

Book Group Annotated List

John Armstrong – Move Closer

- strategies for approaching and understanding art and architecture

S.N. Behrman – Duveen

- biography of famous art dealer for the wealthy

Vanora Bennett – Portrait of an Unknown Woman

- novel based on a Hans Holbein painting of the family of Sir Thomas More

Geraldine Brooks – Year of Wonders

- fictional year in the life of a remote British village decimated by the bubonic plague

Sheramy Bundrick – Sunflowers

- novel depicting an imagined relationship between Van Gogh and a prostitute in Arles

A.S. Byatt – The Matisse Stories

- three stories inspired by color-rich images in Matisse paintings

A.S. Byatt – Still Life

- characters face conflict between responsibilities to others and private dreams

Noah Charney – The Art Thief

- fictional investigation of three related art thefts

Tracy Chevalier – Burning Bright

- poet William Blake's fictional contact with children in Georgian London who inspire his work

Tracy Chevalier – The Lady and the Unicorn

- imaginary story detailing the creation of the medieval Lady and the Unicorn tapestries

Tracy Chevalier – Girl with a Pearl Earring

- fictional portrait of Vermeer model

Rachel Cohen – A Chance Meeting

- fictionalized descriptions of real encounters between American writers and artists

Stephanie Cowell – Claude & Camille: A Novel of Monet

- story based on Monet's relationship with Camille Doncieux

Caroline Cros – Marcel Duchamp

- life and major works of Marcel Duchamp

Lynn Cullen – The Creation of Eve

- novel based on the life of the first renowned female Renaissance painter,
Sofonisba Anguissola

Deborah Davis – Strapless

- John Singer Sargent and the fall of Madame X

Edward Dolnick – The Forger's Spell

- story of Han van Meegeren forgery of Vermeer paintings and others during Nazi
occupation of the Netherlands

Edward Dolnick – The Rescue Artist

- the hunt for Munch's stolen masterpiece, *The Scream*

Mark Doty – Still Life with Oysters and Lemon

- author's personal and emotional involvement with a specific painting

Robert M. Edsel – The Monuments Men

- WW II military men charged with mitigating damage to European monuments
and locating plundered art

Ralph Ellison – Invisible Man

- nameless protagonist deals with racial bigotry from the Deep South to Harlem

F. Scott Fitzgerald – The Great Gatsby

- novel depicting wealthy American society in the 1920s

Jack Flam – Matisse and Picasso

- their lives, their rivalry and their friendship

Ken Follett – Pillars of the Earth

- twelfth century epic set against a backdrop of the construction of a Gothic cathedral

Michael Frayn – Headlong

- comedy of errors over potential re-discovered masterpiece

Cynthia Freeland – But is it Art?

- introduction to art theory and philosophy

Martin Gayford – The Yellow Room

- re-creation of the nine weeks Van Gogh and Gauguin lived together in Arles

Anton Gill – Art Lover

- biography of Peggy Guggenheim

Amy Butler Greenfield – A Perfect Red

- three hundred year history of the once precious red dye, cochineal

Matthew Hart – The Irish Game

- true story of art theft and recovery (including a Vermeer)

Tamara K. Hareven and Randolph Langenbach – Amoskeag: Life and Work in an American Factory-City

- social and cultural picture of a mill city (Manchester, NH) through oral histories and photos

Lucinda Hawksley – Lizzie Siddal: Face of the Pre-Raphaelites

- biography of Lizzie Siddal, model and wife of Dante Gabriel Rossetti

Elizabeth Hickey – The Painted Kiss

- imagined relationship between Gustav Klimt and Emilie Flöge

Anne Higonnet – Berthe Morisot

- biography of Berthe Morisot

Jeffrey Hogrefe – O'Keeffe: The Life of an American Legend

- biography of Georgia O'Keeffe

Susanne Keegan – The Bride of the Wind

- biography of Alma Mahler

Ross King – The Judgment of Paris: The Revolutionary Decade That Gave the World Impressionism

- beginning of the Impressionist movement with Edouard Manet and Ernest Meissonier as the central figures

Ross King – Michelangelo and the Pope's Ceiling

- recounting of the four years spent painting the Sistine Chapel ceiling

Erik Larson – The Devil in the White City

- an history of the 1893 Chicago World's Fair and a mass murderer

Norma H. Mandel – Beyond the Garden Gate: The life of Celia Loughton Thaxter

- biography of Celia Thaxter

Steve Martin – An Object of Beauty

- novel of a young woman's rise in the late 20th century art collecting business

W. Somerset Maugham – The Moon and Sixpence

- English businessman throws aside all to paint in Tahiti

Richard Meryman – Andrew Wyeth: A Secret Life

- biography of Andrew Wyeth and family

Howard Norman – The Museum Guard

- explores ideas of love, identity and art against impending WW II background

Stanley Olson – John Singer Sargent: His Portrait

- biography of John Singer Sargent

Ian Pears - The Last Judgement

- mystery involving murder over a nondescript painting

Francine Prose – The Lives of the Muses

- study of nine women and their interaction with the artist they inspired

Sally M. Promey – Painting Religion in Public

- story of John Singer Sargent's mural at the Boston Public Library

Jean Renoir – Renoir, My Father

- memoir of conversations between Renoir and his son Jean

Sue Roe – The Private Lives of the Impressionists

- group biography of Manet, Monet, Pissarro, Cezanne, Renoir, Degas, Sisley, Berthe Morisot and Mary Cassatt

Laney Salisbury and Aly Sujo – Provenance

- modern art forgery scam

Cynthia Saltzman – Old Masters, New World

- America's Gilded Age art buying binge

Douglass Shand-Tucci – The Art of Scandal

- life and times of Isabella Stewart Gardner

Irving Stone – The Agony and the Ecstasy

- biographical novel of the life of Michelangelo

Irving Stone – Lust for Life

- biographical novel of the life of Vincent Van Gogh

Louise Hall Tharp – Mrs. Jack

- biography of Isabella Stewart Gardner

Sarah Thornton – Seven Days in the Art World

- behind the scenes look at the making, trading, curating, collecting and promoting of contemporary art

Evelyn Toynton – Modern Art

- fictional parallel to lives of Jackson Pollock and Lee Krasner

Irwin Unger and Debi Unger – The Guggenheims: A Family History

- the Guggenheim family from 1775 (Meyer) to 2005

Barry Unsworth – Stone Virgin

- novel about a conservator working on a Venetian Madonna who becomes involved with both her history and her present situation

Jane Urquhart – The Stone Carvers

- fictional story of German settlers in Canada culminating in the carving of the Vimy Memorial

Jane Urquhart - The Underpainter

- elderly artist recalling his life through a new series of paintings

Georgio Vasari – Lives of the Artists

- 16th century biographies of Italian painters, sculptors and architects

Ambroise Vollard – Recollections of a Picture Dealer

- anecdotal recollections of art and artists (especially Impressionists) in Paris at the turn of the 20th century

Susan Vreeland - The Forest Lover

- fictionalized life of painter and naturalist, Emily Carr

Susan Vreeland – Life Studies

- fictional vignettes exploring the influence of art on everyday life

Susan Vreeland – Luncheon of the Boating Party

- novel recreating the events surrounding Renoir's painting

Susan Vreeland – The Passion of Artemisia

- fictional portrait of post-Renaissance painter Artemisia Gentileschi

Andy Warhol and Pat Hackett – POPism: The Warhol Sixties

- anecdotal account of Andy Warhol's NYC world in the 60's

Giles Waterfield - The Hound in the Left-hand Corner

- satire based on the launch of an important new exhibit at a British museum

Paul Watkins - The Forger

- art student trained to fake masterpieces to fool Hitler during WWII occupation of Paris

Tom Wolfe – The Painted Word

- social commentary on control of the art world

Emile Zola - The Masterpiece

- fictional depiction of an artist's struggle to produce a work of genius

revised March 2012

CMT