

9 of This Winter's Best Art Books

Madison Reid, Allison Schaller : 7-9 minutes : 2/18/2022

This winter has given us countless reasons to stay inside, and here are nine more. Fresh off the presses, our picks range from a tome about an art collection built to make you rethink the everyday to a voyeuristic peek into the contents of hotel rooms and the artist's thoughts alike. This season's most vibrant art books will bring color and life to the last weeks of winter.

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- **“A Pound of Pictures” by Alec Soth (January 2022)**

For his tenth monograph, *A Pound of Pictures*, Alec Soth took another voyage through America between 2018 and 2021. His classic portraits of strangers or other artists and landscapes from coast to coast are peppered with wildflowers, metallic orbs, birds, windows, and mirrors. Soth has also included winks and nods to the process of photography itself: people taking selfies at Niagara falls, piles of other people's pictures acquired at flea markets, and even Nan Goldin's bed (above which hangs two framed photographs by Peter Hujar). As analog and digital, vernacular and fine art fold into one another, his constellation of images and journal-like captions circle back to his career-long inquiries—What is photography and what can it say? What is its meaning in our lives?—to show us the poem of an ever-evolving artist's mind.

- Donald Judd: Artworks 1970-1994, 2022, Courtesy of David Zwirner Books.

- **“Donald Judd Artworks: 1970–1994” (February 2022)**

“Color is never unimportant,” once said the American artist Donald Judd, who throughout his more than half decade-long career pushed minimalism to its limits while maximizing impact and hue. *Donald Judd Artworks: 1970–1994* out February 2022 from David Zwirner Books, catalogs a massive collection of his mid and late-career work. The book

serves as a companion volume to the Museum of Modern Art's 2020 retrospective of Judd's work. From expansive installation works to smaller scale pieces the book introduces us to lesser known works and revisits some of Judd's most famed pieces inspiring new insights into the artist's process.

- Courtesy of Prestel.

“Our Own Selves” by Nadine Ijewere (January 2022)

Our Own Selves is fashion photographer and portraitist Nadine Ijewere's highly anticipated first book. Ijewere is known for challenging traditional beauty standards head-on and introducing a dazzling, colorful, dreamlike elegance. Her subjects meet the viewer with a fierce gaze; the book is a celebration of identity, diversity, and uniqueness. This stunning monograph includes work from her series of intergenerational Jamaicans, young people defying gender norms in Lagos, and her renowned editorial and commercial work.

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- Courtesy The Museum of Modern Art, New York.

“Wolfgang Tillmans: A Reader” (December 2021)

Photographer Wolfgang Tillmans once said “I never understood myself as speaking only through photography...More and more, I realize that language is something I care about and have developed as a medium.” Published ahead of the MoMA's forthcoming survey of Wolfgang Tillmans's work (which will run from September 12 through December 31, 2022), *Wolfgang Tillmans: A Reader* brings together over 30 years of texts and interviews with the artist, and offers a first time look into his colossal collection of writings about his photos. The texts are arranged chronologically and cover Tillman's thoughts on many of the same themes his photographs cover: music, politics, nightlife, astronomy, spirituality, activism, and photography. From traditionally professional sources such as exhibition catalogs and interviews to social media posts and song lyrics the book offers a new clarity on Tillmans's works.

- Courtesy of the artist and Aperture.

“American Mirror” by Philip Montgomery (December 2021)

Like a war photographer, Philip Montgomery has flocked to the most dramatic moments in recent U.S. history. His camera has captured the 2016 and 2020 presidential elections, Black Lives Matter demonstrations in Minneapolis following the murder of George Floyd, and New York City during the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020, along with the sites of natural disasters, police violence, and the ongoing opioid addiction crisis. Each story, originally reported for outlets including *Vanity Fair*, *The New York Times Magazine*, *TIME*, and *The New Yorker*, demonstrates Montgomery's ability to look deeply at the crises in front of him in order to find moments of stillness and reflection, often in the midst of chaos.

- Courtesy of the artist and DelMonico Books.

“Postcards” by Ellsworth Kelly (February 2022)

Throughout his more than six decade career, American artist Ellsworth Kelly was renowned for his masterful abstractions of line, form, and color. Less widely known are his more than 400 collaged postcards, playfully assembled from found materials: pieces of vinyl records, ticket stubs, and torn pieces of his own prints. Spanning from 1949 to 2005, this new survey highlights the parallels to Kelly's larger works in other media such as painting, drawing, sculpting, and printmaking while offering a view of never-before-seen objects from one of the most influential visual artists of the twentieth century.

- **“Look at me like you love me” by Jess T. Dugan (February 2022)**

In *Look at me like you love me*, Jess T. Dugan's portraits of themselves, individuals, and couples are interspersed with piquant still lifes of flowers and a personal essay, which runs throughout the book, that asks, “Where is the line between me and you?” Where is the line between photographer and subject, artist and viewer, self and not-self? With this fundamental question, Dugan invites us into their relationship with photography. Each portrait represents a profound collaboration, a dance, and a communion with the person mirrored in their camera. As a whole, the monograph is a powerful example of what it means to tell your story by holding and honoring another's.

- Courtesy of Chara Schreyer.

“Making Strange : The Chara Schreyer Collection” (November 2021)

Over the course of three decades, collector Chara Schreyer has focused on acquiring modern artwork that encourages the viewer to reframe how we interpret the world. Now, nearly 250 pieces spanning over a hundred years, from painting to sculpture, are brought together in a book for the first time. Including artists like Georgia O’Keeffe, Glenn Ligon, and Jenny Holzer, *Making Strange* keeps true to Russian literary theorist and writer, Viktor Shklovsky’s, concept of the phrase and presents us common visuals in an unfamiliar easy to broaden and gain perspective on how viewers could view artworks and the world around them.

- Courtesy of the artist and Siglio.

“The Hotel” by Sophie Calle (December 2021)

Well known for work that straddles performance art, photography, and contemporary art, artist Sophie Calle’s *The Hotel* examines the guests who passed through the fourth floor of a Venetian hotel between February 16 and March 6, 1981. Previously included within the book *Double Game*, this enhanced English edition gives us peak Calle: concealing a camera and tape recorder in her mop bucket, she photographs the guests’ delicacies drying in the bathroom, personal pictures laid out on the floor, and toiletries askew on the vanity, alongside her meticulous notes about the contents of any open suitcase or wastebasket in sight. These clinical yet intimate observations (and sometimes judgements) expose innumerable contradictions within this finite space, and within the thoughts of the artist herself.