

# Triton Museum Book Club: The Stories of Art

**First Wednesday of each month.**

**Doors open for coffee and donuts at 9:00 a.m., Lecture from 9:30-10:30 a.m.**

We invite you to read selected novels about art or famous artists before we meet, and then join us on the first Wednesday morning of each month, for an art history presentation about that month's novel, the portrayed artist, and related art, as presented by Triton Museum Executive Director, Preston Metcalf and Triton Curator, Vanessa Callanta. Learn how the novel does — or doesn't — comport to the actual history of its subject and hear more about the artwork and the artists' times in which they were created.

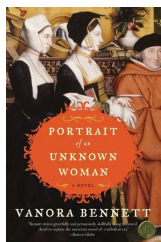
Admission to the monthly book club art history lectures is free for Triton Museum of Art Members (\$5 donation requested for non-members), and all are welcome, *whether you have actually read the book or not*. Coffee and pastries will be served.

Following is the full list of novels for the year (**January – December 2024**), and the dates of the art history lectures for each book:

January 3, 2024

9:30-10:30 a.m.

***Portrait of an Unknown Woman* by Vanora Bennett**



1527. A dark curtain has fallen across Europe. Martin Luther's break with the Vatican has led to civil war and artistic censorship, forcing the renowned portraitist Hans Holbein the Younger to flee to the safety of Tudor England. Under the patronage of one of Henry VIII's most trusted and brilliant advisors, Sir Thomas More, Holbein painted two portraits of the More family over the course of five years. Though nearly identical, the second is different. Why? And what do these subtle differences mean? In this sweeping epic, Vanora Bennett uses these two pictures to weave a wondrously imagined tale of Tudor England.

In this month's Book Club / Art History presentation, Triton Executive Director will explore the art of Hans Holbein the Younger, and how his paintings not only documented an era, but often affected the course of history.

February 7, 2024

9:30-10:30 a.m.

***Murder in Mesopotamia: A Hercule Poirot Mystery* by Agatha Christie**



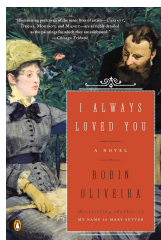
When Amy Leatheran travels to an ancient site in the Iraqi desert to nurse the wife of a celebrated archaeologist, events prove stranger than she has ever imagined. Her patient's bizarre visions and nervous terror seem unfounded, but as the oppressive tension in the air thickens, events come to a terrible climax – in murder. With one spot of blood as his only clue, Hercule Poirot must embark on a journey across the desert to unravel a mystery which taxes even his remarkable powers.

In this month's Book Club selection, Executive Director Preston Metcalf will explore the setting of this popular mystery — by the Queen of Mystery, Agatha Christie — the civilization defining region of Mesopotamia.

March 6, 2024

9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

***I Always Loved You* by Robin Oliveira**



The young Mary Cassatt never thought moving to Paris after the Civil War to be an artist was going to be easy, but when, after a decade of work, her submission to the Paris Salon is rejected, Mary's fierce determination wavers. Then one evening a friend introduces her to Edgar Degas and her life changes forever. Years later she will learn that he had begged for the introduction, but in that moment their meeting seems a miracle. So begins the defining period of her life and the most tempestuous of relationships.

Please join us as Triton Curator Vanessa Callanta shares the life and art of the groundbreaking artist, intimate of the Impressionists, Mary Cassatt.

April 3, 2024

9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

***The Last Masterpiece* by Laura Morelli**



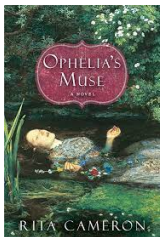
In the summer of 1943, Eva Brunner is taking photographs of Nazi-looted art hidden in the salt mines of the Austrian hinterland. Across the ocean in Connecticut, Josephine Evans is working as a humble typist at the Yale Art Gallery. When both women are called to Italy to contribute to the war effort, neither imagines she will hold the fate of some of the world's greatest masterpieces torn from the Uffizi Galleries and other Florentine art collections in her hands. But as Italy turns from ally to enemy and Hitler's plan to destroy irreplaceable monuments and works of art becomes frighteningly clear, each woman's race against the clock—and against one another—might demand more than they were prepared to give.

It was the greatest program of art theft in the history of the world. Please join Triton Executive Director Preston Metcalf as he shares the story of Nazi efforts to steal the world's greatest works of art, and the allies' efforts to save them.

May 1, 2024

9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

***Ophelia's Muse* by Rita Cameron**



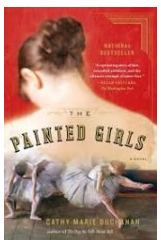
Ophelia's Muse details the life of Elizabeth Siddal. She was the model for some of the Pre-Raphaelites Brotherhood. Some of whom have immortalized her are William Deverell, John Millais, who used her for his famous painting, Ophelia, and her husband, Dante Gabriel Rossetti. She was also a painter in own right. One of her notable works is her self-portrait. In Ophelia's Muse, we see that Elizabeth's life was just as tragic as the subject whom she modeled, Ophelia.

This month's Book Club / Art History presentation Executive Director Preston Metcalf will explore the art and ideas of the Pre-Raphaelites, and the muse that inspired many them, Elizabeth Siddell.

June 5, 2024

9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

***The Painted Girls* by Cathy Marie Buchanan**



1878 Paris. Following their father's sudden death, the van Goethem sisters find their lives upended. Without his wages, and with the small amount their laundress mother earns disappearing into the absinthe bottle, Marie is dispatched to the Paris Opéra, where for a scant seventeen francs a week, she will be trained to enter the famous ballet. Marie throws herself into dance and is soon modeling in the studio of Edgar Degas, where her image will forever be immortalized as *Little Dancer Aged Fourteen*.

Please join us as Triton Curator Vanessa Callanta explores the art of Edgar Degas, and the beautiful — and sometimes destitute — world he often portrayed.

July 3, 2024  
9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

***Leonora in the Morning* by Michaela Carter**

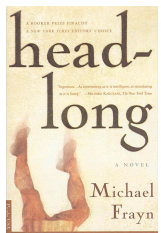


Leonora Carrington is a twenty-year-old British socialite and painter when she meets Max Ernst, an older, married artist whose work has captivated Europe. She follows him to Paris, into the vibrant world of studios and cafes where rising visionaries of the Surrealist movement like Andre Breton, Pablo Picasso, Lee Miller, Man Ray, and Salvador Dali are challenging conventional approaches to art and life. Inspired by their freedom, Leonora begins to experiment with her own work, translating vivid stories of her youth onto canvas and gaining recognition under her own name.

Let Triton Executive Director Preston Metcalf takes you on a surreal journey, as he shares the visions and works of Leonora Carrington, Max Ernst, and others who sought to portray the inner workings of the mind.

August 7, 2024  
9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

***Headlong* by Michael Frayn**

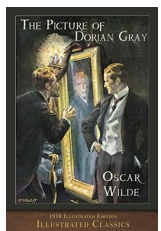


Invited to dinner by the boorish local landowner, Martin Clay, an easily distracted philosopher, and his art-historian wife are asked to assess three dusty paintings blocking the draught from the chimney. But hiding beneath the soot is nothing less — Martin believes — than a lost work by Bruegel. So begins a hilarious trail of lies and concealments, desperate schemes and soaring hopes as Martin, betting all that he owns and much that he doesn't, embarks on a quest to prove his hunch, win his wife over, and separate the painting from its owner.

Following this whimsical romp through the underbelly of the art world, Executive Director Preston Metcalf will share the art and artist at the heart of the novel, 16th Century Flemish artist, Pieter Bruegel.

September 4, 2024  
9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

***The Picture of Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde**



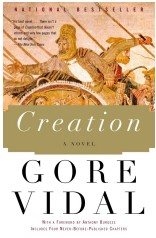
The Picture of Dorian Gray is a philosophical novel by Irish writer Oscar Wilde. The story revolves around a portrait of Dorian Gray painted by Basil Hallward, a friend of Dorian's and an artist infatuated with Dorian's beauty. Through Basil, Dorian meets Lord Henry Wotton and is soon enthralled by the aristocrat's hedonistic worldview: beauty and sensual fulfillment are the only things worth pursuing. Newly understanding that his beauty will fade, Dorian desires to sell his soul to ensure that the picture, rather than he, will age and fade. The wish is granted, and Dorian pursues a libertine life of varied amoral experiences while staying young and beautiful; all the while, his portrait ages and visually records every one of Dorian's sins.

Though not about a real painting, or a real artist, Triton Museum Curator Vanessa Callanta will employ Wilde's masterwork as a springboard to look at the portrayal of evil in art. But beware! The evil portrayed is often not what it seems!!!

October 2, 2024

9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

***Creation* by Gore Vidal**



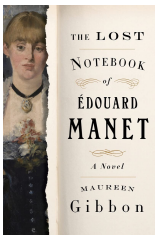
Cyrus Spitama, grandson of the prophet Zoroaster and lifelong friend of Xerxes, spent most of his life as Persian ambassador for the great king Darius. He traveled to India, where he discussed nirvana with Buddha, and to the warring states of Cathay, where he learned of Tao from Master Li and fished on the riverbank with Confucius. Now blind and aged in the Athens of Pericles, Sophocles, Herodotus, and Socrates – Cyrus recounts his days as he strives to resolve the fundamental questions that have guided his life's journeys.

In revisiting the 5th Century BC – one of the most spectacular periods in history – Gore Vidal illuminates the ideas that have shaped civilizations for millennia. Please join Triton Executive Director Preston Metcalf as he takes us on a journey through one of the most transformative centuries, as conveyed through the art of its time.

November 6, 2024

9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

***The Lost Notebook of Édouard Manet* by Maureen Gibbon**



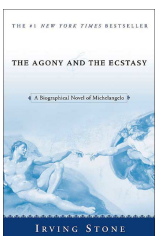
Suffering from the complications of syphilis toward the end of his life, Édouard Manet begins to jot down his daily impressions, reflections, and memories in a notebook. He travels for healing respites in the French countryside and finds inspiration in nature. Back in Paris, the artist holds court in his studio and meets a mysterious muse, Suzon. Entranced by Suzon's cool blue eyes, he decides to paint his final masterpiece, *A Bar at the Folies-Bergere*, and wagers his health to complete it. In a sensual portrait of Manet's last years, illustrated with his own sketches, Maureen Gibbon offers a vibrant testament to the endurance of the artistic spirit.

In this month's Book Club / Art History presentation, Executive Director Preston Metcalf looks at the life and art of the proto-impressionist, Édouard Manet.

December 4, 2024

9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

***The Agony and the Ecstasy* by Irving Stone**



His name—Michelangelo Buonarroti. Creator of the David, painter of the ceiling in the Sistine Chapel, architect of the dome of St. Peter's, Michelangelo lives once more in the tempestuous, powerful pages of Irving Stone's towering triumph. A masterpiece in its own right, this biographical novel offers a compelling portrait of one of the greatest artists the world has ever known.

Please join Triton Museum Curator Vanessa Callanta as she explores the life, art, and genius of the Renaissance giant, Michelangelo.