NOVELS

Synopsis: One of the earliest Jewish religious volumes to be illuminated with images, the Sarajevo
Haggadah survived centuries of purges and wars thanks to people of all faiths who risked their lives to
safeguard it. In the hands of Hanna Heath, an impassioned rare-book expert restoring the manuscript in
1996 Sarajevo, it yields clues to its guardians and whereabouts: an insect wing, a wine stain, salt
crystals, and a white hair.
Review: http://www.nytimes.com/2008/01/20/books/review/Fugard-t.html
Author Website: http://www.geraldinebrooks.com/

Synopsis: A murder in the silent after-hour halls of the Louvre museum reveals a sinister plot to
uncover a secret that has been protected by a clandestine society since the days of Christ. The victim is
a high-ranking agent of this ancient society who, in the moments before his death, manages to leave
gruesome clues at the scene that only noted cryptographer Sophie Neveu, and Robert Langdon, a
famed symbologist, can untangle.
Review: http://topics.nytimes.com/topics/reference/timestopics/complete_coverage/da_vinci_
code/index.html
Author Website: http://www.danbrown.com/

Synopsis: Three thefts are simultaneously investigated in three cities, but these apparently isolated
crimes have much more in common than anyone imagines. The novel highlights a range of art
historical positions, from museum director to professor, the latter of whom offers a concise history of
art from "Polydorus to Pollock in seventeen easy lessons."
Review: http://www.eurocrime.co.uk/reviews/The_Art_Thief.html
Author Website: http://www.noahcharney.com/

Synopsis: In 1664 the modest daughter of a tile maker is forced to work as a maid in the Vermeer
household because her father has gone blind.
Pearl-Earring
Author Website: http://www.tchevalier.com/gwape/
Synopsis: Oscar Feldman, fictional 20th-century New York figurative painter (and an infamous seducer of models as well as a neglectful father), has died. His wife, mistress, and sister unite five years after his death. Together the women begin sketching their versions of him for a pair of admiring young biographers working on very different accounts of his life.
Author Website: [http://www.randomhouse.com/features/katechristensen/](http://www.randomhouse.com/features/katechristensen/)

Synopsis: Peter Harris and his wife, Rebecca--who edits a mid-level art magazine--have settled into a comfortable life in Manhattan's art world, but their staid existence is disrupted by the arrival of Rebecca's much younger brother, Ethan, who wants to pursue a career in the arts.
Review: [http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/10/05/AR2010100504890.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/10/05/AR2010100504890.html)
Author Website: [http://www.michaelcunninghamwriter.com/](http://www.michaelcunninghamwriter.com/)

Synopsis: A trilogy that examines life through the eyes of three friends who met at Cambridge in the 1950s. One of the three main characters is an art historian who divides her time between London and Italy. Drabble's sister is Helen Langdon, the historian of Baroque art.
Review(s): [http://www.nytimes.com/books/97/10/19/home/drabble.html](http://www.nytimes.com/books/97/10/19/home/drabble.html)
Author Website: [http://redmood.com/drabble/](http://redmood.com/drabble/)

Synopsis: Set in a London museum whose officers only appear august, all England is queuing up to see the golden treasure of the Garamantes--the remains of a young king who was interred complete with a trove of toys and goodies. Only the man who unearthed the kinglet back in 1913 refuses to go anywhere near the exhibit, despite his constant proximity.
Review: [http://www.guardian.co.uk/books/2010/apr/03/hermione-lee-penelope-fitzgerald](http://www.guardian.co.uk/books/2010/apr/03/hermione-lee-penelope-fitzgerald)

Synopsis: An entertaining adventure novel in which a young art historian races to find a missing masterpiece by Modigliani before others find the painting. A subplot involves an angry young painter who creates a brilliant forgery.
Review: See Author Website
Author Website: [http://www.ken-follett.com/bibliography/the_modigliani_scandal.html](http://www.ken-follett.com/bibliography/the_modigliani_scandal.html)

Synopsis: In a time of civil war, famine and religious strife, there rises a magnificent Cathedral in Kingsbridge. Against this backdrop, lives entwine: Tom, the master builder, Aliena, the noblewoman, Philip, the prior of Kingsbridge, Jack, the artist in stone and Ellen, the woman from the forest who casts a curse.
Author Website: [http://www.ken-follett.com](http://www.ken-follett.com)
Synopsis: An intellectual comedy revolving around a philosophical historian, Martin Clay, and his discovery, in the dilapidated manor house of a frightful country neighbor, of a painting he believes to be a missing Brueghel.

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

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

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

Synopsis: Debauched art historian Tom Lynch is desperate to track down a long-lost Renaissance painting, an unusual portrait of the Madonna by Bellini. He has high hopes when he arrives at Mawles, an English manor still in the family of James Roper, the collector Lynch believes last owned the Madonna.
Review: [http://www.guardian.co.uk/books/2008/aug/16/fiction5](http://www.guardian.co.uk/books/2008/aug/16/fiction5)
Author Website: [http://us.macmillan.com/author/elizabethlowry](http://us.macmillan.com/author/elizabethlowry)
Synopsis: In the tradition of The Da Vinci Code, this mix of thriller and adventure tale set in Barcelona centers on the life and work of real-life architect Antonio Gaudi (1852–1926) and his largest project, La Sagrada Familia, a Catholic church that remains unfinished. The character María Grivell who is an art historian completely her PhD while working at the Friends of Modernism foundation in Barcelona. Review: http://www.bookloons.com/cgi-bin/Review.ASP?bookid=10009
Author Website: http://www.harpercollins.com/author/index.aspx?authorID=33112

Synopsis: Lacey Yeager is an ambitious young art dealer who uses everything at her disposal to advance in the world of the high-end art trade in New York City. After cutting her teeth at Sotheby's, she manipulates her way up through Barton Talley's gallery of "Very Expensive Paintings," sleeping with patrons, and dodging and indulging in questionable deals, possible felonies, and general skeeviness until she opens her own gallery in Chelsea. Review: http://www.nytimes.com/2010/11/18/books/18martin.html
Author Website: http://www.stevemartin.com/

Synopsis: Art restorer Gabriel Allon has retreated to the windswept cliffs of Cornwall with his beautiful Venetian-born wife Chiara. But his seclusion is interrupted by a visitor from his tangled past: the endearingly eccentric London art dealer, Julian Isherwood. As usual, Isherwood has a problem—one only Gabriel can solve. Review: http://www.dallasnews.com/entertainment/headlines/20100718-book-review-the-rembrandt-affair_by-daniel-silva.ece
Author Website: http://www.danielsilvabooks.com/books/rembrandt_affair.asp?id=desc

Synopsis: Howard Belsey is a middle-class white liberal Englishman and Rembrandt scholar who can't finish his book and a recent adulterer whose marriage is now on the slippery slope to disaster. Review: http://dir.salon.com/books/review/2005/10/01/smith/

Synopsis: Simon Raikes is given the task of restoring a 15th-century sculpture of the Madonna on a church in Venice. A frustrated artist himself, Simon is compelled to solve certain mysteries: Who was the sculptor? Why was the work sup pressed for two centuries? How did it earn consecration? Review: http://reviewsbyjohnvernon.blogspot.com/2010/12/stone-virgin-by-barry-unsworth.html

Last Updated 28 June, 2011
Synopsis: The story of the late coming-of-age of Miss Julia Garnet, a retired English schoolteacher who spends six months in Venice after her lifelong companion, Harriet, dies. Venice has a magical effect on reserved Julia: a dyed-in-the-wool Communist, she relaxes in her antipathy toward religion, and even begins to visit the local church. There, she becomes enamored of a series of paintings that tell the story of the Apocryphal book of Tobit, a tale that mixes elements of Judaism with the religion of Zoroaster.
Author Website: [http://www.salleyvickers.com/](http://www.salleyvickers.com/)

**NON-FICTION BOOKS**

Synopsis: This story is painted in a wonderful vivid dramatic picture told through King Charles I greatest collection, the struggles of art verses power which Charles created against the backdrop of wars and revolution. Politics in England mounted all around him for his pointless wars and overspending having dismissed Parliament several times; he slowly pushed his own country into Civil War until a final act against his people sealed death, executed for high treason 1649.
Review: [http://www.guardian.co.uk/books/2006/may/27/highereducation.history](http://www.guardian.co.uk/books/2006/may/27/highereducation.history)
Author Website: [http://www.english.qmul.ac.uk/staff/brottonj.html](http://www.english.qmul.ac.uk/staff/brottonj.html)

Synopsis: In 1920, Andrée and Harry Hahn offer for sale a painting, *La Belle Ferronnière*, that they claim is by Leonardo da Vinci. An art dealer questions the painting’s authenticity—and the couple sues.
Author Website: [http://www.hss.caltech.edu/people/jbrewer/profile](http://www.hss.caltech.edu/people/jbrewer/profile)

Synopsis: Recognized now as a peer of 17th-century masters Rembrandt and Vermeer, Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio (1571-1610) painted notoriously provocative religious and classical tableaux, yet left few traces of his life beyond his art. Robb has created an idiosyncratic but dazzling biography of Caravaggio by exploiting almost every extant fragment, including a handful of sightings by friends and enemies, and the scanty Italian police files. Robb's Caravaggio--or "M," as he insists on calling the multimonikered and aliased painter--was a violent man of "hair-trigger touchiness," who fueled the passionate intensity of his painting with his professional and emotional frustrations.
Review: [http://www.nytimes.com/books/00/03/05/reviews/000305.05spurlit.html](http://www.nytimes.com/books/00/03/05/reviews/000305.05spurlit.html)

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


Author Website: [http://www.edmunddewaal.com/](http://www.edmunddewaal.com/)

**THEATER**

**The Heidi Chronicles (1988)**
Plot Summary: The plot follows Heidi Holland from high school in the 1960s to her career as a successful art historian more than twenty years later.


**FILM**

**Ararat (2002)**
Principle Actors: Charles Aznavour, Brent Carver and Eric Bogosian
Plot Summary: Interrogated by a customs officer, a young man recounts how his life was changed during the making of a film about the Armenian genocide claims. This film includes an Arshile Gorky specialist.


**Bean (1997)**
Principle Actors: Rowan Atkinson, Peter MacNicol and John Mills
Plot Summary: Bean works as a caretaker at Britain's formidable Royal National Gallery, and his bosses want to fire him because he sleeps at work all the time.


**Beginners (2010)**
Principle Actors: Ewan McGregor, Christopher Plummer and Mélanie Laurent
Plot Summary: A young man is rocked by two announcements from his elderly father: that he has terminal cancer, and that he has a young male lover. Christopher Plummer plays the retired director of LACMA.


**Certified Copy (2010)**
Principle Actors: Juliette Binoche and William Shimmel
Plot Summary: In Tuscany to promote his latest book, a middle-aged British writer meets a French woman who leads him to the village of Lucignano. While there, a chance question reveals something deeper.

Crack-Up (1946)
Principle Actors: Pat O'Brien, Claire Trevor and Herbert Marshall
Plot Summary: Art curator George Steele experiences a train wreck...which never happened. Is he cracking up, or the victim of a plot?
IMDB: http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0038429/

The Da Vinci Code (2006)
Principle Actors: Tom Hanks, Audrey Tautou and Jean Reno
Plot Summary: A murder inside the Louvre and clues in Da Vinci paintings lead to the discovery of a religious mystery protected by a secret society for two thousand years -- which could shake the foundations of Christianity.
Official Website: http://www.sonypictures.com/homevideo/thedavincicode/index.html
IMDB: http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0382625/

Don’t Forget You’re Going to Die (1995) [N'oublie pas que tu vas mourir]
Principle Actors: Xavier Beauvois, Chiara Mastroianni and Roschdy Zem
Plot Summary: The protagonist, Benoît, is an art-history student who decides to live life to the full after finding out that he is HIV positive. The pleasures he indulges in include a visit to Piero's Madonna del Parto at Monterchi.
IMDB: http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0113909/

Don't Look Now (1973)
Principle Actors: Julie Christie, Donald Sutherland and Hilary Mason
Plot Summary: A married couple grieving the recent death of their little daughter are in Venice when they encounter two elderly sisters, one of whom is psychic and brings a warning from beyond. In this film Donald Sutherland's character, John Baxter, oversees the restoration of a Venetian church.
IMDB: http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0069995/

The Eiger Sanction (1975)
Principle Actors: Clint Eastwood, George Kennedy and Vonetta McGee
Plot Summary: A classical art professor and collector, who doubles as a professional assassin, is coerced out of retirement to avenge the murder of an old friend.
IMDB: http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0072926/

Everyone Says I Love You (1996)
Principle Actors: Woody Allen, Goldie Hawn and Julia Roberts
Plot Summary: A New York girl sets her father up with a beautiful woman in a shaky marriage while her half sister gets engaged. This film includes a Tintoretto specialist.
IMDB: http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0116242/

Ghost Busters II (1989)
Principle Actors: Bill Murray, Dan Aykroyd and Sigourney Weaver
Plot Summary: The discovery of a massive river of ectoplasm and a resurgence of spectral activity allows the staff of Ghostbusters to revive the business, taking them on a trail that leads to the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Sigourney Weaver’s character, Dana Barret, plays an art restorer in this film.
IMDB: http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0097428/
**Girl with a Pearl Earring (2003)**
Principle Actors: Scarlett Johansson, Colin Firth and Tom Wilkinson
Plot Summary: A young peasant maid working in the house of painter Johannes Vermeer becomes his talented assistant and the model for one of his most famous works.

**The Graduate (1967)**
Principle Actors: Dustin Hoffman, Anne Bancroft and Katharine Ross
Plot Summary: Recent college graduate Benjamin Braddock is trapped into an affair with Mrs. Robinson, who happens to be the wife of his father's business partner and then finds himself falling in love with her teenage daughter, Elaine. The infamous Mrs. Robinson mentions during an afternoon tryst that she has a degree in art history.

**Hannibal (2001)**
Principle Actors: Anthony Hopkins, Julianne Moore and Gary Oldman
Plot Summary: Hannibal Lector passes himself off so well as a noted art historian that he was given an office in the Palazzo Vecchio; he then shamed the profession by murdering a police officer and hanging his body from one of the windows.

**How to Steal a Million (1966)**
Principle Actors: Audrey Hepburn, Peter O'Toole, and Eli Wallach
Plot Summary: Romantic comedy about a woman who must steal a statue from a Paris museum to help conceal her father's art forgeries, and the man who helps her.

**Inception (2010)**
Principle Actors: Leonardo DiCaprio, Joseph Gordon-Levitt and Ellen Page
Plot Summary: In a world where technology exists to enter the human mind through dream invasion, a highly skilled thief is given a final chance at redemption which involves executing his toughest job to date: Inception. Michael Caine makes a cameo appearance as an architectural historian at the Sorbonne, Paris. The plot line also suggests that DiCaprio’s character was a former student of the program.

**Ocean’s Eleven (2001)**
Principle Actors: George Clooney, Brad Pitt and Julia Roberts
Plot Summary: Danny Ocean and his ten accomplices plan to rob three Las Vegas casinos simultaneously. Julia Robert’s character, Tess Ocean, is an art historian and curator.
Paris (2008)
Principle Actors: Juliette Binoche, Romain Duris and Fabrice Luchini
Plot Summary: Pierre, a professional dancer, suffers from a serious heart disease. While he is waiting for a transplant which may (or may not) save his life, he has nothing better to do than look at the people around him, from the balcony of his Paris apartment. The story includes Fabrice Luchini as a professor who falls in love with a student during an art history lecture he’s giving.
IMDB: http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0869994/

A Perfect Murder (1998)
Principle Actors: Michael Douglas, Gwyneth Paltrow and Viggo Mortensen
Plot Summary: A remake of Hitchcock’s Dial M for Murder. Actor Viggo Mortensen plays an artist and his own work is featured throughout the film.
IMDB: http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0120787/

Principle Actors: Julia Roberts, Kirsten Dunst and Julia Stiles
Plot Summary: A free-thinking art history professor teaches conservative 50's Wellesley girls to question their traditional societal roles.
IMDB: http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0304415/

The Sunday Woman (1975)
Principle Actors: Marcello Mastroianni, Jacqueline Bisset and Jean-Louis Trintignant
Plot Summary: Gigi Ballesta is an odious and sexist, but alert and eagle eyed, gadfly art expert-dealer-critic, something of a proto Vittorio Sgarbi, who ends up being bludgeoned to death by a Brancusian marble phallus in his collection.
IMDB: http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0074423/

Also see Craig Eliason, ‘Art Historians' Guide to the Movies’
http://personal1.stthomas.edu/cdeliaso/ahgttm.htm

TELEVISION

The Pillars of the Earth (Showtime)
Synopsis: In a time of civil war, famine and religious strife, there rises a magnificent Cathedral in Kingsbridge. Against this backdrop, lives entwine: Tom, the master builder, Aliena, the noblewoman, Philip, the prior of Kingsbridge, Jack, the artist in stone and Ellen, the woman from the forest who casts a curse. At once, this is a sensuous and enduring love story and an epic that shines with the fierce spirit of a passionate age.
Principle Actors: Ian McShane, Matthew Macfadyen and Eddie Redmayne
IMDB: http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1453159/
Series Website: http://www.the-pillars-of-the-earth.tv/
House MD (Fox Broadcasting Company)
Synopsis: An antisocial maverick doctor who specializes in diagnostic medicine does whatever it takes to solve puzzling cases that come his way using his crack team of doctors and his wits. In Season Five character Martha Masters (played by Amber Tamblyn) earned her PhD in Art History before beginning medical school.
Principle Actors: Hugh Laurie, Robert Sean Leonard and Lisa Edelstein
IMDB: http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0412142/
Program Website: http://www.fox.com/house/

Law and Order: Special Victims Unit (NBC)
Synopsis: This show introduces the Special Victims Unit, a new elite squad of NYPD detectives who investigate sexually related crimes. One episode of the program features an art history professor as the perpetrator of a crime.
Principle Actors: Mariska Hargitay, Christopher Meloni and Richard Belzer
IMDB: http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0203259/
Program Website: http://www.nbc.com/law-and-order-special-victims-unit/

Covert Affairs (USA Network)
Synopsis: The main character (played by Piper Perabo) is a Smithsonian curator by day and a CIA operative by night. In one episode from season one begins at an art auction where she almost blows her cover when her ignorance on art matters surfaces.
Principle Actors: Piper Perabo, Christopher Gorham and Kari Matchett
IMDB: http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1495708/
Program Website: http://www.usanetwork.com/series/covertaffairs/

NCIS Los Angeles (CBS)
Synopsis: The Naval Criminal Investigation Service's Office of Special Projects takes on the undercover work and the hard to crack cases in LA. In one episode from season one, the undercover female operative used art history as a professional cover when meeting an old high-school friend.
Principle Actors: Chris O'Donnell, Daniela Ruah and Barrett Foa
IMDB: http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1378167/
Program Website: http://www.cbs.com/primetime/ncis_los_angeles/

ACTORS

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

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

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