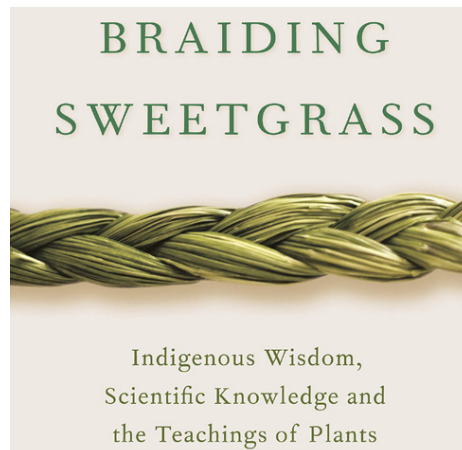
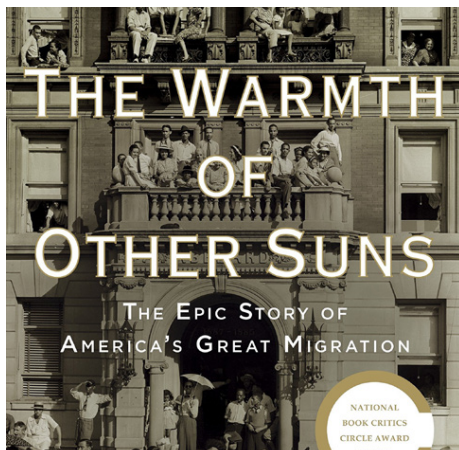
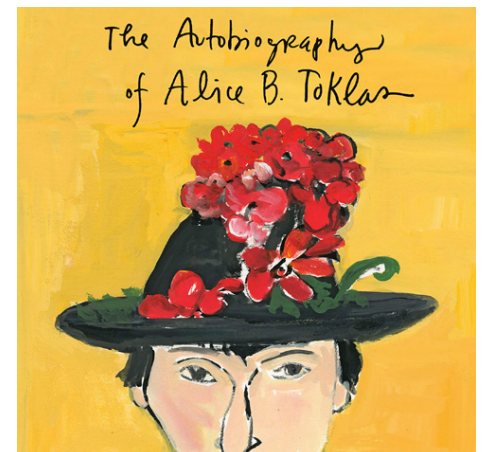
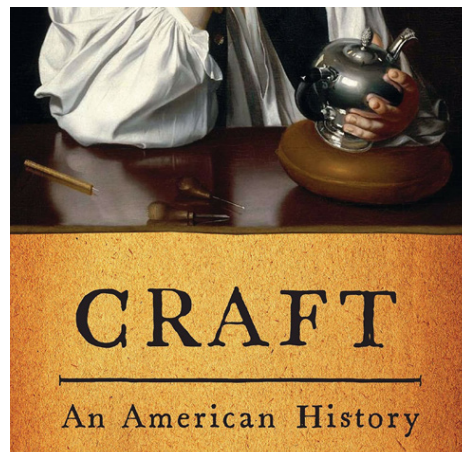
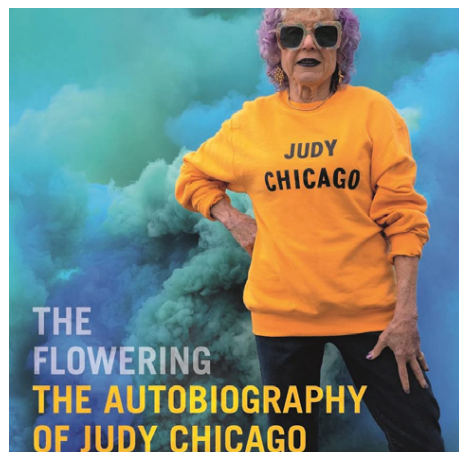


NOMA BOOK CLUB ANNUAL READING LIST AND SCHEDULE



2022

NOMA
New Orleans Museum of Art

NOMA BOOK CLUB

2022 READING LIST AND SCHEDULE

The NOMA Book Club meets monthly to discuss fiction and non-fiction books related to art in NOMA's collection and exhibitions. It is an informal group open to anyone on a month-to-month basis. In addition to monthly book discussions, the book club meets periodically for curatorial programs related to the book selections. You do not have to attend every meeting or read every book!

Books are selected in advance and planned for January through November according to the exhibition schedule. Participants are expected to procure their own copy of the selected titles. Selections will be available in the NOMA Museum Shop, and NOMA members will receive a 10% discount.

Meetings are held in person or via Zoom, determined at the beginning of each month. All meetings begin at 12 P.M. Like all NOMA public programs, NOMA Book Club programs are free with museum admission.

For more information on the NOMA Book Club please contact NOMA's Curator of Education, Tracy Kennan, at [*tkennan@noma.org*](mailto:tkennan@noma.org) or (504) 658-4113.

JANUARY

Stephen Hawking: A Memoir of Friendship and Physics

by Leonard Mlodinow

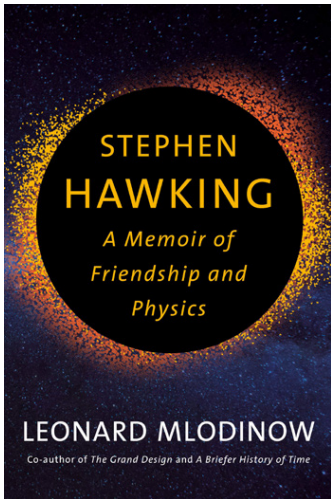
2020, Pantheon, ISBN: 978-1524748685

One of the most influential physicists of our time, Stephen Hawking touched the lives of millions. Recalling his nearly two decades as Hawking's collaborator and friend, Leonard Mlodinow brings this complex man into focus in a unique and deeply personal portrayal. We meet Hawking the genius, who pours his mind into uncovering the mysteries of the universe—ultimately formulating a path-breaking theory of black holes that reignites the discipline of cosmology and paves the way for physicists to investigate the origins of the universe in completely new ways. We meet Hawking the colleague, a man whose illness leaves him able to communicate at only six words per minute but who expends the effort to punctuate his conversations with humor. And we meet Hawking the friend, who can convey volumes with a frown, a smile, or simply a raised eyebrow.

Mlodinow captures the indomitable spirit of his friend, offering us insights from one of physics' greatest practitioners about life, the universe, and the ability to overcome daunting obstacles.

CURATORIAL PROGRAM TUESDAY, JANUARY 18, 12 P.M. with Katie Pfohl,
Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art

BOOK DISCUSSION THURSDAY, JANUARY 27, 12 P.M.



FEBRUARY

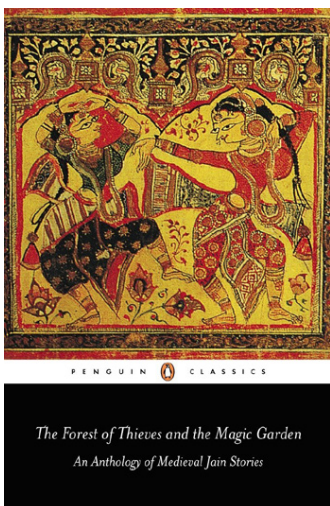
The Forest of Thieves and the Magic Garden: An Anthology of Medieval Jain Stories

Penguin Classics, 2007, ISBN: 978-0140455236

Beautifully translated from the Sanskrit, the stories in this volume reflect the vital tradition of Jain storytelling between the seventh and fifteenth centuries. Ranging from simple folk tales to sophisticated narratives of rebirth, *The Forest of Thieves and the Magic Garden* opens a window onto a rich religious tradition. Some of their characters find bliss by renouncing the world, others by living within it in peace and moderation. The climactic story follows an unsuspecting traveler's journey through a forest of destructive passions.

CURATORIAL PROGRAM FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 12 P.M. with Lisa Rotondo-McCord,
Curator of Asian Art and Deputy Director for Curatorial Affairs

BOOK DISCUSSION TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 12 P.M.



NOMA Book Club Schedule | 2022



MARCH

When Women Ruled the World: Six Queens of Egypt

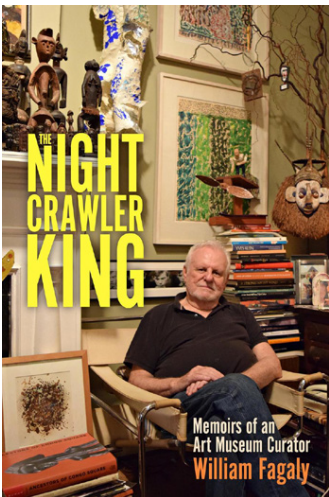
by Kara Cooney

2018, National Geographic, ISBN: 978-1426219771

Female rulers are a rare phenomenon—but thousands of years ago in ancient Egypt, women reigned supreme. Regularly, repeatedly, and with impunity, queens like Hatshepsut, Nefertiti, and Cleopatra controlled the totalitarian state as power-brokers and rulers. But throughout human history, women in positions of power were more often used as political pawns in a male-dominated society. What was so special about ancient Egypt that provided women this kind of access to the highest political office? What was it about these women that allowed them to transcend patriarchal obstacles? What did Egypt gain from its liberal reliance on female leadership, and could today's world learn from its example?

Celebrated Egyptologist Kara Cooney delivers a fascinating tale of female power, exploring the reasons why it has seldom been allowed through the ages, and why we should care.

BOOK DISCUSSION THURSDAY, MARCH 31, 12 P.M.



APRIL

The Nightcrawler King: Memoirs of an Art Museum Curator

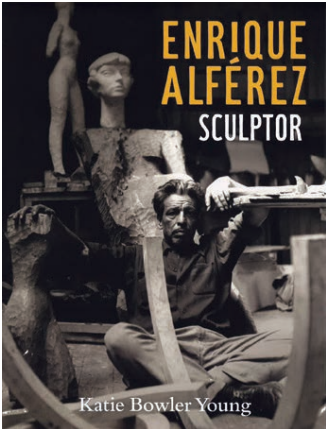
by Bill Fagaly, University Press of Mississippi,

2020, ISBN: 978-1496829818

While growing up in rural Indiana during World War II, William Fagaly began his first venture—collecting and selling earthworms to locals—from which he was christened with a childhood moniker. *The Nightcrawler King: Memoirs of an Art Museum Curator* is a narrative of Fagaly's life told in two parts: first, his childhood experiences and, second, his transformation into an adult art museum curator and administrator in Louisiana.

Offering a rare and revealing inside look at how the art world works, Fagaly documents his fifty years of experience of work—unusually spent at a single institution, the New Orleans Museum of Art. During this period, he played an active role in the discovery and appreciation of new areas of art, particularly African, self-taught, and avant-garde contemporary. He organized numerous significant art exhibitions that traveled to museums across the country and authored the accompanying catalogs.

BOOK DISCUSSION THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 12 P.M.



MAY

Enrique Alf  rez: Sculptor

by Katie Bowler Young

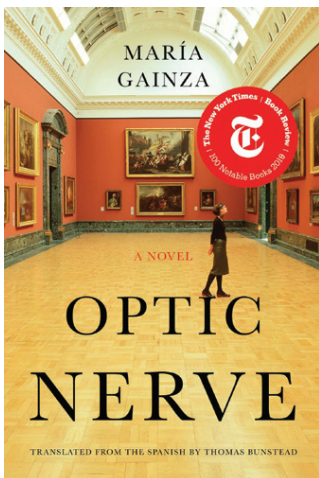
The Historic New Orleans Collection, 020, ISBN: 978-0-917860-85-0

Enrique Alf  rez, born in Zacatecas, Mexico, lived nearly the entire 20th century. After service in the Mexican Revolution as a youth, he emigrated to Texas; studied in Chicago; and, in 1929, first made his way to Louisiana. For almost 70 years, he worked in New Orleans. His lasting imprint is seen among figurative sculptures, monuments, fountains, and architectural details in prominent locations from the Central Business District to the shore of Lake Pontchartrain and beyond.

Author Katie Bowler Young has gained unprecedented access to Alf  rez's personal and family holdings and has crafted a poetic evocation of the life and work of this preeminent artist.

PUBLIC ARTS & LETTERS PROGRAM WEDNESDAY, MAY 3, 6 P.M.

BOOK DISCUSSION FRIDAY, MAY 27, 12 P.M.



JUNE

Optic Nerve

by Maria Gainza

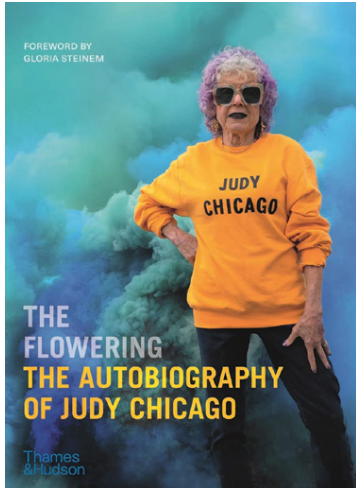
Catapult, 2020, ISBN: 978-1646220021

The narrator of *Optic Nerve* is an Argentinian woman whose obsession is art. The story of her life is the story of the paintings, and painters, who matter to her. Her intimate, digressive voice guides us through a gallery of moments that have touched her. Fascinating episodes in art history interact with the narrator's life in Buenos Aires—her family and work; her loves and losses; her infatuations and disappointments.

In these pages, El Greco visits the Sistine Chapel and is appalled by Michelangelo's bodies. The mystery of Rothko's refusal to finish murals for the Seagram Building in New York is blended with the story of a hospital in which a prostitute walks the halls while the narrator's husband receives chemotherapy. Alfred de Dreux visits G  ricault's workshop. Seductive and capricious, *Optic Nerve* marks the English-language debut of a major Argentinian writer. It is a book that captures, like no other, the mysterious connections between a work of art and the person who perceives it.

BOOK DISCUSSION FRIDAY, JUNE 24, 12 P.M.

NOMA Book Club Schedule | 2022



*Suggested by NOMA
Book Club member*

JULY

The Flowering: The Autobiography of Judy Chicago

by Judy Chicago

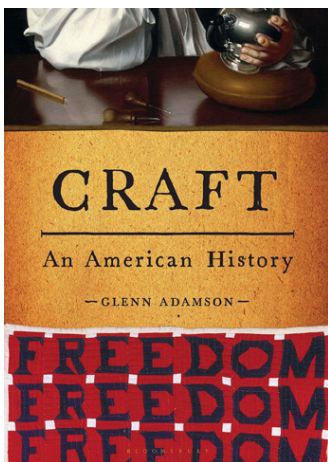
Thames and Hudson, 2021, ISBN: 978-0500094389

Judy Chicago is America's most dynamic living artist. Her works comprise an array of media from performance and installation to the glittering table laid for thirty-nine iconic women in *The Dinner Party* (now permanently housed at the Brooklyn Museum), the groundbreaking *Birth Project*, and the meticulously researched *Holocaust Project*. She designed the monumental installation for Dior's 2020 Paris couture show and, in 2019, established the Judy Chicago Portal, which will help to accomplish her lifelong goal of overcoming the erasure that has eclipsed the achievements of so many women.

The Flowering is her vivid and revealing autobiography, fully illustrated with photographs of her work, as well as personal images and a foreword by Gloria Steinem. This narrative weaves together the stories behind some of Chicago's most significant artworks and her journey as a woman artist, from decades of experience, of how misogyny, racism, and other prejudices intersect to erase the legacies of artists who are not white and male. Chicago reinforces her message of resilience for a new generation of artists and activists.

CURATORIAL PROGRAM THURSDAY, JULY 14, 12 P.M. with Tracy Kennan,
Curator of Education

BOOK DISCUSSION THURSDAY, JULY 28, 12 P.M.



AUGUST

Craft: An American History

by Glenn Adamson

Bloomsbury Publishing, 2021, ISBN: 978-1635574586

At the center of the United States' economic and social development, according to conventional wisdom, are industry and technology-while craftspeople and handmade objects are relegated to a bygone past. Renowned historian Glenn Adamson turns that narrative on its head in this innovative account, revealing makers' central role in shaping America's identity. Examine any phase of the nation's struggle to define itself, and artisans are there-from the silversmith Paul Revere and the revolutionary carpenters and blacksmiths who hurled tea into Boston Harbor, to today's "maker movement."

Adamson shows that craft has long been implicated in debates around equality, education, and class. Artisanship has often been a site of resistance for oppressed people, such as enslaved African-Americans whose skilled labor might confer hard-won agency under bondage, or the Native American makers who adapted traditional arts into statements of modernity.

CURATORIAL PROGRAM THURSDAY, AUGUST 11, 12 P.M. with Mel Buchanan,
RosaMary Curator of Decorative Arts and Design

BOOK DISCUSSION THURSDAY, AUGUST 25, 12 P.M.



SEPTEMBER

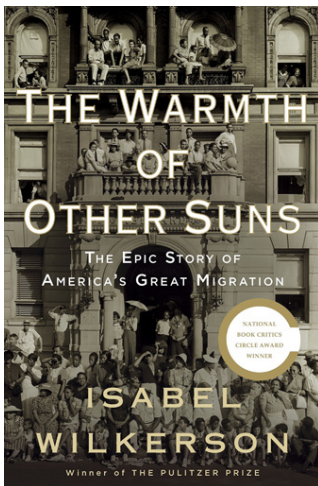
The Autobiography of Alice B. Toklas

by Gertrude Stein (Author), Maira Kalman (Illustrator)

Penguin Press, 2020

Considered one of the richest and most irreverent biographies in history, *The Autobiography of Alice B. Toklas* was written by Gertrude Stein in the style and voice of her life partner, Alice B. Toklas. Published in 1933 and narrated by Alice, this autobiography begins with her initial move to France in 1907, the day after which she meets Gertrude, sparking a relationship that lasts for nearly four decades. Recounting the vibrant and literary life the two make for themselves among the Parisian avant-garde, Alice opens the doors to the prominent salons they held in their home at rue de Fleurus, hosting fellow expatriate American writers such as Ernest Hemingway, T. S. Eliot, and Ezra Pound as well as artists Pablo Picasso, Henri Matisse, and Man Ray, and speaks of the twilight of the Paris belle époque.

BOOK DISCUSSION THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 12 P.M.



OCTOBER

The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration

by Isabel Wilkerson

2010, Random House, ISBN: 978-0679444329

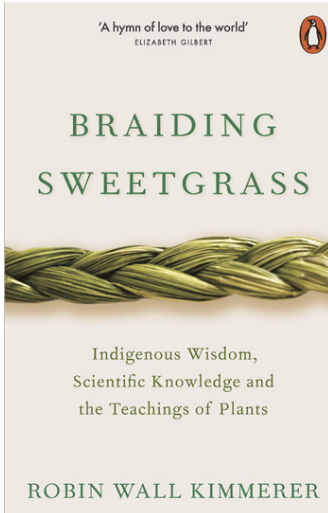
From 1915 to 1970, this exodus of almost six million people changed the face of America. Isabel Wilkerson compares this epic migration to the migrations of other peoples in history. With stunning historical detail, she tells this story through the lives of three unique individuals: Ida Mae Gladney, who in 1937 left sharecropping and prejudice in Mississippi for Chicago, where she achieved quiet blue-collar success; sharp and quick-tempered George Starling, who in 1945 fled Florida for Harlem, where he endangered his job fighting for civil rights; and Robert Foster, who left Louisiana in 1953 to pursue a medical career, and became the personal physician to Ray Charles.

Wilkerson brilliantly captures their first treacherous and exhausting cross-country trips by car and train, and how they changed the cities with southern food, faith, and culture. Both a riveting microcosm and a major assessment, *The Warmth of Other Suns* is a superb account of an “unrecognized immigration” within our own land.

CURATORIAL PROGRAM: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11 with Brian Piper,
Mellon Foundation Assistant Curator of Photography

BOOK DISCUSSION THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27, 12 P.M.

NOMA Book Club Schedule | 2022



NOVEMBER

Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants

by Robin Wall Kimmerer

Milkweed Editions, 2015, ISBN: 978-1571313560

Drawing on her life as an indigenous scientist, and as a woman, Kimmerer shows how other living beings—asters and goldenrod, strawberries and squash, salamanders, algae, and sweetgrass—offer us gifts and lessons, even if we've forgotten how to hear their voices. In reflections that range from the creation of Turtle Island to the forces that threaten its flourishing today, she circles toward a central argument: that the awakening of ecological consciousness requires the acknowledgment and celebration of our reciprocal relationship with the rest of the living world. For only when we can hear the languages of other beings will we be capable of understanding the generosity of the earth, and learn to give our own gifts in return.

BOOK DISCUSSION TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 12 P.M.