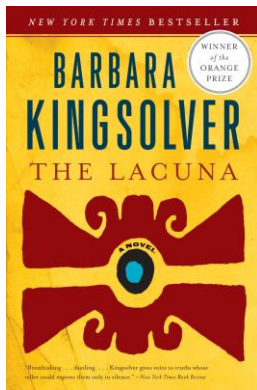


Art of Reading

October 2025 – September 2026

We invite everyone to join an Art of Reading tour, even if you haven't read the book in advance. Enjoy a guided tour through our galleries that connects art with different characters and perspectives, from royalty to octopi.

October: “The Lacuna”

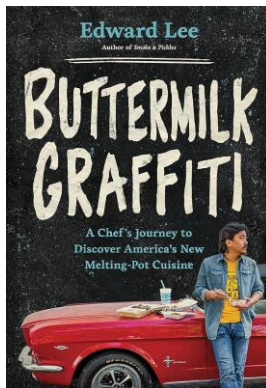


Barbara Kingsolver’s Harrison Shepherd takes an epic journey from the Mexico of Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera to the America of Pearl Harbor, FDR, and J. Edgar Hoover.

“I only thought to look for a home, some place to be taken in.” – Harrison Shepherd

Guided tour, Mint Museum Randolph: The Ancient Americas, Spanish Colonial, and Heritage galleries to see connections to our art through the lens of two nations as they invent their modern identities.

November: “Buttermilk Graffiti”

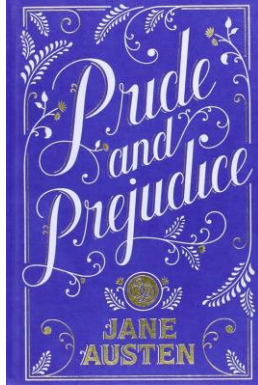


Learn about ‘melting pot’ cuisine as Chef Lee travels across America. Enjoy a conversation around this theme, then take a docent-led visit to works from various cultures and time periods that relate to Chef Lee’s stories.

“This project...is about trying to find my own America and where I belong in it.” –Edward Lee

Guided tour, Mint Museum Randolph: Ancient Americas, Spanish Colonial, Contemporary Native American Ceramics, African Art, and Portals to the Past galleries to see connections to our art through the lens of Edward Lee’s search for identity, heritage, and cultural fusion.

December: “Pride and Prejudice”

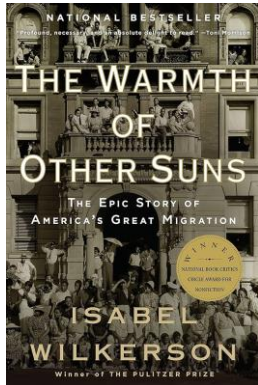


Jane Austen’s classic tale of fiercely independent Elizabeth Bennet – one of five sisters who must marry rich – as she confounds the arrogant, wealthy Mr. Darcy.

“She is tolerable but not handsome enough to tempt me.” – Fitzwilliam Darcy

Guided tour, Mint Museum Randolph: Portals to the Past galleries to see connections to our art through the lens of Regency-era culture and lifestyle.

January: “The Warmth of Other Suns”

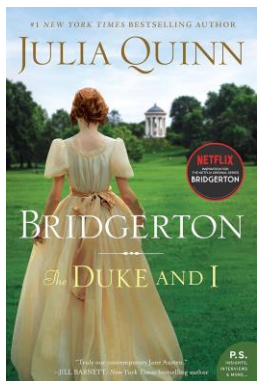


Isabel Wilkerson’s book follows three individuals, representative of the six million Black Southerners who participated in the Great Migration to northern or western destinations.

“I was taking a part of the South to see — If it could grow differently, — If it could bend in strange winds, — Respond to the warmth of other suns — And, perhaps, to bloom.” –Richard Wright, *Black Boy: A Record of Childhood and Youth* (poem edited for effect)

Guided tour, Mint Museum Uptown: American Art, Modern + Contemporary, and Craft + Design galleries to see connections to our art through the lens of migration, resilience, and the pursuit of freedom.

February: “Bridgerton”

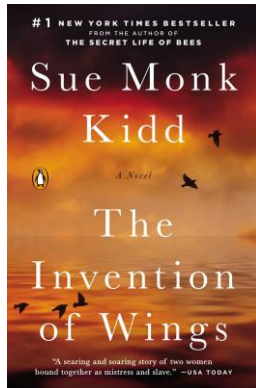


Julia Quinn’s Bridgerton series, set in the Regency era during the time of the infamous Queen Charlotte, features the charming and influential Bridgerton family. The series follows the eight siblings as they are introduced to high society and navigate London’s highly competitive social season and marriage market.

“Marrying above one’s station is an art form indeed.” – Lady Whistledown

Guided tour, Mint Museum Randolph: Portals in the Past gallery to see connections to our art through the lens of Regency romance and high society intrigue.

March: “The Invention of Wings”

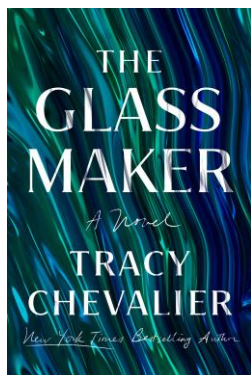


Sue Monk Kidd’s pre-Civil War story presents two extraordinary women: one an urban enslaved descendant of Fon people of western Africa; the other a planter-class Charlestonian who evolves into a Quaker abolitionist and feminist.

“At the age of 11, I owned a slave I couldn’t free.” – Sarah Grimke

Guided tour, Mint Museum Randolph: Arts of Africa and Portals to the Past galleries to see connections to our art through the lens of two women enduring bondage and resistance, voice and silence, and the enduring struggle for liberation of Sarah Grimké and Handful—two women bound by circumstance, divided by race, yet united in their pursuit of freedom, voice, and selfhood.

April: “The Glassmaker”

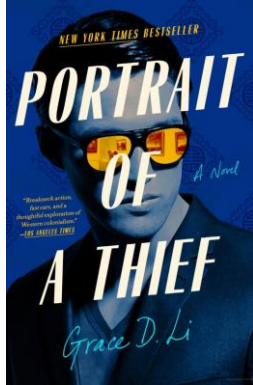


Tracy Chevalier's “The Glassmaker” paints a vivid portrait of Orsola Rosso. Orsola is a young woman forbidden by tradition to work with glass who secretly hones her craft, creating delicate beads that sustain her family's fortunes after her father's death. Set against the glittering backdrop of Renaissance Venice and skipping across centuries, this sweeping novel follows Orsola and her family through war, plague, love, and loss as she leaves her indelible mark on a male-dominated art form.

“”

Guided tour, Mint Museum Uptown: Craft + Design, and Modern + Contemporary galleries **Mint Museum Randolph:** European Art and Delhom galleries to see connections to our art through the lens of a glassmaker shaped by centuries of tradition, transformation, and the fragile beauty of enduring craft.

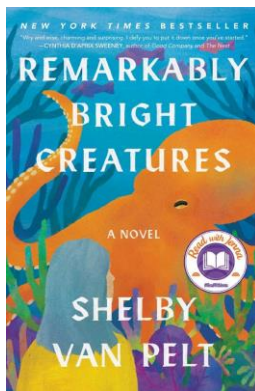
May: “Portrait of Thief”



“Portrait of a Thief” by Grace D. Li is a thrilling heist novel that blends Ocean's Eleven with The Farewell. Inspired by the true story of Chinese art disappearing from Western museums, it explores themes of diaspora, cultural theft, and Chinese American identity.

Guided tour, Mint Museum Randolph: Art in the Americas, Spanish Colonial, Contemporary Native American Ceramics galleries to see connections to our art through the lens of reclamation and resistance.

June: “Remarkably Bright Creatures”



Of the three main characters in Shelby Van Pelt’s novel the most unique is Marcellus, an intelligent and highly observant Pacific octopus residing in a Pacific Northwest aquarium! Despite his habitat’s restrictions, Marcellus has a profound effect on Tova, a widow dealing with aging and grief and Cameron, a young man searching for family connections.

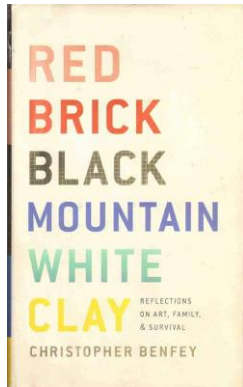
“Humans...occasionally, you can be remarkably bright creatures.” – Marcellus

Guided tour, Mint Museum Uptown: American Art, Modern + Contemporary, and Craft + Design galleries to see connections to our art through the lens of a sea creature observing humans inside of an aquarium tank.

July: The Art of Reading takes a break, YOU pick what you want to read this month!

August: **TBA**

September: “Red Brick, Black Mountain, White Clay”



Personal memory and cultural history combine in Christopher Benfey’s New York Times Notable Book and connections to the Mint’s ceramic collections abound. Characters and times range from Anni and Josef Albers and their residence at Black Mountain College to Josiah Wedgwood’s quest for Carolina Cherokee clay to the history of Seagrove potters.

“A pottery vessel...is meant to fulfill a purpose...held in the hand and drawn into the movement of practical life.” –Georg Simmel

Guided tour, Mint Museum Randolph: Portals to the Past and Ancient Americas galleries to see connections to our art through the lens of someone tracing identity through touch, material, and inherited memory.