

CRITICS' PICKS

Best Art Books of 2022

Holland Cotter, Jason Farago and Roberta Smith round up their favorite books, from museum catalogs of high-profile shows to photographs by Native artists to the treasures of Ukraine.



A bounty of art books offers a study of a 14th-century altarpiece, essays on the Enlightenment, little-known paintings by Louise Bourgeois, new ones (and words) by the acclaimed artist Maira Kalman, and a New York culture revolution in the early '60s. From left: Yale University Press; The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; Harper Design; The Jewish Museum; Yale University Press

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<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/12/15/arts/design/best-art-books-2022.html>

Getty catalog offer fascinating theories on both. And thanks to a foldout insert, we get to peruse the Codex itself, which is as visually inventive as any graphic novel you'll ever see. ([Getty Publications](#))

'Art in the After-Culture: Capitalist Crisis & Cultural Strategy'

When future art historians seek perspectives on our era of billion-dollar auctions, carbon-footprint art fairs, and market-driven diversity, this collection of essays by the American critic Ben Davis is a text they'll consult. An alert data hoarder, a shrewd analyst, and a propulsive stylist, Davis views the hot-air balloon called the art world in a broad political context. He writes with the coolness of a sociologist, the passion of someone with a horse in the race, and the smarts to avoid both cheerleading and snootiness. ([Haymarket Books](#))

'Beautiful, Gruesome and True: Artists at Work in the Face of War'

While Davis's restricts his beat primarily to the United States, Kaelen Wilson-Goldie's trim, tough book takes a global view of