



# PAINTERS IN PRINT

F BRA

**THE INCANTATION OF FRIDA K** by Kate Braveman

Braveman inhabits Mexican painter, Frida Kahlo's ravaged body and drug-drenched mind as the 46-year-old painter lies on her deathbed, by turns tolerated and tormented by her egocentric husband, muralist Diego Rivera, Kahlo turns inward, replaying troubling scenes real and imagined from her tragic life.

F CHE

**GIRL WITH A PEARL EARRING** by Tracy Chevalier

A fictional account of how the Dutch artist Vermeer painted his masterpiece. In this novel, the girl in the painting is Griet, the 16-year-old servant of the Vermeer household. Van Ruijven, a wealthy patron of Vermeer's, commissions him to paint Griet with the intent that he will have her for himself before it is finished. Griet must somehow secretly pose for the crucial painting without the knowledge of Vermeer's wife, avoid Van Ruijven's grasp, and protect herself from the cruel gossip of the world of a 17th century servant.

F COO

**JOHANNA: a novel of the van Gogh family** by Claire Cooperstein

Johanna Bonger weds Theo van Gogh in 1889, but when Theo's close association with his brother Vincent drives him to death two years later, she saves Vincent's paintings.

F DUN

**THE BIRTH OF VENUS: love and death in Florence** by Sarah Dunant

A New York Times Bestseller, *The Birth of Venus*, is a historical novel bringing alive the history of Florence at its most dramatic period, telling a compulsively absorbing story of love, art, religion, and power through the passionate voice of Alessandra Cecchi, a young heroine with the same vibrancy of spirit as her beloved city.

F ESS

**LEONARDO'S SWANS: a novel** by Karen Essex

Isabella d'Este, born into privilege and the political and artistic turbulence of Renaissance Italy, is a stunning woman and a precocious lover and collector of art. Worldly and ambitious, she has never envied her less attractive sister, Beatrice, until, by a quirk of fate, Beatrice is betrothed to the future Duke of Milan. Although he is more than twice their age, openly lives with his mistress, and is reputedly trying to eliminate the current duke by nefarious means, Ludovico Sforza is Isabella's match in intellect and passion for all things of beauty. Only he would allow her to fulfill her destiny: to reign over one of the world's most powerful and enlightened realms and be immortalized in oil by the genius Leonardo da Vinci.

F GOV

**CREATION** by Katherine Govier

John James Audubon embarks on an expedition to Canada's maritime provinces to document the Great Auk and other rare birds, sailing with Royal Navy Captain Henry Bayfield, who is determined to chart the coastline along the way.



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F MAT

**REMBRANDT'S WHORE** by Sylvie Matton

Matton uses twenty-year-old Hendrickje Stoffels as the centre of this novel which explores the tumultuous second half of the artist's life and Hendrickje' who was his model and mistress.

F PEA

**THE PORTRAIT** by Iain Pears

An art critic travels from London to the remote island of Houat, off France's northwest coast, to sit for a portrait in the early part of the twentieth century. The critic and the painter soon deal with their complex relationship and the painter reveals why he has accepted the commission and why he left London in the first place.

F URQ

**THE UNDERPAINTER** by Jane Urquhart

As he begins a series of paintings in Rochester, New York, seventy-five-year-old painter Austin Fraser looks back on the people of his life, including the waitress who became his model and mistress.

F VRE

**GIRL IN HYACINTH BLUE** by Susan Vreeland

This novel follows the trail of an "unknown" painting by the Dutch master Vermeer, The Girl in Hyacinth Blue, from the time of its creation in seventeenth-century Holland to the present day. In each of the eight independent but chronologically linked chapters, the painting shows up as a prop in the lives of different owners, and in telling the circumstances under which these people acquire or lose the painting, Vreeland gives the readers a sense of the evolution of Dutch social history.

F VRE

**THE PASSION OF ARTEMISIA** by Susan Vreeland

Narrated in the candid first-person voice of Italian painter Artemisia Gentileschi, the novel tells the story of her life and career in Renaissance Italy. Publicly humiliated and scorned in Rome after her participation as defendant in a rape trial in which the accused is her painting teacher, Agostino Tassi, Artemisia accepts a hastily arranged marriage at the age of 18 to Pietro Stiatessi, an artist in Florence. The marriage has a good beginning but unwinds as Artemisia begins to have some success.

F WIL

**THE DARK CLUE** by James Wilson

Hired to write a biography of J.M.W. Turner, England's great Romantic landscape artist, Walter Hartright discovers a "dark clue" embedded in the artist's clever paintings and becomes obsessed with recreating the enigmatic artist's true existence.