity, passion and humour.’
– David Crystal

‘By turns deeply edifying and hugely entertaining, and unusual for being both – a future classic!’
– Damian Barr
Dogs in Art
Susie Green

From a Zoroastrian sculpture of a 100-kilogram mastiff to portraits of coiffured lap dogs, *Dogs in Art* presents humanity’s best friend like never before. Through a wide range of genres, fashions and cultures, and from Roman mosaics to Pop art, video, Impressionist painting and photography, this book brings together more than two hundred breathtaking canine images to tell the story of dogs in art from ancient times to the present. Susie Green considers the often very personal motives behind these artists’ works, and the reasons why dogs, as sentient, emotional beings, are loved and trusted by hundreds of millions of people, including artists such as William Hogarth, William Wegman and Lucian Freud.

The perfect gift for the many dog lovers around the world, this beautifully illustrated volume offers a dynamic new perspective on our relationship with this much cherished animal.

Show People

A History of the Film Star

Michael Newton

*Show People* offers a comprehensive history of the film star, traversing more than one hundred years and drawing on examples from America, Britain, Europe, Asia and elsewhere. Renowned film writer Michael Newton explores our enduring love affair with fame, glamour and the cinematic image. Newton builds up an expansive picture of movie stardom through striking and diverse figures such as Ingrid Bergman and John Wayne, Anna Karina and Sidney Poitier, Maggie Cheung and Raj Kapoor. He celebrates the great performers of the past and looks forward to developments in the future, while also illuminating the inner workings of the movie industry and exploring what moves us in a film or in an actor’s performance. Ultimately, *Show People* is a book about cinephilia, the love of cinema, and our complex connection to that celebrated and beleaguered figure the movie star.

Weaving together stories of science and sociology, *The Selfish Ape* offers a refreshing response to common fantasies about the ascent of humanity. Rather than imagining modern humans as a species with godlike powers, or *Homo deus*, Nicholas P. Money recasts us as *Homo narcissus*, paragons of self-absorption. This exhilarating story takes in an immense sweep of modern biology, leading readers from Earth’s unexceptional location in the cosmos to our microbial origins, to the workings of the human body. It explores human genetics, reproduction, brain function and ageing to present an enlightened view of the human being as a brilliantly inventive yet self-destructive animal.

This is a book about human biology, the intertwined characteristics of human greatness and failure, and the way that we have plundered the biosphere. Written in a highly accessible style, it is a perfect read for those interested in science, human history, sociology and the environment.

Nicholas P. Money is Professor of Biology and Western Program Director at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. He is the author of many books on science, including *Mushrooms: A Natural and Cultural History* (Reaktion, 2017) and *The Rise of Yeast: How the Sugar Fungus Shaped Civilization* (2018).
Understanding Animals
*Philosophy for Dog and Cat Lovers*
Lars Svendsen

How do animals perceive the world? What does it really feel like to be a cat or a dog? In *Understanding Animals*, Lars Svendsen investigates how humans can attempt to understand the lives of other animals. The book delves into animal communication, intelligence, self-awareness, loneliness and grief, but most fundamentally how humans and animals can cohabit and build a form of friendship. Svendsen provides examples from many different animal species, from chimpanzees to octopuses, but his main focus is on cats and dogs – the animals that many of us are close to in our daily lives.

Using both philosophical analysis and the latest scientific discoveries, Svendsen argues that examining an owner’s relationship with their pet is just as valid and insightful as the scientific study of human–animal relations. With this entertaining and thought-provoking book, animal lovers and pet owners will gain a deeper understanding of what it is like to be an animal and, in turn, a human.

Licentious Worlds

*Sex and Exploitation in Global Empires*

Julie Peakman

*Licentious Worlds* is a history of sexual attitudes and behaviour through five hundred years of empire-building around the world. In a graphic and sometimes unsettling account, Julie Peakman examines colonization and the imperial experience from women’s points of view, showing how they were involved in the building of empires, but also how they were almost invariably exploited. Women acted as negotiators, brothel-keepers, traders and peacekeepers, but they were also oppressed, forced into marriages and raped.

The book describes women in Turkish harems, Mughal *zenanas* and Japanese geisha houses, as well as in royal palaces, private households and on board ships. Their stories are drawn from many sources – from captains’ logs, missionary reports and cannibals’ memoirs to travellers’ letters, traders’ accounts and reports on prostitution. From debauched clerics and hog-sodomizing Pilgrims to sexually fluid cannibals and homosexual samurai, *Licentious Worlds* takes history where it has never been before.

Venus Betrayed

The Private World of Édouard Vuillard

Julia Frey

‘Densely illustrated with Vuillard’s personal jottings and sketches to full blown paintings, this is a breakthrough in artist biography, offering bold and fascinating interpretations of recurring motifs, gestures and other symbols.’
– Gloria Groom, Chair of European Painting and Sculpture, The Art Institute of Chicago

Édouard Vuillard (1868–1940) was so secretive that he berated himself for betraying his emotions in conversation. He was a reticent, impassioned man, a timid stalker and a social-climbing anarchist, caught between conflicting desires. From the 1880s until the advent of the Second World War, using styles from Academic to Pointillist to Nabi to Fauve, he abundantly revealed his love and hatred in his paintings: models pose beside a plaster torso cast from the Venus de Milo, women appear without faces and anxiety radiates from many of his masterpieces.

Drawing on insights and images from Vuillard’s still unpublished diaries, Julia Frey takes the reader into Vuillard’s private world of cabarets, experimental theatres, holiday resorts and intimate boudoirs.

Julia Frey is Emeritus Professor of French and Art History at the University of Colorado and a successful artist, printmaker and writer. Her books include the critically acclaimed biography Toulouse-Lautrec: A Life (2006), which won a PEN literary award, and Balcony View: A 9/11 Diary (2011). She now lives in France.
Cat
Katharine M. Rogers

‘A beautifully illustrated history . . . A perfect read for ailurophiles.’ – The Guardian

‘Cat unites a typically broad and fascinating set of images with Katharine Rogers’s elegant survey of the way humans have seen and thought of home-based felines.’ – The Independent

Cat traces the relationship between humans and the cat from its original domestication in ancient Egypt around 2000 BC, through the centuries as a utilitarian rodent catcher, to its gradual acceptance as a charming and amiable pet and its present status as a companion on a par with the dog.

This highly illustrated book, now available in B-format, has a great deal to offer the enormous number of people who like and are interested in cats. Unlike many other cat books, it offers substantial and accurate information about the history of cats and their presentation in literature and art.

Katharine M. Rogers is a freelance writer living in Bethesda, Maryland. She is the author and editor of numerous books and anthologies, including The Cat and the Human Imagination (1998) and Pork: A Global History (Reaktion, 2012).
‘Enchanting . . . Dog shows how we and our best animal buddies have shaped each other over centuries.’ – You magazine

Susan McHugh shows how dogs today contribute to human lives in a huge number of ways, not only as pets or guide dogs but as sources of food in Asia, entertainment workers, and scientific and religious objects. Dog reveals how we have shaped these animals over the millennia – and how dogs have shaped us in turn.

The book unravels the debate about whether dogs are descended from wolves, and moves on to deal with canines in mythology, religion and health, and dog cults in ancient and medieval civilizations as disparate as Alaska, Greece, Peru and Persia. Dog also examines the relatively recent phenomenon of dog breeding and the invention of species, as well as the canine’s role in science fact and fiction – from Laika, the first animal to orbit the Earth, to science-fiction novels and cult films such as A Boy and his Dog.

Susan McHugh is Assistant Professor of English at the University of New England, Biddeford, Maine.
In Praise of the Bicycle
Marc Augé

This is the celebrated French anthropologist Marc Augé – who coined the term ‘non-place’ to describe the transience and anonymity of global airports, hotels and motorways – as we’ve never heard him before. In this new book, he casts his anthropologist’s eye on a subject close to his heart: cycling. Through *In Praise of the Bicycle*, Augé takes us on a personal journey of his own, on a two-wheeled ride around our cities and on a journey into our selves. We all remember the thrill of riding a bike for the first time and the joys of cycling. Here he reminds us that these memories are not just personal but rooted in a time and a place, in a history that is shared with millions of others.

Part memoir, part manifesto, this book celebrates cycling as a way of reconnecting with the places in which we live and, ultimately, as a necessary alternative to our disconnected world.

Marc Augé is a French anthropologist and was Director of Studies at the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales in Paris. His many books include *Non-places: Introduction to an Anthropology of Supermodernity* (1995) and *The Future* (2014). He lives in Paris.
Strong, Sweet and Dry
A Guide to Vermouth, Port, Sherry, Madeira and Marsala
Becky Sue Epstein

Today fortified wines are enjoying a renaissance, rediscovered by discerning imbibers and modern mixologists all over the world. Once a popular tipple to savour before or after dinner, fortified wines – sherry, port, Madeira and the like – had fallen out of favour in recent times. But now, in pubs and wine bars, high-end restaurants and homes, these wines are finding their way into innovative cocktails and are being appreciated anew for their fine qualities and strong, complex tastes.

This is the ultimate guide to these freshly rediscovered beverages which are sweeping the globe. In lively style, Becky Sue Epstein surveys the latest innovations and trends, along with their colourful history – the merchants, warriors and kings that helped create them. Featuring fine images along with anecdotes, facts, history and recipes, this is a superb tour of the long history of fortified wines and their global resurgence today.

Becky Sue Epstein is an author and journalist in the fields of wine, spirits, food and travel, and is based in Massachusetts. She is the author of many books on food and drink, including *Champagne: A Global History* (2011) and *Brandy: A Global History* (2014), both in Reaktion’s Edible series.
Hat

Origins, Language, Style

Drake Stutesman

‘An excellent anthropological and sociological world-wide study of the importance and significance of hats from the beginning of time to the present day.’ – Christina Giorcelli, Professor Emeritus of American Literature at the University of Rome Three

In this beautifully illustrated celebration of the hat, Drake Stutesman uncovers the influence on our lives of this versatile headgear. Beginning in the last Ice Age, the story of the hat is traced through its links with the origins of abstract thinking, through the complex evolution of the professions of millinery and hatting in the Middle Ages, through the rise of the superstar milliner in the twentieth century, and, finally, through the work of the ingenious hat-makers of today who continue to dazzle us with their creations. For all those interested in the history of fashion and the history of culture, Hat offers new perspectives on this stylish, practical and important accessory.

Drake Stutesman is an adjunct professor at New York University. She edits the cinema and media journal Framework and is the author of Snake (Reaktion, 2005) and co-editor of Film, Fashion, and the 1960s (2017).
Afterimages
On Cinema, Women and Changing Times
Laura Mulvey

This book marks a return for Laura Mulvey to questions of film theory and feminism, as well as a reconsideration of new and old film technologies. Its title, Afterimages, alludes to the dislocation of time that runs through many of the films and works it discusses as well as to the way we view them. Structured in three main parts, the book begins with a section on the theme of woman as spectacle. Part Two focuses on films drawn from different parts of the world, directed by women and about women, and all adopting radical cinematic strategies. In Part Three Mulvey considers moving image works made for art galleries and argues that the aesthetics of cinema have persisted into this environment.

Afterimages also features an appendix of ten frequently asked questions on her classic feminist essay ‘Visual Pleasure and Narrative Cinema’, in which Mulvey addresses questions of spectatorship crucial to our #MeToo era. An urgent and compelling book for anyone interested in the power and pleasures of moving images.

Laura Mulvey is Professor of Film at Birkbeck, University of London. She is the author of Visual and Other Pleasures (1989/2009), Fetishism and Curiosity (1996/2013) and Death 24x a Second: Stillness and the Moving Image (Reaktion, 2006).
Poussin as a Painter
*From Classicism to Abstraction*
Richard Verdi

‘By careful forensic analysis of each composition, the author reveals how Poussin’s rigour and discipline forge unity from diversity.’ – Paul Spencer-Longhurst, Editor, *Richard Wilson Online*, Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art

Universally regarded as the father of French painting, Nicolas Poussin is arguably the greatest of all painters of that school. Yet Poussin’s reputation has been founded more on the intellectual and philosophical qualities of his art than its sheer visual beauty.

In *Poussin as a Painter: From Classicism to Abstraction* Richard Verdi redresses the balance, describing and analysing Poussin’s outstanding gifts as a pictorial storyteller, designer and colourist – in short, on the purely aesthetic (and often abstract) aspects of his art that have inspired so many later painters, from Cézanne to Picasso. The book features more than 220 fine illustrations, the majority in colour, and encompasses all aspects of Poussin’s art from the mid-1620s to his death in 1665. This ground-breaking study gives new insight into Poussin and is essential reading for all who admire this seminal French painter.

Richard Verdi is former Professor of Fine Art and Director of the Barber Institute of Fine Arts, University of Birmingham. His many books include *Nicolas Poussin, 1594–1665* (1995), *The Parrot in Art: From Durer to Elizabeth Butterworth* (2007) and *Rembrandt’s Themes: Life into Art* (2014).

A ground-breaking, beautifully illustrated study of the father of French painting, Nicolas Poussin

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The End

Artists’ Late and Last Works

Carel Blotkamp

When is a work of art finished? Can it be complete in a mental sense? And who decides? In this highly original and wide-ranging study, Carel Blotkamp explores the concept and manifestations of ‘the end’ in art.

Examining both the idea of a mortal end and the notion of completeness, Blotkamp covers a fascinating array of historical facts and myths as well as novels on art and artists. He discusses the value of the final works of artists, considering how a particular end came about and how that might affect our perception of the work; the changes in style of many artists in old age; unfinished last works and those completed by another’s hand; and the mythology inherent in the reception of last works, taking the last works of Raphael and Mondrian as prime examples. For students, artists and art enthusiasts looking for a new perspective on modern art, The End is the perfect place to start.

Carel Blotkamp is Professor Emeritus of the History of Modern Art at Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam, and a well-known authority on Paul Mondrian and De Stijl. He is the author of Mondrian: The Art of Destruction (Reaktion, 2001).
A much-needed publication relevant to the growing popular interest in death, dying, mourning and thereafter.
– John Picton, Emeritus Professor, SOAS, University of London

If weddings are the most lavish events in most parts of the world, in Sub-Saharan Africa, by contrast, it is funerals. Funeral celebrations can be flamboyant occasions, particularly those honouring prominent people. Artworks of many kinds are created to commemorate the dead, from mortuary sculptures and extravagant coffins to elaborate headstones, memorials, monuments and cenotaphs.

This is a unique survey of the ‘artful’ nature of funerals in Africa. Drawing on a wide range of historical, anthropological, archaeological, art historical and literary sources, John Mack charts the full range of African funereal art, drawing on examples from across the continent and from ancient times to today. Featuring abundant illustrations, some of which have never been published before, this is essential reading for those interested in African art, culture, society and history.

John Mack is Professor of World Art Studies in the Sainsbury Research Unit at the University of East Anglia and a specialist in African arts and cultures. His many books include The Museum of the Mind: Art and Memory in World Cultures (2003), The Art of Small Things (2007) and The Sea: A Cultural History (Reaktion, 2011).
Kingfishers are a sight to behold. The dash and verve of this cosmopolitan bird has been admired for millennia, appearing in creation myths, imperial regalia and cultural iconography, and they were once valued as highly as gold. Artists used their iridescent feathers in *tian-tsui*, an iconic style of Chinese fine art, for more than 2,400 years. The magnificent temples at Angkor Wat in Cambodia owe their existence in part to the great wealth generated by the live kingfisher trade from the Indochinese peninsula. As a muse, the kingfisher has influenced philosophers, playwrights and artists, from the Roman poet Ovid to Carl Jung, Charles Darwin and others, while more recently biomimicry engineers have turned to kingfishers for inspiration.

This beautifully illustrated book delves into the origins and diversity of the more than 120 species of kingfisher, from the burly kookaburras to the diminutive birds that daringly pluck spiders from webs, defining their characteristics, their differences, their lifestyles and their cultural significance around the world.

Ildiko Szabo is Collections Curator of the Cowan Tetrapod Collection at the University of British Columbia Beaty Biodiversity Museum, Vancouver. She is the co-author of *British Columbia Pelagic Marine Copepoda: An Identification Manual and Annotated Bibliography* (1982).
Goldfish
Anna Marie Roos

Living work of art, consumer commodity, scientific hero and environmental menace: the humble goldfish is the ultimate human cultural artefact. A creature of supposedly little memory and a short life span, it has universal appeal. In ancient China, goldfish were saved from predators in acts of religious reverence and selectively bred for their glittering grace. In the East they became the subject of exquisite art, regarded as living flowers that moved, while in the West they became ubiquitous residents of the Victorian parlour. Cheap and eminently available, today they are bred by the millions for the growing domestic pet market, while also proving to be important to laboratory studies of perception, vision and intelligence.

In this illuminating homage to the goldfish, Anna Marie Roos challenges the cultural preconceptions of a creature often thought to be common and disposable, as she blends art and science to trace the surprising and intriguing history of this much-loved animal.

Anna Marie Roos is Professor of the History of Science and Medicine at the University of Lincoln. Her previous books include Martin Lister and his Remarkable Daughters: The Art of Science in the Seventeenth Century (2018), Web of Nature: Martin Lister (1639–1712), the First Arachnologist (2011) and The Salt of the Earth: Natural Philosophy, Medicine, and Chymistry in England, 1650–1750 (2007).
Fear and fascination sets wasps apart from other insects. Despite their iconic form and distinctive colours, they are surrounded by myth and misunderstanding. Often portrayed as cartoon-like stereotypes bordering on sad parody, wasps have an unwelcome and undeserved reputation for aggressiveness verging on vindictive spite. This mistrust is deep-seated in a human history that has awarded commercial and spiritual value to other insects, such as bees, but has failed to recognize any worth in wasps.

Leading entomologist Richard Jones redresses the balance in this enlightening and entertaining guide to the natural and cultural history of these powerful carnivores. Jones delves into their complex nesting and colony behaviour, their unique caste system and their major role at the centre of many food webs. Drawing on contemporary scientific concepts and featuring many striking colour illustrations, Jones successfully shows exactly why wasps are worthy of greater understanding and appreciation.

Polar bears are truly majestic animals: the largest land-dwelling carnivore on earth, they can measure up to 3 metres in length and weigh up to 700 kilograms. They are also iconic in other ways – a symbol of the climate change debate, with their survival now threatened by the loss of Arctic ice. Their images decorate fountains and the cornices of buildings across Europe. They sell cold drinks. They feature in children’s books, on merry-go-rounds and under the arms of weary toddlers heading for bed. Their pelts were once highly prized by hunters, and live captures became attractions in zoos and circuses. Stuffed bears still haunt museums and stately homes.

This is a natural and cultural history of the polar bear, describing the evolution, species, habitat and behaviour of the animal as well as its portrayal in art, literature, film and advertising. With many fine images throughout, this will appeal to the wide audience who love these outsize, beautiful, seemingly cuddly yet deadly carnivores.

Margery Fee is Emerita Professor of English at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada. Her most recent book is Literary Land Claims: ‘The Indian Land Question’ from Pontiac’s War to Attawapiskat (2015).
Dmitry Shostakovich
Pauline Fairclough

‘Pauline Fairclough’s attractively readable and fair-minded new biography sails elegantly past old arguments while taking fascinating account of the mass of new research that has appeared in recent years.’ – Gerard McBurney, composer

Dmitry Shostakovich was one of the most successful composers of the twentieth century – a musician who adapted as no other to the unique pressures of his age. By turns vilified and feted by Stalin during the Great Purge, Shostakovich twice came close to the whirlwind of political repression and he remained under political surveillance all his life, despite the many privileges and awards heaped upon him in old age. Yet Shostakovich had a remarkable ability to work with, rather than against, prevailing ideological demands, and it was this quality that ensured both his survival and his posterity.

Pauline Fairclough is Professor of Music at the University of Bristol. She is a well-known authority on Soviet music and on Shostakovich in particular. Her most recent book, *Classics for the Masses: Shaping Soviet Musical Identity Under Lenin and Stalin* (2016), was co-winner of the BASEES Women’s Forum Book Prize in 2018.
The Belgian Surrealist artist René Magritte redefined the way we think about art. Famous for his men in bowler hats, Magritte’s witty and provocative work inspired generations of later artists, from Andy Warhol to Jasper Johns. In this illuminating new biography Patricia Allmer radically repositions Magritte’s work in relation to its historical and cultural circumstances. Allmer explores the significant influence of events and experiences in Magritte’s early childhood and youth, recorded in his letters and essays: his memories of visiting fairs and circuses; of magical shows and performances; of the cinema; and in particular his first encounter with his future partner, Georgette, on a fairground carousel.

Allmer’s analyses of these events and their influence on both well-known and less familiar images give new insights into Magritte’s art. The book will appeal to those who wish to know more about Magritte’s life and work, as well as the wide audience for Surrealism.

This is a book about the life and work of a singular writer, known for his biographies and travel writing but most famous for his novels *The Red and the Black* (1830) and the *Charterhouse of Parma* (1839). As a child, Stendhal witnessed the unfolding of the French Revolution; as a young man, he served Napoleon first as a soldier and then as an administrator; and in middle age he made it his task not to pursue his career, but instead to take as much paid leave as possible in order to be free and to be happy, and to write.

Stendhal’s works often take the form of conversations with his readers – the ‘Happy Few’, as he called them – about the things that matter most. He once claimed that he spent the majority of his life ‘carefully considering five or six main ideas’. This book sets out to show what those main ideas were, why they mattered to Stendhal and why they continue to matter to his readers.

Polymath Rabindranath Tagore was the first non-European to be awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature, in 1913. But Tagore was much more than a writer. Through his poems, novels, short stories, poetic songs, dance-dramas and paintings, he transformed Bengali literature and Indian art. He was instrumental in bringing Indian culture to the West and vice versa, and strove to create a less divided society through mutual respect and understanding, like his contemporary and close friend Mahatma Gandhi.

In this timely reappraisal of Tagore’s life and work, Bashabi Fraser assesses Tagore’s many activities and shows how he embodies the modern consciousness of India. She examines his ties to his upbringing in Bengal, his role in Indian politics and his interests in international relationships, as well as addressing some of the misreadings of his life and work through a holistic perspective.

Bashabi Fraser is the co-founder and Director of the Scottish Centre of Tagore Studies (ScoTs). Her most recent publications include Scottish Orientalism and the Bengal Renaissance: The Continuum of Ideas (2017) and Rabindranath Tagore’s Global Vision (2015). She lives in Edinburgh.
The Italian sculptor known as Donatello helped to forge a new kind of art – one that defines the Renaissance. His work was progressive, innovative, challenging and even controversial. Using a variety of novel sculptural techniques and perspectives, Donatello depicted human sexuality, violence, spirituality and beauty. But to really understand Donatello one needs to understand a changing world, the transition from medieval to Renaissance and to an art more personal and aware of the modern self. Donatello was not just a man of his times: he helped create the spirit of the times he lived in, and those to come.

In this beautifully illustrated book, the first monograph on Donatello for 25 years, A. Victor Coonin describes the full extent of Donatello’s revolutionary contribution and shows how his work heralded the emergence of modern art.

A. Victor Coonin is a leading historian, critic and reviewer of Renaissance art. He is the author and editor of numerous books and articles on the subject, including *From Marble to Flesh: The Biography of Michelangelo’s David* (2014), and has taught at Rhodes College since 1995. He lives in Memphis, Tennessee.
Raphael and the Antique
Claudia La Malfa

The Renaissance artist Raphael is known for his extraordinary frescoes, sublime Madonnas, devotional altarpieces, architectural designs, and inventive prints and tapestries. It was his use of ancient Roman models – classical sculptures, reliefs and paintings – that formed his much-admired classical style and influenced the styles of many later artists.

In Raphael and the Antique, Claudia La Malfa gives a full account of the path of Raphael’s prodigious career, from central Italy when he was seventeen years old, to Perugia, Siena and Florence, where he first met Leonardo and Michelangelo, to Rome, where he became one of the most feted artists of the Renaissance. This book highlights Raphael’s reinvention of classical models, his draughtsmanship and his concept of art, which he pursued and was still striving to perfect at the time of his death in 1520, aged only 37.

Claudia La Malfa teaches History of Art at Loyola University Chicago in Rome and is Visiting Lecturer at the University of Kent. Her previous publications include Pintoricchio a Roma. La seduzione dell’antico (2009).
Throughout his controversial life, the alchemist, physician and social radical known as Paracelsus combined traditions that were magical and empirical, scholarly and folk, learned and artisanal. He endorsed both Catholic and Reformation beliefs, but believed devoutly in a female deity. He travelled constantly, learning and teaching a new form of medicine based on the experiences of miners, bathers, alchemists, midwives, barber-surgeons and executioners.

He argued for changes in the way the body was understood, how disease was defined and how treatments were created, but he was also moved by mystical speculations, an alchemical view of nature and an intriguing concept of creation.

Bruce T. Moran tells the story of how alchemy refashioned medical practice and brings to light the ideas, workings and major texts of an important Renaissance figure, showing how his tenacity and endurance changed the medical world for the better, and brought new perspectives to the study of nature.

Since antiquity few trees have had a greater impact on the world’s culture and economy than the mulberry. The sole food of the silkworm, the leaves of the mulberry brought prosperity not only to ancient China but to all nations that learned the art of silk production. Mulberry bark was used to make the first paper, and the succulent, blood-red fruit of the black mulberry has inspired poets from Ovid to Shakespeare. The medicinal properties of all parts of the tree have been known for millennia, making it a tree of choice for medieval monastery gardens, while its antidiabetic effects are opening exciting avenues of research today.

This sumptuously illustrated book tells the remarkable story of the mulberry tree and its migrations from China and Central Asia to almost every continent on the globe. It will appeal to all who wish to know more of the rich history of this emblematic tree.

Peter Coles is a visiting fellow at the Centre for Urban and Community Research, Goldsmiths, University of London, and is a freelance science writer, fine art photographer and translator.
Delicioso
A History of Food in Spain
María José Sevilla

Spanish cuisine is a melting pot of cultures, flavours and ingredients: Greek and Roman, Jewish, Moorish and Middle Eastern. It has been enriched by its climate, geology and spectacular topography, which have encouraged a variety of regional food traditions and cocinas, such as Basque, Galician, Castilian, Andalusian and Catalan. It has been shaped by the country’s complex history, as foreign occupations brought religious and cultural influences that determined what people ate and still eat. And it has continually evolved with the arrival of new ideas and foodstuffs from Italy, France and the Americas, including cocoa, potatoes, tomatoes, beans and chilli peppers.

This is the first book in English to trace the history of the food of Spain from antiquity to the present day. From the use of pork fat and olive oil to the Spanish passion for aubergines and pomegranates, María José Sevilla skilfully weaves together the history of Spanish cuisine, the circumstances affecting its development and characteristics, and the country’s changing relationship to food and cookery.

María José Sevilla has for much of her career been a broadcaster and writer of Spanish food culture. Her previous books include Life and Food in the Basque Country (1989), Spain on a Plate (1992) and Mediterranean Flavours (1995). She lives in London.
Mustard
A Global History
Demet Güzey

Whether grainy or smooth, spicy or sweet, Dijon, American or English, mustard accompanies our food and flavours our life around the globe. It has been a source of pleasure, health and myth from ancient times to the present day, its tiny seed a symbol of faith and its pungent flavour a testimony to refined taste. In this delightful global history, Demet Güzey takes readers on a tour of the ubiquitous mustard, exploring its origins, its use in medicine and in the kitchen, its place in literature, language and religion, and its strong symbolism of sharpness, perseverance and strength. There are stories of mustard plasters used to treat melancholy, of runners eating mustard to prevent cramps, and of Christians spreading mustard seeds along pilgrimage trails.

Packed with entertaining mustard facts, anecdotes and images, as well as a selection of historic and modern recipes, this surprising history of one of the world’s most loved condiments will appeal to food history aficionados.

Demet Güzey is a food and wine writer, researcher and lecturer based in Verona, Italy. She is the author of Food on Foot: A History of Eating on Trails and in the Wild (2017).
Glacier

Nature and Culture

Peter G. Knight

As major actors in the unfolding drama of climate change, glaciers feature prominently in Earth’s past and its future. Wherever on the planet we live, glaciers affect each of us directly. They control the atmospheric and ocean circulations that drive the weather; they supply drinking and irrigation water to millions of people; and they protect us from catastrophic sea-level rise. The very existence of glaciers impacts our view of the planet and of ourselves, but it is less than two hundred years since we realized that ice ages come and go, and that glaciers once covered much more of the planet’s surface than they do now.

An inspiration to artists, a challenge for engineers, glaciers mean different things to different people. Crossing the boundaries between art, environment, science, nature and culture, this book uniquely considers glaciers from myriad perspectives, revealing their complexity, majesty and importance, but also their fragility.

Peter G. Knight is Reader in Geography at Keele University, and his research on glaciers has been published in leading international journals. His previous books include Glaciers (1999) and Glacier Science and Environmental Change (2006). He lives in Whitchurch.
Saturn
William Sheehan

Saturn is the showcase of the solar system. It may not be the largest of the planets, or the smallest, or even the only planet with rings. But it is among the most stunningly beautiful objects in the sky and is always breathtaking when seen through a telescope.

*Saturn* is a beautifully illustrated, authoritative overview of the entire history of humankind’s fascination with the ringed planet, from the first low-resolution views of Galileo, Huygens and other early observers with telescopes to the most recent discoveries by the spacecraft *Cassini*, which studied the planet at close range between 2004 and 2017. The book describes the planet from inside out, details the complicated system of rings and their interaction with Saturn’s bevy of satellites, and considers how Saturn formed and the role it played in the early history of the Solar System. Featuring the latest research and a spectacular array of images, it will appeal to the wide audience for astronomy and popular science.

William Sheehan is a historian of astronomy, writer and amateur astronomer, based in Flagstaff, Arizona. His most recent books include *Jupiter*, with Thomas Hockey, and *Mercury* (both Reaktion, 2018), *Discovering Pluto* (2018) with Dale Cruikshank, and *Northern Arizona Space Training* (2017) with Kevin Schindler. Asteroid Sheehan 16037 was named in his honour.
Photography and War
Pippa Oldfield

There are countless books on war photography, most of these focusing on dramatic images made by photojournalists in combat zones. *Photography and War* instead proposes a radically expanded notion of war photography, one that encompasses a far broader terrain of geographies, chronologies, practices and viewpoints. Pippa Oldfield considers photography’s fundamental role in military reconnaissance, propaganda and protest, the exposure of war crimes and the memorialization of war, among other themes. While iconic images by well-known names such as Roger Fenton and Robert Capa are included, the viewpoints of people who have historically been overlooked – women and photographers from diasporic and non-Western backgrounds – are forcefully present. As a result, this book offers a nuanced and more inclusive understanding of war as a far-reaching undertaking in which anyone might be implicated and affected. Richly illustrated, with some photos published for the first time, this book offers an accessible and well-rounded introduction to photography’s perhaps most contested, complex and emotive subject.

Pippa Oldfield is a historian and photography curator who has worked on many exhibitions on the theme of photography and war. She is Head of Programme at Impressions Gallery in Bradford, Honorary Research Fellow at Durham University and Visiting Research Fellow at the University of Leeds.
Australia

Modern Architectures in History
Harry Margalit

This book tells the story of the architects and buildings that have defined Australia’s architectural culture since the founding of the modern nation through Federation in 1901. That year marked the beginning of a search for city forms and better buildings to accommodate the realities of Australian life and to express an emerging distinctive – and, eventually, confident – national identity. While Sydney and Melbourne were the settings for many of the major buildings, all states and territories developed architectural traditions based on particular histories and climates. This book covers the flowering of these many variants, from the bid to create a model city in Canberra, through the stylistic battles that opened a space for modernism, to the idealism of post-war reconstruction and beyond to the new millennium. It reveals a vibrant and influential culture, at its best when it matches a civic idealism with the sensuality of a country of stunning light and landscapes.

Harry Margalit is an associate professor at unsw Sydney. His recent publications include Energy, Cities and Sustainability: An Historical Approach (2016).
For 270 years, the House of Braganza provided the kings and queens of Portugal. During a period of momentous change, from 1640 to 1910, this influential family helped to establish Portuguese independence from their powerful Spanish neighbours. They ruled the vast empire of Brazil from 1822 to 1889, successfully creating a unified nation and preventing the country from splitting into small warring states, and they saved the monarchy and government from total destruction by the marauding armies of Napoleon.

In his fascinating reappraisal of the Braganza dynasty, Malyn Newitt traces the rise and fall of one of the world’s most important royal families. He introduces us to a colourful cast of innovators, revolutionaries, villains, heroes and charlatans, from the absolutist Dom Miguel to the ‘Soldier King’ Dom Pedro I, and recounts in vivid detail the major social, economic and political events that defined their rule. Featuring an extensive selection of artworks and photographs, Newitt offers a timely look at Britain’s ‘oldest ally’ and the role of monarchy in the early modern European world.

‘Sugg’s book is in itself a kind of bewitchment, shimmering and eloquent, written with a certain ironic awareness and in the spirit of surrender to unknowing.’ – The Australian

How dangerous were fairies? In the late seventeenth century, they could still scare people to death. Little wonder, as they were thought to be descended from fallen angels, and to have the power to destroy the world itself. Such beliefs, along with some remarkably detailed sightings, lingered on well into the twentieth century.

In literature and art fairies often retained this edge of danger. From the wild magic of A Midsummer Night’s Dream, through the dark glamour of Keats, to the improbably erotic poem ‘Goblin Market’ or the paintings inspired by opium dreams, the amoral otherness of the fairies ran side-by-side with the newly delicate or feminized creations of the Victorian world. In the past thirty years the enduring link between fairies and nature has been robustly exploited by eco-warriors and conservationists, from Ireland to Iceland. This book, now available in paperback, tells the story of the many fairy terrors that lay behind Titania or Tinkerbell.

Live Wires
A History of Electronic Music
Daniel Warner

‘A wonderful guide through a still-evolving phenomenon and one that now, more than ever, deserves our attention.’
– Spectrum Culture

‘Definitely best consumed whilst imbibing his excellent chapter of recommended listening.’ – Shindig!

Live Wires explores how five key electronic technologies – the tape recorder, circuit, computer, microphone and turntable – revolutionized music. Featuring the work of major figures from Schaeffer, Varèse, Xenakis, Babbitt and Oliveros to Eno, Keith Emerson, Grandmaster Flash, Juan Atkins and Holly Herndon, Live Wires presents many of the powerful musical ideas that are being recycled, rethought and remixed by some of the most electrifying composers and musicians today.

Daniel Warner is Professor of Music at Hampshire College, Massachusetts. He is a composer and electronic artist whose sound and installation work has been presented at festivals around the world, and is co-editor of the seminal Audio Culture: Readings in Modern Music (2004).
Galaxy
Mapping the Cosmos
James Geach

‘An enthralling, detailed and beautiful look at one of the most challenging and exciting areas of modern astronomy, and a great addition to any enthusiast’s library.’
– BBC Sky at Night Magazine

‘An excellent guide to a world many of us never get to see, both on and off this planet.’ – BBC Focus

Written by an active researcher in the field, Galaxy: Mapping the Cosmos tells the rich scientific story of galaxy evolution and observation – discoveries of ‘spiral nebulae’, the nature of galaxies and the current ‘World Model’. Astronomer James Geach takes us on a tour of what is currently known and unknown, discussing why the ancient science of astronomy continues to fascinate humanity. Appealing to all readers interested in astronomy and cosmology, and featuring 108 superb colour photographs, Galaxy explores the enigma of our cosmic habitat, chronicling how our home in the universe came to be.

James Geach is a Royal Society University research fellow and reader in Astrophysics at the Centre for Astrophysics Research at the University of Hertfordshire, specializing in observational cosmology and the formation and evolution of galaxies. He is the author of Five Photons: Remarkable Journeys of Light across Space and Time (Reaktion, 2018).
Psyche on the Skin
A History of Self-harm
Sarah Chaney

‘Eloquent, awe-inspiring and sassy. This book will captivate anyone curious about the body and pain.’ – Joanna Bourke

‘A fascinating look at a set of topics often as taboo to talk about as the acts themselves . . . strongly recommended.’ – Choice


Drawing on the author’s personal experiences, written in an engaging style and containing many powerful images, Psyche on the Skin challenges the misconceptions and controversies surrounding self-harm. The book is crucial reading for professionals in the field as well as all those affected by this act.

Sarah Chaney is a research associate at ucl Health Humanities Centre, and Research Project Manager at Queen Mary Centre for the History of the Emotions, University of London.
Trick or Treat
A History of Halloween
Lisa Morton

Winner of both the Bram Stoker Award for Non-fiction and the Halloween Book Festival’s Grand Prize

‘If you want to know anything at all about the subject, you ought to find it in Trick or Treat.’ – Susan Hill, The Times

‘Well-written and illustrated, informative and entertaining.’
– Fortean Times

Trick or Treat is the first book to both examine the origins and history of Halloween and explore its current global popularity in depth. Lisa Morton examines the explosion in popularity of haunted attractions and the impact of events such as the global economic recession, as well as the effect Halloween has had on popular culture through literary works, films and television series. Trick or Treat takes us on a journey from the spectacular to the macabre, making it a must for anyone who wants to peep behind the mask to see the real past and present of this ever more popular holiday.

Lisa Morton is an award-winning author and widely acknowledged as one of the world’s leading authorities on Halloween. Her work includes Ghosts: A Haunted History (Reaktion, 2018) and The Halloween Encyclopedia, now in its second edition. She lives in Los Angeles, California.
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A Feast for the Eyes
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Carolyn Tillie
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Creative Gatherings
*Meeting Places of Modernism*
Mary Ann Caws
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Five Years Ahead of My Time
*Garage Rock from the 1950s to the Present*
Seth Bovey
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Katie Rawson and Elliott Shore  
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