

An Art Lovers To Florence

Florence has the greatest collection of Renaissance art in the world, and a character list that reads like a Who’s Who of the period’s greatest artists and thinkers u Dante, Leonardo, Michaelangelo u not to mention the powerful families who financed their work - the Medici and the Strozzi. Evidence of their lasting influence abounds today, including the discovery of a Leonardo fresco beneath a painting by Vasari, and the unearthing of Michaelangelo’s plans for a church facade. The city’s challenge today is to manage the resultant tourist hordes; a new entrance to an enlarged Uffizi should double tourist numbers to the gallery, while a tramline is intended to reduce the city’s traffic.

Drawing on the exciting developments that have occurred in the anthropology of art over the last twenty years, this study uses ethnographic methods to explore shifts in the art market and global contemporary art. Recognizing that the huge diversity of global phenomena requires research on the ground, An Anthropology of Contemporary Art examines the local art markets, biennials, networks of collectors, curators, artists, patrons, auction houses, and museums that constitute the global art world.Divided into four parts – Picture and Medium; World Art Studies and Global Art; Art Markets, Maecenas and Collectors; Participatory Art and Collaboration – chapters go beyond the standard emphasis on Europe and North America to present first-hand fieldwork from a wide range of areas, including Brazil, Turkey, and Asia and the Pacific.With contributions from distinguished anthropologists such as Philippe Descola and Roger Sansi Roca, this book provides a fresh approach to key topics in the discipline. A model for demonstrating how contemporary art can be studied ethnographically, this is a vital read for students in anthropology of art, visual anthropology, visual culture, and related fields.

Sally Cornelison draws upon contemporary visual, literary, and archival sources and diverse methodologies to interpret how the persona of St. Antoninus and the intercessory effectiveness of his relic cult were advertised to a broad audience of viewers and devotees during the Renaissance. Tracing the history of St. Antoninus’ burial sites from 1459 until 1589, this interdisciplinary study demonstrates that the saint’s cult was a key element of Florence’s sacred cityscape. A Good Morning America Book Club Pick A Veranda Magazine Book Club Pick A captivating, bighearted, richly tapestried story of people brought together by love, war, art, flood, and the ghost of E. M. Forster, by the celebrated author of Tin Man. Tuscany, 1944: As Allied troops advance and bombs fall around deserted villages, a young English soldier, Ulysses Temper, finds himself in the wine cellar of a deserted villa. There, he has a chance encounter with Evelyn Skinner, a middle-aged art historian who has come to Italy to salvage paintings from the ruins and recall long-forgotten memories of her own youth. In each other, Ulysses and Evelyn find a kindred spirit amidst the rubble of war-torn Italy, and set off on a course of events that will shape Ulysses’s life for the next four decades. As Ulysses returns home to London, reimmersing himself in his crew at The Stoat and Parot—a motley mix of pub crawlers and eccentrics—he carries his time in Italy with him. And when an unexpected inheritance brings him back to where it all began, Ulysses knows better than to tempt fate, and returns to the Tuscan hills. With beautiful prose, extraordinary tenderness, and bursts of humor and light, Still Life is a sweeping portrait of unforgettable individuals who come together to make a family, and a deeply drawn celebration of beauty and love in all its forms.

The Art Lover

In Search of a Masterpiece

Griswold Point

Napoleon’s Theft of Veronese’s Feast

A Month in Siena

Still Life

Practices, Markets, and Collectors

"No city but Florence contains such an intense concentration of art produced in such a short span of time ... while most guidebooks offer only brief descriptions of a large number of works, with little discussion of the historical background, Judith Testa gives a fresh perspective on the rich and brilliant art of the Florentine Renaissance ... Concentrating on a number of the greatest works by such masters as Botticelli and Michelangelo, Testa explains each piece in terms of what it meant to the people who produced it and for whom it was made ..."--Back cover.

At the mouth of the Connecticut River, Griswold Point boasts a rich history filled with remarkable individuals. In 1640, Colonel George Fenwick granted the land to Matthew Griswold I, who then turned a teeming wilderness into productive farming and fishing territory. Over the centuries, many prominent Americans called Old Lyme and the Point home. Nathaniel Lynde Griswold and George Griswold built ships that served as privateers in the War of 1812. Florence Griswold invited boarders into her grand house in 1899 and transformed her home into a vibrant artists’ colony for the American Impressionist movement. Local author Wick Griswold introduces the community’s colorful characters who left indelible marks on history, from colonial governors and judges to adventurers and sea captives. Discover the Italian knack for la dolce vita. Whether you want to explore the evocative ruins of an ancient empire, traverse Tuscany’s vineyard-cloaked hills, or simply sip espresso and watch the world go by, your DK Eyewitness travel e-guide makes sure you experience all that Italy has to offer. From erupting volcanoes to magnificent coastal scenery, this breath-taking country is rich in natural beauty. And with more UNESCO World Heritage Sites than anywhere else on Earth, there is no better place to experience the glories of European art and architecture. Of course, Italy is not only a magnificent feast for the eyes; famous for some of the world’s finest food and wine, the country’s vibrant gastronomic traditions differ from one town to the next. Our annually updated e-guide brings captivating country to life, transporting you there like no other travel guide does with expert-led insights and advice, detailed breakdowns of all the must-see sights, photographs on practically every page, and our trademark illustrations. You’ll discover: - our pick of Italy’s must-sees, top experiences, and hidden gems - the best spots to eat, drink, shop, and stay - detailed maps and walks make navigating the country easy - easy-to-follow itineraries - expert advice: get ready, get around, and stay safe - color-coded chapters to every part of Italy, from Venice and Rome, to Sicily and Sardinia Planning a city break? Try our DK Eyewitness Rome or the pocket-friendly Top 10 Rome for top 10 lists to all things Rome.

Peter Rabbit, Mr. McGreggor, and many other Beatrix Potter characters remain in the hearts of millions. However, though Potter is a household name around the world, few know the woman behind the illustrations. Her personal life, including a romantic relationship with her publisher, Norman Warne, and her significant achievements outside of children’s literature remain largely unknown. In Linda Lear’s enchanting new biography, we get the life story of this incredible, funny, and independent woman. As one of the first female naturalists in the world, Potter brought the beauty and importance of nature back into the imagination at a time when plunder was more popular than preservation. Through her art she sought to encourage conservation and change the world. With never before seen illustrations and intimate detail, Lear goes beyond our perrenial fascination with Potter as a writer and illustrator of children’s books, and delves deeply into the life of a most unusual and gifted woman--one whose art was timeless, and whose generosity left an indelible imprint on the countryside.

An Art Lover’s Guide to Great Britain and Ireland

Florence

Beatrix Potter

A Life in Nature

More Leisure Than Money

The Birth of Venus

Art and the Relic Cult of St. Antoninus in Renaissance Florence

In this volume, Rebekah Compton offers the first survey of Venus in the art, culture, and governance of Florence from 1300 to 1600. Organized chronologically, each of the six chapters investigates one of the goddess’s alluring attributes – her golden splendor, rosy-hued complexion, enchanting fashions, green gardens, erotic anatomy, and gifts from the sea. By examining these attributes in the context of the visual arts, Compton uncovers an array of materials and techniques employed by artists, patrons, rulers, and lovers to manifest Venusian virtues. Her book explores technical art history in the context of love’s protean iconography, showing how different discourses and disciplines can interact in the creation and reception of art. Venus and the Arts of Love offers new insights on sight, seduction, and desire, as well as concepts of gender, sexuality, and viewership from both male and female perspectives in the early modern era.

Birthplace of Michelangelo and home to untold masterpieces, Florence is a city for art lovers. But on November 4, 1966, the rising waters of the Arno threatened to erase over seven centuries of history and human achievement. Now Robert Clark explores the Italian city ’ s greatest flood and its aftermath through the voices of its witnesses. Two American artists wade through the devastated beauty; a photographer stows away on an army helicopter to witness the tragedy first-hand; a British “ mud angel ” spends a month scraping mold from the world ’ s masterpieces; and, through it all, an author asks why art matters so very much to us, even in the face of overwhelming disaster.

Presents exciting, original conclusions about Leonardo da Vinci’s early life as an artist and amplifies his role in Andrea del Verrocchio’s studio This groundbreaking reexamination of the beginnings of Leonardo da Vinci’s (1452-1519) life as an artist suggests new candidates for his earliest surviving work and revises our understanding of his role in the studio of his teacher, Andrea del Verrocchio (1435-1488). Anchoring this analysis are important yet often overlooked considerations about Verrocchio’s studio--specifically, the collaborative nature of most works that emerged from it and the probability that Leonardo must initially have learned to paint in tempera, as his teacher did. The book searches for the young artist’s hand among the tempera works from Verrocchio’s studio and proposes new criteria for judging Verrocchio’s own painting style. Several paintings are identified here as likely the work of Leonardo, and others long considered works by Verrocchio or his assistant Lorenzo di Credi (1457/59-1536) may now be seen as collaborations with Leonardo sometime before his departure from Florence in 1482/83. In addition to Laurence Kanter’s detailed arguments, the book features three essays presenting recent scientific analysis and imaging that support the new attributions of paintings, or parts of paintings, to Leonardo.

This is the most comprehensive book on the paintings and frescoes of Florence ever undertaken, with more than 2,000 beautifully reproduced artworks from the city’s great museums and churches--produced in the same manner as BD&L’s The Louvre and The Vatican. Every painted work that is on display in the Uffizi Gallery, The Pitti Palace, the Accademia, and the Duomo is included in the book, plus many or most of the works from 28 of the city’s other magnificent museums and churches. The research and text are by Ross King (best-selling author), Anja Grebe (author or The Louvre and The Vatican), Cristina Acidini (former Superintendent of the public museums of Florence) and Msgr. Timothy Verdon (Director of the artworks for the Archdiocese of Florence).

The Art Lover’s Pocket Guide

Leonardo

Time Out Florence

History from the Mouth of the Connecticut River

An Annotated Basic List of 10,000 Books

The Life of William J. Stillman

A.L.A. Catalog, 1926

"Rich and engaging. This account of Florentine art tells the story of who commissioned these works, who made them, where they were seen, and how they were experienced and understood by their viewers. Includes a useful timeline, glossary, and series of artists' biographies."--Patricia L. Reilly, Swarthmore College
"An extraordinarily useful book, not only for teachers, but also for historically minded travelers interested in an illustrated guide to the art of Renaissance Florence."--Evelyn Lincoln, Brown University
"Clear and compelling. The well-chosen illustrations include ground plans and diagrams of key architectural monuments and sculpture. The updated, judicious bibliography is a resource for anyone tackling the vast scholarship on the art of Renaissance Florence."--Cristelle Baskins, editor of *The Triumph of Marriage: Painted Cassoni of the Renaissance*

Peggy Guggenheim -- millionaire, legendary lover, sadomasochist, appalling parent, selective miser -- was one of the greatest and most notorious art patrons of the twentieth century. After her father, Benjamin Guggenheim, went down with the Titanic, the young heiress came into a small fortune and left for Europe. She married the writer Laurence Vail and joined the American expatriate bohemian set. Though her many lovers included such lions of art and literature as Samuel Beckett, Max Ernst (whom she later married), Yves Tanguy, and Roland Penrose, real love always seemed to elude her. In the late 1930s, Peggy set up one of the first galleries of modern art in London, quickly acquiring a magnificent selection of works, buying great numbers of paintings from artists fleeing to America after the Nazi invasion of France. Escaping from Vichy, she moved back to New York, where she was a vital part of the new American abstract expressionist movement. Meticulously researched, filled with colorful incident, and boasting a distinguished cast, Anton Gill's biography reveals the inner drives of a remarkable woman and indefatigable patron of the arts.

From the Pulitzer Prize–winning author of The Return comes a profoundly moving contemplation of the relationship between art and life. NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY THE WASHINGTON POST AND EVENING STANDARD After finishing his powerful memoir The Return, Hisham Matar, seeking solace and pleasure, traveled to Siena, Italy. Always finding comfort and clarity in great art, Matar immersed himself in eight significant works from the Sienese School of painting, which flourished from the thirteenth to the fifteenth centuries. Artists he had admired throughout his life, including Duccio and Amrogio Lorenzetti, evoke earlier engagements he'd had with works by Caravaggio and Poussin, and the personal experiences that surrounded those moments. Including beautiful full-color reproductions of the artworks, A Month in Siena is about what occurred between Matar, those paintings, and the city. That month would be an extraordinary period in the writer's life: an exploration of how art can console and disturb in equal measure, as well as an intimate encounter with a city and its inhabitants. This is a gorgeous meditation on how centuries-old art can illuminate our own inner landscape—current relationships, long-lasting love, grief, intimacy, and solitude—and shed further light on the present world around us. Praise for A Month in Siena “As exquisitely structured as The Return, driven by desire, yearning, loss, illuminated by the kindness of strangers. A Month in Siena is a triumph.”—Peter Carey

In the aftermath of her father's death, Caroline, a young American woman, returns to New York to attend to final arrangements, oversees the death of a best friend, and tests the limits of love and the power of art in the face of life's inevitabilities. By the author of Ghost Dance. Reprint.

Printing Art

A Guide Through Five Hundred Years

Lorenzo De' Medici and the Art of Magnificence

Catalog of Copyright Entries

Flood and Redemption in Florence--The City of Masterpieces

DK Eyewitness Florence and Tuscany

Plunder

"More Leisure than Money: Tales of a Military Wife in Virginia" shares secrets for creating roots wherever the global economy may take you at the same time that it evokes Virginia's colonial and civil war history. As a Navy wife, author Ruth Pennington Paget created roots for her family by keeping family journals, visiting museums and historic sites, and frequenting the library among other activities. Paget's series of global era memoirs beginning with The Edible Tao enliven history and encourage readers to write their own life stories. Praise for Ruth Pennington Paget's previous books: Paget writes well, and her account of this youthful experience will interest those interested in multi-cultural experiences. --Silas Spaeth, The Californian Since her youth, Paget has always been fascinated with ethnic cuisine and she shares that enthusiasm in these captivating essays. --Bob Walch, Monterey County Herald "Eating Soup With Chopsticks" is written in Ruth's breezy, dialogue-rich style--a fun read. --Sue Fishkoff, Monterey County Weekly

A celebration of the art, architecture, and timeless human passion of the Eternal City, Rome Is Love Spelled Backward explores Rome's best-known treasures, often revealing secrets overlooked in conventional guidebooks. With the ancient play on "Roma" and "Amor"--ROMAMOR--Testa invites readers to experience the world's long love affair with one of its most beautiful cities.

An Art Lover's Guide to FlorenceNorthern Illinois University Press

The coveted “Made in Italy” label calls to mind visions of nimble-fingered Italian tailors lovingly sewing elegant, high-end clothing. The phrase evokes a sense of authenticity, heritage, and rustic charm. Yet, as Elizabeth L. Krause uncovers in Tight Knit, Chinese migrants are the ones sewing “Made in Italy” labels into low-cost items for a thriving fast-fashion industry—all the while adding new patterns to the social fabric of Italy’s iconic industry. Krause offers a revelatory look into how families involved in the fashion industry are coping with globalization based on longterm research in Prato, the historic hub of textile production in the heart of metropolitan Tuscany. She brings to the fore the tensions—over value, money, beauty, family, care, and belonging—that are reaching a boiling point as the country struggles to deal with the same migration pressures that are triggering backlash all over Europe and North America. Tight Knit tells a fascinating story about the heterogeneity of contemporary capitalism that will interest social scientists, immigration experts, and anyone curious about how globalization is changing the most basic of human conditions—making a living and making a life.

An Anthropology of Contemporary Art

Enjoying Art and Architecture in the Eternal City

Tales of a Military Wife in Virginia

Day Trips, Local Spots, Strategies to Avoid Crowds

Third series

The Printing Art

Global Families and the Social Life of Fast Fashion

An exploration of the birthplace of the Italian Renaissance that shows us how and why Florence became the center of the revival of Greek and Classical culture Written by a lover of Florence, The Heart of the Renaissance explores the Greek mythology and Christian traditions and legends shown in the great works of art and architecture of the Italian Renaissance. Richard Lloyd provides historical context to the stories of local saints and miraculous works of art, details the lives of the artists and their patrons, and gives precise locations to the city’s works of art and notable buildings. Gorgeously illustrated, the book acts as a practical guide for art lovers exploring Florence, paying homage to the splendors of the city, its history, its art, and its architecture.

Art Lovers are passionate seekers, but locating the works of the great masters can often present a challenge. In The Art Lover’s Pocket Guide, author Dr. Henry P. Traverso offers a guide to locating the works of the most popular and well-known Western visual artists worldwide. Featuring diverse artists such as Joseph Albers, Picasso, Monet, Francisco de Zurbaran, and a host of others, this comprehensive handbook provides essential biographical information and historical context for more than 250 visual artists. It follows with an orderly list of each artist’s works and where those works are located throughout the world, including museums, galleries, churches, monasteries, atheneaeums, universities, parks, and libraries in the United States, Canada, and Europe. Both an easy-to-search database and a crash course in art history, The Art Lover’s Pocket Guide provides an enhanced understanding of the arts along with the tools needed to plan an art history trip and to better navigate museums.

“Readers curious about the making of Renaissance art, its cast of characters and political intrigue, will find much to relish in these pages.” –Wall Street Journal Giorgio Vasari (1511–1574) was a man of many talents—a sculptor, painter, architect, writer, and scholar—but he is best known for Lives of the Artists, which singlehandedly established the canon of Italian Renaissance art. Before Vasari’s extraordinary book, art was considered a technical skill, and artists were mere decorators and craftsmen. It was through Vasari’s visionary writings that Raphael, Leonardo, and Michelangelo came to be regarded as great masters of life as well as art, their creative genius celebrated as a divine gift. Lauded by Sarah Bakewell as “insightful, gripping, and thoroughly enjoyable,” The Collector of Lives reveals how one Renaissance scholar completely redefined how we look at art.

"Historian F.W. Kent offers a new look at Lorenzo's relationship to the arts, aesthetics, collecting, and building - especially in the context of his role as the political boss (maestro della bottega) of republican Florence and a leading player in Renaissance Italian diplomacy. Kent's approach reveals Lorenzo's activities as an art patron as far more extensive and creative than previously thought. Known as "the Magnificent," Lorenzo was broadly interested in the arts and supported efforts to beautify Florence and the many Medici lands and palaces. His expertise was well regarded by guildsmen and artists, who often turned to him for advice as well as for patronage.

The Paintings and Frescoes in the City That Invented Art, 1250-1743

The Last Amateur

An Art Lover's Guide to Florence

Art by Women in Florence

Venus and the Arts of Love in Renaissance Florence

Rome Is Love Spelled Backward

DK Eyewitness Italy

One of The Christian Science Monitor's Ten Best Books of May "A highly original work of history . . . [Saltzman] has written a distinctive study that transcends both art and history and forces us to explore the connections between the two." —Roger Lowenstein, The Wall Street Journal A captivating study of Napoleon's plundering of Europe's art for the Louvre, told through the story of a Renaissance masterpiece seized from Venice Cynthia Saltzman's Plunder recounts the fate of Paolo Veronese's Wedding Feast at Cana, a vast, sublime canvas that the French, under the command of the young Napoleon Bonaparte, tore from a wall of the monastery of San Giorgio Maggiore, on an island in Venice, in 1797. Painted in 1563 during the Renaissance, the picture was immediately hailed as a masterpiece. Veronese had filled the scene with some 130 figures, lavishing color on the canvas to build the illusion that the viewers' space opened onto a biblical banquet taking place on a terrace in sixteenth-century Venice. Once pulled from the wall, the Venetian canvas crossed the Mediterranean rolled on a cylinder; soon after, artworks commandeered from Venice and Rome were triumphantly brought into Paris. In 1801, the Veronese went on exhibition at the Louvre, the new public art museum founded during the Revolution in the former palace of the French kings. As Saltzman tells the larger story of Napoleon's looting of Italian art and its role in the creation of the Louvre, she reveals the contradictions of his character: his thirst for greatness—to carry forward the finest aspects of civilization—and his ruthlessness in getting whatever he sought. After Napoleon's 1815 defeat at Waterloo, the Duke of Wellington and the Allies forced the French to return many of the Louvre's plundered paintings and sculptures. Nevertheless, The Wedding Feast at Cana remains in Paris to this day, hanging directly across from the Mona Lisa. Expertly researched and deftly told, Plunder chronicles one of the most spectacular art appropriation campaigns in history, one that sheds light on a seminal historical figure and the complex origins of one of the great museums of the world.

"The remarkable story of the Renaissance's most successful female artist, a talented woman who defied the conventions of her times"--

World-famous galleries, medieval towers, bustling sidewalk cafés, and a culture steeped in artistic innovation: savor the best of Firenze at your own speed with Moon Florence & Beyond. Explore In and Around the City: Get to know Florence's most interesting neighborhoods like the historic center, Santa Croce, San Marco, and Santa Maria Novella, and nearby areas including Lucca, San Gimignano, Siena, Chianti, and more Go at Your Own Pace: Choose from multiple itinerary options designed for foodies, history buffs, art lovers, and more See the Sights: Climb to the top of the gravity-defying Duomo, gaze at Michelangelo's David at the Accademia, see world-famous works at the Uffizi Gallery, or hike to the Basilica San Miniato al Monte for undisturbed views of the city skyline Get Outside the City: Escape the crowds and explore rolling Tuscan hill towns, the charming medieval city of Lucca, and the vineyards of Chianti Savor the Flavors: Linger over an aperitivo at sunset, sample mouthwatering gelato, explore the city's burgeoning modern restaurant scene, or enjoy a traditional Florentine meal at an old-school trattoria Experience the Nightlife: From a classic Negroni at an al fresco café to a swanky champagne bar or a neighborhood enoteca serving local Brunellos, find the best of Florence's many watering holes Get to Know the Real Florence: Follow local suggestions from Italian transplant Alexei Cohen Full-Color Photos and Detailed Maps Handy Tools:

Background information on Florentine history and culture, plus tips on sustainable travel, what to pack, where to stay, and how to get around Day trip itineraries, favorite local spots, and strategies to skip the crowds: Take your time with Moon Florence & Beyond. Exploring more of Italy? Check out Moon Venice & Beyond or Moon Milan & Beyond: With the Italian Lakes.

Combines easily understood text with opulent color illustrations into a cultural experience. Prominent Florentine scholars and museum directors accompany the reader on a journey to the unique artistic treasures of this city on the Arno. The experts introduce superb historical buildings and sculptures in their historical contexts, and as "insiders" lead you through world-famous painting galleries such as the Accademia and the Palazzo Pitti. Over 500 illustrations, as well as thematic essays on book illumination, the art of the goldsmith and the treasures of the Medici, round out the text.--From publisher description.

Famous Pictures Described in Poems: Forty-eight Reproductions of Famous Pictures Accompanied by Poems of Noted Writers

Springfield City Library Bulletin

Art Lover

A Novel

The Dial

Lady in Ermine: The Story of a Woman Who Painted the Renaissance. a Biographical Novel

Dark Water

Divine cuisine and spectacular art await in Florence and Tuscany Whether you want to sample delicious Tuscan food and wine, gaze at the iconic Leaning Tower of Pisa or browse eclectic markets in Florence, your DK Eyewitness travel e-guide makes sure you experience all that this region has to offer. The birthplace of the Renaissance, Florence is filled with architectural masterpieces and dazzling collections of art. Yet the countryside is just as mesmerizing, with cypress-lined roads leading to picturesque towns and idyllic islands lying just off the coast. Our recently updated e-guide brings Florence and Tuscany to life, transporting you there like no other travel e-guide does with expert-led insights and advice, detailed breakdowns of all the must-see sights, photographs on practically every page, and our hand-drawn illustrations which place you inside the region's iconic buildings and neighborhoods. You'll discover: – our pick of Florence and Tuscany's must-sees, top experiences and hidden gems – the best spots to eat, drink, shop and stay – detailed maps and walks which make navigating the country easy – easy-to-follow itineraries – expert advice: get ready, get around and stay safe – color-coded chapters to every part of Florence and Tuscany, from Santa Croce to Oltrarno, Central Tuscany to Southwest Tuscany Touring the country? Look out for our DK Eyewitness Italy.

If you find yourself in Hull, Cork or Dundee, what paintings should you go and look at? Many masterpieces are waiting for you around the British Isles, sometimes neglected, in our galleries and museums. Here, broadcaster, critic and President of the National Association of Decorative & Fine Arts Societies (NADFAS), Christopher Lloyd, identifies over 265 masterpieces in England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales from the National Gallery to The Burrell Collection in Glasgow some acknowledged greats, others surprising, quirky and richly rewarding. All the paintings are the personal selection of Lloyd who has come across and enjoyed or admired them in public collections during the course of his career. His purpose throughout is to encourage others to visit the same places and experience the same pleasures. For tourists, this book offers a treasure trail; for the art lover, a vade mecum and companion in all an expert guide to the highlights of British collections our countrys galleries have found their Pevsner!

The authoritative biography of a nineteenth-century polymath. This fascinating biography tells the story of William J. Stillman (1828–1901), a nineteenth-century polymath. Born and raised in Schenectady, New York, Stillman attended Union College and began his career as a Hudson River School painter after an apprenticeship with Frederic Edwin Church. In the 1850s, he was editor of The Crayon, the most important journal of art criticism in antebellum America. Later, after a stint as an explorer-promoter of the Adirondacks, he became the American consul in Rome during the Civil War. When his diplomatic career brought him to Crete, he developed an interest in archaeology and later produced photographs of the Acropolis, for which he is best known today. In yet another career switch, Stillman became a journalist, serving as a correspondent for The Times of London in Rome and the Balkans. In 1871, he married his second wife, Marie Spartali, a Pre-Raphaelite painter, and continued to write about history and art until his death. One of the later products of the American Enlightenment, he lived a life that intersected with many strands of American and European culture. Stillman can indeed be called “the last amateur.” Stephen L. Dyson is Park Professor of Classics at the University at Buffalo, State University of New York. He is the author of several books, including Rome: A Living Portrait of an Ancient City.

Alessandra Cecchi is not quite fifteen when her father, a prosperous cloth merchant, brings a young painter back from northern Europe to decorate the chapel walls in the family’s Florentine palazzo. A child of the Renaissance, with a precocious mind and a talent for drawing, Alessandra is intoxicated by the painter's abilities. But their burgeoning relationship is interrupted when Alessandra’s parents arrange her marriage to a wealthy, much older man. Meanwhile, Florence is changing, increasingly subject to the growing suppression imposed by the fundamentalist monk Savonarola, who is seizing religious and political control.

Alessandra and her native city are caught between the Medici state, with its love of luxury, learning, and dazzling art, and the hellfire preaching and increasing violence of Savonarola’s reactionary followers. Played out against this turbulent backdrop, Alessandra’s married life is a misery, except for the surprising freedom it allows her to pursue her powerful attraction to the young painter and his art. The Birth of Venus is a tour de force, the first historical novel from one of Britain’s most innovative writers of literary suspense. It brings alive the history of Florence at its most dramatic period, telling a compulsively absorbing story of love, art, religion, and power through the passionate voice of Alessandra, a heroine with the same vibrancy of spirit as her beloved city.

Moon Florence & Beyond

Art and Architecture

Art Lovers' Treasury

Tight Knit

And the Best of Tuscany

A Biography of Peggy Guggenheim

The Collector of Lives: Giorgio Vasari and the Invention of Art