



ART OF THE BOOK CLUB

SPONSORED BY MUSEUM ASSOCIATES

For May 2019, the Museum of Art and Archaeology's Art of the Book Club is reading *The Painted Girls* by Cathy Marie Buchanan. Below is listed a schedule of events that relate to the book and will enhance further understanding of the book's themes and content. Please join us and explore *The Painted Girls* in greater depth.

May 5, Sunday

Docent-Led Theme Tour

"Objectified"

Docent: Chuck Swaney

2:00–3:00pm, Museum Galleries

May 12, Sunday

Ad Hoc Film Series

The Artist and the Model (2012)

Directed by Fernando Trueba

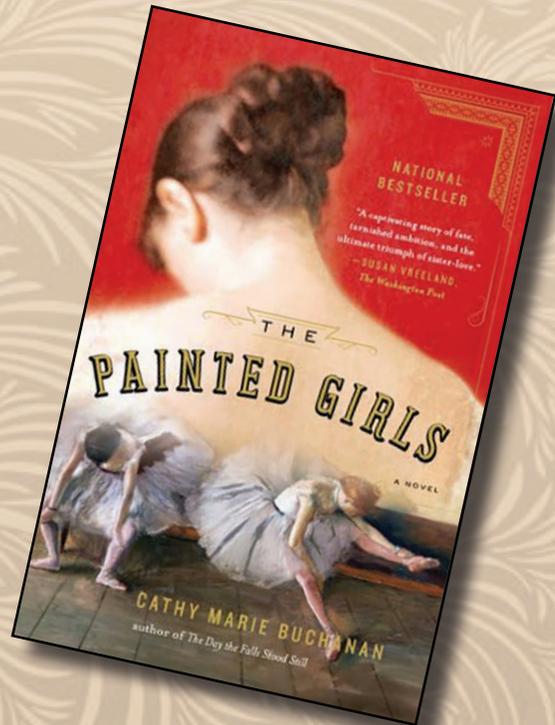
Starring Claudia Cardinale and Jean Rochefort

2:00–4:00pm, 707 Mizzou North

May 16, Thursday

Brown Bag Book Discussion

12:15–1:15pm, 123 Mizzou North



August Book Selection

Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain

This book was selected to accompany the Museum's Exhibition:

Missouri Nostalgia: Works on Paper from the Scruggs-Vandervoort-Barney Collection, May 21–October 27, 2019.

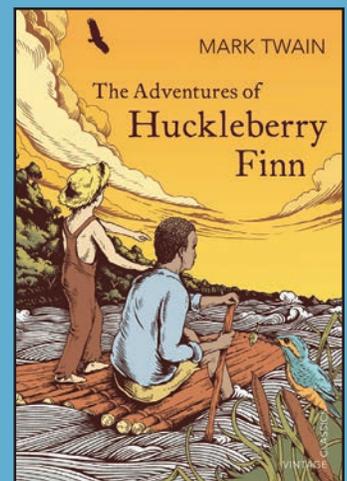
Participation is **FREE** and open to the public

Follow the Art of the Book Club on Facebook at:

www.facebook.com/mumaabookclub.

Please direct questions to Christiane Quinn at chrismo@juno.com

August Book Selection



Resources related to the Art of the Book Club's May 2019 Book Selection

The Painted Girls, a novel by Cathy Marie Buchanan

This novel is set in Paris at a moment of profound artistic, cultural, and societal change, the “Belle Époque.” Following their father’s sudden death in 1878, the van Goethem sisters find their lives upended. With few options for work, Marie is dispatched to the Paris Opéra, where for a scant seventeen francs a week, she will be trained to enter the famous ballet. Marie throws herself into the grueling work of dance and is soon modeling in the studio of Edgar Degas, where her image will forever be immortalized as *Little Dancer Aged Fourteen*. This book was selected to accompany two of the Museum’s current exhibitions: *Objectified: The Female Form and the Male Gaze* and *Women of Distinction*. (The Art of the Book Club is associated with the MU Museum of Art and Archaeology. Check the Museum’s website for several related events and a gallery tour in the museum in May 2019 to accompany this book.)

BOOKS

The Judgement of Paris: The Revolutionary Decade That Gave the World Impressionism by Ross King (2006) 464 pp. In the 1870s the artists who would make Impressionism the most popular art form in history would show their first paintings amidst scorn and derision from the French artistic establishment.

Degas, Painter of Ballerinas by Susan Goldman Rubin (2019) 64 pp. For young readers (8-12 years)

Degas: His Life and Works in 500 Images by John Kear (2012) 256 pp. This book offers a fascinating account of the artist's life, education, artistic influences and legacy, set in context of the turbulent social and political times in which he lived. Featuring an extensive gallery of his work, set in chronological order and accompanied by an analysis of each work.

Little Dancer Aged Fourteen: The True Story Behind Degas's Masterpiece by Camille Laurens (2018) 176 pp. This work uncovers the story of the real dancer behind Degas’s now-iconic sculpture, and the struggles of late nineteenth-century Parisian life. She is famous throughout the world, but how many know her name? We know only her age, fourteen, & the work that she did—because it was already grueling work, at an age when children today are sent to school. In the 1880s, she danced as a “little rat” at the Paris Opera, and what is often a dream for young girls now wasn’t a dream for her. She was fired after several years of intense labor; the director had had enough of her repeated absences. She had been working another job, even two, because the few pennies the Opera paid weren’t enough to keep her and her family fed. She was a model, posing for painters or sculptors—among them Degas.

The Nude: A Study in Ideal Form by Kenneth Clark (1956) 370 pp. A classic but now often criticized male-centric view.

ONLINE RESOURCES

“Impressionism: Art and Modernity“ https://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/imml/hd_imml.htm

In 1874, a group of artists called the “Anonymous Society of Painters, Sculptors, Printmakers, etc.” organized an exhibition in Paris that launched the movement which was labeled “Impressionism” by its detractors. The founding members included Claude Monet, Edgar Degas, and Camille Pissarro, and others. The group was unified only by its independence from the official annual Salon, for which a jury of artists from the Académie des Beaux-Arts selected artworks and awarded medals.

“Edgar Degas Biography”: <https://www.notablebiographies.com/De-Du/Degas-Edgar.html>

Little Dancer Aged Fourteen, this bronze copy of Degas’s sculpture is at the St. Louis Art Museum:

<https://www.slam.org/collection/objects/1931/>

Information about the book from the author including the Degas’s artwork from *The Painted Girls*:

<http://www.cathymariebuchanan.com/books/the-painted-girls>

Where Excellence Is De Rigueur; Training for the Paris Opera Ballet by Alan Riding (from the *NY Times*):

<https://www.nytimes.com/2002/05/21/arts/where-excellence-is-de-rigueur-training-for-the-paris-opera-ballet.html>

The “little rats” (students) are under great pressure from their parents as well as their instructors.

A FILM

Degas and the Dancer, directed by David Devine (2002) 55 mins. A film recommended for both kids and adults.