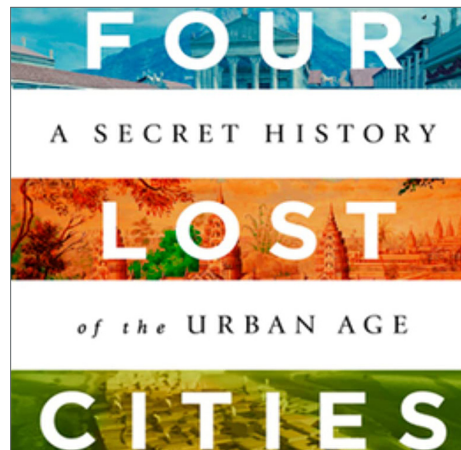
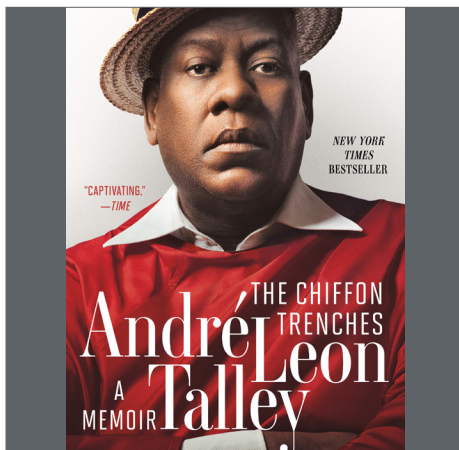
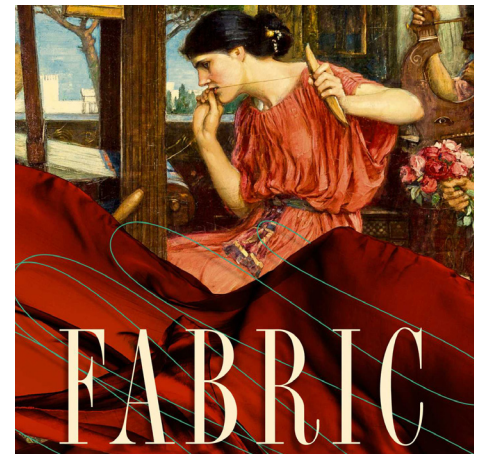
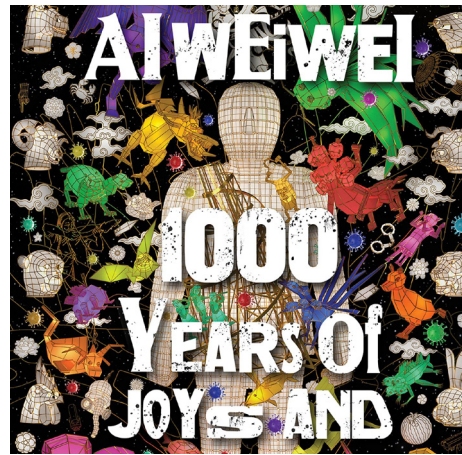
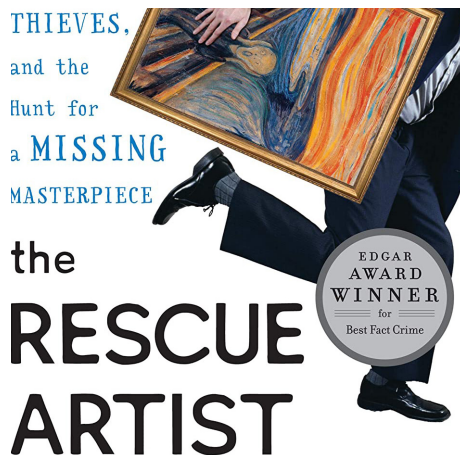


## NOMA BOOK CLUB ANNUAL READING LIST AND SCHEDULE



# 2023

**NOMA**  
New Orleans Museum of Art

# NOMA BOOK CLUB

## 2023 READING LIST AND SCHEDULE

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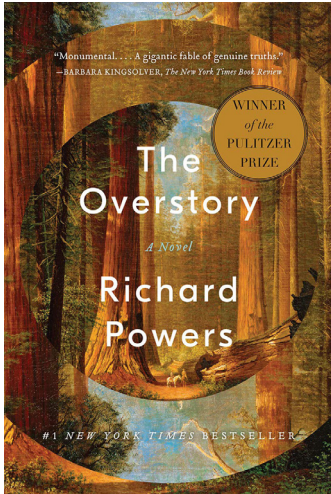
The NOMA Book Club meets monthly to discuss fiction and non-fiction books related to art in NOMA's collection and exhibitions. It is an informal group open to anyone on a month-to-month basis. In addition to monthly book discussions, the book club meets periodically for curatorial programs related to 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 are featured in the NOMA Museum Shop, and NOMA members receive a 10% discount.

Meetings are held in person or via Zoom. 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

#### *The Overstory*

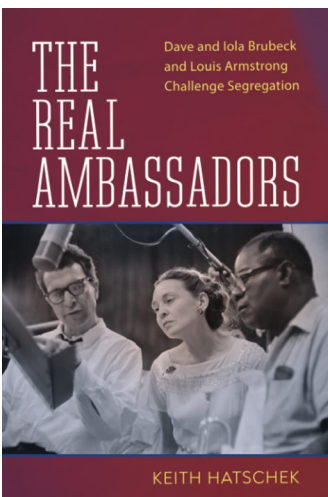
by Richard Powers

Random House, 2018, ISBN-13: 978-1784708245

Nine strangers—each summoned in different ways by trees—are brought together in a last and violent stand to save the continent's few remaining acres of virgin forest. *The Overstory* is a book for readers who despair of humanity's self-imposed separation from the rest of creation and who hope for the transformative, regenerating possibility of a homecoming. If the trees of this earth could speak, what would they tell us? "Listen. There's something you need to hear."

From the roots to the crown and back to the seeds, *The Overstory* unfolds in concentric rings of interlocking fables that range from antebellum New York to the late twentieth-century Timber Wars of the Pacific Northwest and beyond, exploring the essential conflict on this planet: the one taking place between humans and non humans. There is a world alongside ours—vast, slow, interconnected, resourceful, magnificently inventive, and almost invisible to us. This is the story of a handful of people who learn how to see that world and who are drawn up into its unfolding catastrophe.

**BOOK DISCUSSION TUESDAY, JANUARY 31, 12 P.M.**



### FEBRUARY

#### *The Real Ambassadors: Dave and Iola Brubeck and Louis Armstrong Challenge Segregation*

by Keith Hatschek

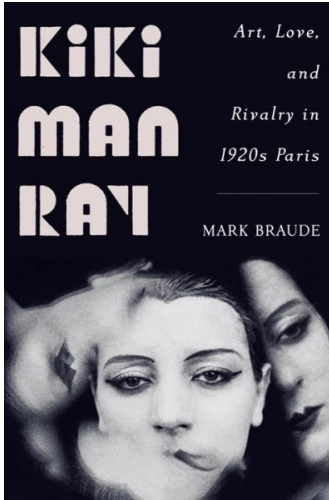
University Press of Mississippi, 2022, ISBN-13: 978-1496837844

During the Cold War, the US State Department enlisted some of America's greatest musicians to serve as jazz ambassadors, touring the world to trumpet a so-called "free society." Honored as celebrities abroad, the jazz ambassadors, who were overwhelmingly African Americans, returned home to racial discrimination and deferred dreams.

Three determined artists—Louis Armstrong, Dave Brubeck, and Iola Brubeck used this double standard as the central message and take a stand against segregation by writing and performing a jazz musical titled *The Real Ambassadors*. First conceived by the Brubecks in 1956, the musical's journey to the stage for its 1962 premiere tracks extraordinary twists and turns across the backdrop of the civil rights movement. A variety of colorful characters, from Broadway impresarios to gang-connected managers, surface in the compelling storyline.

**BOOK DISCUSSION FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 12 P.M.**

## NOMA Book Club Schedule | 2023



### MARCH

#### *Kiki Man Ray: Art, Love, and Rivalry in 1920s Paris*

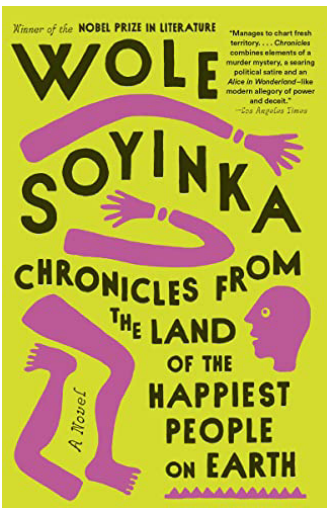
by Mark Braude

W.W. Norton & Company, 2022, ISBN-13: 978-1324006015

In freewheeling 1920s Paris, Kiki de Montparnasse captivated as a nightclub performer, sold out gallery showings of her paintings, starred in Surrealist films, and shared drinks and ideas with the likes of Jean Cocteau and Marcel Duchamp. Her best-selling memoir—featuring an introduction by Ernest Hemingway—made front-page news in France and was immediately banned in America. All before she turned thirty.

Kiki and Man Ray met in 1921 during a chance encounter at a café. What followed was an explosive decade-long connection, both professional and romantic, during which the couple grew and experimented as artists, competed for fame, and created many of the shocking images that cemented Man Ray's reputation as one of the great artists of the modern era. The works they made together, including the Surrealist icons *Le Violon d'Ingres* and *Noire et blanche*, now set records at auction. Charting their volatile relationship, award-winning historian Mark Braude illuminates for the first time Kiki's seminal influence not only on Man Ray's art, but on the culture of 1920s Paris and beyond.

**BOOK DISCUSSION THURSDAY, MARCH 30, 12 P.M.**



### APRIL

#### *Chronicles from the Land of the Happiest People on Earth: A Novel*

by Wole Soyinka

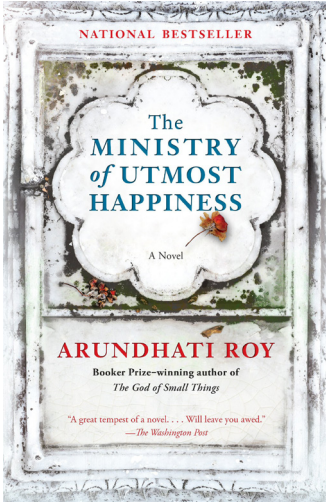
2021, ISBN-13: 978-0593320167

In an imaginary Nigeria, a cunning entrepreneur is selling body parts stolen from Dr. Menka's hospital for use in ritualistic practices. Dr. Menka shares the grisly news with his oldest college friend, bon vivant, star engineer, and Yoruba royal, Duyole Pitan-Payne. The life of every party, Duyole is about to assume a prestigious post at the United Nations in New York, but it now seems that someone is determined that he not make it there. And neither Dr. Menka nor Duyole knows why, or how close the enemy is, or how powerful.

*Chronicles from the Land of the Happiest People on Earth* is at once a literary hoot, a crafty whodunit, and a scathing indictment of political and social corruption. It is a stirring call to arms against the abuse of power from one of our fiercest political activists, who also happens to be a global literary giant.

**CURATORIAL PROGRAM TUESDAY, APRIL 11, 12 PM with TRACY KENNAN,**  
Curator of Education

**BOOK DISCUSSION TUESDAY, APRIL 25, 12 P.M.**



## MAY

### *The Ministry of Utmost Happiness*

by Arundhati Roy

Vintage, 2018, ISBN: 052543481X

*The Ministry of Utmost Happiness* takes us on an intimate journey across the Indian subcontinent—from the cramped neighborhoods of Old Delhi and the roads of the new city to the mountains and valleys of Kashmir and beyond, where war is peace and peace is war. Braiding together the lives of a diverse cast of characters who have been broken by the world they live in and then rescued, patched together by acts of love—and by hope, here Arundhati Roy reinvents what a novel can do and can be.

**CURATORIAL PROGRAM THURSDAY, MAY 11, 12 P.M.** with LISA ROTONDO-McCORD,  
Deputy Director for Curatorial Affairs and Curator of Asian Art

**BOOK DISCUSSION FRIDAY, MAY 26, 12 P.M.**



## JUNE

### *Magritte: A Life*

by Alex Danchev

Pantheon, 2021, ISBN-13: 978-0307908193

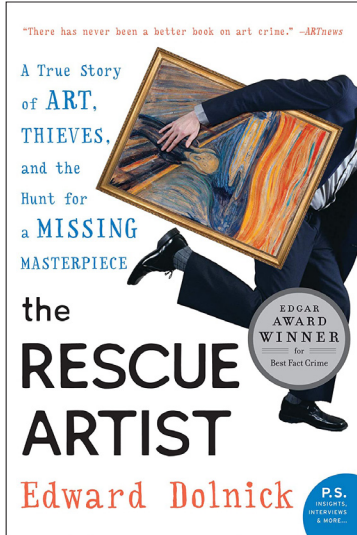
In this thought-provoking life of René Magritte (1898-1967), Alex Danchev makes a compelling case for Magritte as the single most significant purveyor of images to the modern world. Magritte's surreal sensibility, deadpan melodrama, and fine-tuned outrageousness have become an inescapable part of our visual landscape, through such legendary works as *The Treachery of Images* (*Ceci n'est pas une pipe*) and his celebrated iterations of *Man in a Bowler Hat*.

Danchev explores the path of this highly unconventional artist from his middle-class Belgian beginnings to the years during which he led a small, brilliant band of surrealists (and famously clashed with André Breton) to his first major retrospective, which traveled to the United States in 1965 and gave rise to his international reputation.

**BOOK DISCUSSION THURSDAY, JUNE 29, 12 P.M.**



## NOMA Book Club Schedule | 2023



### JULY

#### *The Rescue Artist: a True Story of Art, Thieves, and the Hunt for a Missing Masterpiece*

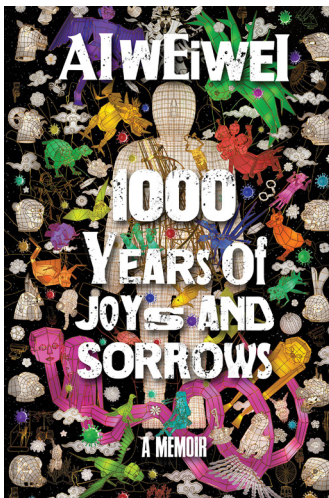
by Edward Dolnick

HarperCollins, 2018, ISBN-13: 978-0060531188

In the predawn hours of a gloomy February day in 1994, two thieves entered the National Gallery in Oslo and made off with one of the world's most famous paintings, Edvard Munch's *Scream*. It was a brazen crime committed while the whole world was watching the opening ceremonies of the Winter Olympics in Lillehammer. Baffled and humiliated, the Norwegian police turned to the one man they believed could help: a half English, half American undercover cop named Charley Hill, the world's greatest art detective.

*The Rescue Artist* is a rollicking narrative that carries readers deep inside the art underworld—and introduces them to a large and colorful cast of titled aristocrats, intrepid investigators, and thick-necked thugs. But most compelling of all is Charley Hill himself, a complicated mix of brilliance, foolhardiness, and charm whose hunt for a purloined treasure would either cap an illustrious career or be the fiasco that would haunt him forever.

**BOOK DISCUSSION TUESDAY, JULY 25, 12 P.M.**



### AUGUST

#### *1000 Years of Joys and Sorrows: A Memoir*

by Ai Weiwei

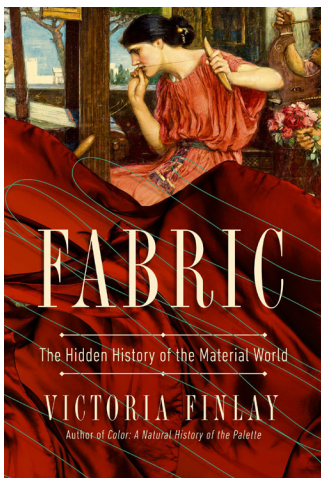
Crown, 2021, ISBN-13: 978-0553419467

Once a close associate of Mao Zedong and the nation's most celebrated poet, Ai Weiwei's father, Ai Qing, was branded a rightist during the Cultural Revolution, and he and his family were banished to a desolate place known as "Little Siberia," where Ai Qing was sentenced to hard labor cleaning public toilets. Ai Weiwei recounts his childhood in exile, and his difficult decision to leave his family to study art in America, where he befriended Allen Ginsberg and was inspired by Andy Warhol and the artworks of Marcel Duchamp. With candor and wit, he details his return to China and his rise from artistic unknown to art world superstar and international human rights activist—and how his work has been shaped by living under a totalitarian regime.

Here, for the first time, Ai Weiwei explores the origins of his exceptional creativity and passionate political beliefs through his life story and that of his father, whose creativity was stifled. At once ambitious and intimate, Ai Weiwei's *1000 Years of Joys and Sorrows* offers a deep understanding of the myriad forces that have shaped modern China, and serves as a timely reminder of the urgent need to protect freedom of expression.

**CURATORIAL PROGRAM FRIDAY, AUGUST 11, 12 P.M. with LISA ROTONDO-McCORD,**  
Deputy Director for Curatorial Affairs and Curator of Asian Art

**BOOK DISCUSSION FRIDAY, AUGUST 25, 12 P.M.**



## SEPTEMBER

### *FABRIC: The Hidden History of the Material World*

by Victoria Finlay

Penguin Books, 2022, ISBN-13: 978-1639361632

*How is a handmade fabric helping save an ancient forest?*

*Why is a famous fabric pattern from India best known by the name of a Scottish town? How is a Chinese dragon robe a diagram of the whole universe? What is the difference between how the Greek Fates and the Viking Norns used threads to tell our destiny?*

In *Fabric*, bestselling author Victoria Finlay spins us round the globe, weaving stories of our relationship with cloth and asking how and why people through the ages have made it, worn it, invented it, and made symbols out of it. And sometimes why they have fought for it.

She beats the inner bark of trees into cloth in Papua New Guinea, fails to handspin cotton in Guatemala, visits tweed weavers at their homes in Harris, and has lessons in patchwork-making in Gee's Bend, Alabama - where in the 1930s, deprived of almost everything they owned, a community of women turned quilting into an art form.

**BOOK DISCUSSION TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 12 P.M.**



## OCTOBER

### *The Chiffon Trenches: A Memoir*

by André Leon Talley

Ballantine Books, 2021, ISBN-13: 978-0593129272

During André Leon Talley's first magazine job, alongside Andy Warhol at *Interview*, a fateful meeting with Karl Lagerfeld began a decades-long friendship with the enigmatic, often caustic designer. Propelled into the upper echelons by his knowledge and adoration of fashion, André moved to Paris as bureau chief of John Fairchild's *Women's Wear Daily*, befriending fashion's most important designers (Halston, Yves Saint Laurent, Oscar de la Renta). But as André made friends, he also made enemies. A racially tinged encounter with a member of the house of Yves Saint Laurent sent him back to New York and into the offices of *Vogue* under Grace Mirabella.

There, he eventually became creative director, developing an unlikely but intimate friendship with Anna Wintour. As she rose to the top of *Vogue*'s masthead, André also ascended, and soon became the most influential man in fashion.

*The Chiffon Trenches* offers a candid look at the who's who of the last fifty years of fashion. At once ruthless and empathetic, this engaging memoir tells with raw honesty the story of how André not only survived the brutal style landscape but thrived—despite racism, illicit rumors, and all the other challenges of this notoriously cutthroat industry—to become one of the most renowned voices and faces in fashion.

**CURATORIAL PROGRAM THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12, 12 P.M. with MEL BUCHANAN,**  
RosaMary Curator of Decorative Arts & Design

**BOOK DISCUSSION THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26, 12 P.M.**

# NOMA Book Club Schedule | 2023



A SECRET HISTORY



of the URBAN AGE



ANNALEE NEWITZ



## NOVEMBER

### *Four Lost Cities: A Secret History of the Urban Age*

by Annalee Newitz

Norton, 2022, ISBN-13: 978-0393882452

In *Four Lost Cities*, acclaimed science journalist Annalee Newitz takes readers on an entertaining and mind-bending adventure into the deep history of urban life. Investigating across the centuries and around the world, Newitz explores the rise and fall of four ancient cities, each the center of a sophisticated civilization: the Neolithic site of Çatalhöyük in Central Turkey, the Roman vacation town of Pompeii on Italy's southern coast, the medieval megacity of Angkor in Cambodia, and the indigenous metropolis Cahokia, which stood beside the Mississippi River where East St. Louis is today.

Newitz travels to all four sites and investigates the cutting-edge research in archaeology, revealing the mix of environmental changes and political turmoil that doomed these ancient settlements. Tracing the early development of urban planning, Newitz also introduces us to the often anonymous workers—slaves, women, immigrants, and manual laborers—who built these cities and created monuments that lasted millennia.

**BOOK DISCUSSION FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 12 P.M.**