

Arts & books roundups

Books of the Year 2022

Our contributors select their favourite books of 2022



"Le Lecteur" by Louis Marcoussis, 1937 | © Heritage Art/Heritage Images via Getty Images

<https://www.the-tls.co.uk/articles/tls-books-of-the-year-2022/>

LISA HILTON

Art in the After-Culture: Capitalist crisis and cultural strategy by Ben Davis (Haymarket) is worth it for the chillingly ingenious prologue alone. This book is for everyone who cares about art and anyone who is concerned with culture in the digital age. Contemporary art might seem like a bewildering indulgence for the rich, but, as explored in Davis's glistening, passionate yet coolly precise prose, its power to shape our perceptions and our politics extends far beyond the art-fair cocoon. In a world of AI-enabled "prosumers", "the technological society that has made plausible the promise that everyone can be an artist" has become "a new instrument of alienation" via which the aesthetic and hence the real has come to be defined by an ever more powerful technocracy. Brilliant, revelatory, urgent.