

Consortium of Art and Architectural Historians

ART & ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIANS IN POPULAR CULTURE – A WORKING LIST

Compiled for Dr. Karen Leader & The Members of CAAH
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NOVELS

Oliver Banks, *The Rembrandt Panel*, Pinnacle Books, 1982.

Synopsis: When a priceless Greek urn goes missing and a barely known Rembrandt surfaces, murder results. Art detective Amos Hatcher must somehow find the connection and stop a ruthless killer.

Review: <http://gs.librarything.com/work/1192058>

Author Obituary: <http://www.highbeam.com/doc/1P2-7661686.html>

Oliver Banks, *The Caravaggio Obsession*, Signet Books, 1984.

Synopsis: On a fall afternoon, Amos Hatcher made a leisurely visit to Jake Sloane, a second-rate art dealer and friend who was about to break into the big time by auctioning five rare Old Masters of questionable provenance, late that evening, Hatcher stared in disbelief at the police photos of Sloane, who was slumped in his chair, the blunt handle of a knife protruding from his neck.

Review: <http://italian-mysteries.com/OBA01.html>

Geraldine Brooks, *The People of the Book*, Penguin Books, 2008.

Synopsis: One of the earliest Jewish religious volumes to be illuminated with images, the Sarajevo Haggadah survived centuries of purges and wars thanks to people of all faiths who risked their lives to safeguard it. In the hands of Hanna Heath, an impassioned rare-book expert restoring the manuscript in 1996 Sarajevo, it yields clues to its guardians and whereabouts: an insect wing, a wine stain, salt crystals, and a white hair.

Review: <http://www.nytimes.com/2008/01/20/books/review/Fugard-t.html>

Author Website: <http://www.geraldinebrooks.com/>

Dan Brown, *The Da Vinci Code*, Doubleday, 2003.

Synopsis: A murder in the silent after-hour halls of the Louvre museum reveals a sinister plot to uncover a secret that has been protected by a clandestine society since the days of Christ. The victim is a high-ranking agent of this ancient society who, in the moments before his death, manages to leave gruesome clues at the scene that only noted cryptographer Sophie Neveu, and Robert Langdon, a famed symbologist, can untangle.

Review: http://topics.nytimes.com/topics/reference/timestopics/complete_coverage/da_vinci_code/index.html

Author Website: <http://www.danbrown.com/>

Noah Charney, *The Art Thief*, Attria, 2007.

Synopsis: Three thefts are simultaneously investigated in three cities, but these apparently isolated crimes have much more in common than anyone imagines. The novel highlights a range of art historical positions, from museum director to professor, the latter of whom offers a concise history of art from "Polydorus to Pollock in seventeen easy lessons."

Review: http://www.eurocrime.co.uk/reviews/The_Art_Thief.html

Author Website: <http://www.noahcharney.com/>

Tracy Chevalier, *The Girl with the Pearl Earring*, Plume Books, 2001.

Synopsis: In 1664 the modest daughter of a tile maker is forced to work as a maid in the Vermeer household because her father has gone blind.

Review: <http://www.csmonitor.com/Books/Book-Reviews/2011/0116/Classic-review-Girl-with-the-Pearl-Earring>

Author Website: <http://www.tchevalier.com/gwape/>

Kate Christensen, *The Great Man*, Doubleday, 2007.

Synopsis: Oscar Feldman, fictional 20th-century New York figurative painter (and an infamous seducer of models as well as a neglectful father), has died. His wife, mistress, and sister unite five years after his death. Together the women begin sketching their versions of him for a pair of admiring young biographers working on very different accounts of his life.

Review: <http://www.nytimes.com/2007/08/06/books/06masl.html>

Author Website: <http://www.randomhouse.com/features/katechristensen/>

Michael Cunningham, *By Nightfall*, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2010.

Synopsis: Peter Harris and his wife, Rebecca--who edits a mid-level art magazine--have settled into a comfortable life in Manhattan's art world, but their staid existence is disrupted by the arrival of Rebecca's much younger brother, Ethan, who wants to pursue a career in the arts.

Review: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/10/05/AR2010100504890.html>

Author Website: <http://www.michaelcunninghamwriter.com/>

Robertson Davies, *What's Bred in the Bone*, Penguin, 1986.

Synopsis: Born into an eccentric, wealthy Canadian family in a backwoods town, enduring a lonely and suffocatingly pious upbringing, Cornish eventually becomes a respected art appraiser and collector, at the sacrifice of his considerable talent as a painter.

Review: <http://www.nytimes.com/books/97/08/24/reviews/davies-bredbone.html>

Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robertson_Davies

Margaret Drabble, *The Radiant Way* (1987); *A Natural Curiosity* (1989); and *The Gates of Ivory* (1991): Penguin.

Synopsis: A trilogy that examines life through the eyes of three friends who met at Cambridge in the 1950s. One of the three main characters is an art historian who divides her time between London and Italy. Drabble's sister is Helen Langdon, the historian of Baroque art.

Review(s): <http://www.nytimes.com/books/97/10/19/home/drabble.html>

Author Website: <http://redmood.com/drabble/>

Arabella Edge, *The God of Spring*, Simon & Schuster, 2008.

Synopsis: as its subject the French artist Théodore Géricault and the genesis of one of his best-known paintings, *The Raft of the Medusa*. It is 1818, and Géricault is trying to extract himself from an affair with Alexandrine, six years his senior but much younger than her husband, who happens to be Géricault's uncle and benefactor. Géricault is also at a crossroads in his career: six years after winning the gold medal at the Paris Salon for his painting *Charging Chasseur*, Géricault is in desperate need of a subject for a new painting that will get him back into the Salon.

Review: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/02/22/AR2007022201526.html>

Penelope Fitzgerald, *The Golden Child*, Mariner Books, 1999.

Synopsis: Set in a London museum whose officers only appear August, all England is queuing up to see the golden treasure of the Garamantes--the remains of a young king who was interred complete with a trove of toys and goodies. Only the man who unearthed the kinglet back in 1913 refuses to go anywhere near the exhibit, despite his constant proximity.

Review: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/books/2010/apr/03/hermione-lee-penelope-fitzgerald>

Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Penelope_Fitzgerald

Ken Follett, *The Modigliani Scandal*, Signet, 1986.

Synopsis: An entertaining adventure novel in which a young art historian races to find a missing masterpiece by Modigliani before others find the painting. A subplot involves an angry young painter who creates a brilliant forgery.

Review: See Author Website

Author Website: http://www.ken-follett.com/bibliography/the_modigliani_scandal.html

Ken Follet, *The Pillars of the Earth*, Signet Books, 1990.

Synopsis: In a time of civil war, famine and religious strife, there rises a magnificent Cathedral in Kingsbridge. Against this backdrop, lives entwine: Tom, the master builder, Aliena, the noblewoman, Philip, the prior of Kingsbridge, Jack, the artist in stone and Ellen, the woman from the forest who casts a curse.

Review: http://historymedren.about.com/library/zbookreviewz/bkr_0451166892_3382.htm

Author Website: <http://www.ken-follett.com>

Michael Frayn, *Headlong*, Henry Holt, 1999.

Synopsis: An intellectual comedy revolving around a philosophical historian, Martin Clay, and his discovery, in the dilapidated manor house of a frightful country neighbor, of a painting he believes to be a missing Brueghel.

Review: <http://www.nytimes.com/books/99/08/29/reviews/990829.29cohen.html>

Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michael_Frayn

Francine du Plessix Gray, *Lovers and tyrants*, Simon and Schuster, 1967.

Synopsis: The novel follows the life of Stephanie, the art historian (of sorts) from her childhood in France to her schooling in New York to her stint as a reporter in Paris to her very American marriage all the way through to her final attempt at being free.

Review: <http://www.theparisreview.org/interviews/2642/the-art-of-fiction-no-96-francine-du-plessix-gray>

Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Francine_du_Plessix_Gray

Robert Hellenga, *Sixteen Pleasures*, Delta Books, 1995.

Synopsis: In 1966, 29-year-old Margot Harrington heads off to Florence, intent on doing her bit to protect its precious books from the great floods--and equally intent on adventure. Serendipity, in the shape of the man she'll fall in love with, leads her to an abbey run by the most knowing of abbesses and work on its library begins. One day a nun comes upon a shockingly pornographic volume, bound with a prayer book, which includes Aretino's lost erotic sonnets, accompanied by some rather anatomical engravings.

Review: <http://www.litchicks.com/reviews/the-sixteen-pleasures.html>

Author Website: <http://www.roberthellenga.com>

Michael Kernan, *The Lost Diaries of Frans Hals*, St. Martin's Griffin, 1995.

Synopsis: From present-day New York to 17th-century Holland, this imaginative, enthralling first novel conjoins the marginalized struggles of two creative, impoverished and sometimes desperate men separated by more than three centuries. The central character is an art history grad student who makes a major find.

Review: <http://www.kirkusreviews.com/book-reviews/fiction/michael-kernan/the-lost-diaries-of-frans-hals/>

Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michael_Kernan

Elizabeth Lowry, *The Bellini Madonna*, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2009.

Synopsis: Debauched art historian Tom Lynch is desperate to track down a long-lost Renaissance painting, an unusual portrait of the Madonna by Bellini. He has high hopes when he arrives at Mawles, an English manor still in the family of James Roper, the collector Lynch believes last owned the Madonna.

Review: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/books/2008/aug/16/fiction5>

Author Website: <http://us.macmillan.com/author/elizabethlowry>

Esteban Martin, *The Gaudi Key*, William Morrow, 2008.

Synopsis: In the tradition of *The Da Vinci Code*, this mix of thriller and adventure tale set in Barcelona centers on the life and work of real-life architect Antonio Gaudi (1852–1926) and his largest project, La Sagrada Familia, a Catholic church that remains unfinished. The character María Grivell who is an art historian completely her PhD while working at the Friends of Modernism foundation in Barcelona.

Review: <http://www.bookloons.com/cgi-bin/Review.ASP?bookid=10009>

Author Website: <http://www.harpercollins.com/author/index.aspx?authorID=33112>

Steve Martin, *An Object of Beauty*, Grand Central Publishing, 2010.

Synopsis: Lacey Yeager is an ambitious young art dealer who uses everything at her disposal to advance in the world of the high-end art trade in New York City. After cutting her teeth at Sotheby's, she manipulates her way up through Barton Talley's gallery of "Very Expensive Paintings," sleeping with patrons, and dodging and indulging in questionable deals, possible felonies, and general skeeviness until she opens her own gallery in Chelsea.

Review: <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/11/18/books/18martin.html>

Author Website: <http://www.stevemartin.com/>

Arturo Perez-Reverte, *The Flanders Panel*, Harvest Books, 2004.

Synopsis: Julia, a young Madrid art restorer, is pulled into a shadowy world of metaphor when she discovers a long-covered inscription on a Flemish painting: *Who killed the knight?* Art, chess and murder are intertwined in this elegant, seductive mystery in the manner of *The Name of the Rose*.

Review: <http://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/books/book-review--endless-deadly-knights-the-flanders-panel--arturo-perez-reverte-tr-margaret-jull-costa-harvill-1599-pounds-1414224.html>

Author Website: <http://www.perez-reverte.com/FlandersPanel/description.asp>

Gary Schwartz, *Bets and Scams*, Marion Boyars Publishers, 1996.

Synopsis: When art collector and real estate speculator Mitchell Fleishig's Beverly Hills business collapses leaving him deeply in debt to the Mafia, he concocts a scheme to have Lodewijk Alstad, his Dutch art dealer, front him a 17th-century masterpiece.

Review: <http://query.nytimes.com/gst/fullpage.html?res=9F05E6DB1639F93AA35755C0A960958260&scp=1&sq=%22bets%20and%20scams%22&st=cse>

Author Website: <http://www.garyschwartzarthistorian.nl/>

Daniel Silva, *The Rembrandt Affair*, Putnam, 2010.

Synopsis: Art restorer Gabriel Allon has retreated to the windswept cliffs of Cornwall with his beautiful Venetian-born wife Chiara. But his seclusion is interrupted by a visitor from his tangled past: the endearingly eccentric London art dealer, Julian Isherwood. As usual, Isherwood has a problem—one only Gabriel can solve.

Review: <http://www.dallasnews.com/entertainment/headlines/20100718-book-review-the-rembrandt-affair-by-daniel-silva.ece>

Author Website: http://www.danielsilvabooks.com/books/rembrandt_affair.asp?id=desc

Zadie Smith, *On Beauty*, Penguin Books, 2005.

Synopsis: Howard Belsey is a middle-class white liberal Englishman and Rembrandt scholar who can't finish his book and a recent adulterer whose marriage is now on the slippery slope to disaster.

Review: <http://dir.salon.com/books/review/2005/10/01/smith/>

Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zadie_Smith

Barry Unsworth, *Stone Virgin*, W.W. Norton & Company, 1995.

Synopsis: Simon Raikes is given the task of restoring a 15th-century sculpture of the Madonna on a church in Venice. A frustrated artist himself, Simon is compelled to solve certain mysteries: Who was the sculptor? Why was the work suppressed for two centuries? How did it earn consecration?

Review: <http://reviewsbyjohnvernon.blogspot.com/2010/12/stone-virgin-by-barry-unsworth.html>

Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barry_Unsworth

Sally Vickers, *Miss Garnet's Angel*, Plume Books, 2002.

Synopsis: The story of the late coming-of-age of Miss Julia Garnet, a retired English schoolteacher who spends six months in Venice after her lifelong companion, Harriet, dies. Venice has a magical effect on reserved Julia: a dyed-in-the-wool Communist, she relaxes in her antipathy toward religion, and even begins to visit the local church. There, she becomes enamored of a series of paintings that tell the story of the Apocryphal book of Tobit, a tale that mixes elements of Judaism with the religion of Zoroaster.

Review: <http://novelinsights.wordpress.com/2010/02/03/book-review-miss-garnets-angel-by-salley-vickers/>

Author Website: <http://www.salleyvickers.com/>

NON-FICTION BOOKS

Jerry Brotton, *The Sale of the Late King's Goods: Charles I and His Art Collection*, Pan Books, 2006.

Synopsis: This story is painted in a wonderful vivid dramatic picture told through King Charles I greatest collection, the struggles of art verses power which Charles created against the backdrop of wars and revolution. Politics in England mounted all around him for his pointless wars and overspending having dismissed Parliament several times; he slowly pushed his own country into Civil War until a final act against his people sealed death, executed for high treason 1649.

Review: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/books/2006/may/27/highereducation.history>

Author Website: <http://www.english.qmul.ac.uk/staff/brottonj.html>

John Brewer, *The American Leonardo: A 20th-Century Tale of Obsession, Art and Money*, Constable & Robinson, 2009.

Synopsis: In 1920, Andrée and Harry Hahn offer for sale a painting, *La Belle Ferronnière*, that they claim is by Leonardo da Vinci. An art dealer questions the painting's authenticity—and the couple sues.

Review: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/culture/books/bookreviews/5056239/The-American-Leonardo-by-John-Brewer-review.html>

Author Website: <http://www.hss.caltech.edu/people/jbrewer/profile>

Peter Robb, *M: The Man Who Became Caravaggio*, Henry Holt & Co., 2000.

Synopsis: Recognized now as a peer of 17th-century masters Rembrandt and Vermeer, Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio (1571-1610) painted notoriously provocative religious and classical tableaux, yet left few traces of his life beyond his art. Robb has created an idiosyncratic but dazzling biography of Caravaggio by exploiting almost every extant fragment, including a handful of sightings by friends and enemies, and the scanty Italian police files. Robb's Caravaggio--or "M," as he insists on calling the multimonikered and aliased painter--was a violent man of "hair-trigger touchiness," who fueled the passionate intensity of his painting with his professional and emotional frustrations.

Review: <http://www.nytimes.com/books/00/03/05/reviews/000305.05spurlit.html>

Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peter_Robb

Edmund de Waal, *The Hare with the Amber Eyes: A Family's Century of Art & Loss*, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2010.

Synopsis: In this family history, de Waal, a potter and curator of ceramics at the Victoria & Albert Museum, describes the experiences of his family, the Ephrussi, during the turmoil of the 20th century. In Paris, Charles Ephrussi purchased a large collection of Japanese netsuke, tiny hand-carved figures including a hare with amber eyes. The collection passed to Viktor Ephrussi in Vienna and became the family's greatest legacy.

Review: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/09/01/AR2010090105971.html>

Author Website: <http://www.edmunddewaal.com/>

THEATER

The Heidi Chronicles (1988)

Plot Summary: The plot follows Heidi Holland from high school in the 1960s to her career as a successful art historian more than twenty years later.

IBDB: <http://www.ibdb.com/production.php?id=4538>

FILM

Ararat (2002)

Principle Actors: Charles Aznavour, Brent Carver and Eric Bogosian

Plot Summary: Interrogated by a customs officer, a young man recounts how his life was changed during the making of a film about the Armenian genocide claims. This film includes an Arshile Gorky specialist.

IMDB: <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0273435/>

Bean (1997)

Principle Actors: Rowan Atkinson, Peter MacNicol and John Mills

Plot Summary: Bean works as a caretaker at Britain's formidable Royal National Gallery, and his bosses want to fire him because he sleeps at work all the time.

IMDB: <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0118689/>

Beginners (2010)

Principle Actors: Ewan McGregor, Christopher Plummer and Mélanie Laurent

Plot Summary: A young man is rocked by two announcements from his elderly father: that he has terminal cancer, and that he has a young male lover. Christopher Plummer plays the retired director of LACMA.

IMDB: <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1532503/>

Certified Copy (2010)

Principle Actors: Juliette Binoche and William Shimmel

Plot Summary: In Tuscany to promote his latest book, a middle-aged British writer meets a French woman who leads him to the village of Lucignano. While there, a chance question reveals something deeper.

IMDB: <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1020773/>

Crack-Up (1946)

Principle Actors: Pat O'Brien, Claire Trevor and Herbert Marshall

Plot Summary: Art curator George Steele experiences a train wreck...which never happened. Is he cracking up, or the victim of a plot?

IMDB: <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0038429/>

The Da Vinci Code (2006)

Principle Actors: Tom Hanks, Audrey Tautou and Jean Reno

Plot Summary: A murder inside the Louvre and clues in Da Vinci paintings lead to the discovery of a religious mystery protected by a secret society for two thousand years -- which could shake the foundations of Christianity.

Official Website: <http://www.sonypictures.com/homevideo/thedavincicode/index.html>

IMDB: <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0382625/>

Days and Clouds (2007) [*Giorni e nuvole*]

Principle Actors: Margherita Buy, Antonio Albanese and Giuseppe Battiston

Plot Summary: A well-off and sophisticated couple struggles to stay together after the husband loses his job. A graduate degree in art history; an economic recession (was that thesis about a minor master really such a smart move as it seemed at the time ?) are also themes in this film.

IMDB: <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0887732/>

Don't Forget You're Going to Die (1995) [*N'oublie pas que tu vas mourir*]

Principle Actors: Xavier Beauvois, Chiara Mastroianni and Roschdy Zem

Plot Summary: The protagonist, Benoît, is an art-history student who decides to live life to the full after finding out that he is HIV positive. The pleasures he indulges in include a visit to Piero's *Madonna del Parto* at Monterchi.

IMDB: <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0113909/>

Don't Look Now (1973)

Principle Actors: Julie Christie, Donald Sutherland and Hilary Mason

Plot Summary: A married couple grieving the recent death of their little daughter are in Venice when they encounter two elderly sisters, one of whom is psychic and brings a warning from beyond. In this film Donald Sutherland's character, John Baxter, oversees the restoration of a Venetian church.

IMDB: <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0069995/>

The Eiger Sanction (1975)

Principle Actors: Clint Eastwood, George Kennedy and Vonetta McGee

Plot Summary: A classical art professor and collector, who doubles as a professional assassin, is coerced out of retirement to avenge the murder of an old friend.

IMDB: <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0072926/>

Erfolg (1991)

Principle Actors: Bruno Ganz, Franziska Walser and Peter Simonischek

Plot Summary: A vast portrait of contemporary Weimar society and the rise of Hitler (or someone fitting his description known by another name). One of its central characters is an art historian and curator imprisoned for exhibition of subversive art

IMDB: <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0099511/>

Everyone Says I Love You (1996)

Principle Actors: Woody Allen, Goldie Hawn and Julia Roberts

Plot Summary: A New York girl sets her father up with a beautiful woman in a shaky marriage while her half sister gets engaged. This film includes a Tintoretto specialist.

IMDB: <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0116242/>

Frida (2002)

Principle Actors: Salma Hayek, Alfred Molina and Geoffrey Rush

Plot Summary: A biography of artist Frida Kahlo, who channeled the pain of a crippling injury and her tempestuous marriage into her work.

IMDB: <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0120679/>

Ghost Busters II (1989)

Principle Actors: Bill Murray, Dan Aykroyd and Sigourney Weaver

Plot Summary: The discovery of a massive river of ectoplasm and a resurgence of spectral activity allows the staff of Ghostbusters to revive the business, taking them on a trail that leads to the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Sigourney Weaver's character, Dana Barret, plays an art restorer in this film.

IMDB: <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0097428/>

Girl with a Pearl Earring (2003)

Principle Actors: Scarlett Johansson, Colin Firth and Tom Wilkinson

Plot Summary: A young peasant maid working in the house of painter Johannes Vermeer becomes his talented assistant and the model for one of his most famous works.

IMDB: <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0335119/>

The Graduate (1967)

Principle Actors: Dustin Hoffman, Anne Bancroft and Katharine Ross

Plot Summary: Recent college graduate Benjamin Braddock is trapped into an affair with Mrs. Robinson, who happens to be the wife of his father's business partner and then finds himself falling in love with her teenage daughter, Elaine. The infamous Mrs. Robinson mentions during an afternoon tryst that she has a degree in art history.

IMDB: <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0061722/>

Hannibal (2001)

Principle Actors: Anthony Hopkins, Julianne Moore and Gary Oldman

Plot Summary: Hannibal Lector passes himself off so well as a noted art historian that he was given an office in the Palazzo Vecchio; he then shamed the profession by murdering a police officer and hanging his body from one of the windows.

IMDB: <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0212985/>

Home for the Holidays (1995)

Principle Actors: Holly Hunter, Anne Bancroft and Robert Downey Jr.

Plot Summary: After losing her job as an art restorer, making out with her soon to be ex-boss, and finding out that her daughter plans to spend Thanksgiving with her boyfriend, Claudia Larson (Holly Hunter) has to face spending the holiday with her family.

IMDB: <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0113321/>

How to Steal a Million (1966)

Principle Actors: Audrey Hepburn, Peter O'Toole, and Eli Wallach

Plot Summary: Romantic comedy about a woman who must steal a statue from a Paris museum to help conceal her father's art forgeries, and the man who helps her.

IMDB: <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0060522/>

Inception (2010)

Principle Actors: Leonardo DiCaprio, Joseph Gordon-Levitt and Ellen Page

Plot Summary: In a world where technology exists to enter the human mind through dream invasion, a highly skilled thief is given a final chance at redemption which involves executing his toughest job to date: Inception. Michael Caine makes a cameo appearance as an architectural historian at the Sorbonne, Paris. The plot line also suggests that DiCaprio's character was a former student of the program.

IMDB: <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1375666/>

Incognito (1997)

Principle Actors: Jason Patric, Irène Jacob and Thomas Lockyer

Plot Summary: Harry Donovan is an art forger who paints fake Rembrandt picture for \$500,000. The girl he meets and gets into bed with in Paris, Marieke, turns out to be an arts expert Harry's clients are using to check the counterfeit picture he painted.

IMDB: <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0119365/>

Ocean's Eleven (2001)

Principle Actors: George Clooney, Brad Pitt and Julia Roberts

Plot Summary: Danny Ocean and his ten accomplices plan to rob three Las Vegas casinos simultaneously. Julia Robert's character, Tess Ocean, is an art historian and curator.

IMDB: <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0240772/>

Paris (2008)

Principle Actors: Juliette Binoche, Romain Duris and Fabrice Luchini

Plot Summary: Pierre, a professional dancer, suffers from a serious heart disease. While he is waiting for a transplant which may (or may not) save his life, he has nothing better to do than look at the people around him, from the balcony of his Paris apartment. The story includes Fabrice Luchini as a professor who falls in love with a student during an art history lecture he's giving.

IMDB: <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0869994/>

A Perfect Murder (1998)

Principle Actors: Michael Douglas, Gwyneth Paltrow and Viggo Mortensen

Plot Summary: A remake of Hitchcock's Dial M for Murder. Actor Viggo Mortensen plays an artist and his own work is featured throughout the film.

IMDB: <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0120787/>

Pollock (2000)

Principle Actors: Ed Harris, Marcia Gay Harden and Tom Bower

Plot Summary: A film about the life and career of the American painter, Jackson Pollock.

IMDB: <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0183659/>

Midnight in Paris (2011)

Principle Actors: Owen Wilson, Rachel McAdams and Kathy Bates

Plot Summary: A romantic comedy about a family traveling to the French capital. The party includes a pompous American art historian who is in Paris to lecture at the Sorbonne.

IMDB: <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1605783/>

Film Website: <http://www.sonyclassics.com/midnightinparis/>

Review: <http://www.nytimes.com/2011/05/28/movies/midnight-in-paris-a-historical-view.html>

Mona Lisa Smile (2003)

Principle Actors: Julia Roberts, Kirsten Dunst and Julia Stiles

Plot Summary: A free-thinking art history professor teaches conservative 50's Wellesley girls to question their traditional societal roles.

IMDB: <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0304415/>

Mr. and Mrs. Smith (2005)

Principle Actors: Brad Pitt, Angelina Jolie and Adam Brody

Plot Summary: A bored married couple is surprised to learn that they are both assassins hired by competing agencies to kill each other. In one scene John Smith (played by Brad Pitt) reveals that he received his undergraduate degree in art history at Notre Dame University.

IMDB: <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0356910/>

The Sunday Woman (1975)

Principle Actors: Marcello Mastroianni, Jacqueline Bisset and Jean-Louis Trintignant

Plot Summary: Gigi Ballesta is an odious and sexist, but alert and eagle eyed, gadfly art expert-dealer-critic, something of a proto Vittorio Sgarbi, who ends up being bludgeoned to death by a Brancusian marble phallus in his collection.

IMDB: <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0074423/>

Also see Craig Eliason, 'Art Historians' Guide to the Movies'

<http://personal1.stthomas.edu/cdeliason/ahgttm.htm>

TELEVISION

Covert Affairs (USA Network)

Synopsis: The main character (played by Piper Perabo) is a Smithsonian curator by day and a CIA operative by night. In one episode from season one begins at an art auction where she almost blows her cover when her ignorance on art matters surfaces.

Principle Actors: Piper Perabo, Christopher Gorham and Kari Matchett

IMDB: <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1495708/>

Program Website: <http://www.usanetwork.com/series/covertaffairs/>

House MD (Fox Broadcasting Company)

Synopsis: An antisocial maverick doctor who specializes in diagnostic medicine does whatever it takes to solve puzzling cases that come his way using his crack team of doctors and his wits. In Season Five character Martha Masters (played by Amber Tamblyn) earned her PhD in Art History before beginning medical school.

Principle Actors: Hugh Laurie, Robert Sean Leonard and Lisa Edelstein

IMDB: <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0412142/>

Program Website: <http://www.fox.com/house/>

Law and Order: Special Victims Unit (NBC)

Synopsis: This show introduces the Special Victims Unit, a new elite squad of NYPD detectives who investigate sexually related crimes. One episode of the program features an art history professor as the perpetrator of a crime.

Principle Actors: Mariska Hargitay, Christopher Meloni and Richard Belzer

IMDB: <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0203259/>

Program Website: <http://www.nbc.com/law-and-order-special-victims-unit/>

NCIS Los Angeles (CBS)

Synopsis: The Naval Criminal Investigation Service's Office of Special Projects takes on the undercover work and the hard to crack cases in LA. In one episode from season one, the undercover female operative used art history as a professional cover when meeting an old high-school friend.

Principle Actors: Chris O'Donnell, Daniela Ruah and Barrett Foa

IMDB: <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1378167/>

Program Website: http://www.cbs.com/primetime/ncis_los_angeles/

The Pillars of the Earth (Showtime)

Synopsis: In a time of civil war, famine and religious strife, there rises a magnificent Cathedral in Kingsbridge. Against this backdrop, lives entwine: Tom, the master builder, Aliena, the noblewoman, Philip, the prior of Kingsbridge, Jack, the artist in stone and Ellen, the woman from the forest who casts a curse. At once, this is a sensuous and enduring love story and an epic that shines with the fierce spirit of a passionate age.

Principle Actors: Ian McShane, Matthew Macfadyen and Eddie Redmayne

IMDB: <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1453159/>

Series Website: <http://www.the-pillars-of-the-earth.tv/>

The Simpsons (Fox Broadcasting Company)

Synopsis: The satiric adventures of a working class family in the misfit city of Springfield. In one episode from the early 1990s, a college-aged Marge falls in love with one of her younger art history professors. This causes Homer to begin writing angst-y, depressed songs. He forms a band called "Sadgasm," (based on Nirvana), thereby inventing grunge

Principle Actors: Dan Castellaneta, Nancy Cartwright and Julie Kavner

IMDB: <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0096697/>

Series Website: <http://www.thesimpsons.com/>

The West Wing (Season 7 – 2006)

Synopsis: Inside the lives of staffers in the west wing of the White House. In Season 7, episode 4, character Annabeth Schott (played by Kristin Chenoweth) announces that she earned a degree in art history (summa cum laude).

Principle Actors: Martin Sheen, Rob Lowe and Allison Janney

IMDB: <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0200276/>

RADIO

Bud Light Presents Real Men of Genius – Mr. Fancy Coffee Shop Pourer [commercial]

“Today we salute you, Mr. Fancy Coffee Shop Coffee Pourer. What do you do with a Master's Degree in Art History? You get a nose ring and pour coffee for a living. Why is it called a latte? Maybe because it costs a latte and takes a latte time to make. Someone ordered a capuchino? Step aside let the man who works the milk foamer take over. Sure, you charge 5 bucks for a cup of coffee, it's putting that tip jar out that takes real guts. So crack open an ice cold Bud Light, guru of the groundroast. It's not the caffeine that gives us the buzz, it's you.”

Listen here: <http://budlight.whipnet.com/>

Wikipedia: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Real Men of Genius](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Real_Men_of_Genius)

Tom and Ray Magliozzi (Click and Clack) of Car Talk

While there are not fictional characters in the program, Art Historians get first class ribbing whenever “art history” comes up.

Program Website: <http://www.cartalk.com/>

ACTORS

Actor Brad Pitt (Ocean's Eleven, 2001) attended the University of Missouri, where he studied art history with Dr. Ozzie Overby.

Actor Dr. Peter Weller (RoboCop, 1987) earned his MA in Roman and Renaissance art at Syracuse University in 2004. In 2007 Weller received his Ph.D. in art history (Italian Renaissance art) at UCLA.

Actor Viggo Mortensen (Lord of the Rings, 2001) is a noted painter and photographer.

Actor/Director Dennis Hopper (1936-2010) was a noted painter, photographer, and sculptor.

Actor Peter Mark Richman (Star Trek, Beverly Hills 90210) is a noted painter.

Actor Vincent Price (1911-1993) worked with Sears in selecting/marketing art and, along with his wife Mary Grant, also endowed a museum: the Vincent Price Art Museum. He was also one of the early graduates of the Courtauld Institute of Art, London. For more see the museum website: <http://vincentpriceartmuseum.org/> and this wonderful YouTube video in which Price describes his Sears art collection to salespeople: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LIQj7_zVzxA

SCHOLARSHIP

Amy Navratil Ciccone, “The Art of Architectural Mysteries,” in *Mystery Readers Journal*, 21(1), Spring 2005, Available online: <http://www.mysteryreaders.org/Issues/Art1.html#ciccone>
A review of four recent mysteries rooted in architecture.

Amy Golahny, “Reception: reflections on Rembrandt,” in *Dutch Crossing* 25(2), Winter 2001, 159-161. An article on ‘trashy’ Rembrandt novels.