



Adult Reading List: Art and Artists

Check out these titles at the Ellsworth Public Library! The call numbers are in **bold**.

The Agony and the Ecstasy by Irving Stone **F Sto**: Fictional depiction of Michelangelo. Includes bibliography, glossary and a list of the artist's works.

Angels and Demons by Dan Brown **F Bro**: The murder of a world-famous physicist raises fears that the Illuminati are operating again after centuries of silence, and religion professor Robert Langdon is called in to assist with the case.

The Art Forger: A Novel by B.A. Shapiro **F Sha**: An artist whose reputation has been tarnished stumbles on a piece of art that disappeared twenty-five years ago and agrees to forge it for a gallery owner, until she realizes that the art she is forging may itself be a forgery.

The Da Vinci Code by Dan Brown **F Bro**: Harvard symbologist Robert Langdon and French cryptologist Sophie Neveu work to solve the murder of an elderly curator of the Louvre, a case which leads to clues hidden in the works of Da Vinci and a centuries-old secret society.

The Forgery of Venus by Michael Gruber **F Gru**: Having inherited his father's considerable artistic talents but unable to find buyers for his works, Chaz Wilmot accepts a commission to restore an antique fresco in a European castle, a job that brings unexpected success and a sinister offer.

Girl in Hyacinth Blue by Susan Vreeland **F Vre**: A professor invites a colleague from the art department to his home to view a painting he has kept secret for decades in Susan Vreeland's powerful historical novel, *Girl in Hyacinth Blue*. The professor swears it's a Vermeer -- but why exactly has he kept it hidden so long? The reasons unfold in a gripping sequence of stories that trace ownership of the work back to Amsterdam during World War II and still further to the moment of the painting's inception.

Girl With a Pearl Earring by Tracy Chevalier **F Che**: Girl with a pearl earring tells the story of Griet, a 16-year-old Dutch girl, who becomes a maid in the house of the painter Johannes Vermeer. Her calm and perceptive manner not only helps her in her household duties, but also attracts Vermeer's attention.

The Goldfinch by Donna Tartt **F Tar**: A young boy in New York City, Theo Decker, miraculously survives an explosion that takes the life of his mother. Alone and determined to avoid being taken in by the city as an orphan, Theo scrambles between nights in friends' apartments and on the city streets. He becomes entranced by the one thing that reminds him of his mother: a small, mysteriously captivating painting that soon draws Theo into the art underworld.

The Lady and the Unicorn by Tracy Chevalier **F Chi**: Interweaves historical fact with fiction to explore

the mystery behind the creation of the remarkable Lady and the Unicorn tapestries, woven at the end of the fifteenth century, which today hang in the Cluny Museum in Paris.

The Last Nude by Ellis Avery **F Ave**: Agreeing to model nude for Art Deco painter Tamara de Lempicka in 1927 Paris, young American Rafaela Fano inspires the artist's most iconic Jazz Age images and becomes her lover while discovering darker truths about Tamara's private life.

Leonardo's Swans by Karen Essex **F Ess**: Leonardo's Swans is an evocation of the artist during his years in the glittering court of Milan, re-creating the thrilling moments when he conceived The Last Supper and the Mona Lisa. It portrays a genius ahead of his time who can rarely escape the demands of his noble patrons long enough to express his own artistic vision.

The Lost Painting by Jonathan Harr **759.5 Har**: Recounts the search for a long-lost masterpiece by Italian Baroque master Michelangelo Caravaggio, following a young graduate student across hundreds of years and four countries to uncover the mystery of "The Taking of Christ."

Luncheon of the Boating Party by Susan Vreeland **F Vre**: Renoir is inspired to paint "Luncheon of the boating party" when his other work is criticized by Emile Zola, and while doing so is drawn into lives of the thirteen people featured in it as they enjoy a Parisian summer during the late 1800s.

Modigliani Scandal by Ken Follett **InfoNet eBook**: In the modern art world of intrigue and competition, rumours had long flourished about the existence of a lost masterpiece by Modigliani. Now, with the prize for uncovering the work higher than ever, a chase begins across Europe to see who can get the painting first.

The Monuments Men by Robert M. Edsel **940.531 Eds**: The previously untold story of a little-known WWII Allied division whose mission was to track down European art and treasures that had been looted by the Nazis at Hitler's command

The Passion of Artemesia by Susan Vreeland **F Vre**: A novel set against the backdrops of Rome, Florence, and Genoa recreates the life of Artemisia Gentileschi, whose search for love, forgiveness, and wholeness through her art led to her fame as a painter.

The Picture of Dorian Gray by Oscar Wilde **F Wil**: Dorian Gray, a handsome and narcissistic young man, lives thoughtlessly for his own pleasure--an attitude encouraged by the company he keeps. One day, after having his portrait painted, Dorian makes a frivolous Faustian wish: that he should always remain as young and beautiful as he is in that painting, while the portrait grows old in his stead. The wish comes true, and Dorian soon finds that none of his wicked actions have visible consequences.

Pictures at an Exhibition by Modest Mussorgsky **CD Classical MUS**: Mussorgsky based his musical material on drawings and watercolors by Viktor Hartmann, produced mostly during the artist's travels abroad. Locales include Poland, France and Italy; the final movement depicts an architectural design for the capital city of Ukraine. Today most of the pictures from the Hartmann exhibit are lost, making it impossible to be sure in many cases which Hartmann works Mussorgsky had in mind.

Portrait of a Unknown Woman by Vanora Bennett **F Ben**: In an epic tale set against a backdrop of civil-war torn sixteenth-century Europe, portraitist Hans Holbein the Younger flees to the safety of Tudor England in order to escape artistic censorship.

The Raphael Affair by Iain Pears **M Pea**: In *The Raphael Affair*, the first book in the series, we are introduced to Jonathan Argyll, an enthusiastic young art scholar from England who has followed his suspicions about a long-lost Raphael painting to a small church in Rome. Not only is the painting in question gone from the site, it has been swiftly purchased, restored, auctioned, and installed in Rome's National Museum. But when the recovered Raphael is just as swiftly destroyed in a fire, Argyll begins to suspect its authenticity...and the innocence of every person in its path.

Seek My Face by John Updike **F Upd**: During an interview with a New York writer, seventy-nine-year-old artist Hope Chafetz describes her eventful life and her integral place in the saga of postwar American art.

The Swan Thieves by Elizabeth Kostova **F Kos**: His ordered life thrown into disarray when he begins treating an unstable genius artist who has recently attacked a canvas at the National Gallery of Art, psychiatrist and art hobbyist Andrew Marlow struggles to understand the secret that torments the artist.

Tulip Fever by Deborah Moggach **LT F Mog**: Seventeenth-century Amsterdam is a city in the grip of tulip mania, basking in the wealth it has generated. Sophia's husband Cornelis, an ageing merchant, is among those grown rich from this exotic new flower. To celebrate, he commissions a talented young artist to paint him with his young bride. But as the portrait grows, so does the passion between Sophia and the painter; and as ambitions, desires and dreams breed an intricate deception, their reckless gamble propels their lives towards a thrilling and tragic conclusion.