Welcome to a new season from Reaktion Books.

Leading our new titles is *Cosmos* by Roberta J. M. Olson and Jay M. Pasachoff, a stunning illustrated exploration of the art and science of the universe. For art and food lovers, we have Carolyn Tillie’s *Feast for the Eyes* — a delightful and fascinating A to Z of edible art. And for rock music mavens we have, by Seth Bovey, the first comprehensive history of garage rock: *Five Years Ahead of My Time*.

We are pleased to publish in paperback some of our best books of recent years: Claire Preston’s superbly entertaining and informative *Bee*, Kasia Boddy’s excellent *Boxing: A Cultural History* and Elizabeth Semmelhack’s *Shoes: The Meaning of Style*, described by Manolo Blahnik as ‘an absolute must’.

Finally, to commemorate the quincentenary of Leonardo da Vinci’s death, we are publishing two original and illuminating books: Joost Keizer’s *Leonardo’s Paradox: Word and Image in the Making of Renaissance Culture* and, in our popular Renaissance Lives series, François Quiviger’s *Leonardo da Vinci: Self, Art and Nature*.

David Hayden, Managing Director
Michael R. Leaman, Publisher

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Cosmos

The Art and Science of the Universe

ROBERTA J. M. OLSON & JAY M. PASACHOFF

Since time immemorial, the nocturnal skies have mesmerized people, and heavenly bodies have inspired the imaginations of artists, poets and scientists. This book showcases the superstars of the firmament and universe in sumptuous illustrations, including paintings, sculptures, drawings, watercolours and prints, as well as plates from books, celestial diagrams and astronomical photography.

Cosmos: The Art and Science of the Universe charts the human love affair with the heavens in art and astronomy, based on sound science and accurate art and cultural history. The book in ten lively chapters tells the fascinating story of the quest to discover the mysteries of the universe. Enriched with new research, interpretations and amusing anecdotes, the authors weave a rich tapestry about the interconnections in the cosmos and the efforts to understand them. This is a stunning book that unveils the beauty of the cosmos and its compelling story throughout the ages.


JAY M. PASACHOFF is Field Memorial Professor of Astronomy and Director of the Hopkins Observatory at Williams College, Williamstown, Massachusetts, and co-author of The Sun (Reaktion, 2017). Together they are the authors of Fire in the Sky: Comets and Meteors, the Decisive Centuries, in British Art and Science (1998).
Savour a taste of the edible alphabet, from A to Z. Throughout history, visual and performance artists have rendered their visions within the whimsical medium of food. In Carolyn Tillie’s deeply satisfying *A Feast for the Eyes*, readers will embark on a delicious adventure that redefines the art world.

Explore the surprising artistry of apple-head dolls, butter sculptures, coffee paintings and a grand cathedral carved entirely from salt. Learn about the ancient role of food creations in ritual and global folk art. Experience the modern magnificence of electrified vegetable sculptures and ethereal molecular gastronomy. Discover why Salvador Dalí had an obsession with lobsters, and why there is a giant palace in the American Midwest made entirely of corn. Whether you are a food lover or an art aficionado, this book serves up an aesthetic banquet that will delight your senses – and nourish mind, body and soul.

**CAROLYN TILLIE** is a freelance writer and award-winning artist, and the author of *Oyster: A Global History* (Reaktion, 2017). She lives in the Californian coastal town of Montara.
Art is often seen as a solitary, even reclusive, endeavour. But artists, writers and musicians throughout history have found themselves energized by the company of others. Sharing ideas around a table has always provided a starting, and a continuing, place for fruitful exchanges between artists of all kinds.

In her fascinating new book, Mary Ann Caws explores a rich variety of gathering places, past and present, that have been conducive to the release and sustenance of creative energies. Creative Gatherings surveys meeting locations across Europe and the United States, from cityscapes to island hideouts, from private homes to public cafés and artists’ colonies. Examples include Florence Griswold’s house in Old Lyme, Connecticut, meeting place of the Old Lyme Art Colony; Prague’s Le Louvre café, haunt of Kafka and Einstein; Picasso’s modernist hangout in Barcelona, Els Quatre Gats; Charleston, gathering place of Virginia Woolf and Vanessa Bell and Duncan Grant; and the cafés of Saint-Germain-des-Prés and Montparnasse: the haunts of Apollinaire, Sartre and Patti Smith. The book interweaves two hundred examples of collaborative artworks through-out the text, with 120 in colour.
Gilded Youth

*Privilege, Rebellion and the British Public School*

JAMES BROOKE-SMITH

The British public school is an iconic institution, traditionally a training ground for the ruling elite and a symbol of national identity. But beyond the elegant architecture and evergreen playing fields is a turbulent history of teenage rebellion, sexual dissidence and political radicalism. *Gilded Youth: Privilege, Rebellion and the British Public School* wades into the wilder shores of public school life over the last three hundred years. It uncovers armed mutinies in the late eighteenth century, a Victorian craze for flagellation, dandy aesthetes of the 1920s, quasi-scientific discourse on masturbation, Communist scares in the 1930s and the salacious tabloid scandals of the present day.

Drawing on personal experience, extensive research and public school representations in poetry, school slang, spy films, popular novels and rock music, James Brooke-Smith offers a fresh account of upper-class adolescence in Britain and the role of a private education in shaping youth culture. He shows how this central British institution has inspired a counter-culture of artists, intellectuals and radicals – from Percy Shelley and George Orwell, to Peter Gabriel and Richard Branson – who have rebelled against both these schools and the wider society for which they stand. Written with verve and humour, this is a highly original cultural history in the tradition of Owen Jones’s *The Establishment: And How They Get Away With It*. 

JAMES BROOKE-SMITH is an Associate Professor of English Literature at the University of Ottawa. His writing has appeared in the *Times Literary Supplement*, *Village Voice* and *Public Books*. 

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February 2019

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The Europe Illusion
Britain, France, Germany and the Long History of European Integration
STUART SWEENEY


‘As the United Kingdom struggles to redefine itself and to determine its future relations with Europe and the wider world, Stuart Sweeney offers a timely reminder of how far this country’s fate has been tied to those of France and Germany. A thoughtful and measured contribution to the current Brexit debate.’ – Peter Wilson, Chichele Professor of the History of War, University of Oxford

In The Europe Illusion, Stuart Sweeney considers Britain’s relationships with France and Prussia-Germany since the map of Europe was redrawn at Westphalia in 1648. A timely and far-sighted study, it argues that integration in Europe has evolved through diplomatic, economic and cultural links cemented between these three states. Indeed, as wars became more destructive and economic expectations were elevated these states struggled to survive alone. Yet it has been rare for all three states to be friends at the same time. Instead, apparent setbacks like Brexit can be seen as reflective of a more pragmatic Europe, where integration proceeds within variable geometry.
Five Years Ahead of My Time

Garage Rock from the 1950s to the Present

SETH BOVEY

*Five Years Ahead of My Time: Garage Rock from the 1950s to the Present* tells of a musical phenomenon whose continuing influence on global popular culture is immeasurable.

The tale begins in 1950s America, when classic rock ‘n’ roll was reaching middle age, and teenage musicians kept its primal rawness going with rough-hewn instrumentals. In the mid-1960s the Beatles and the British Invasion conquered America, and soon every neighbourhood had its own garage band. Groups like the Sonics and 13th Floor Elevators burnt brightly but briefly, only to be rediscovered by a new generation of connoisseurs in the 1970s. Numerous compilation albums followed, spearheaded by Lenny Kaye’s seminal *Nuggets*, which resulted in a garage-rock rebirth during the 1980s and ’90s.

Be it the White Stripes or the Black Keys, bands have consistently found inspiration in the simplicity and energy of garage rock. It is a revitalizing force, looking back to the past to forge the future. And this, for the first time, is its story.

SETH BOVEY is Professor of English at Louisiana State University of Alexandria. He is also a musician and played in several garage bands in the 1970s and early ’80s.
Boxing
A Cultural History
KASIA BODDY

‘A penetrating, sparky and powerfully intelligent work of artistic, sporting and cultural history . . . when you get to its final page you will find that you have not merely been entertained but enlightened, too. A literary knockout.’ – *The Times Sports Books of the Year*

‘Compendious, and thoroughly fascinating . . . an excellent, well-written and beautifully illustrated book.’ – *Daily Telegraph*

Throughout history, potters, sculptors, painters, poets, novelists, cartoonists, songwriters, photographers and film-makers have recorded and made sense of boxing. In her encyclopedic investigation of the shifting social, political and cultural resonances of this most visceral of sports, Kasia Boddy tells us just how and why boxing has mattered so much to so many. From Daniel Mendoza to Mike Tyson, boxers have embodied and enacted our anxieties about race, ethnicity, gender and sexuality. Looking afresh at everything from neoclassical sculpture to hip-hop lyrics, Boddy explores the way in which the history of boxing has intersected with the history of mass media, and sheds new light on the work of such diverse figures as Henry Fielding and Spike Lee, Charlie Chaplin and Philip Roth, James Joyce and Mae West, Bertolt Brecht and Charles Dickens. This paperback edition contains a new preface by the author.

KASIA BODDY is Lecturer in the Faculty of English at the University of Cambridge and has published widely on British and American literature and film. She is the author of *The American Short Story Since 1950* (2010) and *Geranium* (Reaktion, 2012), and the editor of *The New Penguin Book of American Short Stories* (2011).

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June 2019

Sport

Paperback 210 x 148 mm

152 illustrations 576 pp

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ebook 978 1 86189 702 2
Dining Out
A Global History of Restaurants
KATIE RAWSON & ELLIOTT SHORE

A global history of restaurants beyond white tablecloths and maître d’s, this book presents restaurants as businesses as well as venues for a range of human experiences. From banquets in tenth-century China to the medicinal roots of French restaurants, the origins of restaurants are not singular – and nor is the history this book tells. Dining Out highlights stories across time and place, including how chifa restaurants emerged from the migration of Chinese workers and their marriages to Peruvian businesswomen in nineteenth-century Peru; how Alexis Soyer transformed kitchen chemistry by popularizing the gas stove, pre-dating the pyrotechnics of molecular gastronomy by a century; and how Harvey Girls dispelled the ill repute of waiting tables, making rich lives for themselves across the American West. This informed and entertaining history takes readers from the world’s first restaurants in Kaifeng to the latest high-end dining experiences.

KATIE RAWSON is Director of Learning Innovation at the University of Pennsylvania and writes on food culture. ELLIOTT SHORE is Professor of History Emeritus at Bryn Mawr College, Pennsylvania, and has written on the history of restaurants, advertising and German America.
Fat
A Cultural History of the Stuff of Life
CHRISTOPHER E. FORTH

‘Fat is the definitive overview of what bodily excess means and has meant in Western society. Forth’s dramatic account, written with grace and a touch of irony, is a vital and critical addition to the cultural history of the body by a master of the genre.’ – Sander Gilman, author of Fat: The Biography (2008)

Fat: a little word that evokes big responses. While ‘fat’ describes the size and shape of bodies, our negative reactions to excess flesh also depend on something tangible and tactile. As this book argues, there is more to fat than meets the eye. Fat: A Cultural History of the Stuff of Life offers a historical reflection on how fat has been perceived and imagined in the West since antiquity. Featuring fascinating historical accounts, as well as philosophical, religious and cultural arguments, including discussions of status, gender and race, the book digs deep into the past for the roots of our current notions and prejudices. By exploring the complex ways in which fat, fatness and fattening have been perceived over time, this book provides rich insights into the stuff our stereotypes are made of.

CHRISTOPHER E. FORTH is the Dean’s Professor of Humanities and Professor of History at the University of Kansas and the author of several books, including Masculinity in the Modern West (2008).
There is something about a shapeshifter – a person who can transform into an animal – that captures our imagination; that causes us to want to howl at the moon, or flit through the night like a bat. Werewolves, vampires, demons and other weird creatures appeal to our animal nature, our dark side, our desire to break free of the bonds of society and proper behaviour. Rituals in early cultures worldwide seemingly allowed shamans, sorcerers, witches and wizards to transform at will into animals and back again. Today there are millions of people who believe that shapeshifters walk among us and may even be world leaders. Real or imaginary, shapeshifters lurk deep in our psyches and remain formidable cultural icons.

The myths and magic surrounding shapeshifters are brought vividly to life in John B. Kachuba’s compelling and original cultural history. Featuring a fantastic and ghoulish array of examples from history, literature, film, tv and computer games, *Shapeshifters* explores our secret desire to become something other than human.

JOHN B. KACHUBA is an award-winning author and Creative Writing instructor at Ohio University. He has investigated over one hundred haunted locations around the world and his books include *Ghosthunters* (2007) and *Dark Entry* (2018).
Trading Territories
*Mapping the Early Modern World*

JERRY BROTTON

‘A beautifully illustrated account of the status, construction and purposes of maps in the Early Modern world.’ – *History Today*

‘Jerry Brotton’s elegant *Trading Territories* shows how historically maps were about facilitating trade and celebrating (and exerting) influence.’

– *The Independent*

*Trading Territories* tells the compelling story of maps and geographical knowledge in the early modern world from the fifteenth to the early seventeenth century. Examining how European geographers mapped the territories of the Old World – Africa and Southeast Asia – this book shows how the historical preoccupation with Columbus’s ‘discovery’ of the New World of America in 1492 obscured the ongoing importance of mapping territories that have since been defined as ‘eastern’, especially those in the Muslim world.

In this book, now available in paperback and updated with a new preface by the author, Jerry Brotton shows that trade and diplomacy defined the development of maps and globes in this period, far more than the disinterested pursuit of scientific accuracy and objectivity, and challenges our preconceptions about not just maps, but the history and geography of what we call East and West.

Radio
Making Waves in Sound
ALASDAIR PINKERTON

Radio is a medium of apparently endless contradictions. Now in its third century of existence, the technology still seems startlingly modern; despite frequent predictions of its demise, radio continues to evolve and flourish in the age of the Internet and social media. This book explores the history and mythology of the radio, describing its technological, political and social evolution, and how it emerged from Victorian experimental laboratories to become a near-ubiquitous presence in our lives. The book is shaped by radio’s multiple characters and characteristics—radio waves occur in nature, but have been harnessed and moulded by human beings to bridge oceans and reconfigure our experience of space and time.

An informative and thought-provoking book for all enthusiasts of an old technology that still has the capacity to enthuse, entertain, entice and enrage.

Published in association with the Science Museum, London.

ALASDAIR PINKERTON is Reader in Geopolitics at Royal Holloway, University of London. He is an avid radio listener and has battled with the ionosphere in the often futile attempt to receive shortwave signals from around the world.
Claire Preston’s *Bee* is a history of our long, complex relationship with this industrious, much-admired insect. The book moves from ancient political descriptions of the bee to Renaissance debates about monarchy, to the conversion of the virtuous, civil bee into the dangerous swarm of the Hollywood horror flick, and finally to the melancholy recognition that the modern decline of the bee is due to our use of harmful pesticides and destruction of the insect’s habitat.

Written in a lively, engaging style and containing many fascinating facts, anecdotes, fables and images, *Bee* is a wide-ranging, highly illustrated natural and cultural history of this familiar visitor to our gardens and parks. The book appeals to a wide audience: those who work with bees and honey; those who appreciate this hard-working, humble creature and its intricate, miniature society; and those too who have an interest in the way the bee has woven itself into the fabric of our culture.

Claire Preston is Professor of Renaissance Literature at Queen Mary, University of London.
What does it mean to feel something? What stimulates our desires, aspirations and dreams? Did our ancestors feel in the same ways as us? Historians have tried to make sense of our feelings, passions, moods, emotions and sentiments over the last decade in a wave of new research. For the first time, however, Rob Boddice brings together the latest findings to trace the complex history of feelings from antiquity to the present.

*A History of Feelings* is a compelling account of the unsaid – the gestural, affective and experiential. Boddice argues that how we feel is the dynamic product of the existence of our minds and bodies in moments of time and space. Using a progressive approach that integrates biological, anthropological and social and cultural factors, he describes the transformation of emotional encounters and individual experiences across the globe. Written by one of the world’s leading scholars of the history of emotions, this epic exploration of our affective life is essential reading for all those fascinated by our own well-being.
Many human beings have considered the powers and the limits of human knowledge, but few have wondered about the power that the idea of knowledge has over us. *The Madness of Knowledge* is the first book to investigate this emotional inner life of knowledge – the lusts, fantasies, dreams and fears that the idea of knowing provokes. The book includes in-depth discussions of the imperious will to know, of Freud’s epistemophilia, or love of knowledge, and the curiously insist ent links between madness, magical thinking and the desire for knowledge. Steven Connor also probes secrets and revelations, quarrelling and the history of quizzes and general knowledge, charlatanry and pretension, both the violent disdain and the sanctification of the stupid, as well as the emotional investment in the spaces and places of knowledge, from the study to the library.

In an age of artificial intelligence, alternative facts and mistrust of truth, *The Madness of Knowledge* offers an opulent, enlarging and sometimes unnerving psychopathology of intellectual life.
Lost Girls

*The Invention of the Flapper*

LINDA SIMON

‘Echoing the flappers’ joy and exuberance, Simon’s history positively sizzles on the page. It is a story of booze, dance and danger.’ – *BBC History Magazine*

‘[A] fascinating study of the phenomenon known as the flapper.’ – *History Books of the Year, Daily Mail*

In the glorious, boozy party after the First World War, a new being burst defiantly onto the world stage: the ‘flapper’. Young, impetuous and flirtatious, she was an alluring, controversial figure, celebrated in movies, fiction, plays and the pages of fashion magazines. But, as this book argues, she didn’t appear out of nowhere. Now available in paperback, this spirited, beautifully illustrated history presents a fresh look at the reality of young women’s experiences in America and Britain from the 1890s to the 1920s, when the ‘modern’ girl emerged.

Linda Simon shows us how the modern girl bravely created a culture, a look and a future of her own. *Lost Girls* is an illuminating history of the iconic flapper as she evolved from a problem to a temptation, and finally, in the 1920s and beyond, to an aspiration.

LINDA SIMON is Professor Emerita of English at Skidmore College, New York. Her many books include *Coco Chanel* (Reaktion, 2011) and *The Greatest Shows on Earth: A History of the Circus* (Reaktion, 2014).
Shoes
The Meaning of Style
ELIZABETH SEMMELHACK

‘Elizabeth Semmelhack’s work sheds a new and fascinating light on footwear, looking at its social significance and how it has changed over the years. It is an absolute must for those interested in the subject.’ – Manolo Blahnik

‘This book shows us all the fashion, art, and design that allowed shoes to become a powerful cultural phenomenon. From the feet to the street to the commercial mountain peaks!’ – Darryl ‘DMC’ McDaniels

We all make choices every day about which shoes to wear, but why do we choose the shoes we do? Organized around four main types – boots, sneakers, high heels and sandals – Shoes: The Meaning of Style explores the history of shoes and how different types of footwear have come to mean different things about the people who wear them. Along the way Elizabeth Semmelhack reveals the anecdotes and scandals, successes and failures, dislikes and obsessions of the makers, wearers and observers who helped to create the movements and fashions of footwear. Beautifully illustrated throughout, Shoes is a thoroughly surprising history of an everyday item that will appeal not only to followers of fashion, but to those interested in social history and identity.

Revolt in the Netherlands
The Eighty Years War, 1568–1648
ANTON VAN DER LEM

‘Elegant and fair-minded, and crammed with previously unseen visual material, this book will be recognised as a definitive study of a critical episode in the development of modern European society.’

Beginning in 1566, the Seventeen Provinces of the Netherlands rebelled against the absolute rule of the King of Spain. A confederation of duchies, counties and lordships, they demanded the right of self-determination. Their long struggle to regain their liberty and the subsequent rise of the Dutch Republic was a decisive episode in world history and an important step on the path to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

In his compelling retelling of the conflict, Anton van der Lem explores the main issues at stake on both sides of the struggle and why it took eighty years to achieve peace. He recounts in vivid detail the roles of the key protagonists, the decisive battles and the war’s major turning points, from the Spanish governor’s Council of Blood to the Twelve Years Truce, while all the time unravelling the shifting political, religious and military alliances that would entangle the foreign powers of France and Italy, Germany and England. Featuring many striking illustrations that have rarely been seen before, this is a timely and balanced account of one of the most historically important conflicts of the early modern period.

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History
Hardback 234 x 156 mm
81 illustrations, 74 in colour 272 pp
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ANTON VAN DER LEM is Curator of Rare Books at Leiden University Library.
Leonardo da Vinci (1452–1519) was the pre-eminent figure of the Italian Renaissance. He was also one of the most paradoxical. He spent an incredible amount of time writing notebooks – perhaps even more time than he ever held a brush – yet at the same time Leonardo was Renaissance culture’s most fanatical critic of the word. When Leonardo criticized writing he criticized it as an expert on words; when he was painting, writing remained in the back of his mind.

In Leonardo’s Paradox, published to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the death of this Renaissance master, Joost Keizer argues that the comparison between word and image fuelled Leonardo’s thought. The paradoxes at the heart of Leonardo’s ideas and practice also defined some of the Renaissance’s central assumptions about culture and nature: that there is a look to script, that painting offered a path out of culture and back to nature, that the meaning of images emerged in comparison with words, and that the difference between image-making and writing also amounted to a difference in the experience of time.
We spend our lives moving through passages, hallways, corridors and gangways, yet they do not feature in architectural histories, monographs or guidebooks. They are overlooked, undervalued and unregarded, seen as unlovely parts of a building’s infrastructure rather than ‘architecture’.

This book is the first definitive history of the corridor, from its origins in country houses and utopian communities in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, through reformist Victorian prisons, hospitals and asylums, to the ‘corridors of power’, bureaucratic labyrinths, and housing estates of the twentieth century. Roger Luckhurst takes in a wide range of sources, from architectural history to fiction, film and television, to explore how the corridor went from a utopian ideal to a place of unease: the archetypal stuff of nightmares.

ROGER LUCKHURST lives in a post-war utopian social housing estate in inner London and teaches at Birkbeck College, where he is Professor of Modern Literature in the School of Arts. He is the author of Zombies (Reaktion, 2015) and wrote the BFI Classics on Alien and The Shining.
Future Cities
_Architecture and the Imagination_
PAUL DOBRASZCZYK

'A compendious, dizzying collection of the cities of the future, and their analogues in the present. _Future Cities_ holds out the important hope that our cities could be better – fairer, more equal, more open – rather than just taller and weirder.'

— Owen Hatherley, author of _Militant Modernism_ and _Trans-Europe Express_

Architects, artists, film-makers and fiction writers have long been inspired to imagine cities of the future, but their speculative visions tend to be seen very differently from scientific predictions: flights of fancy on the one hand versus practical reasoning on the other. Challenging this opposition, _Future Cities_ teases out the links between speculation and practice, exploring a breathtaking range of imagined cities – submerged, floating, flying, vertical, underground, ruined and salvaged.

In the Netherlands, prototype floating cities are already being built. Dubai’s recent skyscrapers resemble those of science-fiction cities of the past, while makeshift settlements built by the urban poor in the developing world are already like the dystopian cities of cyberpunk. Bringing together architecture, fiction, film and art, the book reconnects the imaginary city with the real – proposing a future for humanity that is already grounded in the present and in creative practices of many kinds.

**February 2019**

Architectural book

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Darker Shades
The Racial Other in Early Modern Art
VICTOR I. STOICHITA

Difference exists; otherness is constructed. This book asks how important Western artists, from Giotto to Titian and Caravaggio, and from Bosch to Dürer and Rembrandt, shaped the imaging of non-Western individuals in early modern art. *Darker Shades* is a nuanced and detailed study that examines images of racial ‘otherness’ during a time of new encounters with different cultures, including people of colour, Muslims and Jews. The book also reconsiders the Western canon’s most essential facets: perspective, pictorial narrative, composition, bodily proportion, beauty, colour, harmony and lighting. What room was there for the ‘Other’ in such a crystalline, unchanging paradigm?

This book is a fascinating investigation for anyone interested in early modern art history, anthropology and post-colonial studies.

VICTOR I. STOICHITA is Professor of Modern and Contemporary Art History at the University of Fribourg, Switzerland. He is the author of *Visionary Experience in the Golden Age of Spanish Art* (1997) and *A Short History of the Shadow* (1997), and co-author with Anna Maria Coderch of *Goya: The Last Carnival* (1999), all published by Reaktion.
Earthly Immortalities

How the Dead Live On in the Lives of Others

PETER MOORE

‘This is a welcome addition to the interdisciplinary scholarship of death and dying.’
– William Spellman, Professor of History, University of North Carolina, Asheville

In this thought-provoking book, Peter Moore examines the often overlooked issues concerning human mortality – the fragile ways in which the dead can be said to ‘live on’ in earthly terms: not only in the memories of others, but through their children, their work, their possessions and even their bodies. Such earthly immortalities raise a host of fascinating questions about our attitudes to life, and to the world we leave behind us when we die.

To what extent does the meaning we find in our lives depend upon the assumption that there will always be a new generation to continue the human adventure? What would it be like if science were able to extend life indefinitely, and is this something already enshrined in the doctrine of reincarnation? Can we solve our anxieties about mortality by learning that life is worth living precisely because we do not live forever? A generous and eloquent account, these and more are the questions Earthly Immortalities seeks to answer.

PETER MOORE is Honorary Lecturer in Religious Studies at the University of Kent at Canterbury. His most recent book is Where are the Dead? Exploring the Idea of an Embodied Afterlife (2017).
Leonardo da Vinci

*Self, Art and Nature*

FRANÇOIS QUIVIGER

Published to coincide with the 500th anniversary of Leonardo da Vinci’s death, this incisive and illuminating biography follows the three themes that shaped the life of Leonardo and forever changed Western art and imagination: nature, art and self-fashioning.

Leonardo spent his childhood in the Tuscan countryside among farm workers before entering the most reputed artistic workshop of Florence. There he bloomed as one of the leading painters of his time, and began applying his skills to explore and question the world. By the 1480s he had transformed himself into an ideal court artist and was a familiar of kings; by the 1510s he left behind him the solemn image of a magus philosopher.

Following the chronology of his life, *Leonardo da Vinci: Self, Art and Nature* examines Leonardo as artist, courtier and thinker, and explores how these aspects found expression in his paintings, as well as his work in sculpture, architecture, theatre design, urban planning, engineering, anatomy, geology and cartography. It concludes with observations on Leonardo’s relevance today as a multidisciplinary artist, one who combined imagination and science to shape his own self and the world.

FRANÇOIS QUIVIGER is a Fellow of the Warburg Institute, University of London, where he previously worked as a librarian, curator of digital resources, researcher and teacher. He has written on Renaissance art theories, academies, wine, banquets and the history of sensation.
Pieter Bruegel and the Idea of Human Nature
ELIZABETH ALICE HONIG

In sixteenth-century northern Europe, during a time of increasing religious and political conflict, the Flemish painter Pieter Bruegel explored how people perceived human nature. Bruegel turned his critical eye to mankind’s labours and pleasures, its foibles and rituals of daily life, portraying landscapes, peasant life and biblical scenes in startling detail. Much like the great humanist scholar Erasmus of Rotterdam, Bruegel questioned how well we really know ourselves and also how we know, or visually read, others. His work often represented mankind’s ignorance and insignificance, emphasizing the futility of ambition and the absurdity of pride.

This superbly illustrated volume examines how Bruegel’s art and ideas enabled people to ponder what it meant to be human. Published to coincide with the 450th anniversary of Bruegel’s death, it will appeal to all those interested in art and philosophy, the Renaissance and Flemish painting.

ELIZABETH ALICE HONIG is Professor of European Art History at the University of California, Berkeley. She is the author of Jan Brueghel and the Senses of Scale (2016) and Painting and the Market in Early Modern Antwerp (1998).
At the end of his long, prolific life, Titian was rumoured to paint directly on the canvas with his bare hands. He would slide his fingers across bright ridges of oil paint, loosening the colours, blending, blurring, and then bringing them together again. With nothing more than the stroke of a thumb or the flick of a nail, Titian’s touch brought the world to life: the clinking of glasses, the clanging of swords and the cry of a woman’s grief. The sensation of hair brushing up against naked flesh, the sudden blush of unplanned desire and the dry taste of fear in a lost, shadowy place.

Titian’s art was a synaesthetic experience. To see was at once to hear, to smell, to taste and to touch. But while Titian was fully attached to the world around him, he also held the universe in his hands. Like a magician, he could conjure appearances out of thin air. Like a philosopher, his exploration into the very nature of things channelled and challenged the controversial ideas of his day. But as a painter, he created the world anew. Dogs, babies, rubies and pearls. Falcons, flowers, gloves and stone. Shepherds, mothers, gods and men. Paint, canvas, blood, sweat and tears. In a series of close visual investigations, Maria H. Loh guides the reader through the lush, vibrant world of Titian’s touch.

Mexico City
*Cradle of Empires*
NICK CAISTOR

Mexico City has always been a seat of empire. In its grandiose pretentions and sheer swagger, it gives the impression of power exercised over great distances. And yet this power has frequently been contested, lending the city a tough, battle-hardened look. At the same time, life in the Mexican capital can be carefree and intoxicating, and it continues to offer any visitor not only glimpses of past grandeur, but a fascinating wealth of the culture of Mexico today. This book explores how the city has grown over the centuries from the Tenochtitlan city-state to the capital of the Spanish empire’s ‘New Spain’, to French intervention, revolution and to the newly branded CDMX.

Nick Caistor leads us through centuries of history and into the material city of today: from recently constructed museums and shopping centres, to neighbourhoods where centuries-old traditions still appear to be the norm. Whether sampling ice cream at Xochimilco, watching freestyle wrestling at the Arena Mexico or savouring long Mexican breakfasts, Caistor reveals why the city continues to fascinate.

NICK CAISTOR is a former BBC Latin American analyst, and Latin American editor of *Index on Censorship* magazine. He broadcasts regularly on Latin American literature and art. He is the author of *Mexico City: A Cultural and Literary Companion* (1999) and *Octavio Paz* (Reaktion, 2007). He is editor of two anthologies and has translated many novels by Latin American and Spanish authors.
‘Any account for Hugo’s long and eventful life makes a rattling good yarn. Bradley Stephens’s signal achievement is to have compressed it into a short and lively book that gives accurate thumbnails of all the important works. Full of enthusiasm for his subject, Stephens writes nonetheless with admirable balance and does not mask Hugo’s human flaws. This “Hugo” will surely inspire readers to delve into the wonders of the poetry, drama and fiction created by the pre-eminent public figure of nineteenth-century France and whose image and moral example continue to shape many aspects of our contemporary world.’

– David Bellos, author of The Novel of the Century: The Extraordinary Adventure of Les Misérables

This biography, the first in English for over twenty years, provides a concise but comprehensive study of Victor Hugo’s monumental body of work within the context of his dramatic life. Hugo wrestled with family tragedy and personal misgivings while being pulled into the turmoil of the nineteenth century, from the fall of Napoleon’s Empire to the rise of France’s Third Republic.

Throughout these twists of fate, he sensed a natural order of collapse and renewal. This unending cycle of creation shaped his ideas about freedom and roused his imagination, which he channelled into his prolific writing and other outlets like drawing. Such vigour also suggests, as Bradley Stephens argues, that Hugo was too restless to sit comfortably on the pedestal of literary greatness.
Sometimes referred to as the father of biogeography, Alfred Russel Wallace is known as the co-discoverer of the theory of evolution through natural selection. A prolific author, he wrote extensively in the fields of zoology, botany, anthropology, politics and astronomy. Although he had a number of somewhat eccentric beliefs, which rendered him unpopular in certain circles, he is recognized as one of the leading figures in nineteenth-century British science.

Patrick Armstrong describes Wallace’s long life – born in 1823, Wallace died on the eve of the First World War – and shows him to be, in many ways, a more interesting character than his fellow scientist Charles Darwin. This compact yet comprehensive biography takes a psychological approach, attempting to provide an insight into a man who was, for much of his life, plagued with misfortune: legal problems, extreme difficulty in obtaining full-time employment, and relationship troubles all vexed him. This critical biography unlocks the life of a restless traveller who, although obtaining only an ‘ordinary’ education, became one of the most influential scientists of his time.
Arnold Schoenberg
MARK BERRY

The most radical and divisive composer of the twentieth century, Arnold Schoenberg remains a hero to many, and a villain to many others. Born in the Jewish quarter of his beloved Vienna, Schoenberg’s early career took him to Berlin, as a leading light of Weimar culture, before he fled in the dead of night from Hitler’s Third Reich. He found himself in the United States, settling in Los Angeles, where he would inspire composers from George Gershwin to John Cage. Schoenberg’s revolutionary approach to musical composition incorporated Wagnerian late Romanticism and the brave new worlds of atonality and serialism, and it changed the history of music forever.

In this refreshingly balanced biography, Mark Berry tells the story of Schoenberg’s life within the wider context of nineteenth- and twentieth-century history. He also introduces all of Schoenberg’s major musical works, from his very first compositions such as the String Quartet in D Major to his invention of the twelve-tone method. This book is essential reading for all those with an interest in the music and history of the twentieth century.

MARK BERRY is Reader in Music History at Royal Holloway, University of London. He is the author of Treacherous Bonds and Laughing Fire: Politics and Religion in Wagner’s ‘Ring’ (2016) and After Wagner: Histories of Modernist Music Drama from Parsifal to Nono (2014). He also regularly reviews concert and opera performances for his popular blog, Boulezian.
Thomas Mann
HERBERT LEHNERT & EVA WESSELL

‘This book provides an excellent, clear and concise summary of Thomas Mann’s life and work.’
– Ernest Schonfield, Lecturer in German, University of Glasgow

Novelist, short-story writer, essayist, social critic and philanthropist, Thomas Mann (1875–1955) became Germany’s most highly acclaimed writer. This critical biography sheds new light on his work, looking closely at how Mann’s brother Heinrich and his writing, as well as that of philosophers, notably Schopenhauer, Nietzsche and Goethe, influenced Mann and his compositions. Mann’s fictional worlds criticized the prevailing bourgeois order, and his very first novel, Buddenbrooks, signalled the need for change, while The Magic Mountain and ‘Death in Venice’ were both groundbreaking works that remain important today. Mann’s parting from Germany and his life in exile in the USA are explored in detail, and his political views – from his anti-Nazi speeches to his anti-McCarthyist activities – are investigated and reflected upon.

This engaging new account of a significant German writer illustrates how the context of Mann’s life shaped his achievements. It will appeal to students and scholars of German literature, as well as to all with an interest in the history and culture of the twentieth century.

HERBERT LEHNERT is Emeritus Professor of German at the University of California, Irvine, and has published many books on German literature. EVA WESSELL was previously a lecturer in the School of Humanities at the University of California, Irvine.
Carnivorous Plants
DAN TORRE

‘Dan Torre takes you from Ed Wood to Pokémon, from surrealistic art to synergistic relationships between bats and plants, all without missing a beat. This is one of those books that takes an already fascinating topic – animal-eating plants – and makes it even more exciting, more weird and endlessly fascinating.’
– Tim Entwhistle, Director and Chief Executive, Royal Botanic Gardens, Victoria, Australia

Carnivorous plants are a unique group, possessing modified leaves to trap, kill and consume small creatures. As a result they are often depicted as killers in films and literature, yet others regard them as exotic and beautiful specimens to collect and display.

In this abundantly illustrated and highly entertaining book, Dan Torre describes the evolution, structure and scientific background of carnivorous plants. He also shows how they have inspired our imaginations, examining their cultural and social history and how they have been represented in art, literature, cinema, animation and popular culture.

This fascinating history will appeal to the wide audience interested in these singular, arresting, beautiful yet deadly plants.

DAN TORRE is a Senior Lecturer in the School of Design at RMIT University, Melbourne, Australia. He is an avid grower and collector of cacti, and author of Cactus (Reaktion, 2017).
For centuries the common primrose has spread breathtaking carpets of pale lemon yellow across the globe. It and its close relatives the cowslip and oxlip are flowers of the field, hedgerow and meadow. Abundant, edible and beneficial for many ailments, they have supported civilization’s social and cultural foundations. As harbingers of spring, they have captured the attention of gardeners, plant breeders and scientists, while artists and poets have found them essential as both subject-matter and muse. William Shakespeare introduced us to ‘the primrose path’, a pleasurable but destructive route, in several of his plays, and Charles Darwin spent more than thirty years working with primroses to clarify the origin of species and solve an elegant evolutionary mystery.

This is the story of how primroses became one of the most important garden flowers, circling the earth, adapting to human civilization and yet holding their own on inaccessible craggy summits where they may never be seen. Bringing together stories, facts and folklore from around the world, this is a delightful guide to this hugely popular flower.

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**Primrose**

**ELIZABETH LAWSON**

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**ELIZABETH LAWSON** is a naturalist and writer with a background in botany and horticulture. Her most recent publication is an essay on Margaret E. Murie, the ‘grandmother of conservation’, in *Green Voices: Defending Nature and the Environment in American Civic Discourse* (2016). She lives in New York.

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**March 2019**

**Nature**

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Biscuit/Cookie
A Global History
ANASTASIA EDWARDS

Which is your favourite biscuit (or cookie, if you’re from the USA)? Do you prefer the flavour of chocolate chip or oatmeal and raisin, the crunch of ginger biscuits or oreos? Which is tastier: digestive or florentine? Biscuits and cookies have myriad forms and flavours, and they have a rich and ancient history – evidence of biscuit-making has been discovered to date from around 4000 BC.

Biscuit/Cookie by Anastasia Edwards explores the abundant history of this versatile snack, from its earliest beginnings to Middle Eastern baking and Northern Europe in the Middle Ages, and on into the New World. From German lebkuchen to the animal cracker – more than half a billion of which are produced each year in the United States alone – to brownies and sugar cookies in the U.S., to shortbread and rich tea biscuits in the U.K., to Anzac and Girl Guide biscuits in New Zealand and Australia, this book is crammed with biscuit and cookie facts, stories, images and recipes from around the world.

ANASTASIA EDWARDS is a writer and food historian, and author of an anthology of writing about Saigon, Saigon: Mistress of the Mekong (2003). She lives in London.
In the history of food, the tomato is a relative newcomer, but it would now be impossible to imagine the food cultures of many nations without it. The journey taken by the tomato from its ancestral home in the southern Americas to Europe and back is a riveting story full of discovery, innovation, drama and dispute. Today the tomato is at the forefront of scientific advances and heritage conservation, but it has faced challenges every step of its way into our gardens and kitchens, not to mention the eternal question facing this food: is it a fruit or a vegetable?

In *Tomato: A Global History* Clarissa Hyman charts the eventful history of this ubiquitous everyday item – one that is often taken for granted – covering everything from tomato soup and ketchup to heritage tomatoes, tomato varieties, breeding and genetics, nutrition, tomatoes in Italy, tomatoes in art and tomatoes for the future. Featuring delicious modern and historical recipes, such as the infamous ‘man-winning tomato salad’, this is a juicy and informative history of one of our most beloved foods.
Pelican
BARBARA ALLEN

With its distinctive, comical walk, large bill and association with the conservation movement, the pelican has attained iconic status. But the pelican has a chequered history. Classed as ‘unclean’ in the King James Bible, the legend of the compassionate pelican was later appropriated by Christianity to symbolize Christ’s sacrifice. This majestic bird, gifted to British royalty in 1664, has been celebrated in art and literature, from Shakespeare’s King Lear to the writing of Edward Lear, and is the recipient of three Guinness World Records. The pelican’s anatomy has been copied for paper plane construction, aircraft design and in 3D imaging, all while it has fought back from the threat of extinction, habitat destruction and environmental disasters such as the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. Its resilience is as remarkable as its anatomy.

In this must-read book for all bird enthusiasts, Barbara Allen skilfully weaves together wildlife trivia, historical tales and the latest research to provide an engaging account of the cultural and natural history of this emblematic bird.

BARBARA ALLEN is a minister in the Uniting Church in Australia. Her previous publications include Pigeon (2009) and Animals in Religion (2016), both published by Reaktion.
Blue Mythologies
*Reflections on a Colour*
CAROL MAVOR

‘Blue, in Mavor’s vertiginous essay, is not so much an object of art-historical analysis as an energy or atmosphere, the very mood in which [Mavor] thinks and writes.’ – Brian Dillon

‘Mavor is at her somersaulting best, moving effortlessly between disciplines.’ – *Los Angeles Review of Books*

The sea, the sky, the veins of your hands, the earth itself when photographed from space . . . blue sometimes seems to overwhelm all the other shades of our world in its all-encompassing presence. The blues of *Blue Mythologies* include those present in the world’s religions, a robin’s egg, science, slavery, gender, sex, art, literature and contemporary film. Carol Mavor’s engaging and elegiac readings in this beautifully illustrated book are at once sociological, literary, historical and visual, taking the reader from the blue of a newborn baby’s eyes to Giotto’s frescoes at Padua, and from the films of Derek Jarman and Krzysztof Kieślowski to the islands of Venice and Aran.

In *Blue Mythologies* Mavor unpicks meaning both above and below the surface of culture, giving us a fresh and contemplative look into the traditions, tales and connotations of those somethings blue.

CAROL MAVOR is Professor of Art History and Visual Culture at the University of Manchester. She has published widely on photography, cinema, colour and childhood. Her books include *Aurelia: Art and Literature through the Mouth of the Fairy Tale* (Reaktion, 2017).

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A History of Reading
STEVEN ROGER FISCHER

‘Starting from the Bronze Age and ending with modern emails and a possible future of e-books, Steven Fischer’s A History of Reading takes in a wonderful diversity of things.’ – Nature

‘It’s an exciting story, which the author tells clearly and chronologically.’ – Daily Telegraph

Steven Roger Fischer’s fascinating book, now available in an updated B-format edition, traces the complete story of reading, from the time when symbol first became sign through to the electronic texts of the present day.

Journeying smoothly across continents and through time, Fischer charts the developments of ancient and completely divergent writing systems and scripts in Asia and the Americas; the innovative re-inventions of reading – silent and liturgical reading, the custom of lectors, reading’s focus in general education – in Europe and the Middle East during the Middle Ages; the emergence of the book trade, broadsheets, newspapers and public readings; the sweeping educational reforms of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries; and the appearance of free libraries, gender differences in reading matter, public advertising and the ‘forbidden’ lists of Church, State and the unemancipated. Finally, he assesses the future, suggesting a radical new definition of what reading could be.

STEVEN ROGER FISCHER FRs is former Director of the Institute of Polynesian Languages and Literatures, Auckland, New Zealand. He has written many books, including A History of Language (1999, new edn 2018), A History of Writing (2001) and Island at the End of the World: The Turbulent History of Easter Island (2005), all published by Reaktion.
Edge of Empires
A History of Georgia
DONALD RAYFIELD

‘A wonderful history of Georgia, lifting the lid on that country’s torrid, rambunctious past (and present). Impeccably researched, limpidly written and full of insight.’ – William Boyd, Books of the Year, The Guardian

‘The most wide-ranging and reliable history of Georgia one is likely to find for many years to come.’ – Financial Times

Georgia is the most Western-looking state in today’s Near or Middle East, and despite having one of the longest, most turbulent histories in the Christian or Near Eastern world, no proper history of the country has been written for decades. Eminent historian Donald Rayfield redresses this balance in Edge of Empires, focusing not merely on the post-Soviet era, like many other books on Georgia, but on the whole of its history, accessing a mass of new material from the country’s recently opened archives.

Rayfield describes Georgia’s swings between disintegration and unity, making full use of primary sources, many not available before in an English-language book. He examines the history of a country that, though small, stands at a crossroads between Russia and the Muslim world, between Eastern Europe and Central Asia, and which is a dramatic example both of state-building and of tragic political mistakes.

DONALD RAYFIELD is Emeritus Professor of Russian and Georgian in the Department of Russian, Queen Mary University of London. He has published the standard history of Georgia’s literature, and is editor-in-chief of the immense Comprehensive Georgian–English Dictionary. His Stalin and His Hangmen has been translated into nine languages.
Eyewitnessing
The Uses of Images as Historical Evidence
PETER BURKE

‘A thoroughly engrossing explication of how fine art, graphics, photographs, film and other media can be used to make sense of lives lived out in other times.’ – Tate Magazine

Eyewitnessing evaluates the place of images among other kinds of historical evidence. By reviewing the many varieties of images by region, period and medium, and looking at the pragmatic uses of images – for example, the Bayeux Tapestry, an engraving of a printing press or a reconstruction of a building – Peter Burke sheds light on our assumption that these practical uses are ‘reflections’ of specific historical meanings and influences. He also shows how this assumption can be problematic.

Traditional art historians have depended on two types of analysis when dealing with visual imagery: iconography and iconology. Burke describes and evaluates these approaches, concluding that they are insufficient. Focusing instead on the medium as message and on the social contexts and uses of images, he discusses both religious images and political ones, and looks at images in advertising and as commodities.

Ultimately, Burke’s purpose is to show how iconographic and post-iconographic methods – psychoanalysis, semiotics, viewer response, deconstruction – are both useful and problematic to contemporary historians.
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