
LIBRARY LEAVES

A Bibliographic Interactive Installation

Yale-NUS College Library

Spring 2020



INTRODUCTION > > >

Trying to find a good book in the library? Look no further than a paper leaf – loudly patterned and sticking out of the stack. Hmm... This leaf marks a book called *Matter & Desire: An Erotic Ecology*, and this one *Japan's Green Monsters*, another is *On Light & Carbon*, then another still bookmarks *Tidalectics*. What are these books about? Check out the annotated bibliographies lovingly organized to guide into this book, and all its entangled and mysterious connections. This is "Library Leaves," a bibliographic installational intervention in Yale-NUS Library.

The Roman politician and philosopher, Marcus Tullius Cicero (106–63 BC), is often quoted having said, "*If you have a garden and a library, you have everything you need.*" Both the library and the garden are enclosed spaces of contemplation and cultivation and in which the intimate and the interior is a means to connect to a more expansive reality. Indeed, the Chinese proverb, "*a book is like a garden, carried in the pocket,*" recognizes the magical nature of books and gardens as microcosms that allow things – vegetation or imagination – to grow, reproduce, and take unexpected shapes in the wider world.

In this way walking through the stacks of a library is like walking through the woods, flipping through any book like traversing a forest of stories and ideas. More literally, book stacks are themselves made from trees, wood turned paper. This material and ecological fact makes new sense of the West's most abiding metaphor for knowledge, the Tree of Knowledge, its branches represent the branches of scholarly understanding, all connected and spreading from root to tip.

As Artists-in-Residence at Yale-NUS College, we (Andrew Yang & Christa Donner) invited students in our studio art course, *Culturing Nature: Gardens in Ecological Art*, to create annotated bibliographies on ecological and aesthetics themes of their own choosing as a way to highlight remarkable books that might otherwise evade casual notice in the stacks, and whose topics connect to other books in the library in unexpected but potent ways. They then created leaf-shaped bookmarks that could be inserted directly into the library stacks as a way to flag these select books for those pursuing the stacks. The five bibliographic themes are:



GREEN

Constructing Eco-Narratives

Chen Kit May, Alexis & Chia Yaim Chong



RED/PINK

Body & Soul

Chu Ying Cheang & Andreia Ko



BLUE/VIOLET

Garden Chronicles

Adria Lim & Tay Jing Hui



ANIMAL PRINTS

Human Society through the Lens of Animals

Tan Xue Yi & Choy Jia Yu



BLACK/GRAY

Organic Food, Organic Death

Nathaniel Mah & Ooi Mae Hweei

The texts of this bibliophilic garden unpack the remarkable ecology and poetry of the complicated & enmeshed relationships that our species has with so many other on this small planet. It is an invitation to forage and to cultivate. Perhaps these leaves will give the sense of walking through the woods as you walk through the stacks - stories within the understory.

This project was tended, and came to final fruition, just when Coronavirus had officially become a global pandemic and Singapore went into lockdown. The emergence of Covid-19, jumping from bats to humans, spreading across the planet, and disrupting "business-as-usual" is a tragic symptom just how dysfunctional our relationship to the species and ecologies that we so vitally rely on has become. We treat the planet less like a garden and more like a mining operation, with its destructive and extractive logic and kept out of usual view.



In the woodcut above a monk invites a student to learn the alphabet from the Tree of Knowledge. The monk's hand rests upon a book, a material derivative of the physical tree and the communicative medium for the knowledge embodied in the metaphorical branches. By Johann Zainer, 1490 (?). courtesy of the Bibliothèque Nationale de France.

This brings us back to Cicero: As a statesman of the Roman Empire, Cicero was privileged to have a garden and a library. He had many servants and slaves to cultivate his lovely plants and care for his precious times. Likewise, a vast and largely unseen multitude of librarians, janitors, and laborers that work to maintain our institutions of learning, just the toil of so many insects, earthworms, mice, and microbes keep the Earth's ecological processes functioning.

Cicero also observed that, "*By means of our hands we struggle to create a second world within the world of nature.*" But what are the virtues of this second world that we've created? Many struggles lie ahead if we are to make one that values symbiosis and respect, more than profit and wasteful neglect. Maybe the bibliographies in this modest library are one place to start re-imagining the second world, but rather than "v2.0" we should think of "second" as a *secondary*, a world as a sub-system that doesn't aim to dominate or make use of as much as *live together with*.

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Body & Soul

Chu Ying Cheang & Andrea Ko

Exploring the dichotomy between the physical and ethereal – body and soul, land and spirit, science and poetry. Despite the contrasting nature of these entities, there is an inherent connection between the material and the spiritual. Through the language, illustrations and photographs of these books, we are transported to an unsettling yet beautiful liminal space – a garden of sorts. We observe the body and soul engage and intersect in a necessary cycle of nourishment and decay.

Duffy, Noel. *On Light & Carbon*. Ward Wood Publishing, 2013.

PR 6054 D85820.

Did you think this was going to be a science textbook? Got you! Look again. Duffy's *On Light & Carbon* is actually a collection of poems meditating on the relationship between poetry and science. Pick this up if you are interested in discovering the spellbinding connections between the intimate dramas of our personal lives and the cosmic, scientific discoveries far beyond us.

***Rooted in Soil*. Depaul Art Museum, 2015.**

N8217 Eco.Ro 2015.

Did you know that there are more microorganisms in a handful of soil than the number of people on this planet? *Rooted in Soil* is an art exhibition addressing the importance of soil, capturing the juxtaposition between the natural world and our built environment.

Geuss, Raymond. *Reality and Its Dreams*. Harvard University Press, 2016.

B65 Geu 2016.

Have you ever woken up to a dream that felt so real, you wished you were dreaming? The parallel between the real world and that of fantasy has always been in tangent with one another, but this book by Geuss allows readers to reimagine a Utopia that balances the political structures with the deep-seated desires of mankind. It presents a worldview where systems and ideology meet.

Rosa, Joao Guimaraes. *The Devil to Pay in the Backlands: "The Devil in The Street, in The Middle of The Whirlwind,"* translated by Taylor, James L., and de Onis, Harriet. Knopf, 1963.

PQ9698.28 R788D 1963.

Who is our protagonist and what does the Devil want with him? More importantly, what does he want with the Devil? What epic adventure awaits? Is it revenge that he seeks and, if not, will he find what he truly desires? The book's true and whole spirit, however, is believed to be lost in translation, as the Portuguese original tells the story with archaic and colloquial language that is difficult to capture. Perhaps this alludes to the nature of striking a deal with dark, unknown powers: We may think we know what we are getting into, but it is impossible to truly know the Devil.

Ramspeck, Doug. *Black Flowers: Poems*. Louisiana State University Press, 2018.

PS3618 R183B 2018.

Black flowers: dramatic, mysterious and beautiful. To be gifted a black bloom is typically believed to be ominous, but it is in fact a symbol of rebirth. *Black Flowers*, in a similar vein, paints the coming-of-age of a character who navigates his animalistic world of family dysfunction, observing and experiencing the twin beauty and brutality of the natural and domestic worlds mirror each other. In the words of Paula Closson Buck, the author of *You Cannot Shoot a Poem*, "It is with equal parts care and abandon that Ramspeck figures a landscape inscribed in and by our being. He paints the field of a lengthening life with exquisite economy, in dusk and mud and snow, the sentiments illuminating that field both loving and feral."

Shakespeare, William. *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, edited by Peter Holland. Oxford University Press, 2008.

PR2827 Hol 2008.

The OG romcom. Magic, quarrels, mixed-up identities and love affairs, body transformations and the most unusual dreams on a fateful midsummer night. Four young lovers and a band of six amateur actors, manipulated for entertainment by the fairies who inhabit the forest. Will these characters make it out of the dreamscape unscathed, or will they find themselves lost forever in a cruel joke? A delightful night of adventure awaits.

Cestaro, Gary P. *Dante and the Grammar of the Nursing Body*. University of Notre Dame Press, 2003.

PQ4429 Ces 2003.

Dante. Ever heard of that guy? Interested to learn more about him but just thinking about the 900 pages of Divine Comedy makes you want to cry? Don't fear, Gary P. Cestaro is nursing your literary malnourishment right here. At a slim 320 pages, *Dante and the Grammar of the Nursing Body* is not just the name of your next cover band. It is also what you need to equip yourself with cool observations, just in time for your next dinner conversation so you're not seen as a divine joke. Yes, what is the trajectory of the nursing motif? Will Gary P. convince you that the nursing body is integral to the growth of a 'mature, linguistic self', or will you develop an antithesis in response to this bold assertion? At the end of it, will you also rejoice, alongside Gary, in the nursing body as 'a site of eternal truth and emblem of the resurrected body promised by medieval Christianity'? Whether or not you resurface from this text a newborn Dantonator and join the #Dantefam, this will surely add more body to your current selection of reading materials and nurture your taste for literature.

Van Agtmael, Peter. *Buzzing at the Sill*. Kehrer, 2016.

TR655 Van 2016.

Leo Hsu asks: Where is the Klansman, emerging from the forest, headed? Why is the youth with a towel taped around his eyes, clothes wet, tied to a fence? We'd like to know: Where are you, the photographer? Who are you? What are you doing? How are you doing this? Why do you care about this? Why do I, the viewer, now care? How are you making me care so much? This body of photographs is a surreal musing on social, national, ethnic, physical and interior landscapes, from a man who, upon returning from a war torn place, now war torn himself, reflects on his experiences and tries to understand his country. Both mysterious and mystical, moody and candid at once, sometimes energetic and other times lethargic, the viewer is completely immersed into the compositions, almost aching to be part of this world.

White, Jonathan. *Tides: The Science and Spirit of the Ocean*. Trinity University Press, 2017.

GC301.2 Whi 2017.

When you look out to the ocean, what do you see? "*The tide teaches us to live with mystery and complexity. It lives in the body of a mudshrimp, signaling when to swim and when to burrow. It lives in sandpipers, crabs and whelks. It lives in the spirit of bores, in the prayers of monks. The tide is vibration, music, time.*" (Last page of the book) The sea is a physical space, and a metaphor of grace. This book brings us deeper into the many layers of the Ocean that often go unseen.

Doughty, Caitlin. *Smoke Gets in Your Eyes*. W. W. Norton & Company, 2015.

RA622.7.D68 Dou 2015.

Death. Let's not be shy about it. The task of living is to learn how to die, according to Mike Riddell in *ThirdWay*. Dying is the only thing that humans can be counted on to do. 'Death-positive' mortician Doughty explores attitudes about mortality by telling us startling stories and heartfelt observations from her work and life in a crematorium. Everyone finds humour and unexpected beauty in morbid things. When the smoke gets in our eyes, what else will we do with ourselves and our grief?

Draycott, Jane. *The Occupant*. Carcanet Press Ltd, 2016.

PR6054 D768C 2016.

Missing: Have you seen this wind? (p.21) On the cover of Draycott's poetry collection, we see a field of yellow petals with black stigmata. Upon closer inspection, we will find that the flowers were made with deliberate brushstrokes. And even closer now, we finally see the yellow, featureless face of a genderless figure crouching over the field but looking to the side, almost morphing into one entity with the plants. Their ear and hair emerge from the pattern with patches of faded brown stains. Their clothing, or perhaps their body, is an intense gathering of tumorous black buds. Deeply unsettling. They seem to be watching you, even without eyes. This is just one manifestation of the titular occupant who, like Draycott's poetry, is filled with longing for something that is not quite there, that which exists in a realm between waking and dreaming: the quiet mystery of everyday life that unfolds before a sharply observant eye.

Lewis-Jones, Huw (ed.) *The Writer's Map: An Atlas of Imaginary Lands*. University of Chicago Press, 2018.

PN56 Ima.Wr 2018.

Enchanting! Charming! Exquisite! Fantastical! Mostly made to accompany stories! Did you enjoy Gulliver's Travels? No? How about Robinson Crusoe? Yes? How about Harry Potter? Lord of the Rings? Narnia? Did you ever want to be a part of those worlds? Then this is for you! Full of imagined maps! Old and new! Reality and imagination separated only by a blueprint! Great for writers interested in world-building! Great for anybody (including writers) who needs a break from their dreary lives! Great for anybody (including writers) who needs a break from their amazing lives! Great for anybody (including writers) who likes looking at pretty pictures! Great for procrastination! Great for inspiration! Great for experimentation! Less great for the train station - weighing in at 1.5 kilograms and a tonne in pure imagination, this book may transport you, but you might want to avoid taking the book on public transportation.

Senior, Olive. *The Pain Tree: Stories*. Cormorant Books, 2015.

PR9900 Wes.Si 2015.

Can a tree feel pain? Can we ever know? A tree is as separate from us as another human being. Can we ever truly know another person's pain? Through a collection of short fictional stories set in Jamaica, Senior conveys universal questions about humanity, and the problem of pain and suffering. Emotional and historically-binding, Senior manages to draw her readers in, creating distance as she addresses specific social issues.

Harfouch, John. *Another Mind-Body Problem*. State University of New York Press, 2018.

BD450 Har 2018.

What goes through your mind and body when you see someone of a different skin colour than you? This book addresses the philosophical mind-body problem, deconstructs the dichotomy of physical states and the experience of sensation, studied through the topic of racism that transcends from the interior psyche to the exterior body. Factual but fundamental.

Tyson, Neil deGrasse. *Letters from an Astrophysicist*. W.W. Norton & Company, 2019.

QB460.72.T97 Tys 2019.

What would you ask an Astrophysicist from NASA? A short but thought-provoking colloquial read, *Letters from an Astrophysicist* documents the snail-mails to and from a spaceman: a series of intimate questions and answers about life, science and the world beyond our knowledge.

Wexler, Jay. *When God Isn't Green: A World-wide Journey to Places Where Religious Practice and Environmentalism Collide*. Beacon Press, 2016.

GF80 Wex 2016.

From animal sacrifices to religious laws that place humans on a pedestal over the natural environment – can people partake in religious practices without harming the environment? Which is more important – the physical or the spiritual self?

Neruda, Pablo. *Odes to Opposites, selected & illustrated by Ferris Cook, translated by Ken Krabbenhoft*. Little, Brown, 1995.

PQ8097 N454Od 1995.

The poems in this collection deal with simple concepts, relatable emotions, and everyday objects, like nighttime, a morning in Stockholm, fire, energy and thanks. Neruda's odes are tender and harmonic, provocative and beguiling. 'The whole world stretches, the whole world reaches out groping for substance in which to repeat its form.' (p.39) Neruda does not disappoint in this dreamy collection of quietly resounding poetry and rustic illustrations, giving new life to an age-old proverb. Opposites do attract: you, the romantic at heart.

Webber, Andreas. *Matter & Desire: An Erotic Ecology, translated by Rory Bradley*. Vermont Chelsea Green Publishing, 2017.

GF21 Web 2017.

What is connection without intimacy? "To be full of being is to live as a body-soul. One name for the experience of full being is joy. Joy is the sign of love; and love is the principle of a fulfilling equilibrium between the individual and the whole." (p.7) Through the physical world, Weber uses the elements of nature to depict the beauty of that which transcends the sensory sphere, addressing the human experience, consisting of love and compassion.

Greenblatt, Stephen. *The Rise and Fall of Adam and Eve*. W.W. Norton & Company, 2017.
BS1237 Gre 2017.

When it comes to the original Garden, we think back to the Genesis of mankind located in the idyllic garden of Eden where God and Man lived together. What was the significance of the garden and why was it created? Exploring the theology of this symbolic mythological beginning, readers enter into an understanding of the Creation story, where the physical is made spiritual and vice versa.

Baudelaire, Charles. *The Flowers of Evil (Les Fleurs du mal)*, translated by Cyril Scott. Wildside Press, 2015.
PR9900 Fre.Ba 2015.

Do not be deceived by the beautiful, dreamy cover. These fragile flowers you see, with their faces turned toward the light, are indisputably evil. You have been warned. This collection dives headfirst into erotic expressions of decadence and loss of innocence, through which we enter Baudelaire's dream-like - correction: mostly nightmarish - world. Fun fact: In July of 1857, a month after his collection was published, it was banned by the Ministry of the Interior. Everyone involved, including the author, publisher, and printer, were prosecuted and found guilty of obscenity and blasphemy.

Barnett, Richard. *The Sick Rose*. Thames & Hudson, 2014.
R836 Bar 2014.

Rose is ill. She looks ghastly. Her full head of auburn braids cannot conceal her dead eyes, her cold blue complexion. How is she still alive? Rose is sick from the inside out. The poet William Blake knows it to be true: "O Rose thou art sick. / The invisible worm, / That flies in the night / In the howling storm: // Has found out thy bed / Of crimson joy: / And his dark secret love / Does thy life destroy." (The Sick Rose, by William Blake) A book of medical illustrations the weight of an emaciated baby, we flip through these pages of gruesome disease, disgusted but unable to look away. Is this really, according to Barnett, a "profoundly human reminder of mankind's struggle with disease, revealing the fears and obsessions of an era gripped by epidemics"? Or is it a sobering human revelation of mankind's open secret: we have an appetite for the repulsive, we are fear seekers, and we gain psychological thrills from disgusting conditions and things? Can *The Sick Rose* diagnose this medical mystery?

Williams, Brackette F. *Stains on My Name, War in My Veins*. Duke University Press, 1991.
F2384 Wil 1991.

What is your name and what is on it? The title of this book, *Stains on My Name, War in My Veins*, is a convoluted statement that packs in concepts of the Individual and cultural identity intertwined with one's sense of place. Who am I really? I am but a product of your hierarchical hegemony.

Pitt-Rivers, Julian Alfred. *From Hospitality to Grace: A Julian Pitt-Rivers Omnibus*, edited by Giovanni da Col and Andrew Shryock. HAU Books, 2017.
GN304 Pit 2017.

Is hospitality the act of Grace? Or is it the other way around? Exploring the relationship between the mental and the material, the in-betweens of what is thought and lived out, this book seeks out the social actions between structured formalities and spontaneous improvisation in our everyday life.

Waltner-Toews, David. *Eat the Beetles!: An Exploration into Our Conflicted Relationship with Insects*. ECW Press, 2017.
TX388 Ins.Wa 2017

Squish! Crunch! Squelch! The thought of eating insects makes many people squeamish, but entomophagy is considered a potential way to ensure a sustainable and secure food supply for the future. Interestingly, insects were once thought to be the harbingers of death (destroy crops, spread plagues) but are now seen as essential to life (pollinate crops, sustainable source of nutrition). Could this be where our consumption patterns are headed? 🦋

Warren, John. *The Nature of Crops: How We Came to Eat the Plants We Do*. CAB International, 2015.
SB175 War 2015

You are what you eat.

But why eat this over that?

Did we choose this path? 🌱

Wong, Hong Suen, and Valerie Ho. *Wartime Kitchen: Food and Eating in Singapore, 1942-1950*. Editions Didier Millet and National Museum of Singapore, 2009.

TX357 Won 2009

Desperate times call for desperate measures. During a time of death and shortages, Singaporeans had to change their diets in order to survive the Japanese Occupation. Tapiocas and sweet potatoes became the main ingredients of every meal, and recipes such as snail-based bread were invented. During times of difficulty, how far will we have to go to change our consumption patterns? Do the changes persist after such trying times are over? Can we still find traces of our wartime kitchen in our diets today? 🍷

Walker, Timothy. *Plants: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford University Press, 2012.

QK45.2 Wal 2012

Here's a very short introduction to this very short introduction: The death of plants is essential to the lives of humans. But if none are alive, none can die. Conservation is important. 🌱

Bordin, Giorgio, and D'Ambrosio, Laura Polo. *Medicine in Art, translated by Jay Hyams*. J. Paul Getty Museum, 2010.

N8223 Bor 2010.

Paintings of pain and suffering that depict the history of illnesses in the physical and mental state, together with the medical treatments and procedures that accompany it. Grab this off the shelf and maybe next time you can teach your GP a thing or two.

***Death, Torture and the Broken Body in European Art, 1300-1650*, edited by John R. Decker and Mitzi Kirkland-Ives. Ashgate, 2015.**

N8217 Dea.De 2015.

Without words, the book cover is gruesome enough to inflict a physical sensation of fear across your body, as it illustrates a scene of a man getting skinned and cut alive. Is the experience of pain a psychological or a physical one? Would the image be less tormenting if we could not see the fear cast upon the victim's eyes? Through art pieces from 1300 to 1650, we are given a glimpse of the physical pain and torture inflicted on people in the past as well as in the present as these images are sure to stir up emotions through the reader's imagination.

Hills, Paul. *Veiled Presence: Body and Drapery from Giotto to Titian*. Yale University Press, 2018. N8217 Dra.Hi 2018.

Modern-day Couture has got nothing on these truly vintage pieces! A closer look at Fashion in Masterpieces from the late middle ages, this picture book examines the fabrics and clothes worn by subjects in the paintings. What clothes and fashion styles did the Madonna the Holy Child adorn themselves in? What fabrics would you drape around yourself forever?

De Pascale, Enrico. *Death and Resurrection in Art*. J. Paul Getty Museum, 2009.

N8217 Dea.De 2009.

Death and afterlife have never been this gorgeous. In high gloss and laminate, this book is a gloriously horrific visual treat from start to end. The most striking thing you may notice from this collection is the depiction of human bodies in the claws of death, just moments to and after becoming deceased. Death is a character, and so is spirit. The spirit - you can almost imagine it even if you don't believe in it - leaves the body and lingers helplessly, its essence oftentimes still in the frame. In these haunting depictions of humankind's unavoidable reality, we cannot help but wonder: what does it really mean to be alive in the most physical sense? What truly separates us from life and death? Do you believe in the soul? Where does it reside in our living bodies? Where does it go when we die?



LORD PETER DOROTHY L. S.

PR 6037 S274Ld 2013

MURDER MUST ADVERTISE DOROTHY L.

PR 6037 S274M 2014

The NINE TAILORS DOROTHY L.

PR 6037 S274S 2012

STRONG POISON DOROTHY L.

PR 6037 S274L 2014

DOROTHY L. SAYERS

WOOLF

MARK HENRY V

Organic Food, Organic Death

Nathaniel Mah & Ooi Mae Hweei

Consumption sustains the lives of all organisms. It also causes the death of many. While (most) plants consume nonliving natural resources such as air, water, and sunlight, humans have established ourselves as apex consumers: we cultivate, propagate, and then terminate plants and animals for our consumption. Death, therefore, is deeply and ironically entwined with human sustenance, and, by extension, our culture. Yet, despite our extensive forays into consuming nature, many organisms remain lethal (primarily through poison) to humans, and thus resist consumption. Here, another facet of the initial entwinement emerges – consumption that kills the consumer. Taking all this into account, the books in our selection seek to address these questions: how have we arrived at these patterns of food, death, and consumption (including what we avoid)? Are these patterns likely to change? And if so, what will bring about these changes?

Blum, Deborah. *The Poison Squad: One Chemists Single-Minded Crusade for Food Safety at the Turn of the Twentieth Century*. Penguin Press, 2018.

TX518 Wil.B 2018

Consumption is (usually) for life preservation, so we'd definitely want to avoid consuming things that kill us. In the 1880s, a group of courageous food tasters set out to test the safety of our food preservation methods, and whether we're preserving them too well – preserved even from our consumption as no one can consume them without dying. 🤖

Buchmann, Stephen L. *The Reason for Flowers: Their History, Culture, Biology, and How They Change Our Lives*. Scribner, 2015.

SB404.9 Buc 2015

Flowers are crucial to us due to their precursory roles in the life cycle of all the fruits we consume. But we also prize them for their non-essential aesthetic qualities, gushing over the way they look and smell. These days, edible flowers are also becoming a thing despite their limited nutritional value -- how did we become so enamoured by these pretty little buds? 🌸

Chappell, M. Jahi. *Beginning to End Hunger: Food and the Environment in Belo Horizonte, Brazil, and Beyond*. University of California Press, 2018.

HD9014 Bra.Ch 2018

Belo Horizonte is home to one of the world's most successful city food security programmes. Since 1993, malnutrition in the city has declined dramatically and the city serves as an inspiration for Brazil's famous Zero Hunger programmes. We've discussed extensively about the causes and impacts of food insecurity, so let's look ahead to the solutions we can implement and the paths toward tackling these issues instead! By referencing Belo Horizonte's success, perhaps we can also implement more successful policy changes elsewhere in the world! 🍌

Chia, Pamela. *Wet Market to Table : A Modern Approach to Fruit and Vegetables*. Epigram Books, 2019.

TX724.5.S55 Chi 2019

Visits to wet markets are part and parcel of the average Singaporean's life. This cookbook provides unique recipes to spice up the meals you make with your daily haul from the wet markets right below your flat. Pay attention especially to the ones heavy on greens, because more often than not, it's the plant-based recipes that really set cookbooks apart from each other, as the plants accessible to the chef vary significantly with geography. Compare the recipes here to those in Western cookbooks and you'll realise how eating is very much a cultural activity. From lotus root chips to swordfish and soursop kueh pie tee, you'll never see your neighbourhood wet market the same way again!

Dauncey, Elizabeth A., and Sonny Larsson. *Plants That Kill: Natural History of the World's Most Poisonous Plants*. Princeton University Press, 2018.

QK100 Dau 2018

This beautifully illustrated book almost definitely contains more types of toxins than you and all of your friends will be able to list combined, and definitely more than you'd be able to consume. Some of these poisonous plants have been appropriated for medicine, ritual, and even chemical warfare. Read this and begin a life of thinking twice before picking any pretty wildflower on your next hiking trip! 🍄

David, Elizabeth. *Summer Cooking*. Illustrated by Adrian Daintrey. New York Review Books, 2002.

TX717 Dav 2002

The seasonal nature of plant growth calls for seasonal recipes! From Aubergine Purée to Kidney Omelette to Strawberry Soufflé, Elizabeth David has you covered with recipes using ingredients easily sourced during summer and fit for the weather. Step beyond just preparing lemonades this summer, as she introduces recipes enough for multiple 9-course meals! ☀️

Duvall, Chris S. *Cannabis*. Reaktion Books, 2015.

QK495 Can.Du 2015

Not just medicine but... recreation? Cannabis is the world's most widely distributed crop, but in countries such as Singapore, distributing it could cost you your life. How do we make sense of the value(s) placed on this plant? This takes the association between death and food (edibles?) to a whole other level. 🌿

Hanson, Thor. *The Triumph of Seeds: How Grains, Nuts, Kernels, Pulses, & Pips Conquered the Plant Kingdom and Shaped Human History*. Basic Books, a Member of the Perseus Books Group, 2015.

QK661 Han 2015

Seeds are the source of (plant) life. Somehow, they've also become a key source of ours (think: coffee beans!). Speaking of which, check out the brilliant chapter on coffee – how ironic is it that we grind and kill these seeds to make us feel more alive? ☕

Holban, Alina Maria, and Alexandru Mihai Grumezescu. *Microbial Contamination and Food Degradation*. Academic Press, an Imprint of Elsevier, 2018.

QR115 Mic 2018

If food = death, does spoilage of food = double death? If an organism dies by consuming spoiled food is that triple death? If an organism dies by eating the body of another organism who died by eating spoiled food...

Holmes, Seth M. *Fresh Fruit, Broken Bodies Migrant Farmworkers in the United States*. University of California Press, 2013.

HD1525 Hol 2013

Food dies so humans live. Other humans die so food lives.

A powerful ethnography about indigenous families working on farm labor camps in the U.S. that raises important questions: Who labors (suffers) to supply our sustenance? What are the inequalities at play in health and nutrition? Who dies so that we can live? 🙄

Kindred, Glennie. *A Hedgerow Cookbook*. Wooden Books, 2005.

TX714 Kin 2005

This tiny book is packed with hundreds of delicious ways to murder not just your friendly neighbourhood plants, but also the unsuspecting ones minding their own business in forests and woods! Bring this book on the go and be surprised by how convenient, appetising, and accessible plant-homicide can be! 🌲

Kingsolver, Barbara, et al. *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle: A Year of Food Life*. HarperCollins Publishers, 2007.

S521.5 App.Ki 2007

A family's food experiment: to only eat foods that they grow themselves or obtain locally (save for grains and olive oil) for an entire year. How different is consumption (and the death it involves) when it is life that you cultivated? How do you kill a chicken you raised? 🙄

Koh, Hwee Ling, et al. *A Guide to Medicinal Plants: An Illustrated, Scientific and Medicinal Approach*. World Scientific Pub, 2009.

QK99 *Sin.Koh 2009

We don't just consume/kill plants for food; we also do so for medicine. In this sense, their death not only provides sustenance and nourishment, but also healing and restoration. How can we avoid exploiting nature and look to provide healing and restoration for the plants (and their ecosystems) in return?

Long, Lucy M. *Honey: A Global History*. Reaktion Books, 2017.

SF539 Lon 2017

Hang on! Honey bees make honey as a way of storing food... eating honey is just eating bee food... so technically, eating honey doesn't involve death! Harvesting honey also doesn't harm bees in any way. So what's this book doing in this list? Well... sometimes it's nice to think about the exception to the rule. 😊

Kowalchuk, Kristine. *Preserving on Paper: Seventeenth-Century Englishwomen's Receipt Books*. University of Toronto Press, 2017.

TX705 Pre 2017

Three handwritten seventeenth-century receipt books provide a look into the culinary recipes, medical remedies, and household tips of the women of that time. Follow along the seventeenth-century housewife's journey as she goes about preparing apricot wines, baking plum cakes, and even creating potions to cure dearness. Besides providing fascinating recipes, these texts also offer perspective on the gendered aspect of food consumption. 🍯

Madella, Marco, et al. *Ancient Plants and People: Contemporary Trends in Archaeobotany*. The University of Arizona Press, 2014.

CC79.5 Pla.An 2014

We are made up of the plants we consume, not just biologically, but also in the implications they have on our culture and lifestyles. Food production, choice, and distribution are some of the most complex indicators of our social lives. By understanding our food production, distribution, and consumption, not only do we better understand our physical and cultural makeup, but we can also glean information on our past relationship with our physical environment as we adapted to past climates for our crop production. Could looking to the past also advise us in adapting to our current climate and tackling our current state of environmental affairs and food security? 🌱

McGraw, Seamus. *Betting the Farm on a Drought: Stories from the Front Lines of Climate Change*. University of Texas Press, 2015.

QC903.2 Uni.Mc 2015

Oh dear, another book on climate change and food security? Haven't we already established the relationship between them countless times from countless perspectives, and isn't this topic one we're all too familiar with already? Well, not all of us – despite the evidence shown, many farmers and fishermen are still denying the notion of climate change being a thing. Regardless of whether you believe in it, climate change is very and nobody can escape its impacts. This book takes a look at the risks that farmers are taking to deal with the impacts of extreme weather caused by something they may not be religiously or politically inclined to believe even exists. 🌱

McWilliams, James. *Eating Promiscuously: Adventures in the Future of Food*. Counterpoint Press, 2017.

GT2850 Mcw 2017

Ever considered eating roadkill? How far are you willing to open your minds (and mouths)? This book explores creative consumption solutions outside the limited industrial food system. Think about it: if you eat roadkill, that's technically one less death you're directly responsible for. 🤔

Palmer, Lisa. *Hot, Hungry Planet: The Fight to Stop a Global Food Crisis in the Face of Climate Change*. St. Martin's Press, 2017.

HD9000.5 Pal 2017

In 2050 earth is estimated to have a population of 9.6 billion people. How will we feed them? With climate change already threatening our food systems and projected to worsen, how many more people will have to die of hunger? Is there any hope at all? 🌍

Lymbery, Philip. *Dead Zone: Where the Wild Things Were*. Bloomsbury Publishing, an Imprint of Bloomsbury Publishing Plc, 2017.

QH75 Lym 2017

Turns out our consumption patterns kill more than just the organisms we consume! This book explores some of the world's most iconic and endangered species that are being threatened, whether directly or indirectly, by industrial farming. It's time to save our planet through healthy food! 🐾

Pollan, Michael. *In Defense of Food: An Eater's Manifesto*. Penguin Press, 2008.

RA784 Pol 2008

Did you know that most of what we (primarily American/Western consumers) consume today is not natural food, but "edible foodlike substances," the products not of nature but of food science? Did you know that such a diet is apparently responsible for a whole host of chronic illnesses? This introduces a new angle concerning food and death: products of food science, of chemicals, and of artificial agents, do not necessitate the direct death of another organism; yet, consuming these things will supposedly expedite ours. Does healthy foods = once-alive foods?

🔗

Sayers, Dorothy L. *Strong Poison: A Lord Peter Wimsey Mystery with Harriet Vane*. Bourbon Street Books, 2012.

PR6037 S274S 2012

Take a step away from all the content-heavy non-fiction books we have on our list and devour this juicy murder-mystery! In *Strong Poison*, the victim's autopsy reveals that he has died from arsenic poisoning. What exactly did he consume to cause his death, and who did it? Poor Philip Boyes, it seems he was bound to death regardless of if he satisfied his consumption needs! 🕒

Séquin, Margareta. *The Chemistry of Plants: Perfumes, Pigments, and Poisons*. Royal Society of Chemistry, 2012.

QK861 Seq 2012

While plants are in their element, the elements are also in them. Carbon, hydrogen, oxygen and nitrogen make up most of a plant's structure. But what exactly is inside them that kills us, or even makes us kill some of them for our nasal administration? 🧐

Stone, Damien. *Pomegranate: A Global History*. Reaktion Books Ltd, 2017.

TX813 Pom.St 2017

Munch on sticky red.

Pomegranate juice, or blood?

Pomegranate blood. 🍷

Stuppy, Wolfgang, et al. *Wonders of the Plant Kingdom: A Microcosm Revealed*. The University of Chicago Press, 2014.

QK50 Stu 2014

A stunning, mind-blowing collection of images of plants taken with a scanning electron microscope and hand-colored by artist Rob Kessler to showcase the incredible adaptations of plants ensuring their own survival. How many of these adaptations have been because of humans, and how have we adapted our interaction or consumption of these plants in turn? 🧐

Ungar, Peter S. *Evolutions Bite: A Story of Teeth, Diet, and Human Origins*. Princeton University Press, 2017.

GN281.4 Ung 2017

In nature, predators use teeth to hunt, kill, and tear apart other organisms. For humans, our teeth are removed from death – their sole purpose is mastication. Can "foodprints" – distinctive patterns of microscopic wear and tear on our teeth – can tell an entire stories about our patterns of consumption? 🧐



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Constructing Eco-narratives

Chen Kit May, Alexis & Chia Yaim Chong

Paintings, poetry, mathematical models, maps - these are just a handful of the range of platforms and mediums used to represent ecology. Through understanding the different ways in which ecology is conveyed and translated, one might be able to build a more holistic understanding of the ways the earth entangles itself in our lives and all that we do. Bonus: also included are books that use nature as representation: metaphor, allegory, etc.

Rhoads, Sean, and Brooke McCorkle. *Japan's Green Monsters: Environmental Commentary in Kaiju Cinema*. McFarland & Company, Inc., Publishers, 2018.

PN1995.9 Mon.Rh 2018

Did you know that Godzilla originated back in the 50s because right after the war, American forces in Japan banned the discussion of the nuclear bombs in public media and art? Since then, *Kaiju*, the genre of films with crazy monsters like Godzilla, has gained cult status around the world - but how can we use monster cinema as a lens to understand environmental issues?

Belin, Esther G. *Of Cartography: Poems*. The University of Arizona Press, 2017.

PS3552 B431F 2018

In *Of Cartography: Poems*, Belin writes about her homes in the West. Inspired by cartography, she maps out her life experiences through her lived landscapes, exploring themes such as motherhood, the body and love. This book is especially cool because Belin presents her stories as prose, typographic and linguistic illustrations.

Teare, Brian. *Doomstead Days*. Consortium Book Sales & Dist, 2019.

PS3620. E427 Tea 2019

Everyone knows that feeling of perpetual climate anxiety in the back of their mind. This book takes those sentiments and translates them into beautiful poems that reminds one of the warmth & beauty to be found amidst death. Through his poems, we journey through forests, cities, and mountains. "The poems of *Doomstead Days* have not been made in despair, but through it. With them, we are joined together, and continue." – Joan Naviyuk Kane.

Lewis-Jones, Huw, and Kari Herbert. *Explorers Sketchbooks: The Art of Discovery & Adventure*. Baker & Taylor, 2017.

G81 Lew 2017

Ever wonder what explorers do in their free time? Look no further. Lewis-Jones and Herbert share seventy-five explorers' sketchbooks, each presenting their own adventure of a lifetime. Find out how these personal notes play a part in contributing to a bigger collective knowledge of ecology.

Hilborn, Ray, and Marc Mangel. *The Ecological Detective: Confronting Models with Data*. Princeton Univ. Press, 1997.

QH541.15 Mat.Hi 1997

An exploration of ecology through models & data. The authors use computer programming to generate hypotheses, explore data and compare models 'much like a detective would involve a crime scene.' Some love of numbers required to be interested in this book.

Thompson, Ken. *Darwin's Most Wonderful Plants: A Tour of His Botanical Legacy*. The University of Chicago Press, 2019.

QH31 Dar.Th 2018

We know of Charles' work.
But did you know – he drew plants?
Plants, shaping theories.

Hou, Shen. *The City Natural: Garden and Forest Magazine and the Rise of American Environmentalism*. University of Pittsburgh Press, 2013.

GE197 Hou 2013

In this book, Shen Hou shares about her research on the development of *Garden and Forest*, a magazine that was active from 1888 to 1897. She believes these writings were significant in contributing to American environmental thought and activism, yet, were commonly overlooked. Who says magazines weren't important to academia?

Gowin, Emmet. *Changing the Earth*. 2002.

TR 810 Rey 2002

In *Changing the Earth*, Gowin captures human's catastrophic impact on the natural world's surface. While you can expect to be left in awe by his richly-toned black and white aerial images, be prepared to face the unnerving feeling of ecological damage each photo encapsulates.

Hessler, Stefanie. *Tidalectics: Imagining an Oceanic Worldview through Art and Science*. TBA21 Academy, 2018.

QH 541.5 Sea.Ti 2018

"How inappropriate to call this planet Earth when it is quite clearly Ocean" – *Tidalectics* is about the importance of our oceans, how it's overlooked, and how people are attempting to change that. Featuring works from a range of disciplines, learn how the strongest voices in oceanic thinking, environmental law, arts, literature and science attempt to create awareness and engage with our hydrosphere.

Toland, Alexandra Regan (ed). *Field to Palette: Dialogues on Soil and Art in the Anthropocene*. CRC Press, 2019.

S623 Fie 2019

Have you ever been sitting around having lunch, minding your own business when you realized you know nothing about soil and hence are deeply curious about the cultural meanings, representations, and values of soil in a time of planetary change? This book is the exact book for you.

Marshall, Alan. *Ecotopia 2121: A Vision for Our Future Green Utopia-in 100 Cities*. Arcade Publishing, 2016.

HT241 Mar 2016

Michael Rimmer from librarything.com rated this book three-and-a-half stars and said "some of the art seems a bit pedestrian." But can you really trust someone named Michael? Pick up the book for yourself and prove this fool wrong. There are 100 reimagined cities, beautifully illustrated in this book. All of them are cool.

Lavery, Carl. *Rethinking the Theatre of the Absurd: Ecology, the Environment and the Greening of the Modern Stage*. Bloomsbury, 2015.

PN1650 Eco 2015

Nothing means anything. Life is meaningless. Where do we go from there? In this book, Lavery argues that Absurdist theatre, first surfaced in the 1950s, can be understood as ecological. What does absurdism mean in the 21st-century context? "This book will appeal to anyone who has ever questioned the boundaries inscribed between mind and nature, social reality and the greater environment." – *Journal of Dramatic Theory and Criticism*

Giono, Jean, et al. *The Man Who Planted Trees*. Harvill Secker, 2015.

PQ 2613 G496Ma 1996

A simple yet deeply inspirational story of a man who dedicates his life to re-populate a desolate forest, tree by tree. This allegorical tale was so moving that for two decades after it was published, many people believed it was a true story. Perhaps it is. We can only hope.

Patrizio, Andrew. *The Ecological Eye: Assembling an Ecocritical Art History*. Manchester University Press, 2019.

N8217 .E28 Pat 2019

A lot of books on this list are about understanding something through an ecological perspective. This is the art history version. In a discipline that is still incredibly traditional, how do we cultivate an ecological sensibility - how can we understand art history and recognize the ways that it is invariably ecological?

Weintraub, Linda. *To Life! Eco Art in Pursuit of a Sustainable Planet*. University of California Press, 2012.

N6494 Env.We 2012

More eco-art! This book acts as a good directory to the diverse range of artistic responses to our environment and the crises we are facing on that front. A great snapshot of what eco-art was like up until 2012. For a more up to date version, check *The Ecological Eye*.

Roberts, Lorette E. *Flowers & Plants of Southeast Asia: Sketches and Paintings*. Lorette E. Roberts, 2017.

QK 98 Rob 2017

A Suffolk based artist illustrates flowers she had observed in Southeast Asia, along with facts and personal anecdotes of the sites she visited, including the Raffles Statue.

Orientalism? You'll only know if you read it.

Giesecke, Annette, *The Mythology of Plants: Botanical Lore from Ancient Greece and Rome*. The J. Paul Getty Museum, 2014.

QK 83 Gie 2014

In this book, Giesecke focuses on plants and their importance in Greek and Roman Myth.

Whether you're looking for a refreshing theme for your literature & humanities essay, or if you would like to find out how black mulberry fruits were fabled to get their colour from the blood of love-struck Pyramus, this book is for you!

Crump, Martha L., and Alan Crump. *Sexy Orchids Make Lousy Lovers & Other Unusual Relationships*. The University of Chicago Press, 2009.

QL 751 Cru 2009

If you thought your last Tinder date was weird, read this book to be proven wrong. Crump explores the eccentric relationships in the natural world, bringing her trademark "spunky and zesty" commentaries to these stories of... exchange.

Sherwood, Shirley, and Martyn Rix. *Treasures of Botanical Art: Icons from the Shirley Sherwood and Kew Collections*. Kew Publishing, Royal Botanic Garden, 2019.

QK 98.3 She 2019

Treasures of Botanical Art invites readers to explore the richness of botanical art from the 1600s to the 1900s. Quoted from an excerpt within the text, "A painting brings to life even the driest botanical description and the most uninspiring pressed specimen." Grab this book to learn about the ways artists translate scientific discoveries into appealing and attractive artworks over the past few centuries.

Fritz, Dana, et al. *Terraria Gigantica: The World under Glass*. University of New Mexico Press, 2017.

TR721 Fri 2017

Did you know that vivarium is the land version of 'aquarium' and means place of life in Latin? Damn. This book collects beautiful photographs of the world's largest vivaria and the flora and fauna they house. If you love vivaria but hate humidity this book is the book for you.

Barney, Matthew, et al. *Matthew Barney: Redoubt*. Yale University Art Gallery, 2019.

N6537 B223 Bar 2019

This is a book about a film about a wolf-hunt in Idaho. Before I lose your attention, know this - the book is chock full of stills from the film, of the rugged terrain of Idaho's Sawtooth Mountains; flip through this book to experience and understand more about nature through the lens of a film camera.

Avery, Mark. *A Message from Martha: The Extinction of the Passenger Pigeon and Its Relevance Today*. Bloomsbury, 2015.

QL 696 Col.Av 2015

A Message from Martha is a well-documented book about the extinction of the passenger pigeon. Beneath the scientific, meticulous and thorough understanding of the bird, however, reveals a deep sense of loss, expressed through Dr. Avery's narrative journey. In this part documentary, part travelogue, Dr. Avery invites us to take on a new urgency in the conservation of wild spaces.

Lioi, Anthony. *Nerd Ecology: Defending the Earth with Unpopular Culture*. Bloomsbury, 2018.

GF 50 Lio 2016

Another book about examining art with an ecocritical lens - but this one revolves around popular (or nerd) culture, exploring works like Star Trek, Lord of the Rings, The Matrix, Buffy the Vampire Slayer, The Hunger Games, Green Lantern and the X-Men. At this point, you're either completely sold on this book or totally uninterested. Let's move on.

Stokols, Daniel. *Social Ecology in the Digital Age: Solving Complex Problems in a Globalized World*. Elsevier, Academic Press.

HM861 Sto 2018

In *Social Ecology in the Digital Age*, Stokols examines social ecology, a theory that acts as a powerful tool that will prepare us for the difficulties of the Anthropocene. Learn about the deeply intertwined web of social-nature interactions, the challenges and possibilities it presents to us in this epoch.

Littschwager, David. *A World in One Cubic Foot: Portraits in Biodiversity*. University of Chicago Press, 2012.

QH541.15 B56 Lii 2012

What makes up a cubic foot? Twelve inches by twelve inches by twelve inches. Why? No one knows. Come on, Americans. Let's go metric. Oh well. Get over your imperial-centric anger with this book, a beautiful collection of cubic-foot portraits, featuring plant, insect and animal life from all over the world – from Costa Rica to Central Park.

Cheetham, Mark. *Landscape into Eco Art: Articulations of Nature since the 60s*. Pennsylvania State University Press, 2019.

N8217 Eco.Ch 2018

Keywords: eco-criticism, eco-art and the Anthropocene. What does modern eco-art have to do with land art from the 60s (think: Spiral Jetty by Robert Smithson) and landscape painting, whose roots go back as far as a thousand years? Cheetham's book is as close as it comes to an answer, drawing a line between all three and delving into diverse mediums of art, from sculpture to film to installation.

Marran, Christine L. *Ecology without Culture: Aesthetics for a Toxic World*. University of Minnesota Press, 2018.

PN98 Eco.Ma 2017

The core premise: Cultures are often represented by biological materials. Case in point - national flowers and iconic food items, like the Brazilian coffee-bean or the Japanese cherry blossom. Marran delves further: What's the connection between the material world and culture, and what's the connection between the material world and art? What's 'material' about still life paintings, or poetry? Check this book out to find out.

Juniper, B. E., and David J. Mabberley. *The Extraordinary Story of the Apple*. Kew Publishing, 2019.

SB363 Jun 2019

The moment I picked up this book I learned two things immediately: Firstly, based on DNA evidence, Winnie the Pooh should have eaten apples instead of honey. Secondly, this famous fruit has been keeping doctors away since its ancient origins in China. Uncover this book to uncover more apple secrets.

Haskell, David George. *The Song of Trees*. Penguin Random House LLC, 2017.

QH541.5 For.Ha 2017

Jump into this book to explore Haskell's view of 12 trees over time in different parts of the world. He invites us to listen, ponder and reflect and hence, explore the tree as a focal point for branching stories. We hope you enjoy this book of noises.

vries, herman de. *To Be All Ways*. 2015.

N 6953 Vri 2015

Ecological artist herman de vries (yes, indeed spelled without caps) directs the viewers' attention to natural processes. Together with Jean-Hubert Martin, along with vries' artistic works, this book is a published dialogue focusing on key notions such as poetry, smell, luck, nature and ecology and its relationship to herman's artistic work and concept. We recommend reading about his work here and everywhere.

Heneghan, Liam. *Beasts at Bedtime: Revealing the Environmental Wisdom in Classic Children's Literature*. University of Chicago Press, 2018.

PN 1009.5 Eco.He 2018

Whether you've read Harry Potter or *Where the Wild Things Are*, you would know about the delightful screaming plants or talking animals that fill their pages with vibrancy and excitement. Heneghan (father and scientist) hopes to dig deeper, uncovering the profound teachings of species in the natural world in children's literature. What a cool dad.

**LIBRARY LEAVES:
A GUIDED TOUR**



SERIES 1 (Green)
CONSTRUCTING ECO-NARRATIVE
Alexis & Chia Yaim C

**LIBRARY LEAVES:
A GUIDED TOUR**



SERIES 2 (Red/Pink)
BODY AND SOUL
Cheang Chu Ying & Andreia Ko

**LIBRARY LEAVES:
A GUIDED TOUR**



SERIES 4 (Animal Prints)
HUMAN SOCIETY THROUGH THE LENS OF ANIMALS
Tan Xue Yi & Choy Jia Yu

**LIBRARY LEAVES:
A GUIDED TOUR**

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Human Society Through the Lens of Animals

Tan Xue Yi and Choy Jia Yu

Contemporary human issues are often looked at from an anthropocentric lens. As humans and animals continue to exist together, and our worlds overlap, there are possibilities of looking at these issues through the lens of our animal friends. What does looking at animals tell us about the way we interact with them, and the human world around us? These books allow us to examine modern social issues while using animals as the frame.

Bondar, Carin. *Wild Moms: Motherhood in the Animal Kingdom*. Pegasus Books, 2018.

QL739.3 Bon 2018

What is being a mom look like in the animal world? Besides the typical mothering woes, wild moms have to protect and raise their babies in the face of the elements, predators, and scarce resources. This book takes us along a journey of motherhood in the wild, and also reveals to us new things about mother/child relationships. This book will change what we think about motherhood, and see what superheroes our mothers are!



Chabouté, Christophe. *Moby Dick*. Dark Horse Books, 2017.

PS2384 Mel.Mo 2009

Moby Dick needs no introduction – it is a classic by Herman Melville about a captain’s mad quest to find and kill this elusive white whale that bit his leg off at the knee. If we look beyond the surface of the narration of ship life and the hunt, we see that Moby Dick offers deep insights into life and the universe, and man’s relationship with the sea and its creatures.

Donnelley, Strachan. *Frog Pond Philosophy: Essays on the Relationship between Humans and Nature*. University Press of Kentucky, 2018.

GF21 Don 2018

Frog Pond Philosophy is a collection of essays from Strachan Donnelley who devoted his life to exploring the relationship between humans and nature. The essays offer perspectives on questions of urgent contemporary importance. Do humans have moral responsibilities to our environment? Find out more in this series of essays!

Farris, Anelise. *Feathers, Paws, Fins, and Claws: Fairy-Tale Beasts*. Wayne State University Press, 2015.

GR 705 Fea 2015

We are all familiar with fairy-tale creatures, animal yet with human-like attributes. This book explores 10 stories from different cultures and span centuries. Peppered with beautiful illustrations, prepare to be surprised and refreshed by a fairy-tale world that might look slightly different from what you are used to.

Ikram, Salima. *Divine Creatures: Animal Mummies in Ancient Egypt*. The American University in Cairo Press, 2015.

DT62 Mum.Di 2015

We heard of human mummies before, but have you heard of animal mummies? This book offers a deep look into the Egyptian practice of mummification. Through animal mummies, we can understand the religious practices and animal domestication in Egypt. This book also has many pictures and photographs of the process – creepy or fascinating, that’s up to you!



Soseki, Natsume. *I am a Cat*. Tuttle Classics, 2002.

PL812 Nat.I2002

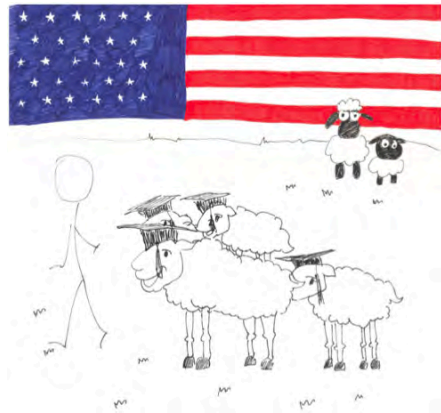
Narrated from the perspective of a cat, the woes of the Meiji Revolution in Japan are subtly satirized.



Roberts, Callum. *The Ocean of Life: The Fate of Man and the Sea*. Penguin Books, 2013.

CB465 Rob 2013

The ocean surrounds us, and feeds us, but due to climate change and human exploitation, this big blue body is under threat. This book has won many awards, and really offers a deep dive into man's relationship with the ocean – impact of modern fishing techniques, pollution, climate change etc., etc. If you are interested in the ocean, and environmental sustainability and want to know what it takes to save what we have left, this is for you.



Deresiewicz, William. *Excellent Sheep*. Free Press, 2015.

LA227.4 Der2014

This book is a commentary of the elite education system of America. Despite their elevation from the black sheep of the family, excellent sheep ultimately are still at the beck and call of the shepherd.

Lewin, Jennifer. *Never again would birds' song be the same: essays on early modern and modern poetry in honor of John Hollander*. Yale University, 2002.

PR14 Nev 2002

This book is a collection of essays about the evolution of poetry from the early days, such as Shakespearean poetry, to the modern era, such as those written by T.S. Elliot and Robert Frost.



Sahlins, Peter. *1688: The Year of the Animal in France*. Zone Books, 2017.

QL85 Sah 2017

What is Renaissance Humanism? This book explores this in France in 1688, through the animals and how they affected governance, nature and what "the human" means.

Reading Literary Animals: Medieval to Modern. Edwards, KL, Ryan, Derek, and Spencer, Jane (eds). Taylor & Francis Ltd, 2020

PN56.A64 Rea 2020

Animals sometimes appear in literature and this book looks closely at our animal friends and their literary status and representation of animals in literature from medieval times to present day. What new perspectives will this give us about our relationship with them?

Strycker, Noah. *Thing with Feathers: The Surprising Lives of Birds and What They Reveal about Being Human*. Riverhead Books, 2015.

QL698.3 Str 2014

This book explores the lives of birds, and how they are so fascinating. Did you know how intelligent birds are, and all the quirks that come with each different species? Noah Strycker offers an entertaining look into birds, and how we might not be so different from them after all.

Ionesco, Eugene. *Rhinoceros, The Chairs, The Lesson*. Penguin, 2000.

PQ2617 164R2000

This book is a series of three plays by Ionesco. The first play centers around a crisis where humans are literally turned into rhinoceroses. The spread of the epidemic sees the change in the humans' attitudes towards the human-rhinoceros. What an appropriate book to read in 2020!

Puig, Manuel. *Kiss of the Spider and Two other Plays*. W. W. Norton, 1994.

PQ7798.26 P979K1994

Spiders are prominently associated with several allusions in literature. They are deadly females who feast on their mates after sex. They are also weavers of the web of illusions. The play in the title uses contemporary associations of spiders to frame the story of a queer romance amidst a revolution. Spicy!

Mabanckou, Alain. *Memoirs of a Porcupine*. Soft Skull Press, 2012.

PQ3989.2 Mab.Me2012

How could a porcupine write a memoir? Why a porcupine and not... a beaver? Ah! According to *The Economist*, set in Africa, the novel cleverly uses local myths to highlight the absurdity of using traditional beliefs as an excuse for violence.

Bulgakov, Mikhail. *A Dog's Heart*. Alma Classics, 2016.

PG3476 Bul.So2016

This novel is a remake of Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*. Instead of dead bodies, a dog is transformed into a human through an experiment. Set in Moscow in 1924, two years after Soviet Union was formed, is the novel perhaps a parody of what was happening then? Not to forget, the novel itself was published in 1925!

Lippit, Yukio. *Japanese Zen Buddhism and The Impossible Painting*. Getty Research Institute, 2017.

ND 1059 Joe.Li 2017

The "Impossible Painting" refers to an iconic 15th century painting "The Gourd and Catfish". How does a gourd or a catfish got to do with Zen?

Franzosini, Edgardo. *The Animal Gazer*. New Vessel press, 2018.

PQ 4866 R342Fra2018

Many books position the gaze on certain characters, hinting at some form of *bildungsroman* in the plot. Gendered literary analysis could be produced from those gazes. The title of this book comes as a surprise to me because it is uncommon to have a gaze set on animals. Who is the animal gazer? What is his or her intention(s)? What then, could the social commentary be about?

Rodoreda, Merce. *Time of the Doves*. Graywolf Press, 1986.

PC3941R57Tim1986

The irony in this book is very arresting because the use of the doves in the title sets a peaceful tone, when in fact, the story focuses on a naive and helpless woman during the outbreak of Spanish Civil War. I wonder what really goes on in the woman's life during the civil war.

Peterson Dale. *Where Have All the Animals Gone? My Travels with Karl Ammann*. Bauhan Publishing, 2015.

QL 84.6 Afr.Pe2016

Where have all the animals gone? This is an urgent question we really have to ask ourselves. The last Sumatran Rhino fell last November. George, the last *Achatinella apexfulva* (Hawaiian tree snail) died in captivity on the New Year's Day of 2019. The Chinese paddlefish, one of the world's largest freshwater fishes, is officially declared extinct as a result of overfishing. Meanwhile, the human population has been increasing exponentially, dominating the earth. The human-animal relationship has been imbalanced for so long that we really have to turn our attention to it before it is too late. Or has it already become too late?

Van Dooren, Thom. *Flight Ways*. Columbia University Press, 2014.

QL 677.4 Van 2014

Birds fly, pink sky.

Flight Ways, fly away

To Heaven.

Van Vetchen, Carl. *The Tiger in the House: A Cultural History of the Cat*. New York Review Books, 2006.

QL795 Van.Ti2006

This book analyzes the portrayal of felines in a myriad of fields, such as science, occult, folklore, law, and the arts. It is a must-read for cat lovers!

MacDonald, Helen. *H is for Hawk*. Grove press, 2014.

QL 696 Fak.Ma2014

H is for hawk.

H is for the hawk that father once trained.

H is for father's death.

H is also for moving on.

Jukes, Helen. *Honeybee Heart Has Five Openings: A Year of Keeping Bees*. Knopf Doubleday Publishing Group, 2020.

SF523.82 Juk.H 2018

A millennial with an unfulfilling desk job in the midst of purposeless modern life – sound familiar? This is a memoir of Helen, and how she decided to take up bee-keeping in an attempt to find purpose. Besides following her first year of bee-keeping and learning about bees and hives, this memoir offers meditations on “solitude and friendship, on urban existence, on the condition of a generation” according to *The Guardian*, and is moving and beautiful book that shouldn't be missed.



Moore, Lucinda. *Animals in the Great War: Rare Photographs from Wartime Archives*. Pen & Sword Military, 2017.

D639.A65 M66 2017

When we think of suffering in war, we rarely think about animals and their experiences. Did you know sea lions were used to detect submarines? Or about a whale who destroyed mines? Well, this book is filled with photographs from war archives about the contributions and experiences of animals in WWI – dive into this lesser known side of the war.

Pastoureau, Michel. *The Bear: History of a Fallen King*. Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2011

GR730 Bea.Pa 2011

When we think of bears – we normally think of teddy bears. But did you know that the bear has had a complicated relationship with humans through history? First as symbols of power and royalty, then demonised and massacred, to being used as entertainment to perform tricks.... I didn't know that the bear had such a complex history with humans!





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Garden Chronicles

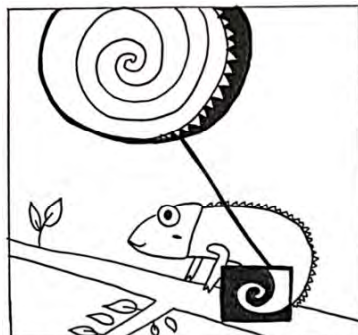
Adria Lim & Tay Jing Hui

We are interested in looking at the different ways people interpret and extrapolate relationships between natural elements, and how nature is presented through the human lens. Through personal recounts and interpretations of nature, the way each writer interacts with specific natural elements give more emotional depth and relatability in understanding and connecting with nature as opposed to merely interacting with natural elements directly. We want to add insight to the existing factual literature on nature and highlight the more personal relationships individuals or groups have with them!

Ball, Phillip. *Patterns in Nature: Why the Natural World Looks the Way it Does*. University of Chicago Press. 2017.

Q172.5 Cha.Ba 2016

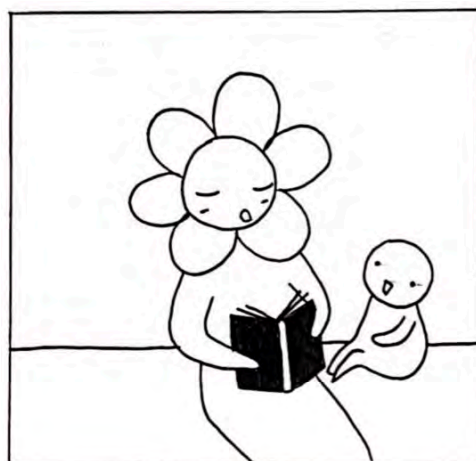
Nature is beautiful! Even the things that may seem ugly! See for yourself through some eye-opening photography!



Roberts, Lorette E. *Flowers & Plants of Southeast Asia: Sketches and Paintings*. Lorette E. Roberts, 2017.

QK98 Rob 2017

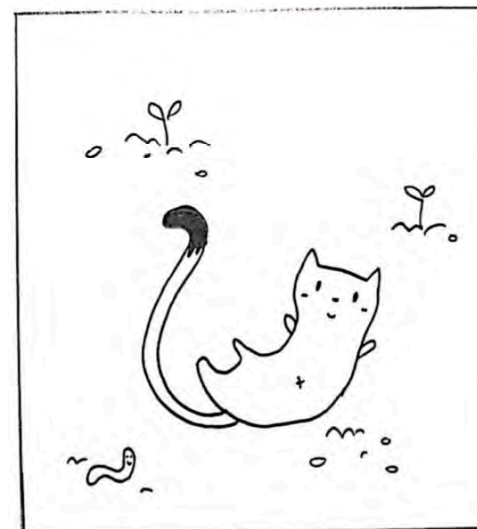
Flowers and plants are already lovely by themselves, but what makes them even better are the little facts, personal encounters and stories that Loretta sprinkles alongside her charming illustrations.



Wright, Richardson Little. *The Gardeners Bed-Book: Short and Long Pieces to Be Read in Bed by Those Who Love Green Growing Things*. Random House Inc, 2003.

SB455 Wri 2003

Charming little essays that sprout from long days in the garden – read this curled up in bed or beside your favourite plant in your own garden!



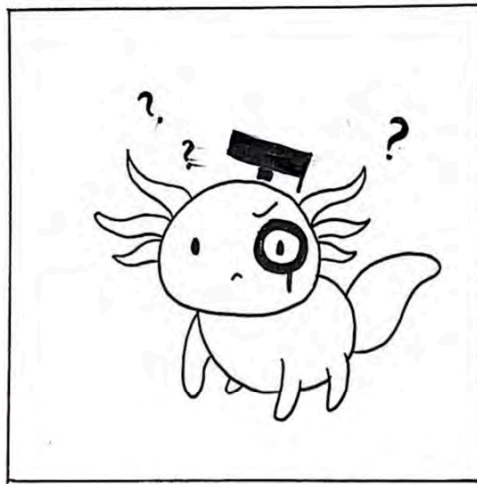
Warner, Charles Dudley. *My Summer in a Garden*. James R. Osgood & Co., Late Ticknor & Fields, and Fields, Osgood, & Co., 1871.

SB455 War 2002

Follow Charles around his garden and fall in love with dirt with him. "The love of dirt is among the earliest of passions, as it is the latest. Mud pies gratify one of our first and best instincts. So long as we are dirty, we are pure." There is a cat.

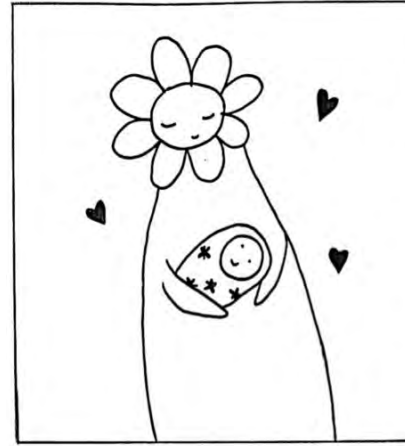
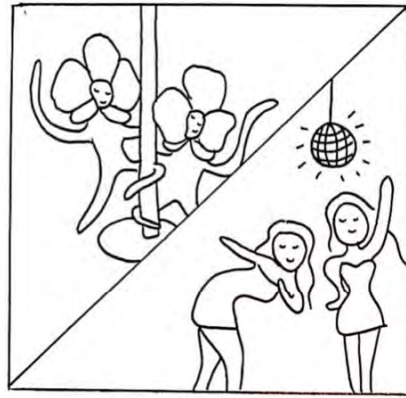
Henderson, Caspar, and Golbanou Moghaddas. *The Book of Barely Imagined Beings: a 21st Century Bestiary*. The University of Chicago Press, 2014.
QL50 Hen.Bo 2013

Animals are so strange and maybe we can understand the world a little bit better through them. How does an axolotl relate to the effects of smallpox during the Spanish conquest?



Crump, Martha L., and Alan Crump. *Sexy Orchids Make Lousy Lovers & Other Unusual Relationships*. The University of Chicago Press, 2009.
QL751 Cru 2009

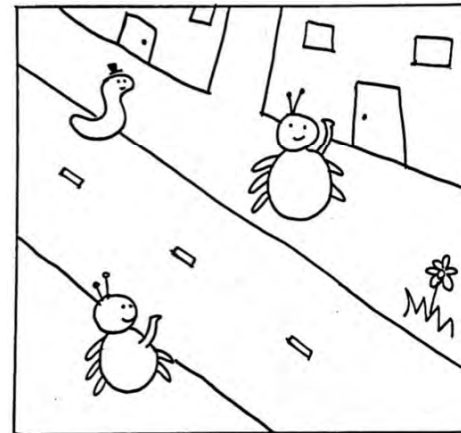
Sexy orchids make lousy lovers and sometimes humans are guilty too! Just like humans, the natural world is full of weird and wacky relationships- did you know vampire bats regurgitate blood for their buddies? Would your friends do the same for you?



Buchmann, Stephen L. *The Reason for Flowers: Their History, Culture, Biology, and How They Change Our Lives*. Scribner, 2016.

SB404.9 Buc 2015

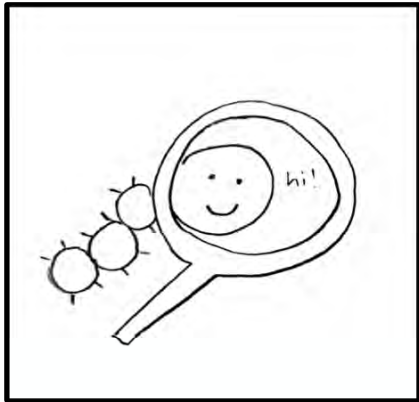
Do flowers need a reason? Well, Stephen here gives them many- more than just their beauty, flowers have influenced and inspired so much in our cultural world. Humans have bred and nurtured flowers and in return, they us.



Goulson, Dave. *The Garden Jungle: or Gardening to Save the Planet*. Jonathan Cape, 2019.

SB453.5 Gou 2019

Whether we know it or not, there are non-human friends living and coexisting alongside us. Burrow into a compost-heap and dive into the garden pond and visit our under-appreciated neighbours - we can't live without them!



Neri, Janice. *The Insect and the Image: Visualizing Nature in Early Modern Europe, 1500-1700.* University of Minnesota Press, 2011.

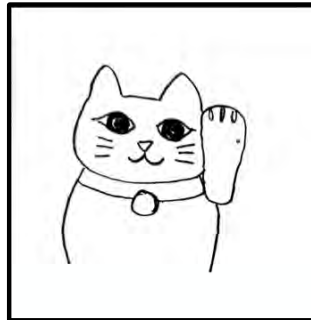
N7668 Ins.Ne 2011

Insects, though tiny in the natural world, are a big deal and muse for many artists and naturalists. Join us as we shrink in size and dive into the world of insects with us as we explore these rare, exquisite organisms!

Nobuhisa, Kaneko, and Utagawa. *Cats in Ukiyo-e: Japanese Woodblock Prints of Utagawa Kuniyoshi.* PIE International, 2012.

N7668 Cat.Ka 2012

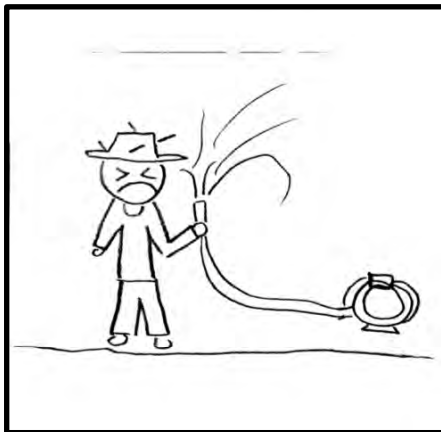
Read this if you want to see adorable cat art and learn about how and why cats are so important in Japanese art. Meow!



Capek Karel, and Capek Josef. *The Gardeners Year.* Dover Publications, Inc., 2017.

SB455 Cap 2002

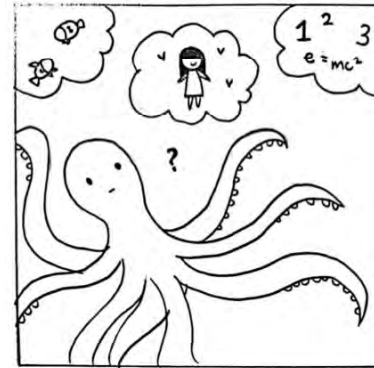
Gardeners! Ever struggled with the garden hose, prayed to the heavens for rain (but only on specific parts of the garden, please and thank you), struggled to say no to buying more plants, or told yourself not to steal your neighbours raspberry canes? Well here's some good news for you - so has Karel Capek.



Berns, Gregory. *How Dogs Love Us: A Neuroscientist and His Dog Decode the Canine Brain.* Scribe, 2014.

SF433 Ber 2013

How far would you go to know if our dogs love us just as much as we love them? A neuroscientist decides that there is one way to know what his adopted terrier mix, Callie, is thinking- an MRI brain scan. A book to read to understand our best furry friends a little bit more, and to love them a whole lot more.



Montgomery, Sy. *The Soul of an Octopus: A Surprising Exploration into the Wonder of Consciousness.* Simon & Schuster, 2015.

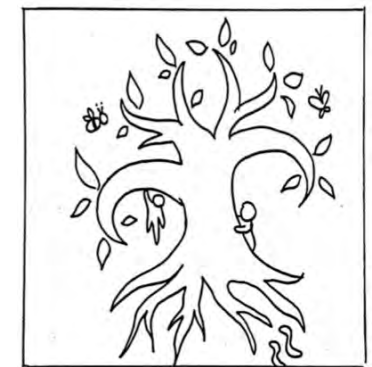
QL430.3 Oct.Mo 2015

What kind of thoughts does an octopus have? Inspired by her interactions and friendship with an eight-legged mollusc named Athena, Sy embarks on a journey to understand our wiggly friends a little more. This is a love story.

Haskell, David George. *The Songs of Trees: Stories from Natures Great Connectors.* Penguin Books, 2018.

QH541.5 For.Ha 2017

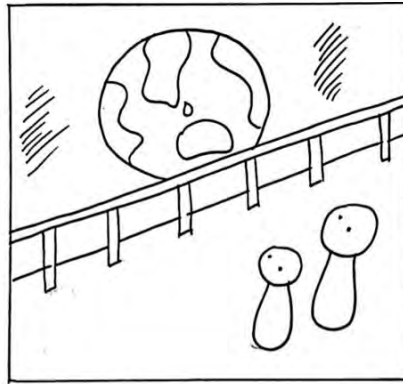
A love song to trees. From trees in cities to trees in forests, human history and culture are entwined with theirs in a biological network of organisms that depend on each other.



Jukes, Helen. *A Honeybee Heart Has Five Openings: A Year of Keeping Bees*. Pantheon Book, 2020.

SF523.82 Juk.H 2018

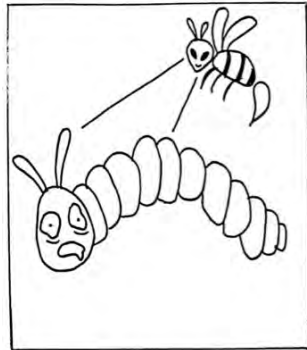
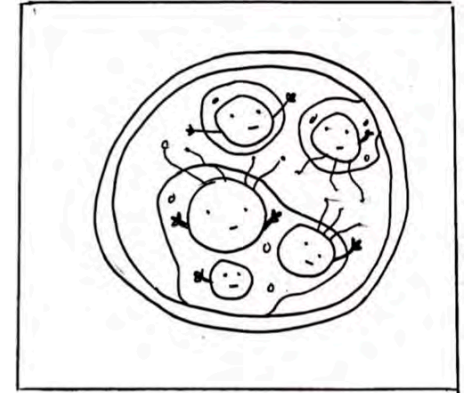
Helen is given (bestowed!) a colony of bees by her friend as a gesture of good fortune and she embarks on her new journey of being a beekeeper and explores the many mysteries of the honeybees and our relationship with them.



Sharp, Jasper, et al. *The Creeping Garden: Irrational Encounters with Plasmodial Slime Moulds*. Alchimia, 2015.

QK635 Sha 2015

When we think about nature our minds probably go to our best furry pals, or the trees outside our window, but what about our invisible friends? A companion to a feature documentary exploring the fascinating and overlooked world of myxomycetes, or plasmodial slime moulds.



Simon, Matt. *The Wasp That Brainwashed the Caterpillar: Evolutions Most Unbelievable Solutions to Life's Biggest Problems*. W F Howes, 2017.

QH546 Sim 2017

Zombie caterpillars brainwashed by wasps and zombie ants mind controlled by fungi! There's also sex if zombies aren't your cup of tea, a little mammal called the *Antechinus* has so much of it that it disintegrates! Matt introduces us to the terrifying, wacky and all around strange side of evolution!

Sundeen, Mark. *The Unsettlers: in Search of the Good Life in Today's America*. Riverhead Books, 2018.

GF78 Sun 2016

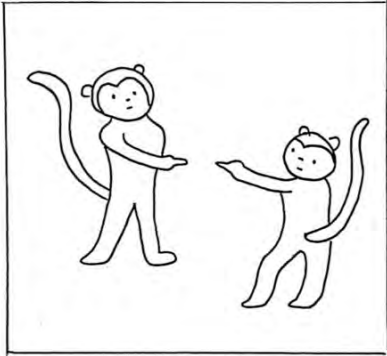
On a frigid April night, lovers all over the world trace the search for the simple life and dare us to imagine what a sustainable and ethical future might look like.



Kirk, Jay. *Kingdom under Glass: A Tale of Obsession, Adventure, and One Man's Quest to Preserve the World's Great Animals*. Picador, 2011.

QL31.A5 Kir 2011

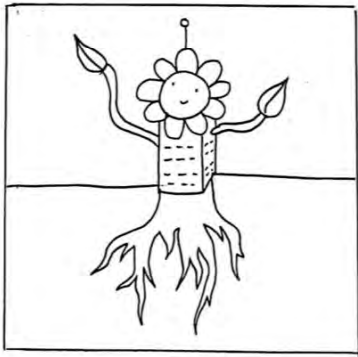
Man has been taking and taking from nature since the beginning of time- what will happen if everything is destroyed and the only way to remember is to look at what once was behind glass? A historical narrative of taxidermist Carl Akeley.



Begun, David R. *The Real Planet of the Apes: A New Story of Human Origins*. Princeton University Press, 2018.

GN281 Beg 2015

Did our ape ancestors really evolve in Africa? Or were they evolved from lemur-like monkeys that expanded into Europe and Asia?



Bergdoll, Barry, et al. *Nature Design: from Inspiration to Innovation*. Lars Müller Publishers, 2007.

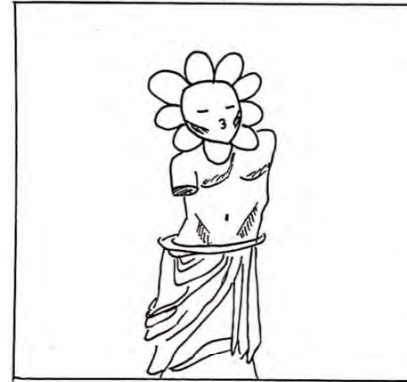
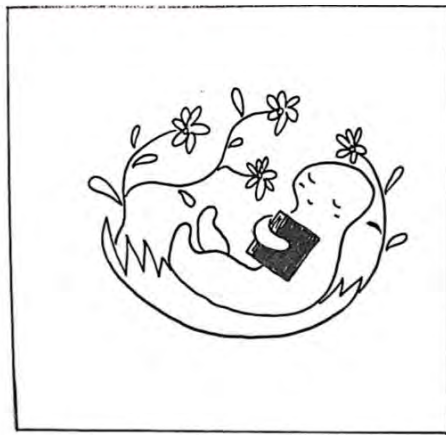
NA645.5 Art.Nat 2007

The continuous morphing of the modern city from the ground up to form the urban beasts today, join us as we look at how we can emulate and reinvent nature!

Fairman, Elisabeth R. (ed.) *Personal Geographies*. Yale University Press, 2019.

ND497.H64 Fai 2019

Walks between her favourite spaces in the United Kingdom, as well as her intrigue with poet Ian Hamilton Finlay, has culminated in Hogan's insightful depictions of enclosed gardens and sitters at their most vulnerable, captured as they narrate their lives.



Impelluso, Lucia, and Stephen Sartarelli. *Gardens in Art*. J. Paul Getty Museum, 2007

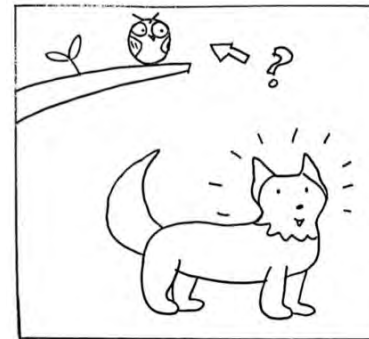
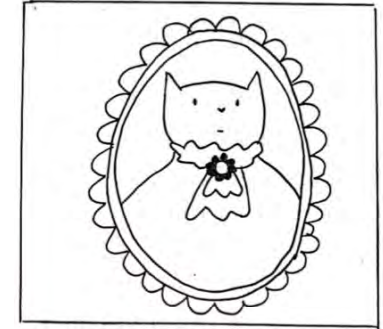
ND1460 Gar.Im 2007

Join Impelluso in uncovering the real and imagined elements in various gardens throughout history and understanding how these clues hint at how they were important within the cultures they were created. Can you spot them?

Vechten, Carl Van. *The Tiger in the House*. Forgotten Books, 2018.

QL795 Van.Ti 2006

Ever thought about how cats seem to be everywhere, and from a very long time ago? The tiger in the house is "a god, a companion to sorceresses at the Witches' Sabbath, a beast who is royal in Siam", and it is here that we begin to unfold our long love affair with the cat.



Phillips, Brian. *Impossible Owls*. Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 2018.

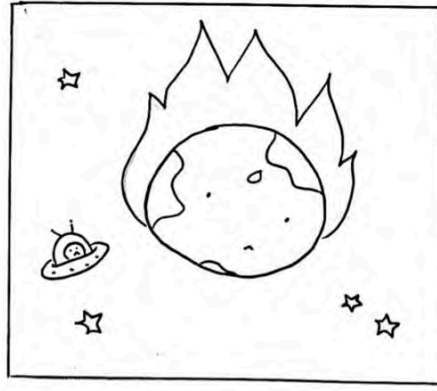
PS3616.H4534 Phi 2018

We follow Phillips' story as he embarks on a Dog Race in Alaska, yet he takes us from that freezing tundra to the "dream city" of Tokyo, all in the exploration of adventure, freedom and journeys to the end of the map. Where are the owls though?

Franzen, Jonathan. *The End of the End of the Earth*. 4th Estate, 2019.

PS3556.R352 Fra 2018

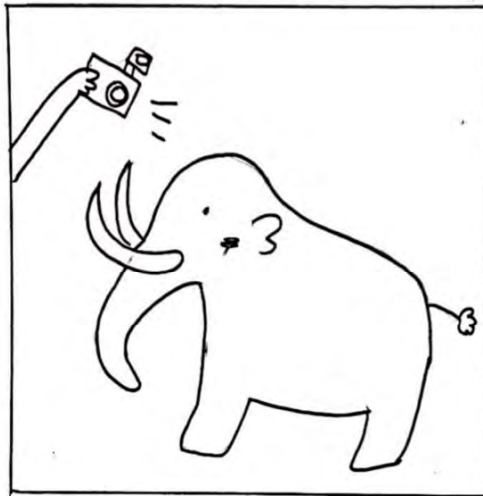
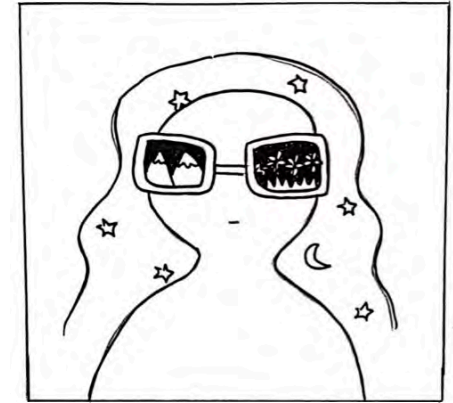
Is it finally the end? What's the point of it all?
Is being alive here and now enough? If we
accept that the earth is coming to an end
tomorrow, will we be able to live better lives
today?



Carr, Dawson W., et al. *Seeing Nature Landscape Masterworks from the Paul G. Allen Family Collection*. University of Washington Press, 2015.

ND1349 See 2015

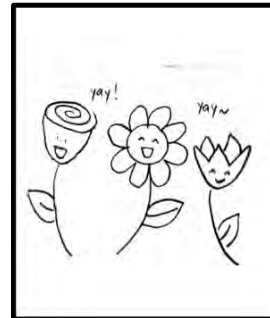
It is what it says: come one come all to see
nature through the eyes of various artists from
across the globe! Come immerse yourself in
art that invigorates all five senses as artists
begin to interpret the specifics of the world
around all of us.



Passarello, Elena. *Animals Strike Curious Poses: Essays*. Vintage, 2018.

PS3616 P286A 2017

Ever wondered what a 39,000 year old
mammoth would be like? Follow
Passarello's adventure investigating
different famous animals all named and
immortalized by humans. The things and
behaviours we see and deem as strange
may actually just be on us. Maybe we're
the weird ones!



Skea, Ralph. *Monet's Trees: Paintings and Drawings by Claude Monet: with 84 Illustrations*. Thames & Hudson, 2015.

N6559 Kah 2015

"I perhaps owe it to flowers," wrote Claude Monet (1840-1926),
"that I became a painter." Here is where you see why.

Zavala, Adriana, and Frida Kahlo. *Frida Kahlo's Garden*. DelMonico, 2015.

N6559 Kah 2015

Based on the natural paradise she created in her
own home, Frida Kahlo's botanical imagery reflects
her love for the natural world in her evolving icons.
By focusing her attention on this aspect of her art
and its relationship to her garden sanctuary, we see
the journey in which Kahlo took inspiration from the
natural world around her.



