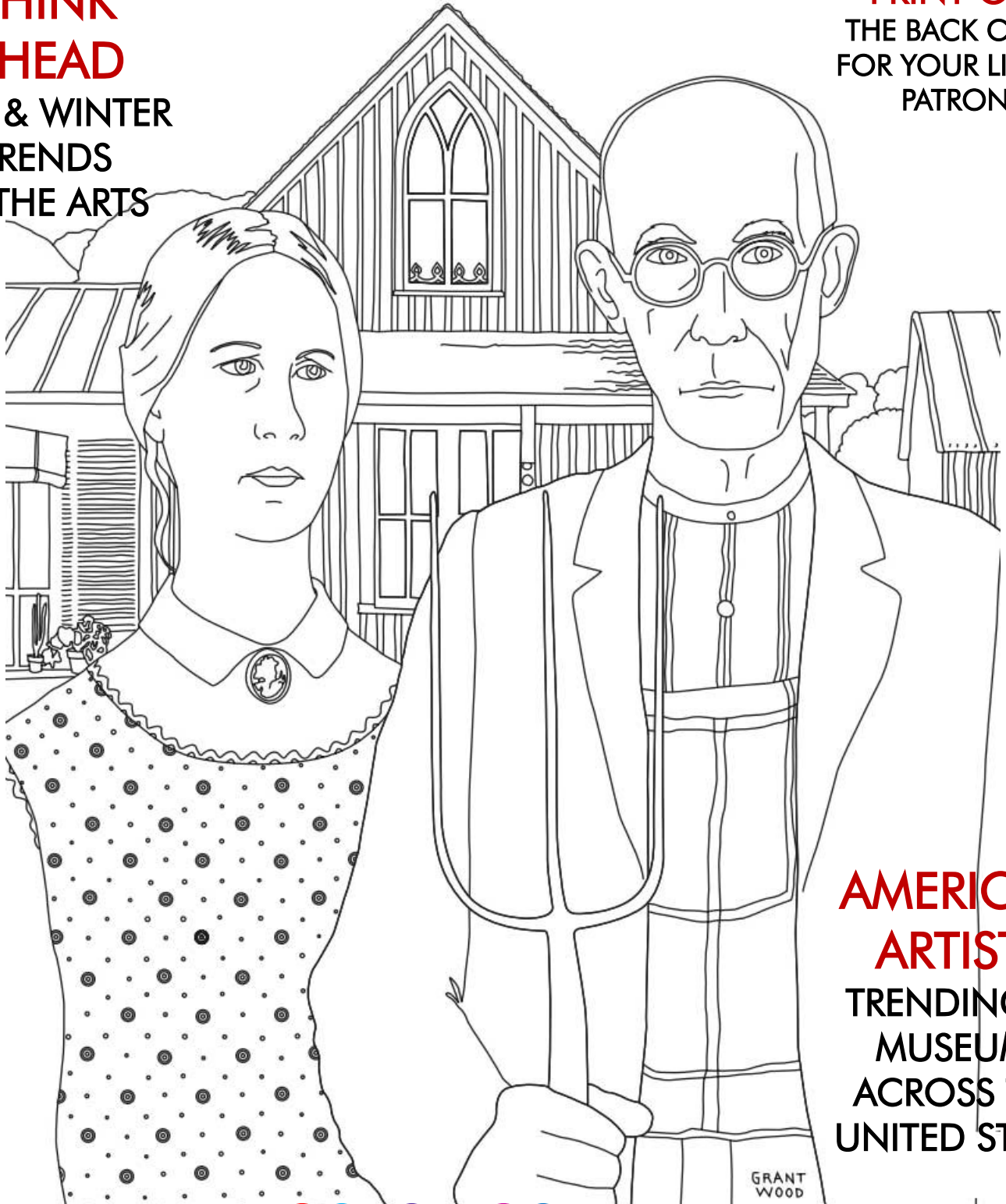




ARTS BRÈVE

**THINK
AHEAD**
FALL & WINTER
TRENDS
IN THE ARTS

PRINT OUT
THE BACK COVER
FOR YOUR LIBRARY
PATRONS



**AMERICAN
ARTISTS**
TRENDING IN
MUSEUMS
ACROSS THE
UNITED STATES

COLOR COVER
GRANT WOOD



Christina's World by Andrew Wyeth, 1948

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COLOR COVER FEATURE



Color Cover: Grant Wood's American Gothic, 1930

American Artist, Grant Wood (1891-1942) was a key figure in the Regionalism art movement, which focused on realistic depictions of rural American life. His most iconic work, American Gothic, famously portrays a farmer and his daughter standing in front of a modest Iowa farmhouse. This painting debuted at the Art Institute of Chicago in 1930, where it won a bronze medal and immediately captured the American imagination.

"All the really good ideas I ever had came to me while I was milking a cow."
-Grant Wood

Cover Source: artprojectforkids.org

WHAT'S TRENDING



Dreaming East– The Indelible Trend in the Arts on the East Coast

As time moves onto the third quarter of 2025, echoes of the American arts continue to be the subject from concert halls to museums in America and even abroad. Gearing up for the 250th Anniversary, the arts scene continues to offer Americana from many angles to reflect the continuous diversity and history of the United States. A great way to bring this ambiance into public library programming is to be aware of the unique offerings that currently are in the atmosphere. Connecting to major arts events like the surrealism exhibit in Philadelphia, Porgy and Bess in Houston, and the National Gallery exhibit in Charlotte this fall allows libraries to offer timely and relevant programming. These national trends provide a rich source for local inspiration, from hosting discussions on the subconscious inspired by surrealism, to workshops on American history and music tied to Porgy and Bess, or art classes emulating the styles of artists featured in the Charlotte exhibit. By aligning with these cultural moments, libraries can transform into dynamic community hubs, attracting new audiences and providing accessible, enriching experiences that reflect and celebrate the broader artistic conversation.

American Inspiration:

American cities are vibrant with art and music reflecting the fabric of American culture.

Below are some events public libraries could use to inspire their fall and winter arts programming.



CHARLOTTE, NC

“Degas, O’Keeffe and Thomas travel to the Queen City...”

Exhibition:
Masterpieces from the
National Gallery of Art
April 2, 2025 - March
22, 2027
Mint Museum



HOUSTON, TX

*“An American duo
creates a famous
folk opera from
black life in
South Carolina...”*

Opera:
The Gershwins’
Porgy and Bess
Oct. 24 - Nov. 15, 2025
Houston Grand Opera



PHILADELPHIA, PA

*“A major orchestra
captures American
stories through
classical music...”*

Classical Music:
Philadelphia Orchestra:
125th Anniversary
Season
September 25, 2025–
May 16, 2026
Marian Anderson Hall



PHILADELPHIA, PA

*“Experience the unreal
at the PMA’s Surrealism
at 100 exhibition
opening in November.”*

Exhibition:
Dreamworld– Surreal-
ism at 100
November 8, 2025–
February 16, 2026
Philadelphia Museum
of Art



MIAMI, FL

*“Technology,
landscape and
feminism collide to
make an intriguing
show...”*

Exhibition:
Miriam Schapiro:
1967–1972
April 17- October 26,
2025
Institute of
Contemporary Art Miami

THINK AHEAD: FALL WINTER 2025-26



Humanity from an artist's perspective

EXHIBITION: John Wilson
Witnessing Humanity
Metropolitan Museum of Art, NYC
September 20, 2025– February 8, 2026

PROGRAM IDEA:

- Host an art talk on black artists including John Wilson

"For over six decades, the American artist John Wilson (1922–2015) made powerful and poetic works that reflected his life as a Black American artist and his ongoing quest for racial, social, and economic justice. Wilson's art reflected and responded to the turbulent times in which he lived. His subjects included racial violence, labor, the writings of Richard Wright, the Civil Rights Movement, street scenes, and intimate images of family life, with a particular focus on fatherhood. Despite the power of his art and the continuing relevance of the themes he explored, Wilson's work has not received the recognition it deserves." -metmuseum.org



A remix in black

EXHIBITION: Kerry James Marshall-
The Histories
Royal Academy, London UK
September 20, 2025 - January 18, 2026

PROGRAM IDEA:

- Host an art talk on Kerry James Marshall

Kerry James Marshall's artwork centers on correcting the historical absence of Black figures in Western art by placing them at the forefront of his large-scale paintings. His figures, often depicted with ultra-dark, chromatic skin, are shown engaging in everyday activities, celebrating Black life, and confronting historical injustices. A library art program about Marshall would be particularly timely and impactful because his current major UK exhibition, "The Histories," includes his monumental work Knowledge and Wonder, which was originally commissioned for the Chicago Public Library and is on loan for the first time.



Autumn on a High Note

PROGRAM IDEAS:

- Opera Talk: Present an opera talk featuring one of the trending operas of the fall season [operatalks.com]
- Present an opera concert for your audience to welcome the opera season

Fall is opera season and what better way to bring your audience into the dramatic world of opera by using an opera talk with a performance or perhaps a complete opera performance? Top trending operas around the United States include Puccini's *La Bohème*, Gershwin's *Porgy & Bess*, Verdi's *Rigoletto*, Mozart's *Don Giovanni*.



Indigenous culture takes front & center

PROGRAM IDEAS:

- Host an art talk on Native American Art in the 19th Century and its reflection on the historical events that occurred in America
- Present an art talk on Native American photography

November is the ideal time for public libraries to present arts programming on Indigenous people in America, as it aligns with National Native American Heritage Month. This offers a meaningful opportunity to honor and celebrate the rich artistic traditions and contemporary expressions of Native American communities. By doing so, libraries can foster greater understanding, appreciation, and respect for Indigenous cultures among their patrons.



Salvador Dali: The Madonna of Port Lligat (1949)

Where dreams and reality collide

EXHIBITION: Sixties Surreal
Whitney Museum, NYC
Sept 24, 2025–Jan 19, 2026

EXHIBITION: Dreamworld– Surrealism at 100
Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia
November 8, 2025–February 16, 2026

PROGRAM IDEAS:

- Present an art talk on Surrealism
- Present a hands on painting class using Surrealism as a topic

Rising from the ashes of World War I, Surrealism sought to liberate the human psyche by tapping into the unconscious mind and dreams. Its lasting legacy continues to be explored in major exhibitions, with the Whitney Museum's "Sixties Surreal" and the Philadelphia Museum of Art's "Dreamworld: Surrealism at 100" showcasing how the movement's radical ideas continue to resonate and inspire new generations of artists.

THINK AHEAD: HOLIDAY SEASON '25 AND THE NEW YEAR



Americana as it was or should be ?

PROGRAM IDEA:

- Present an art talk on Norman Rockwell

Norman Rockwell's iconic paintings captured the idealized essence of small-town America, often through heartwarming scenes of family life. His holiday illustrations, in particular, evoke a sense of nostalgia and tradition, portraying multi-generational gatherings, festive dinners, and the simple joys of the season. Through these works, Rockwell created a timeless visual narrative that celebrated community, connection, and the spirit of American holidays.



Holiday Season Redefined: Home Alone & the Nutcracker

PROGRAM IDEAS:

- Host a Home Alone watch party with discussion before the film
- Host a film talk about holiday films
- Host a ballet or ballet screening of the Nutcracker
- Host a ballet performance of the Nutcracker

The orchestra's influence extends far beyond the classical masterpieces of Mozart and Beethoven, shaping our cultural landscape in profound ways. Its powerful and versatile sound is essential to the magic of holiday traditions, bringing to life the whimsical wonder of Tchaikovsky's The Nutcracker ballet. This same rich musical language creates iconic film scores, like John Williams' timeless soundtrack for Home Alone, making a memorable and emotional interpretation of holiday memories.



Places to go and art to see

PROGRAM IDEA

- Host or create a talk on touring famous art museums for the fall and the holidays

New York City's art world is buzzing with the reopening of two of its most beloved institutions, the Frick Collection and the Studio Museum in Harlem. The beautifully renovated Frick Collection has restored its historic galleries while the Studio Museum's new David Adjaye-designed building will open its doors in November 2025. This holiday season, both museums offer compelling reasons to visit, with the Frick presenting its timeless collection in a refreshed setting and the Studio Museum celebrating Black art and culture in a spectacular new home.



Holiday Season redefined: Guy Lombardo & New Year's Eve

PROGRAM IDEA:

- Host a big band with a discussion on holiday music

Guy Lombardo's iconic rendition of "Auld Lang Syne" made him synonymous with New Year's Eve, as his annual radio and television broadcasts welcomed the new year for nearly half a century. A public library can celebrate this enduring holiday tradition by booking a concert about his music, offering a nostalgic and beloved program that connects generations.



"Should auld acquaintance be forgot, and never brought to mind?"

Singing After Crying

PROGRAM IDEA:

- Opera Talk- Marian Anderson: American Icon in lieu of MLK Day and Black History Month [operatalks.com]

Worried that she would miss an opportunity to lend her voice to MLK's March on Washington, Marian Anderson cried as she was caught in the crowd. It was followed by a soul stirring performance of He's Got the Whole World in His Hands.



Reads & Streams in the Arts

by Tanisha Mitchell

Oftentimes, books and audio-visual materials in the arts aren't at the top of the list for public librarians to see when ordering books from large distributors. Nowadays, public libraries lean towards popular or trending books because their demand is higher. This new list is our quest to present books and albums in the arts that may be trending in the arts world or can be used to create programs for the public. Each item contains the audience that would most likely be interested in using the material. We also outlined different ways to market each item to the public. Enjoy!

Who is Your Audience?

Knowing your residents and how they use your collection can make a huge difference when offering the arts in your collection or in programming. Below are some helpful categories to help you make a better decision when choosing items or introducing items to library patrons.

NOVICE



A novice is a patron who does not know about the arts but is looking for new interests. Items pertaining to novices are for public collections that call for the library to introduce the arts

to these patrons and ignite their interests. They often know much more about popular culture than what's happening in the arts.

EXPLORER



These items are for customers who have some knowledge of the arts and want to learn more. Oftentimes explorers stream music from library streaming services. They may take out music and art biographies and may attend music and art programming at your library.

AFICIONADO



Ordering for aficionados requires knowledge about their habits when consuming the arts. These patrons are aware of the arts through museums, classical music, jazz and more... Oftentimes, these patrons attend music and art programming at your library. Aficionados are professionals in the arts world with thorough knowledge of visual and/or the performing arts.

Classical Music Album Picks



Beethoven for Three: Symphony No. 1 / Op. 70, No. 1 "Ghost" / Op. 11 "Gassenhauer": Yo-Yo Ma, Leonidas Kavakos & Emanuel Ax
 Format: Compact disc
 Release: 7/11/2025
 Label: Sony

Audience:



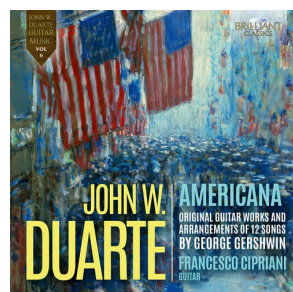
"Ghost, Gassenhauer, and a first symphony: a true Beethoven Milestone."

How to present this to library customers:

Immerse your patrons in the genius of Beethoven with this new release from Emanuel Ax, Leonidas Kavakos, and Yo-Yo Ma, featuring the "Ghost" and "Gassenhauer" trios alongside a reinterpretation of his first symphony. Explore the evolution of Beethoven's revolutionary music by pairing this recording with other works from his early and middle periods available in your digital or physical collection. Beethoven lovers need only apply.

Label Description

Emanuel Ax, Leonidas Kavakos, and Yo-Yo Ma announce the fourth album in their Beethoven for Three series, featuring Symphony No. 1 (Op. 21) and the "Gassenhauer" (Op. 11) and "Ghost" (Op. 70, No. 1) piano trios, three works that span more than a decade of the composer's output. From Beethoven's cheerful "Gassenhauer" trio and the symphony that gave the world its first glimpse of his revolutionary voice, carefully reinterpreted for piano, violin, and cello by Shai Wosner, to the singular "Ghost" trio, this recording marks another milestone in three friends' journey through the marvels of one extraordinary composer.



Duarte: Americana, Original Guitar Works and Arrangements of 12 Songs by Gershwin, Francesco Cipriano (Artist), John Duarte (Composer)
 Format: Compact disc
 Release: 7/4/2025
 Label: Brilliant Classics

Audience:



"Americana in classical music at its best with John Duarte's musical love letter to America"

How to present this to library customers:

Experience the unique musical gift of John W. Duarte, a self-taught composer who seamlessly blended folk, jazz, blues, and musical theatre in his love letter to American music. Showcase the diverse range of the guitar by pairing this recording with other American classical works in your collection, and introduce patrons to the rich tapestry of American composers.

Label Description

John Duarte (1919-2004) was a great admirer of America's musical styles. Three types of music are characteristically American: the folk music of the settlers from the British Isles, jazz, with its African American origins and the music of the American musical theatre. All of these are exemplified in the musical programme of this recording: folk music in Variations on an American Folk Song (Colorado Trail) and Appalachian Dreams, jazz and blues in Sua Cosa and Simply Blues, and music of the theatre in the arrangements of songs by George Gershwin. .



Doppelgänger by Jonas Kaufmann
 Format: Compact disc
 Release: 9/26/2025
 Label: Sony



"Kaufmann's Schumann and Schubert: unveils the artist's journey from Romanticism to the stage."

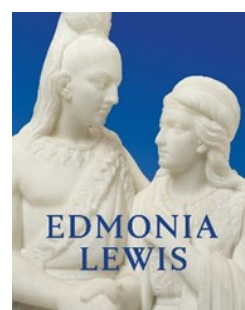
How to present this to library customers:

Bring library patrons into the world of German Romanticism with Jonas Kaufmann's latest album, which masterfully pairs Schumann's profound song cycles with a theatrical interpretation of Schubert's final songs. Enhance the experience for patrons by showcasing this recording alongside other Kaufmann albums in your collection and featuring the poetry of Goethe and other writers who inspired these masterpieces.

Label Description

The celebrated and visually spectacular stage production of Schubert's 'Schwanengesang', Doppelgänger, from New York, directed by Claus Guth. Jonas Kaufmann's latest album brings together two of Schumann's most profound song cycles—Dichterliebe and Kerner-Lieder—performed with exceptional sensitivity and vocal finesse. Accompanied by pianist and long-term collaborator Helmut Deutsch, Kaufmann explores the emotional and poetic nuances of these Romantic masterpieces. These works are complemented by "Doppelgänger", a strikingly original stage adaptation of Schubert's Schwanengesang (Swan Songs), directed by Claus Guth.

Book Picks



Edmonia Lewis Said in Stone by Jeffrey Richmond-Moll and Shawnya L. Harris
 Publisher: University of Chicago Press
 Release: February 2026
 Format: Hardcover
 272 Pages

Audience:



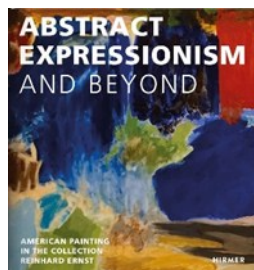
"This book uncovers hidden figure Edmonia Lewis through her art and legacy."

How to present this to library customers:

Feature this landmark retrospective of sculptor Edmonia Lewis to celebrate her groundbreaking work and reintroduce a forgotten figure to a new generation. Create a display that pairs this book with other works in your collection by women artists and sculptors, highlighting their diverse contributions to art history.

Publisher Description

Edmonia Lewis (ca. 1844–1907) broke international, racial, and gender barriers as a talented young artist who traveled to Rome in 1866 to join the leading American sculptors of her generation. She created acclaimed figurative works in marble and achieved great success, but her status as a woman of African American and Indigenous (Mississauga) heritage complicated the critical reception of her oeuvre during her lifetime. Following her death, Lewis's contribution to American sculpture was largely overlooked. Accompanying the first monographic retrospective of Lewis, this lavishly illustrated volume presents images of all of Lewis's known works and shares new discoveries that illuminate her artistic advancements and defiant social commentaries.



Abstract Expressionism—and Beyond American Painting in the Collection Reinhard Ernst
Edited by the Reinhard & Sonja Ernst Stiftung Foundation
 Publisher: University of Chicago Press
 Release: 12/2025
 Format: Hardcover
 (biography)
 270 pages

Audience:



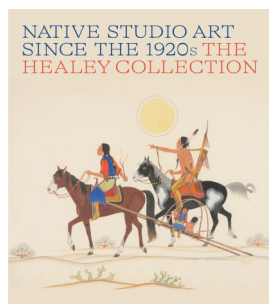
“From Pollock to Schnabel this book traces the evolution of American abstract art.”

How to present this to library customers:

Showcase the rich history of American abstract art with this new catalog, which traces its evolution through seventy years of influential artists and movements. Use this book to anchor a display on abstract art or to prepare for a program or art talk, giving patrons a deeper understanding of this dynamic period in art history.

Publisher Description

From the color field paintings of Helen Frankenthaler to the plate-paintings of Julian Schnabel, this catalog showcases an outstanding variety of postwar art in the United States. Featuring pieces from the Museum Reinhard Ernst in Wiesbaden, a new institution devoted to abstract art, the book charts the evolution of postwar abstraction, offering insight into influential figures as well as groups like the New York School and the Washington Color School. More than one hundred color illustrations reproduce work by forty-five influential artists, including Josef Albers, Adolph Gottlieb, Franz Kline, Willem de Kooning, Lee Krasner, Robert Motherwell, Jackson Pollock, Frank Stella, and Andy Warhol.



Native Studio Art Since the 1920s
The Healey Collection
Edited by Alexander Brier Marr
 Publisher: University of Chicago Press
 Release: 11/2025
 Format: Hardcover
 230 pages / contains illustrations

Audience:



“Native Studio Art charts the rise of Indigenous Modernism”

How to present this to library customers:

This catalog of Native Studio Art offers a stunning look at the revolutionary history of modern Indigenous painters and sculptors. For Native American Heritage Month, create a display that pairs this book with other titles from your collection, showcasing the rich and diverse artistic traditions of Native American cultures.

Publisher Description

This catalog charts the rise of Native American studio art in the twentieth century. Native modern studio art represents a critical yet often overlooked history. The publication sheds light on the remarkable, intergenerational story of modern Indigenous painters and sculptors who first developed then revolutionized the movement for Native American fine art. Native Studio Art Since the 1920s reproduces an outstanding group of works from the William P. Healey Collection at the Saint Louis Art Museum. Across a range of media, the selection includes sixty-three Indigenous artists with a focus on the Western United States.



Opera and the Built Environment
by Laura Vasilyeva
 Publisher: University of Chicago Press
 Release: 11/2025
 Format: Hardcover
 184 pages

Audience:



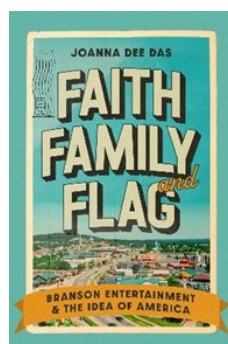
“What a wonderful way to explore the global stage of Italian Opera and how it shaped the world.”

How to present this to library customers:

Delve into the fascinating intersection of music and design with the first book to explore the classic Italian opera house in a global context. This volume will captivate opera buffs and architecture lovers alike by revealing the hidden environmental and social forces that shaped these iconic, red-hued theaters around the world.

Publisher Description

The first book to examine the classic Italian opera house in a global context. In *Opera and the Built Environment*, music scholar Laura Vasilyeva considers the remarkable mass construction of opera houses around the world since the 1800s and the no-less-remarkable bids to standardize the architectural features of their interiors across this vast theatrical infrastructure. Now known as the teatro all’italiana, this style of architecture—made most famous by Milan’s Teatro alla Scala—is characterized by auditoria with tiers of stacked boxes and a dominant red hue.



Faith, Family, and Flag: Branson Entertainment and the Idea of America
By Joanna Dee Das
 Publisher: University of California Press
 Release: 11/11/2025
 Format: Hardcover
 272 Pages

Audience:



“This book is captivating because it uncovers how the wholesome entertainment of Branson, Missouri, became a powerful and subtle force for American conservatism, revealing a surprising connection between family-friendly fun and national politics.”

How to present this to library customers:

To promote *Faith, Family, and Flag*, create a program or display that explores how destinations like Branson cement cultural ideals through music and performance. Encourage patrons to consider how gathering around a shared vision of “wholesome entertainment” helps to define and shape a particular version of America.

Publisher Description

Sons of Britches. The Great American Chuckwagon Dinner Show. The Haygoods. The Grand Jubilee. These are just a couple of the many shows performed in Branson, MO, where the seemingly innocent entertainment fuels American conservatism. Branson, Missouri, the Ozark Mountain mecca of wholesome entertainment, has been home to countless stage shows espousing patriotism and Christianity, welcoming over ten million visitors a year. Some consider it “God’s Country” and others “as close to Hell as anything on Earth.”



Pan, A Novel, by Michael Clune
Publisher: Penguin Press
Release: 7/22/2025
Format: Paperback/ Hardcover
336 pages

Audience:



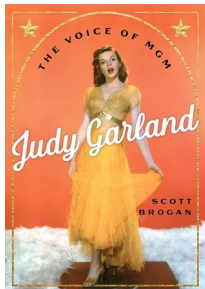
“A novel where art, panic, and gods collide.”

How to present this to library customers:

Showcase *Pan*, a captivating novel that explores a teenager's struggle with anxiety and identity through the lens of art and classical mythology. Engage patrons by creating a display that pairs this book with titles on Greek myths, classical composers like Bach, and poets such as Oscar Wilde and Charles Baudelaire, offering a rich literary experience.

Publisher Description

Nicholas is fifteen when he forgets how to breathe. He had plenty of reason to feel unstable already: He's been living with his dad in the bleak Chicago suburbs since his Russian-born mom kicked him out. Then one day in geometry class, Nicholas suddenly realizes that his hands are objects. The doctor says it's just panic, but Nicholas suspects that his real problem might not be a psychiatric one: maybe the Greek god Pan is trapped inside his body. As his paradigm for his own consciousness crumbles, Nicholas; his best friend, Ty; and his maybe-girlfriend, Sarah, hunt for answers why—in Oscar Wilde and in Charles Baudelaire, in rock and roll and in Bach, and in the mysterious, drugged-out Barn, where their classmate Tod's charismatic older brother Ian leads the high schoolers in rituals that might end up breaking more than just the law.



Judy Garland: The Voice of MGM by Scott Brogan (Author)
Publisher: Lyons Press
Release: 6/18/2025
Format: Hardcover
416 pages

Audience:



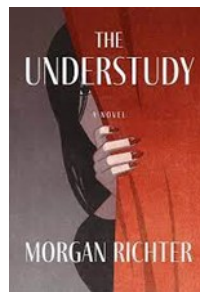
“An MGM legend's career is uncovered with great details.”

How to present this to library customers:

This biography on American icon, Judy Garland can make a great program exploring Judy Garland through this book. Little known facts about the famous actress can intrigue the audience to read the biography.

Publisher Description

More than 100 years after her birth, Judy Garland remains the gold standard by which all movie musical leading ladies are judged. She is revered and celebrated by current stars, directors, songwriters, and others in the entertainment industry. She also has a fan base that is as large as that of Marilyn Monroe or James Dean. Her image, especially “Dorothy” in *The Wizard of Oz* (1939), is an instantly recognized icon. Garland really was the voice of MGM during her tenure and after. No documentary about any aspect of the history of the MGM Studios is complete without Garland's voice on the soundtrack. When people think of MGM Musicals, they think of Garland along with Gene Kelly and Fred Astaire. She's the only female in that exalted “top three.”



The Understudy, A Novel by Morgan Richter
Publisher: Knopf Publications
Release: 8/5/ 2025
Format: Hardcover
336 pages

Audience:



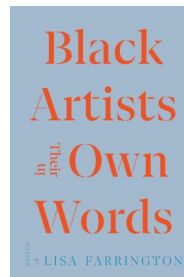
“The Understudy unveils the hidden world of opera, one scandal at a time ...”

How to present this to library customers:

Entice your patrons with *The Understudy*, a gripping novel that pulls back the curtain on the cutthroat world of opera, where a lead singer's rise to fame is threatened by a ruthless understudy. Create a display featuring this book alongside other theatrical suspense novels in your collection to thrill readers who love high-stakes drama and dark secrets.

Publisher Description

An opera singer uncovers the dark secrets of her cruel and alluring understudy when a murder disrupts her disciplined world. After years of rigorous instruction and ensemble work, Kit finally gets her big break when she's hired to play the lead role in a new opera based on the 1960s cult classic film *Barbarella*. Entrusted with playing the beautiful and seductive titular role, Kit is on her way to the top of the highly competitive world of New York City opera. But then she walks into rehearsal and meets her understudy. Stunning, suggestive, and bursting with the unbridled confidence of a novice, Yolanda is physically everything *Barbarella* is meant to be. At first, Kit isn't threatened by the neophyte, until Yolanda reveals that she wants the role—and will do anything to get it.



Black Artists in Their Own Words by Lisa E. Farrington (Editor)
Publisher: University of California Press
Release: 9/2025
Format: Hardcover/ Paperback
416 Pages, contains illustrations

Audience:



“A timely overview of the importance of art through the invaluable experiences of black artists.”

How to present this to library customers:

This timely book can be paired with content featuring headline black artists from the past and present like Jacob Lawrence, John Wilson and Amy Sherald. Patrons interested in art will appreciate this book.

Publisher Description

The first book to center Black artists' voices on Black aesthetics, revealing a century of evolving relationships to race, identity, and art. What is Black art? No one has thought harder about that question than Black artists, yet their perspectives have been largely ignored. Instead, their stories have been told by intellectuals like W. E. B. Du Bois and Alain Locke, who defined “a school” of Black art in the early twentieth century. For the first time, *Black Artists in Their Own Words* offers an insightful corrective.



Captivating Patrons: How Public Libraries Can Use Streaming and Programming to Boost Engagement

by Tanisha Mitchell

After years of building a core audience for arts-related programs in libraries, Tanisha explains the valuable lessons she learned as a program coordinator and a program presenter.

Streaming databases have become a popular tool for libraries to foster a connection between their patrons by offering music, audiobooks, and video. While the offerings seem tempting to try and purchase, librarians must not only consider if patrons would use the resource but also wonder if patrons will return to continue to use the resource. So far, library patrons check out books and audiobooks on digital platforms because the books are easily accessible when the book they want is checked out. While there are free book platforms for e-books and audiobooks, these free platforms may not offer the same options a library patron can get from a digital collection offered by their local library. When it comes to music and video, there's another perspective. Since there are commercially available platforms like YouTube or Spotify, patrons think they already have free or low-cost options to stream music and watch videos. Where does this leave the public library? Public librarians must ask themselves: why would a patron use this over YouTube? This question is exactly where the marketing begins. Patrons must be encouraged to use library streaming platforms through engagement.

Programming and marketing extensions from programming can offer ways to keep these streaming options as an option as much as mainstream streaming platforms.

The following bullet points are specific ways to engage patrons with library streaming databases. While some of these options are readily available, some options need to be cleared with the streaming company before offering the full product to the public for programming.

Virtual Concerts, Performances & Screenings:

Libraries can host live and/or pre-recorded concerts featuring local musicians, bands, or even national acts. This can be a great way to support local artists and provide cultural entertainment to the community, especially for those who may not be able to attend in-person events. Q & A sessions are another great way to continue the conversation about the performance and the streaming resource.

Film and Documentary Screenings:

Libraries can use their streaming services to host virtual movie nights, discussion groups, or documentary series. This provides a platform for community members to engage with thought-provoking content and discuss a variety of topics, from social justice to environmental issues. Libraries can choose documentaries that reflect the time of the year, a particular artist or icon or even current events. Film festivals can be an alternative for a series of programs with various films about a similar topic

Create a Library Playlist:

Libraries can create playlists according to current events to send to their patrons via email blasts. Let's say a popular artist announces a new album- this announcement is a great opportunity for libraries to connect that with previous albums by the same artist or related artists. The playlist can distribute through bookmarks, fliers, social media, websites and email blasts.

Music Appreciation and Education:

Ever partnered with the local school music department? Libraries can use their music streaming platforms to create playlists for music appreciation classes, genre deep dives, or artist spotlights. They could also partner with local music teachers to offer virtual lessons or workshops on music theory or instrument basics. The classes can be offered in a hybrid setting so those who cannot attend in person can see what the class entails before committing to registering for the class.

Literacy and Storytelling Programs:

Libraries can use video streaming to enhance their storytelling programs for children. While they can create videos of librarians reading books aloud, or produce animated shorts based on popular children's stories, they can encourage audiobooks or any kind of database that parents can use at home. Streaming story time videos can be curated by choosing videos with similar educational themes, characters or even stories for certain times of the day. This can help make reading more engaging and accessible, especially for younger audiences.

By combining library streaming resources with engaging programming, librarians can transform these platforms from underutilized databases into dynamic community hubs. These programs—such as virtual concerts, film screenings, and curated playlists—not only highlight the value of library offerings but also create a compelling reason for patrons to return. This approach builds a stronger connection between the library and its community, proving that library streaming is more than just a resource; it's a powerful tool for engagement and lifelong learning.

Think Way Ahead: Spring 2026



Georges Seurat's Sunday on La Grande Jatte (1884)

Late Winter-Spring Holidays, Occurrences & Moments in the Arts

250th Anniversary of America

Chinese New Year (Feb. 17– Mar. 3, 2026)

Women's History Month (March)

St. Patrick's Day (March 17)

Academy Awards (Oscars)

Spring Solstice (March 20 2026)

Jazz Awareness Month (April)

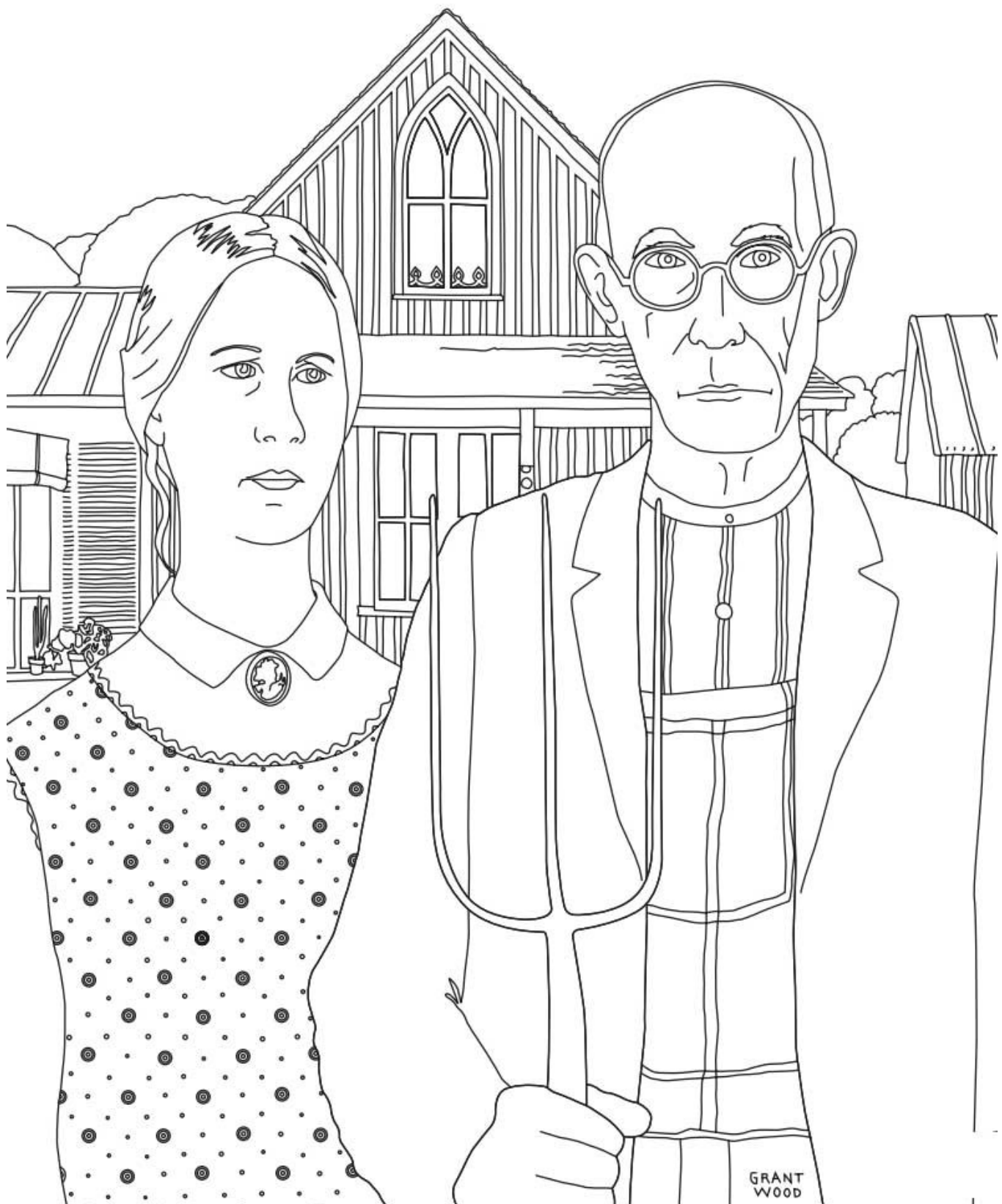
Poetry Month (April)

Shakespeare's Birthday (April)

Mother's Day

Memorial Day (May)

Father's Day (June)



Color Cover: Grant Wood's American Gothic, 1930

WHERE TO SEE GRANT WOOD'S ART IN THE UNITED STATES

Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City

Cincinnati Art Museum in Cincinnati, OH

Amon Carter Museum of American Art in Fort Worth, TX

New Britain Museum of American Art in New Britain, CT

Cleveland Museum of Art in Cleveland, OH