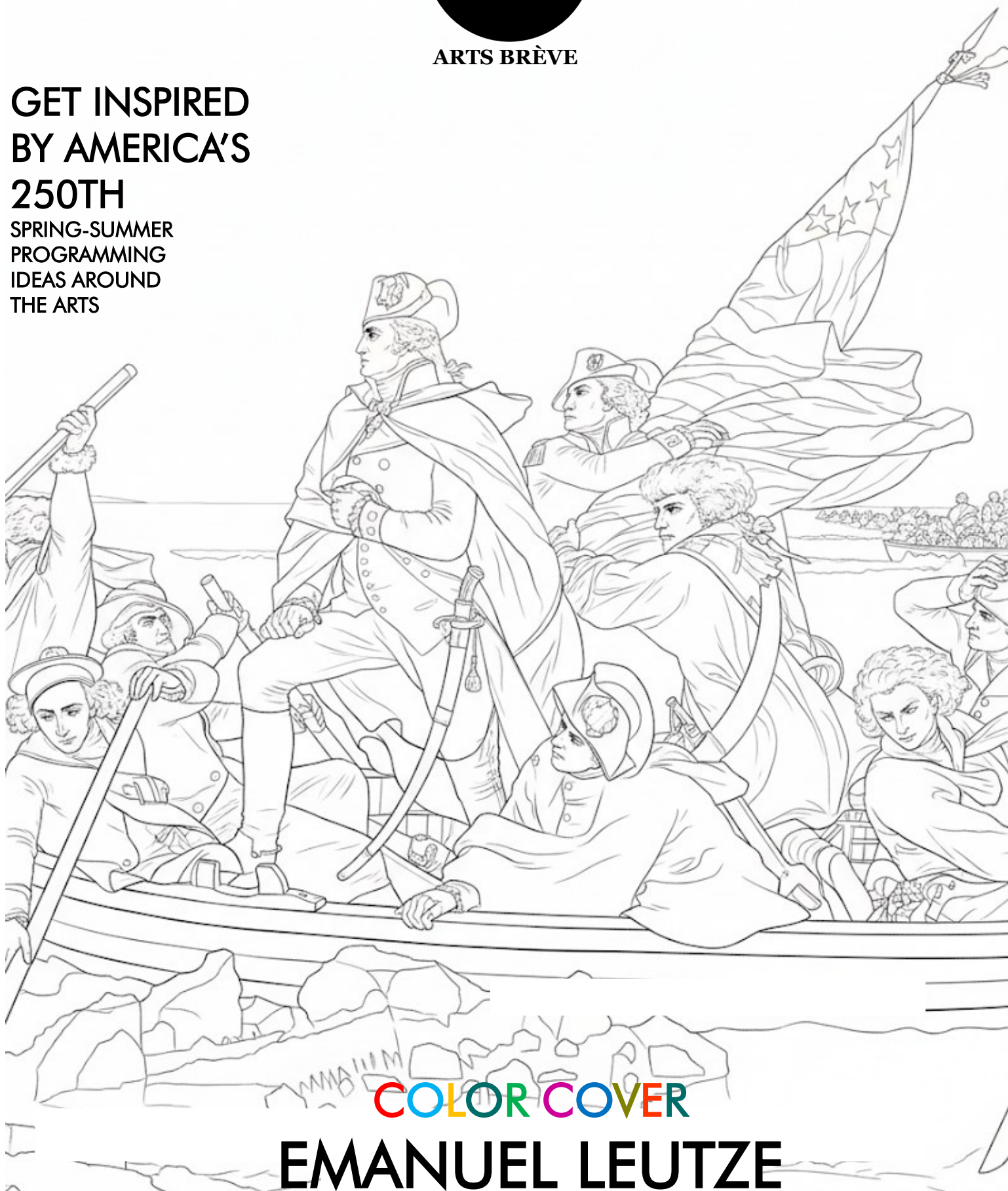




ARTS BRÈVE

GET INSPIRED BY AMERICA'S 250TH

SPRING-SUMMER
PROGRAMMING
IDEAS AROUND
THE ARTS



COLOR COVER

EMANUEL LEUTZE



George Washington Carver Crossing the Delaware: Page from an American History Textbook, by Robert Colescott, 1975

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Beyond Summer Reading:
Transforming Your Library

COLOR COVER FEATURE



Color Cover: Emanuel Leutze's Washington Crossing the Delaware, 1851

Emanuel Leutze's (1816-1868) painting, "Washington Crossing the Delaware," is significant as it captures a pivotal moment of resolve and bravery during the American Revolutionary War. Painted in 1851, it's a powerful reworking of a historical event that has become a symbol of patriotism and American resilience. For the 250th anniversary of the United States, the painting serves as a reminder of the courage and sacrifice required to establish the nation, inspiring reflection on the foundational principles of liberty and independence.

"No people can be bound to acknowledge and adore the invisible hand which conducts the affairs of men more than the People of the United States." -George Washington



More than 1776



Celebrate America's 250th with Opera Talks featuring
American Icons or Themes

operatalks.com/250th

NATIONAL TRENDS

The Spring –Summer 2026 Arts Season: Leading American arts institutions like Carnegie Hall and the Museum of the American Revolution will mark the nation's 250th anniversary in the spring and summer of 2026 with a wide range of celebratory programming. This commemoration of America's 250th anniversary, is a national, multi-faceted effort involving a wide range of institutions beyond museums. The U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission, the official body charged by Congress with leading the commemoration, is partnering with federal agencies, educational institutions, historical societies, and private sector organizations. This theme and its various events is a great way to inspire excellent programming for your audience.

ARTS EVENTS UNVEILING THE POWER OF AMERICAN CULTURE AROUND SELECTED CITIES



PHILADELPHIA, PA

*"A groundbreaking exhibit
commemorating America's
250th..."*

Exhibition:

The Declaration's Journey
October 18, 2025- January 3,
2027

**Museum of the
American Revolution**



BOSTON, MA

*"America's complexities
through paintings and
drawings..."*

Exhibition:

The Banner Project:
Mark Thomas Gibson
June 25, 2025–June 22, 2026
MFA Boston



CHARLOTTE, NC

*"A powerful journey of the
resilience of indigenous
people across America..."*

Exhibition:

Native American Art
ONGOING
Mint Museum



NEW YORK CITY, NY

*"A celebration of America's
musical tapestry through
diverse genres..."*

Concerts:

United in Sound
January–July, 2026
Carnegie Hall



BALTIMORE, MD

*"The poetic existence of
everyday Black Americans"*

Exhibition:

American Sublime by
Amy Sherald
November, 2 2025– April 5, 2026
Baltimore Museum of Art



LOS ANGELES, CA

*"An homage to legendary
American choreographers..."*

Ballet:

NYC Ballet on Tour
June 24-28, 2026
Dorothy Chandler Pavilion
The Music Center

YOUR ARTS WORLD: THINK AHEAD TO SPRING-SUMMER 2026



Parisian vibrance echoes spring through art and opera

PROGRAM IDEA:

Art talk on Impressionism

Painting activity using Impressionism as a topic

Opera Talk on Verdi's *La Traviata*

Spring in Paris is an excellent excursion for the audience to appreciate the color and feeling of renewal after winter. Immerse your audience in our spring arts programming, where the vibrant echoes of Parisian culture are bound by the luminous brushstrokes of Impressionism and the tragic, passionate storyline of *La Traviata*.



Jazz- the nation's original soundtrack is right on time for the 250th

PROGRAM IDEA:

Music talk on Jazz history or Jazz Icons

Host a Jazz concert

Jazz Awareness Month, celebrated every April, offers a dynamic and accessible way to explore the uniquely American art form of jazz—the nation's original soundtrack—highlighting its deep cultural and historical significance as a major contribution to the 250th anniversary of the United States.



Raphael's stunning collection of masterpieces unveils at the Met this spring

EXHIBITION: Raphael: Sublime Poetry
Metropolitan Museum of Art, NYC
March 29–June 28, 2026

PROGRAM IDEA:

Host an art talk on Raphael's life and art

Experience the genius of the High Renaissance as the Raphael exhibit, a stunning collection of masterpieces, unveils its magnificence at the Met this spring.

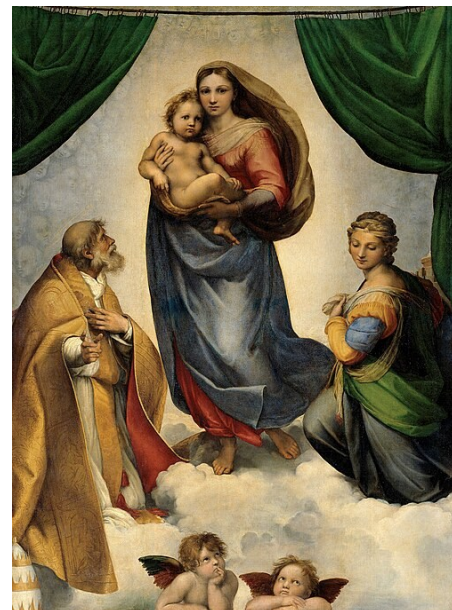


A dramatic exploration of cross-cultural encounters, Eastern identity, and the enduring power of love...

PROGRAM IDEA:

Opera talk on Puccini's *Madama Butterfly* and/or *Turandot*

Maximize your May programming for AAPI Heritage Month by diving into an opera talk on *Madama Butterfly* or *Turandot*, whose narratives provide a timely, dramatic exploration of cross-cultural encounters, Eastern identity, and the enduring power of love and sacrifice.



The Bard's blooming verses and the revitalizing power of verse fills April's air...

PROGRAM IDEA:

Opera talk on Shakespeare in opera

Poetry writing session

Host a program on Shakespeare's life and works

April is the perfect time to celebrate Shakespeare and poetry as the arrival of spring mirrors the Bard's blooming verses and the revitalizing power of verse, culminating with National Poetry Month and Shakespeare's birthday.



Soundtrack of a Nation: Patriotic Music and the American Journey

PROGRAM IDEA:

Host a music talk exploring the history behind America's patriotic tunes

"Hymns of War and Peace": A live performance and lecture series tracing patriotic music's role in American military conflicts.

The evolution of American patriotic music, from the battlefields that inspired "The Star-Spangled Banner" to the satirical origins of "Yankee Doodle," offers a rich, often surprising, narrative that mirrors the nation's 250-year journey. A programming series could explore how these iconic tunes have been adapted, challenged, and reinterpreted across generations, offering a unique sonic lens on American identity, conflict, and celebration.

An honest, multi-perspectival survey of American art from 1900 to the 1980s...

EXHIBITION: Untitled (America)
Whitney Museum, NYC
ONGOING

PROGRAM IDEA:

Art talk on American artists featured in this exhibit like Hopper, O'Keeffe

The Whitney Museum's "Untitled" (America) exhibit connects to America's 250th anniversary by presenting an honest, multi-perspectival survey of American art from 1900 to the 1980s, allowing visitors to explore the complex, evolving, and sometimes contradictory collective psyche and identity of the nation over a pivotal eighty-year period.



American architecture standing as a tangible and powerful temple of history...

PROGRAM IDEA:
Art talk on famous American monuments & architecture

From Independence Hall's founding principles to the solemn grandeur of the Lincoln Memorial and Vietnam Veterans Memorial, American architecture stands as a tangible and powerful "temple of our history," providing a physical space to commemorate the sacrifices of Memorial Day and reflect on the enduring story of America's 250 years.

Visual artists whose work boldly capture the spectrum of the African American experience...

EXHIBITION: American Sublime by Amy Sherald
Baltimore Museum of Art
November, 2 2025– April 5, 2026

PROGRAM IDEA:

Art talk on black artists

Concert or music talk on Black classical performers or composers

To fully prepare for Juneteenth, create programming to spotlight the profound impact of Black visual artists whose work boldly captures the spectrum of the African American experience—from historical struggle and resilience to celebration and contemporary freedom—creating a powerful dialogue that resonates deeply with the holiday's meaning.



A crescendo of patriotism before the 4th of July begins...

PROGRAM IDEA:

Host a concert performance that includes America's national anthem and other patriotic tunes

Imagine a pre-Fourth of July concert where a live band electrifies the crowd with iconic American anthems like "Yankee Doodle," "The Star-Spangled Banner," and "America the Beautiful," all woven together with compelling historical and cultural context between each powerful rendition, creating a stirring and educational crescendo of patriotism before the holiday even begins.



Trace the foundational moments of the nation through famous art...

PROGRAM IDEA:

Art talk on famous paintings depicting pivotal moments in American history

Trace the foundational moments of the nation through our art talk, where iconic depictions like the Declaration of Independence and Washington Crossing the Delaware transform into vivid visual narratives, making the stories of America's founding tangibly relevant for the 250th anniversary celebration.





Reads & Streams



Reads & Streams in the Arts

by the Arts Brève Team

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



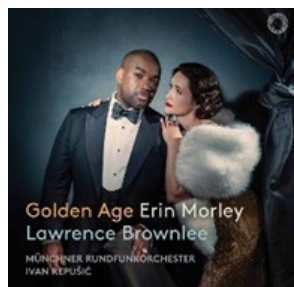
These items are for customers who have some knowledge of the arts and want to learn more. Oftentimes explorers stream music from library streaming services. They may take out music and art biographies and may attend music and art programming at your library.

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



Golden Age by Erin Morley, Lawrence Brownlee, Münchner Rundfunkorchester, Ivan Repušić
Format: Compact disc
Release: 10-10-2025
Label: Pentatone

Audience:



“Two of today’s most exciting voices in the bel canto repertoire, unite for a mesmerizing album set to release before they appear alongside award winning actor, Sandra Oh in Donizetti’s La Fille du Régiment at the Metropolitan Opera.”

How to present this to library customers:

Pentatone’s new release is a perfect centerpiece for a fall arts season display or digital playlist. Featuring the captivating voices, this album celebrates the bel canto tradition with music by legendary composers. Create interest by highlighting the duo’s appearances at the Met, alongside other albums featuring today’s artists, to draw opera lovers and those new to the genre into the library and to this exquisite recording.

Label Description

This captivating new release from PENTATONE celebrates the glittering world of 19th-century opera and the timeless beauty of the golden age of bel canto. Featuring music by Gaetano Donizetti, Gioacchino Rossini, Georges Bizet, Léo Delibes, and Giuseppe Verdi, the album showcases soprano Erin Morley and tenor Lawrence Brownlee—two of today’s most exciting voices—joined by the Münchner Rundfunkorchester under the baton of conductor Ivan Repušić. Together, they bring fresh brilliance to the French and Italian repertoire with performances that balance vocal agility, lyrical finesse, and emotional power.



Piano Book 2 by Lang Lang
Format: Compact disc
Release: 10-17-2025
Label: Deutsche Grammophone

Audience:



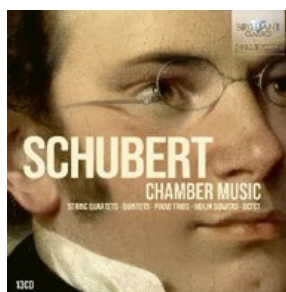
“Lang Lang’s Piano Book 2 combines a broad appeal, featuring a rich blend of classical masterpieces and popular themes from film, anime, and video games, making it highly accessible to a diverse range of patrons...”

How to present this to library customers:

For library displays and listening stations, promote Lang Lang’s Piano Book 2 by creating a “Pianist Showcase” that features his acclaimed past albums like Piano Book, The Disney Book, and Goldberg Variations. Alternatively, a “Modern Piano Masters” playlist could pair his new album with works by other popular contemporary pianists like Yuja Wang, Daniil Trifonov, or Igor Levit, highlighting the diverse and vibrant world of classical piano today.

Label Description

This new album continues to build the brand Piano Book, following the unprecedented success of the original released in 2019. A collection of the most popular short pieces for piano known, taught and played by players and piano lovers of all ages everywhere. Including iconic classical pieces, works by contemporary composers including soundtracks, gaming and anime, as well as unique arrangements.



Schubert: Chamber Music [Box Set]
Diogenes Quartet, Aapo Hakkinen, Klavier Trio Amsterdam
Format: Compact disc
Release: 11/7/2025
Label: Brilliant Classics

Audience:



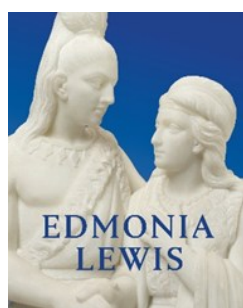
“Schubert’s chamber music, a cornerstone of the Western classical canon, offers patrons a journey into the composer’s profound lyrical genius...”

How to present this to library customers:

Create a display that pairs this album with the literary works that inspired Schubert, such as poems by Goethe and Schiller, or a dedicated listening station that features Schubert alongside his contemporaries like Beethoven and Mendelssohn. Highlighting the interdisciplinary connections between music and literature or showcasing his place within the Romantic era will draw in patrons with diverse interests.

Label Description

Franz Schubert’s chamber music occupies a vital place in the Western classical canon, demonstrating both his lyrical genius and emotional depth. Though he is widely known for his lieder and symphonies, his chamber works represent some of the most profound and innovative compositions of the early Romantic era. The String Quintet in C major, D. 956, written just weeks before Schubert’s death in 1828, stands as one of the towering achievements in chamber music. Scored for two cellos instead of the more common two violas, the work is known for its rich, warm textures and emotional contrasts.



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.”

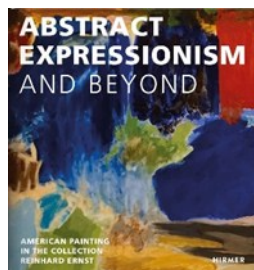
How to present this to library customers:

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.

Book Picks



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:



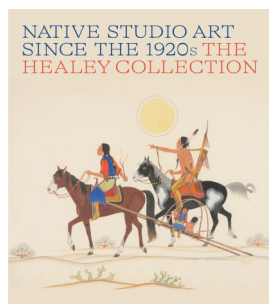
“From Pollock to Schnabel this book traces the evolution of American abstract art.”

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:



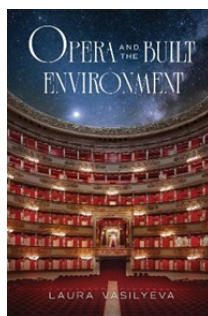
“Native Studio Art charts the rise of Indigenous Modernism”

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:



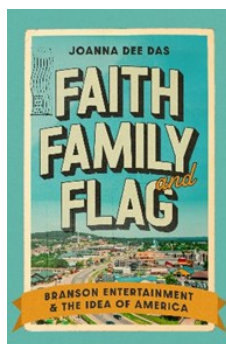
“What a wonderful way to explore the global stage of Italian Opera and how it shaped the world.”

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.”



Mrs Kauffman and Madame Le Brun: The Extraordinary Entwined Lives of Two Eighteenth-Century Painters by Franny Moyle
 Publisher: Bloomsbury
 Release: 1/13/2026
 Format: Paperback/ Hardcover
 496 pages
 Audience:



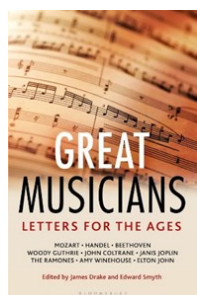
“As trailblazers in a male-dominated world, Kauffman and Le Brun not only achieved unparalleled success and influence but also reimagined the role of women on canvas and in society...”

How to present this to library customers:

This book would appeal to readers interested in art history, feminist history, and biographical narratives. It offers a fresh perspective on the 18th century, highlighting two forgotten artists who were pivotal figures in a male-dominated world. Market this book in a display titled *“Trailblazers of the Art World,”* showcasing the book alongside other works on women in art or historical biographies of influential women.

Publisher Description

This book would appeal to readers interested in art history, feminist history, and biographical narratives. It offers a fresh perspective on the 18th century, highlighting two forgotten artists who were pivotal figures in a male-dominated world. Market this book in a display titled *“Trailblazers of the Art World,”* showcasing the book alongside other works on women in art or historical biographies of influential women.



Letters for the Ages Great Musicians by James Drake (Anthology Editor), Edward Smyth (Anthology Editor)
 Publisher: Bloomsbury
 Release: 11/25/2025
 Format: Hardcover
 288 pages
 Audience:



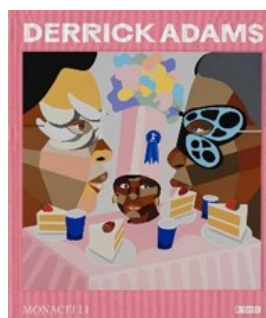
“This book would capture the attention of musicians and music novices alike because it offers a unique, intimate glimpse into the lives and minds of great musicians through their own words, making their art and humanity more accessible and relatable to all.”

How to present this to library customers:

This book would appeal to a broad audience, from dedicated classical music scholars to casual listeners and pop culture enthusiasts, as it offers an intimate, behind-the-scenes look at the human side of musical genius across centuries and genres. The anthology's range from classical to contemporary would also make it a perfect topic for a multi-genre book club or a themed listening event, encouraging discussion and discovery.

Publisher Description

A collection of letters written through the ages from musicians of all genres, from Mozart to Elton John. For tens of thousands of years, across various civilisations, our species has been creating music. But what is behind the human fascination with music? This new volume in the Letters for the Ages series explores that question through the personal correspondence of history's most brilliant musical talent, ranging from Hildegaard of Bingen to Amy Winehouse.



Derrick Adams Essays by Hallie Ringle, Salamishah Tillet, and Dexter Wimberly, and an interview by Sandra Jackson-Dumont
 Publisher: Monacelli Press
 Release: 10/22/ 2025
 Format: Hardcover
 248 pages
 Audience:



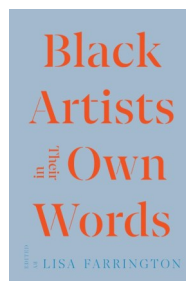
“Derrick Adams is a pivotal figure in today's art canon because his work, which celebrates Black joy and leisure through a vibrant, multidisciplinary practice, has been so impactful it has been incorporated into the plot of a hit TV show like Empire .”

How to present this to library customers:

Highlight this book in library displays and reading lists focusing on contemporary art and Black artists, positioning Derrick Adams alongside celebrated figures like Kerry James Marshall and Amy Sherald. By doing so, you can attract art enthusiasts and general readers alike by showcasing how his vibrant, multidisciplinary work has influenced popular culture and redefined narratives of Black life and leisure.

Publisher Description

The highly anticipated first monograph on one of the most celebrated American contemporary artists. Through portraits, social scenes, photographs, sculptures, and immersive installations, Derrick Adams has developed an artistic practice that joyfully visualizes modern Black American life. Equally informed by popular culture as he is by the history of modern art, Adams's work brings the everyday experiences of Black Americans to the forefront, capturing fashionable moments of joy, resilience, and celebration.



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.



Beyond Summer Reading: Transforming Your Library into a Summer Festival Destination

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.

Summer presents a unique scheduling dilemma for programming librarians: while many families travel, local attendees—including working families, local teens, and staycationers—are looking for high-quality, accessible entertainment. The solution is to redefine the library's role, moving past the passive, incentive-based Summer Reading Program (SRP) to become a vibrant, community-wide "Summer Destination."

This shift means embracing the excitement of large-scale public events that capitalize on good weather and community spirit. Think bigger than a weekly story time. Imagine an all-ages Library Lit Fest, featuring local authors, interactive workshops, and a culminating outdoor concert. Host a weekly "Books & Brews" or "Pages & Popsicles" series right on the front lawn, where reading-related trivia, plein air painting, or hands-on making activities lead into a local band performance. These events are not just about reading; they are about using the library as a venue for cultural and social experiences.

The secret to exploiting the "people are away" dilemma is focusing all marketing energy on the steadfast local population. These residents appreciate consistency and proximity. By hosting festivals and concert series, you are not competing with vacation plans; you are offering an essential, non-traveling alternative.

Incorporating reading need not be forced: a festival stage becomes a platform for a youth poetry slam, a concert interlude features a librarian-curated "Summer Soundtrack" booklist, or an outdoor film screening is preceded by a short discussion of the book it's based on.

These destination programs generate buzz, attract non-traditional library users, and solidify your library as the heart of summer life for everyone who calls your town home year-round. They transform the library into a place people choose to go, not just a place they use to check out books.

Research Focus for Destination Programming

1. Experiential & Themed Series

This area focuses on moving beyond the standard library format and utilizing your entire property and local environment.

- **Outdoor Concerts and Performances:** Don't just book a band; create a series. Research local bands, solo acoustic acts, or community theater groups that would appeal to your core local audience. Investigate how other libraries or parks host events like "Music on the Lawn" or "Outdoor Film Festival" series, including successful models for audience comfort (shading, seating, bug control).

- **"Library Takeover" Festival Models:** Look for case studies of libraries that transform their grounds for a single, large-scale event (e.g., a "Maker Festival," a "Cultural Heritage Fair," or a **"Summer Solstice Celebration"**). This goes beyond programming and focuses on ambiance, wayfinding, and transforming spaces (like a parking lot into a marketplace).

Integrating Local Food Vendors (If permitted): Partnering with food trucks or local restaurants is a major draw. Research the specific health and business permits required for third-party food vendors on public property. Explore options for low-cost refreshments the library can provide, like a **"Popsicles & Storytime"** hour, or setting up a designated picnic area.

2. Reading Integration

The goal is to weave literacy into the excitement without making it feel like homework.

- **"One Book, One Community" Summer Adaptation:** Instead of a traditional book club, structure a large summer event around a single, high-interest book or graphic novel. Host a **"Book-to-Activity Challenge"** (e.g., if the book involves gardening, host a seed-starting workshop). The event is the draw; the book is the theme.

- **Literature as Performance:** Research spoken-word artists, local poets, or theatrical groups who can perform excerpts of classic or contemporary literature. This turns reading into a dynamic, social spectacle. Consider hosting a **Youth or Adult Poetry Slam** with a librarian as the MC and a local poet as a judge.

Curated Book-to-Theme Lists: Develop short, engaging booklists that directly tie into your non-reading events. For a Latin Jazz concert, hand out a list of "5 Memoirs & 5 Novels to Read with a Salsa Beat." Make the list a collectible bookmark or magnet—a tangible take-away that reinforces the reading connection.

3. Partnerships & Funding

Large-scale events require more resources; partners are key to managing costs and spreading the workload.

- **Identifying Funding Streams:** Research local government cultural councils, community development block grants (CDBG), and private foundations that specifically fund arts and culture events.
- **Corporate Sponsorship:** Look for local businesses (banks, realtors, supermarkets) whose marketing goals align with community presence. A simple request might be to sponsor the **cost of the outdoor stage** or provide free promotional items for attendees. Be prepared to offer logo placement on banners and flyers.

Collaborative Events: Partner with a local non-library entity (e.g., a school district, a museum, a parks department) to co-host an event. This shares the logistical burden, increases your combined marketing reach, and justifies a larger budget.

4. Logistics & Community Buy-in

These elements ensure your events are safe, successful, and well-attended.

- **Permits and Public Safety:** Contact your town or city's building and recreation departments early. You will need clear guidance on fire code for capacity, noise ordinances for concerts, and liability insurance for public events. If you're using a park, you'll need a formal use permit.
- **Audience Analysis and Timing:** Use your library's circulation data to identify which local areas are *not* traveling heavily in the summer. Schedule your biggest events on weekday evenings or weekend times that won't conflict with regional sports leagues or major city-wide events.

Volunteer Mobilization: Large events require many hands. Create specific, high-visibility roles for volunteers—like **"Festival Ambassadors"** or **"Event Safety Crew"**—to attract organized and motivated community members. A robust volunteer program is essential for scalability.



Think Way Ahead: Fall 2026 Events for planning

Classical Music Month (September)

Hispanic Heritage Month
(September 15-October 15)

Italian Heritage Month (October)

National Arts & Humanities Month (October)

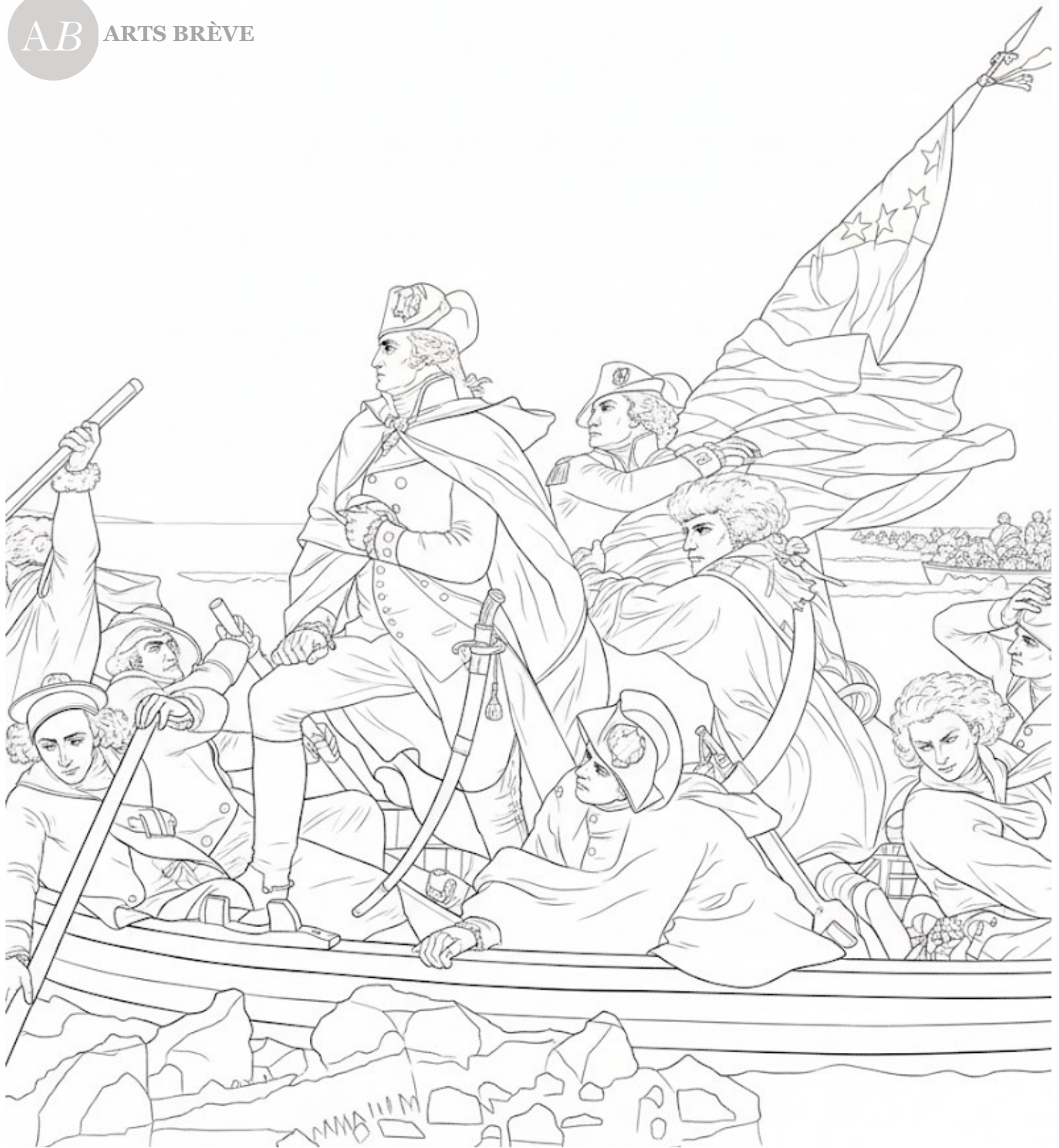
International Artists Day (October 25)

World Opera Day (October 25)

Halloween (October 31)

World Ballet Day (November 2)

Indigenous Heritage Month (November)



Color Cover: Emanuel Leutze's Washington Crossing the Delaware, 1851

Emanuel Leutze's (1816-1868) painting, "Washington Crossing the Delaware," is significant as it captures a pivotal moment of resolve and bravery during the American Revolutionary War. Painted in 1851, it's a powerful reworking of a historical event that has become a symbol of patriotism and American resilience. For the 250th anniversary of the United States, the painting serves as a reminder of the courage and sacrifice required to establish the nation, inspiring reflection on the foundational principles of liberty and independence.

"No people can be bound to acknowledge and adore the invisible hand which conducts the affairs of men more than the People of the United States." -George Washington