Welcome to Reaktion’s books for Spring and Summer 2023.

Peter Ackroyd is one of Britain’s best-loved writers, and we are delighted to publish his next book. *The English Actor: From Medieval to Modern* is a superbly entertaining and companionable history of English actors, acting and stagecraft.

Eluned Summers-Bremner’s *Astray: A History of Wandering* is a fascinating study of the meanings of leaving and belonging, absence and hope.

In *About England*, a work of exceptional scope and intelligence, David Matless explores how Englishness has been imagined since the 1960s.

*Pazazz* by Nina Edwards tells the story of white clothing and its impact and resonance through time.

Rebecca Simon’s *The Pirates’ Code* is a boisterous, detailed and amusing history of life, law and lawlessness on the high seas during the golden age of piracy.

‘Race Is Everything’: *Art and Human Classification* is David Bindman’s original and important study of the relationship between art and ‘racial science’ in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.


We hope that you will enjoy our new season’s books and Reaktion’s great backlist.

Michael R. Leaman, Publisher
David Hayden, Managing Director

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The English Actor

*From Medieval to Modern*

Peter Ackroyd

‘Ackroyd generously gives us both the prose and the poetry of great English acting – the craft and commerce that allowed it to happen and the magic that made it mythic.’

– Ben Brantley, former chief theatre critic for the *New York Times*

*The English Actor* charts the uniquely English approach to stagecraft. In thirty chapters, Peter Ackroyd describes, with superb narrative skill, the genesis of acting – deriving from the Church tradition of Mystery Plays – through the flourishing of the craft in the Renaissance to modern methods that followed the advent of film and television. The biographies of the most notable and celebrated English actors are also explored, right up to the present day. In this book, Ackroyd gives us an original and superbly entertaining appraisal of how actors have acted – and how audiences have responded – since the medieval period, and what we mean by the ‘magic of the stage’.

Peter Ackroyd is one of Britain’s most respected historians and novelists. His many books include *London: The Biography*, *Hawksmoor* and the bestselling *History of England* series.
This book explores how, far from being limited to deviation from known pathways or desirable plans of action, wandering is an abundant source of meaning, as intimately involved in the history of our universe as it will be in the future of our planet. In ancient Australian Aboriginal cosmology, in works about the origins of democracy and surviving disasters in ancient Greece, in Eurasian steppe nomadic culture, in the lifeways of the Rom, in the movements of today’s refugees and in our attempts to preserve spaces of untracked online freedom, wandering is the means by which creativity and skills of adaptation are preserved in the interests of ongoing life. *Astray* is an enthralling look at belonging, and at notions of alienation and hope.

Eluned Summers-Bremner is Senior Lecturer in the English Department at the University of Auckland, New Zealand. She is the author of *Insomnia: A Cultural History* (Reaktion, 2007).
About England
David Matless

‘Few people know more about England and Englishness than David Matless. Read About England and treat yourself to a magical mystery tour of all that you thought you knew.’
– Robert Colls, Professor Emeritus of History, De Montfort University

‘England’ and ‘Englishness’ have received much attention in the twenty-first century, not least in debates over Brexit. About England explores how these concepts have been imagined since the 1960s, covering themes including politics, popular culture, geography, art, architecture, film and music.

David Matless navigates the country’s complex cultural terrain, revealing the ways in which the national is entangled with the local, the regional, the European, the international, the imperial, the post-imperial and the global. He also addresses physical landscapes, from the village and country house to the urban, suburban and industrial, and reflects on the ‘English modern’. About England uncovers the genealogy of recent cultural and political debates in England, showing how twenty-first-century concerns and anxieties have been moulded by events over the previous sixty years.

David Matless is Professor of Cultural Geography at the University of Nottingham. His many books include Landscape and Englishness (Reaktion, revd edn 2016).

Explores how ‘England’ and ‘Englishness’ have been imagined since the 1960s

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Pazazz
The Impact and Resonance of White Clothing
Nina Edwards

‘A truly fascinating, even radiant, book: a long-needed history of the no-colour – and super-colour – that can clothe us in virtue, cleanness, light. Nina Edwards illuminates the ambiguity of this colour of life and death, its difficult practicalities, and its luxuries and delights.’
– John Harvey, author of The Story of Black

Pazazz examines the complex meanings of white clothing through history. Delicate and impractical, white cloth in the past was difficult to obtain, as well as to keep clean. It is a symbol of purity but also of class superiority, privilege and the display of leisure. It represents both the menace of the Ku Klux Klan and the transition of a bride to the married state; it can be the appropriate dress for mourning and for shrouds. White lace is ethereal; straitjackets are tough. White clothing has been a marker of innocence and simplicity for women but also of calculated, high-maintenance fashion; for men, white can be evidence of power. White is a startling absence of colour, the epitome of elegance.

Nina Edwards is a freelance writer based in London. Her books include On the Button: The Significance of an Ordinary Item (2011) and Darkness: A Cultural History (Reaktion, 2018).
Shells
A Natural and Cultural History
Fabio Moretzsohn

Shells have captivated humans from the dawn of time: the earliest known artwork was made on a shell. As well as containers for food, shells have been used as tools, jewellery and decorations for dwellings, and to bring good luck or to ward off spirits. Many indigenous peoples have used shells as currency, and in a few places they still do.

This beautifully illustrated book looks at the scientific and cultural history of shells, showing how their diverse colourful forms take shape. It examines pearls, the only gems of animal origin, as well as how shells have inspired artists throughout history. The book looks at shells used in architecture and ritual, but also how shells are indicators of changing environmental conditions.

Fabio Moretzsohn was Visiting Assistant Professor at the Department of Life Sciences, Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi. He was the co-author of Encyclopedia of Texas Seashells (2010) and The Book of Shells (with M. G. Harasewych, 2010).
Navigations
The Portuguese Discoveries and the Renaissance
Malyn Newitt

Navigations re-examines the Portuguese voyages of discovery by placing them in their medieval and Renaissance settings. It shows how these voyages grew out of a crusading ethos, as well as long-distance trade with Asia and Africa and developments in map-making and ship design. The slave trade, the diaspora of the Sephardic Jews and the intercontinental spread of plants and animals gave these voyages long-term global significance.

The voyages of discovery are narrated within the context of Portuguese politics, and this book describes the role of the Portuguese ruling dynasty – including its female members – in the flowering of the Portuguese Renaissance and the distinctive ideology of the Renaissance state, and in the cultural changes that took place within a wider European context.

Malyn Newitt has taught at the universities of Rhodesia and Exeter, and until he retired was Charles Boxer Professor of History at King’s College London. His many books include The Braganzas (Reaktion, 2019).
Pirates have long captured the imagination with images of cutlass-wielding swashbucklers, eye patches and buried treasure. But what was life really like on a pirate ship? Piracy was a risky, sometimes deadly occupation, and strict orders were essential for everyone’s survival. These ‘laws’ were sets of rules that determined everything from how much each pirate earned from their plunder to compensation for injuries, punishments and even the entertainment allowed on ships. The rules became known as the ‘Pirates’ Code’, which all pirates had to publicly swear by.

Using primary sources such as eyewitness accounts, trial proceedings and maritime logs, this book explains how these codes were the key to pirates’ success in battle, both on sea and on land.

Rebecca Simon is Professor of History at Santa Monica College. Her books include Why We Love Pirates: The Hunt for Captain Kidd and How He Changed Piracy Forever (2020) and Pirate Queens: The Lives of Anne Bonny and Mary Read (2022).
Water Beings
From Nature Worship to the Environmental Crisis
Veronica Strang

‘A profound and entertaining book for a time when reimagining humanity’s future has never been more vital.’
– Caspar Henderson, author of The Book of Barely Imagined Beings

‘With passion, rigour and creative depth, Veronica Strang eloquently takes readers across the world to further our understanding of water’s natural, cultural, and symbolic qualities.’ – Sandy Toussaint, Professor of Anthropology, University of Western Australia

Early human relationships with water were expressed through beliefs in serpentine aquatic deities: rainbow-coloured, feathered or horned serpents, giant anacondas and dragons. Representing the powers of water, these beings were bringers of life and sustenance, world creators, ancestors, guardian spirits and law makers. Yet today, though we still recognize that ‘water is life’, fresh- and saltwater ecosystems have been critically compromised by human activities. This major study of water beings demonstrates how and why some – but not all – societies have moved from worshipping water to wreaking havoc upon it, and asks what we can do to turn the tide.

Veronica Strang is a cultural anthropologist and a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences. Her previous books include The Meaning of Water (2004) and Water: Nature and Culture (Reaktion, 2015).

A major study of marine serpent deities, which embodied ancient people’s reverence of water
Unearthing the Underworld
A Natural History of Rocks
Ken McNamara

*Unearthing the Underworld* reveals the hidden world of rocks – the secret-keepers of past environments, of changing climates and the pulse of life over billions of years. Even the most seemingly ordinary stone can tell us much about the history of this planet, opening vistas of ancient worlds of ice, raging floods, strange, unbreathable atmospheres and prehistoric worlds teeming with life.

Remarkably, many types of rock owe their existence to living organisms, from the remains of dead animals to rotting ancient forests, or even the activity of fungi, bacteria and viruses. Anything but dull and uninteresting, rocks are intriguing portals that illuminate the secret underworld upon which we live.

Ken McNamara is an Emeritus Fellow of Downing College, University of Cambridge. He is the author of many books on palaeontology and evolution, including *Dragons’ Teeth and Thunderstones: The Quest for the Meaning of Fossils* (Reaktion, 2020).
Merchants of Style
Art and Fashion After Warhol
Natasha Degen

‘Natasha Degen brilliantly explains how a new generation of artists and fashion designers have expanded the conceptual parameters of art.’ – Jeffrey Deitch, art dealer and curator

‘A fascinating account of two apparently dissimilar, but in fact highly symbiotic, worlds.’ – Georgina Adam, editor-at-large of the Art Newspaper

*Merchants of Style* explores the accelerating convergence of art and fashion, looking at the interplay of artists and designers – and the role of institutions, both public and commercial – that has brought about this marriage of aesthetic industries. Natasha Degen argues that one figure more than any other anticipated this moment: Andy Warhol.

Beginning with an overview of art and fashion’s deeply entwined histories before picking up where Warhol left off, *Merchants of Style* tells the story of art’s emboldened forays into commerce and fashion’s growing embrace of art. As the two industries draw closer together than ever before, this book addresses urgent questions about what the future holds.

Natasha Degen is Professor and Chair of Art Market Studies at the Fashion Institute of Technology, New York. She edited *The Market* (2013) and has written for the *Financial Times, the New York Times, the Los Angeles Times, the New Yorker, Artforum and Frieze.*

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An incisive look at the accelerating convergence of art and fashion
This book is a critical history of Sub Pop, the Seattle independent rock label that launched the careers of countless influential ‘grunge’ bands in the late 1980s and early 1990s. It focuses in particular on the languages and personas of the ‘loser’, a term that encompassed the label’s founders and personnel, its flagship bands (including Mudhoney, TAD and Nirvana) and the avid vinyl-collecting fans it rapidly amassed.

The ‘loser’ became (and remains) the key Sub Pop identity, but it also grounded the label in the overt masculinity, sexism and transgression of rock history. Rather than the usual reading of grunge as an alternative to the mainstream, *Lamestains* reveals a more equivocal and complicated relationship that Sub Pop exploited with great success.

Nicholas Attfield is Associate Professor of Music at the University of Birmingham. His books include an account of Dinosaur Jr’s 1987 album *You’re Living All Over Me* in the 33 1/3 series (2011).
In *Arc of Feeling* Javier Moscoso investigates the pleasure of oscillation and explores the surprising history of the swing through its meanings and metaphors, noting echoes and coincidences in remote times and places, from the witch’s broom to aerial yoga, and from the gallows to sexual mores.

Taking in cultural history, science, art, anthropology and philosophy, Moscoso explores the presence and role of this artefact in the West, such as in the works of Watteau, Fragonard and Goya, as well as in Eastern traditions, including those from India, Korea, Thailand and China. Linked since ancient times with sex and death, used by gods and madmen and as an erotic and therapeutic instrument, the swing is revealed to be an essential but neglected object in the history of human experience.

Javier Moscoso is Research Professor of History at the Spanish National Research Council (csic). His books include *Pain: A Cultural History* (2012).
Pet Revolution

Animals and the Making of Modern British Life

Jane Hamlett and Julie-Marie Strange

‘This fascinating book combines very extensive historical research with a keen interest in animals’ wellbeing.’

Pet Revolution tracks the British love affair with pets over the last two centuries, showing how the kinds of pets we keep, as well as how we relate to and care for them, has changed radically. The book describes the growth of pet foods and medicines, the rise of pet shops, and the development of veterinary care, creating the pet economy. Most importantly, pets have played a powerful emotional role in families across all social classes, creating new kinds of relationships and home lives.

For the first time, through a history of companion animals and the humans who lived with them, this book puts the story of the ‘pet revolution’ alongside other revolutions – industrial, agricultural, political – to highlight how animals contributed to modern British life.

Jane Hamlett is Professor of Modern British History at Royal Holloway, University of London. Her books include Material Relations: Domestic Interiors and Middle-Class Families in England, 1850–1910 (2010).

Julie-Marie Strange is Professor of Modern British History at Durham University. Her books include The Invention of the Modern Dog: Breed and Blood in Victorian Britain (with Michael Worboys and Neil Pemberton, 2018).
Romany Gypsies have been variously portrayed as exotic strangers or as crude, violent delinquents; this book is the first real history of the Romany people, from the inside. Jeremy Harte vividly portrays the hardships of the travelling life, the skills of woodland crafts, the colourful artistic traditions, the mysteries of a lost language and the flamboyant displays of weddings and funerals, which are all still present in this secretive culture.

*Travellers through Time* tells the dramatic story of life on the margin of society from Tudor times to today, offering vivid insights into the hidden world of England’s large Gypsy population. It will appeal to those who are curious about other cultures, as well as those who want to understand the reality behind the prejudice.

Jeremy Harte is curator of the Bourne Hall Museum at Epsom and Ewell. He is secretary of the Romany and Traveller Family History Society and created the Surrey Gypsy Archive. His previous books include *Cloven Country: The Devil and the English Landscape* (Reaktion, 2022).
In 1917, Marcel Duchamp sent out a ‘telegram’ in the guise of a urinal signed R. Mutt. When it arrived at its destination a good forty years later it was both celebrated and vilified as proclaiming that anything could be art; from that point on, the whole Western art world reconfigured itself as ‘post-Duchamp’.

This book offers a reading of Duchamp’s telegram that sheds new light on its first reception, corrects some historical mistakes and reveals that Duchamp’s urinal in fact heralded the demise of the fine arts system and the advent of what Thierry de Duve calls the ‘Art-in-General’ system. Further, the author shows that this new system does not date from the 1960s but rather from the 1880s. Duchamp was neither its author nor its agent, but rather its brilliant messenger.

Thierry de Duve is Evelyn Kranes Kossak Professor at Hunter College, City University of New York. His books include *Sewn in the Sweatshops of Marx: Beuys, Warhol, Klein, Duchamp* (2012).
Double Nation
A History of Australian Art
Ian McLean

‘Any history of Australian art must be, at minimum, a double history: of art made by Indigenous artists since the Dreaming, and, since the eighteenth century, of the art of the colonizers. Double Nation tells the second part of this story with vigor and critical irreverence, rehearsing but also challenging the conventional landmarks of Australian art history.’ – Terry Smith, author of Art to Come: Histories of Contemporary Art

In this major new account Ian McLean traces the history of Australian art, from colonial art practice to the search for a national art in the twentieth century. Two key themes structure the narrative: the transformation of a British art practice into an Australian one; and the troubled pursuit for the aesthetic means to claim an Indigenous heritage.

As well as introducing the canonical artists and artworks of the Australian tradition, McLean assesses why certain artists have come to prominence, and why others have been neglected. In the process, he links the changing fortunes of artists to social and political developments both at home and abroad. With 170 superb illustrations, many in colour, this is essential reading for all who are interested in the history of Australian art.

Ian McLean is Senior Research Professor of Contemporary Art at the University of Wollongong and an Adjunct Professor at the University of Western Australia. His previous books include Rattling Spears: A History of Indigenous Australian Art (Reaktion, 2016).
‘Race Is Everything’
Art and Human Difference
David Bindman

‘David Bindman’s “Race Is Everything” more than fulfills the promise of its title . . . A brilliant (and beautiful) work of cultural criticism.’ – Sander Gilman, author of Stand Up Straight! A History of Posture

‘Race Is Everything’ looks at ideas of ‘racial science’ in the nineteenth century and the first half of the twentieth century, and how art was influenced by it. It looks at race in general, but with a particular concentration on attitudes towards and representations of people of African and Jewish descent. David Bindman argues that behind all racial ideas is the belief that outward appearance, and especially skull-shape, can be correlated with inner character and intelligence, and that these could be used to create a seemingly scientific hierarchy of races.

The book considers many aspects, including the skull as a racial marker; ancient Egypt as a precedent for Southern slavery; Darwin, race and aesthetics; the ‘Mediterranean race’; the visual aspects of eugenics; and the racial politics of Emil Nolde.

David Bindman is Emeritus Durning-Lawrence Professor of the History of Art, University College London, and a Fellow of the Hutchins Center, Harvard University. He is author or editor of many books, including Ape to Apollo: Aesthetics and the Idea of Race in the 18th Century (Reaktion, 2002).
Photography and Korea
Jeehey Kim

Photography and Korea is the first history of Korean photography for a Western readership. The book moves from the late nineteenth century, when Korean travellers brought Western photographic technology home from China, through to modern times.

Jeehey Kim presents multiple visions of the country, including the divided North and South Korea as imagined through foreign eyes, Korean diasporas, important Korean artists, and local professional and vernacular photographers. Kim also addresses studio and institutional practices during the Japanese colonial period, how photography is interwoven with Korean political and cultural history, and the divergence of practices after the division of Korea.

Featuring numerous striking images, this book is essential reading for all who are interested in the history of photography in Korea.

Jeehey Kim is Assistant Professor of the Art History programme at the University of Arizona. She has published widely on the history of photography, visual culture and film studies in East Asia.
Although the idea of a collective audience for art – an ‘art public’ – is highly significant in the art world, this is the first book to enquire into the actual history of the art public. The book explores both written and pictorial evidence of its behaviour, and disentangles the connections between art production, the expectations of the audience and a work’s reception.

Two aspects shape the narrative: first, the transformation of the audience from passive recipient to active agent; and second, the mockery of the audience by satirists such as George Cruikshank, Thomas Rowlandson, Honoré Daumier and many others. This sweeping account moves from the Greek artist Apelles to Leon Battista Alberti and Leonardo da Vinci, and from Oscar Wilde to film stars, art tourists and leading art museums and galleries worldwide.

Oskar Bätschmann is Professor Emeritus of Early Modern Art History at the University of Bern. His books include Hans Holbein (Reaktion, 2nd edn 2013) and Giovanni Bellini (Reaktion, 2007).
Animal Architecture
Beasts, Buildings and Us
Paul Dobraszczyk

‘This book upends our thinking about architecture . . . Dobraszczyk asks us to consider architecture from the perspectives of species other than ourselves, and, in doing so, to develop spaces more entangled with this thing we call nature. This could be a roadmap to escape our age of mass extinction and climate emergency.’
— Tom Dyckhoff, historian, writer and broadcaster

The spider spinning its web in a dark corner; wasps building a nest under a roof: there is hardly any part of the built environment that can’t be inhabited by non-humans, and yet we are extremely selective as to which animals we allow in or keep out. This book considers many different animals, opening up new ways of thinking about architecture and the more-than-human. Looking closely at how animals produce spaces for themselves, Paul Dobraszczyk asks what we might require in order to design with animals and become more attuned to the other lifeforms that already use our structures. Animal Architecture is a provocative exploration of building in a world where humans and other animals are already entangled, whether we acknowledge it or not.

Paul Dobraszczyk is a writer and a teaching fellow at the Bartlett School of Architecture, London. He is the author of Future Cities (Reaktion, 2019) and co-editor of Global Undergrounds: Exploring Cities Within (Reaktion, 2016).

Opens up new ways of thinking about architecture and the more-than-human
The Monkees
Made in Hollywood
Tom Kemper

‘Kemper’s book clarifies so much that is misunderstood in the story of the Monkees.’ – Susanna Hoffs

The Monkees represent a vital problem for rock and pop, and perhaps the major question: is it the music that matters or the personality and image of the performers?

This book explores the system behind the Monkees, the controversial made-for-tv band that scored some of the biggest hit records of the 1960s. The Monkees represent the cumulative result of a complex coordination of talented individuals, from songwriters to studio musicians to producers – the system of the 1960s Hollywood music industry. The new rock criticism bewailed the fake band, while fans and audiences made the Monkees a major commercial success. More than any other band in the 1960s, the Monkees illustrate the genius of the system and its role in popular music.

Tom Kemper teaches at the School of Cinematic Arts, University of Southern California, and the Crossroads School of Arts and Sciences in Santa Monica. His books include Hidden Talent: The Emergence of Hollywood Agents (2010).
Byron
David Ellis

‘A lively and reliable picture of Byron’s life and works. David Ellis delivers an even-handed account of the poet’s adventures abroad and of the many dramas in his life – personal, financial, literary and political.’ – Christopher W. Thompson, Emeritus Professor of French, University of Warwick

In this new book, David Ellis traces Byron’s life from rented lodgings in Aberdeen to the crumbling splendours of Newstead Abbey and then on to his grand tour of the East. Describing his exile from England after a disastrous marriage, and subsequent travels in Italy and Greece, he shows how completely Byron’s experiences coloured his work, drawing out the tension between the ‘serious’ texts (*Childe Harold*, *The Corsair*) and his more comic writings. Although the former brought him early fame and fortune, it is the latter which now seem most worthwhile. *Byron* is a fresh, concise and clear-eyed account of the flamboyant poet’s life and work.

David Ellis is Emeritus Professor of English at the University of Kent, and the author of more than fifteen books, including *Byron in Geneva: That Summer of 1816* (2011) and *Frank Cioffi: The Philosopher in Shirt-Sleeves* (2015).
Mysterious, esoteric, baffling – John Ashbery is notorious for the seeming difficulty of his work. But Ashbery is also entertaining, humorous and charming, and responsive to his shifting social and political contexts. This biography charts his emergence from a minor avant-garde figure to the most important poet of his generation.

In this entertaining account, Jess Cotton provides a legible and accessible map of Ashbery’s work that draws connections between the poetry, the New York art and literary world and the political climate of the middle decades of the twentieth century. It makes the case for a more approachable, enjoyable and engaged Ashbery and will appeal to both students and the general reader, as well as anyone interested in American poetry, queer lives and twentieth-century history.

Jess Cotton is an Early Career Fellow at the University of Cambridge. She writes on twentieth-century literature, with a particular interest in poetry after 1945, psycho-analysis, feminism and the practices of reading.
Ford Madox Ford had a fascinating life, spent among several of the most important groups of artists and writers of his time. Friends with Henry James, H. G. Wells and above all Joseph Conrad, Ford was a leading figure of the avant-garde in pre-First World War London, publishing Ezra Pound, Wyndham Lewis and D. H. Lawrence in the English Review. After the war he founded the Transatlantic Review in Paris, helping to launch Hemingway and Jean Rhys. A prolific writer in his own right, Ford's best-known books are the modernist tour de force The Good Soldier (1915) and the Parade’s End tetralogy (1924–8).

Drawing on recently discovered correspondence and photographs, this cogent new critical biography demonstrates Ford’s vital contribution to modern fiction, poetry and criticism.

Max Saunders is Interdisciplinary Professor of Modern Literature and Culture at the University of Birmingham, and his books include Ford Madox Ford: A Dual Life (1996).
Jupiter
William Sheehan and Thomas Hockey

‘Reading this comprehensive primer on Jupiter – and on planetary astronomy itself – is as enlightening as it is thoroughly enjoyable.’ – BBC Sky at Night Magazine

‘A useful and practical planetary-science primer.’
– Physics World

‘This book is especially strong on a survey of amateur observations of Jupiter, and for that reason alone it is a useful addition to the literature.’– Journal of Astronomical History and Heritage

Now available in paperback, this beautifully illustrated volume ranges across the entire history of Jupiter studies, from the naked-eye observations of the Babylonians and the Greeks, and the telescopic discoveries of Galileo and T.E.R. Phillips, to the explosion of information received from space probes.

William Sheehan is a noted historian of astronomy, writer and retired psychiatrist. He has written twenty books, including Mercury (2018) and Saturn (2019) for Reaktion Books. He lives in Arizona, and asteroid 16037 is named Sheehan in his honour.

Thomas Hockey is Professor of Astronomy at the University of Northern Iowa. He has written six previous books, including Galileo’s Planet (1999), and asteroid 25153 is named Tomhockey in his honour.
Simulating the Cosmos

Why the Universe Looks the Way It Does

Romeel Davé

*Simulating the Cosmos* is a behind-the-scenes look into one of the hottest and fastest-moving areas of astrophysics today: simulations of cosmology and galaxy formation, which illustrate how everything we see in the universe arose out of the primordial soup of the Big Bang.

Leading cosmologist Romeel Davé guides you through the trials and tribulations of what it takes to put the universe into a computer, the amazing new insights revealed by cosmological simulations, and the many mysteries yet to be solved. This rollicking and extraordinary journey is a rare glimpse into science in action, showing how cosmologists are using the laws of physics and supercomputers to uncover the secrets of why the universe looks the way it does.

Romeel Davé holds the Chair of Physics at the University of Edinburgh. Born in California, he has lived around the world, including eight u.s. states, India, South Africa and now Scotland.
Breakfast Cereal

A Global History

Kathryn Cornell Dolan

‘An entertaining journey from the earliest accounts of pottages and porridges to the contemporary craze for breakfast bars, this is a must read.’ – Etta M. Madden, Clif and Gail Smart Professor of English, Missouri State University

Simple, healthy and comforting, breakfast cereals are a perennially popular way to start the day around the world. They have a long, distinguished and surprising history – around 10,000 years ago, with the advent of agriculture, people began breaking their fast with porridges made from wheat, rice, corn and other grains. It was only in the second half of the nineteenth century, however, in the United States, that a series of entrepreneurs and food reformers created the breakfast cereals we recognize today: Kellogg’s Corn Flakes, Cheerios and Quaker Oats, among others.

In this global, entertaining and well-illustrated account, Kathryn Cornell Dolan explores the history of breakfast cereals, including many historical and modern recipes that the reader can try at home.

Kathryn Cornell Dolan is Associate Professor in the department of English and Technical Communication at Missouri University of Science and Technology. Her books include Beyond the Fruited Plain (2014) and Cattle Country (2021).
Wind

Nature and Culture
Louise M. Pryke

By turns creative and destructive, wind spreads seeds, fills sails and disperses the energy of the sun. Worshipped since antiquity, wind has moulded planets, decided the outcome of innumerable battles and shaped the evolution of humans and animals – yet it remains intangible and unpredictable.

In this book Louise M. Pryke explores the science behind wind, as well as how it has been imagined and portrayed in myth, religion, art and literature since ancient times. Its formative effect on the Earth’s environment is reflected in its prominent role in myths and religions of antiquity. In the modern day, wind has inspired ground-breaking scientific innovations, and appeared in artistic works as diverse as the art of Van Gogh, the poetry of Keats and the blockbuster film Twister.

Louise M. Pryke is an Honorary Associate and Lecturer at the University of Sydney. She is the author of Scorpion (Reaktion, 2016), Ishtar (2017) and Gilgamesh (2019).
Rooted in ecology, *Rowan* is the first in-depth natural and cultural history of this much-loved plant. Addressing topics from myth, medicine and folklore to Romanticism and cultural nationalism, and from the literature of revolutionary Russia to Land Art and contemporary rewilding, Oliver Southall uncovers the many meanings of the mountain ash: as a marker of regional identity and resistance to internal colonization, as a potent symbol of political and personal nostalgia, and as a focus for environmental activism made ever more pressing by climate change and biodiversity loss.

Taking the reader on a surprising and eclectic journey, *Rowan* charts our changing relationships with nature and landscape, raising urgent questions of how we value and relate to the non-human world.

Oliver Southall is the author of *Borage Blue* (2019), a collection of prose and verse meditations on poetics, nature and sensation. His poetry has appeared in a range of publications, including *Footprints: An Anthology of New Ecopoetry* (2022). He lives in West Sussex, UK.

An in-depth social and natural history of the much-loved, highly symbolic rowan tree

**BOTANICAL**

May 2023  •  Nature
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103 illustrations, 80 in colour
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In this book, Dan Torre explores the intriguing and multifaceted natural, cultural and social history of the orchid. Orchids are one of the largest families of plants – approximately 8 per cent of all the Earth’s flowering species. They are known for their beautiful flowers with bright colours, delicate forms and delicate fragrances. However, when we look deeper into their world, we find that they are much more than an elegant flowering plant and behave in unexpected ways that no other flowers do.

Philosophers have contemplated them; countless artists have celebrated them; millions of people have cultivated them, displayed them and even consumed them. Orchids occupy our thoughts, our stories, our societies, our greenhouses, our florists, our supermarkets and our homes. And that is merely the beginning.

Dan Torre is Senior Lecturer in the School of Design at RMIT University, Melbourne, Australia. He is an avid grower and collector of cacti, and the author of *Cactus* (2017) and *Carnivorous Plants* (2019), both published by Reaktion Books.
Yew
Fred Hageneder

‘A real treasure trove.’ – BBC Wildlife Magazine

‘It is tempting to say that Fred Hageneder knows all there is to know about this species, but what he knows best of all is that there is still much to learn about the yew.’ – TLS

‘Delightfully illustrated and meticulously referenced, Yew is a must-have for everyone inspired by this magnificent tree.’ – Shonil Bhagwat, Open University and the University of Oxford

The yew, Europe’s most ancient species of tree, has many unique characteristics: it is a ‘conifer’ without resin or cones, and though it has an extraordinarily low rate of photosynthesis, it can grow where other plants wither and die. It can be found at the sacred sites of Native Americans and Buddhists, and Shinto shrines in Japan, as well as in Christian churchyards, where it became a symbol of the Resurrection.

Now available in paperback, this richly illustrated cultural and natural history includes the latest scientific discoveries about a most remarkable tree.

Fred Hageneder is the author of many books on the natural and cultural history of trees. He lives in South Wales at the edge of the Black Mountains.

A beautifully illustrated botanical and cultural history of the yew
The Bolognese naturalist Ulisse Aldrovandi was a prolific writer, polymath and prodigious collector who amassed the largest collection of naturalia in sixteenth-century Europe, as well as hundreds of coloured drawings detailing them. Many of these drawings found their way into his illustrated publications, most of which were published posthumously.

This book provides a concise yet comprehensive portrait of Aldrovandi, paying particular attention to two aspects: the role that the newly discovered continent of America played in his research interests, and his study of abnormalities of physiological development in organisms. Peter Mason gives insight into Aldrovandi’s fascinating life, his early work on antiquities, his natural history and other collecting activities, his network of correspondents and patrons, and the influence and legacy of his collection and publications.

Peter Mason has written and lectured widely in the field of the history of art and visual culture, especially in relation to Latin America. His previous books include *The Lives of Images* (2001) and *Before Disenchantment: Images of Exotic Animals and Plants in the Early Modern World* (2009), both published by Reaktion Books.
Thomas Nashe and Late Elizabethan Writing
Andrew Hadfield

‘Andrew Hadfield’s remarkable new book deftly displays the edgy wit and verbal inventiveness with which Nashe gives voice to his provocative understanding of the interrelated social, commercial, and religious worlds that defined the unsettling modernity of his England.’ – David Scott Kastan, George M. Bodman Professor Emeritus of English, Yale University

‘Hadfield’s skill is in contextualising without overshadowing the literary brio of the writing, and in recovering the Nashe whom all his contemporaries – including Shakespeare – wanted to emulate.’ – Emma Smith, Professor of Shakespeare Studies, Hertford College, University of Oxford

This book provides an overview of the life and work of the scandalous Renaissance writer Thomas Nashe (1567–c. 1600), perhaps the only English author whose work led to the closure of theatres and the widespread banning of printed books. Nashe was famous for writing the scurrilous novel *The Unfortunate Traveller* (1594), but as Andrew Hadfield shows, there was much more to his career than this brilliant work.

Andrew Hadfield is Professor of English at the University of Sussex and a fellow of the British Academy. He is the author of a number of works on early modern literature and culture, including *Shakespeare and Republicanism* (2005), *Edmund Spenser: A Life* (2012), *Lying in Early Modern Culture* (2017) and *John Donne* (Reaktion, 2021).
Shows how René Descartes transformed philosophy

‘Lucid, compelling and unfailingly judicious, this is a marvellous new study of a magisterial modern thinker.’
– Clare Carlisle Tresch, Professor of Philosophy, King’s College London

‘A masterly account of one of the best-known figures of modern philosophy.’ – Harold J. Cook, John F. Nickoll Professor of History, Brown University, and author of *The Young Descartes*

Often called ‘the father of modern philosophy’, René Descartes’ contributions to philosophy, mathematics and natural science set the intellectual agenda for the seventeenth century. In this biography and assessment of his works, based on the most up-to-date research, Steven Nadler follows Descartes from his early years and education in France to the Dutch Republic, where he lived most of his adult life, to his final months as tutor to Queen Christina of Sweden.

Nadler shows how Descartes’ ‘renewal’ of philosophy involved a transformation in both the way in which philosophy is done and the fundamental understanding of the cosmos, the natural world and human nature. His work was a springboard for many of the metaphysical and epistemological problems that continue to engage philosophers today.

Steven Nadler is Vilas Research Professor and William H. Hay II Professor of Philosophy at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. His books include *Think Least of Death: Spinoza on How to Live and How to Die* (2020).
The Art of Anatomy in Medieval Europe
Taylor McCall

This book is the first modern history of medieval European anatomical images. Richly illustrated, it explores the many ways in which medieval surgeons, doctors, monks and artists understood and depicted human anatomy. Taylor McCall refutes the common misconception that Renaissance artists and anatomists such as Leonardo da Vinci and Andreas Vesalius were the ‘fathers’ of anatomy, and the first to perform scientific human dissection; on the contrary, she proves these Renaissance figures drew upon centuries of visual and written tradition in their works.

This interdisciplinary book will appeal to general audiences interested in the history of the body and medical professionals curious about the history of their discipline, as well as historians of art, medicine and medieval culture.

Taylor McCall is the managing editor of Speculum: A Journal of Medieval Studies and has held positions at the British Library, University College London and Christie’s. She has published widely in the fields of medieval medicine and art.

The first history of pre-modern European anatomy and its visual culture

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Alle Thyng Hath Tyme
Time and Medieval Life
Gillian Adler and Paul Strohm

‘Alle Thyng Hath Tyme shows that an active experience of time – then as now – is an engagement with life itself. Make time for this book!’ – Carolyn Dinshaw, Julius Silver Professor, New York University, and author of How Soon Is Now? Medieval Texts, Amateur Readers, and the Queerness of Time

Alle Thyng Hath Tyme recreates medieval people’s experience of time: as continuous and discontinuous, linear and cyclical, embracing Creation and Judgement, shrinking to ‘atoms’ or ‘droplets’ and extending to the silent spaces of eternity. They might measure time by natural phenomena such as sunrise and sunset, the motion of the stars or the progress of the seasons, even as the late medieval invention of the mechanical clock was making time-reckoning more precise. Negotiating these mixed and competing systems, medieval people gained a nuanced and expansive sense of time that rewards attention today.

Gillian Adler is Assistant Professor of Literature and Esther Raushenbush Chair in Humanities at Sarah Lawrence College in New York. She is the author of Chaucer and the Ethics of Time (2022).

Paul Strohm is Professor Emeritus of the Humanities at Columbia University, and divides his time between Oxford, UK, and Brooklyn, NY. His many books include The Poet’s Tale: Chaucer and the Year that Made The Canterbury Tales (2015).

A recreation of medieval people’s multifarious experience of time

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Andrey Rublev
*The Artist and His World*
Robin Milner-Gulland

‘Robin Milner-Gulland has produced a magical account of the life and work of Andrey Rublev.’ – John E. Bowlt, Professor Emeritus of Slavic Languages and Literatures, University of Southern California

‘Milner-Gulland is just the author to introduce us to Rublev and his world – both little known and much misrepresented.’ – Avril Pyman, Reader Emeritus in Russian, University of Durham

Born in the 1360s, Andrey Rublev was a Muscovite monk and icon painter who died between 1427 and 1430 in Moscow. He is acknowledged as the supreme medieval Russian painter of icons and frescos, yet much about him remains mysterious. To date there is no volume in English on him or his work.

This book addresses the gap, giving an overview of Rublev’s own times and later reputation, and taking in the most recent Rublev scholarship. It uses Russian-language material (including Old Russian), but is thoroughly accessible to the non-specialist reader. *Andrey Rublev* is profusely illustrated with previously unpublished images, bringing the story of Rublev’s ‘rediscovery’ right up to date.

Robin Milner-Gulland is Emeritus Professor of Russian and East European Studies at the University of Sussex. He is the translator or author of many books, including *Icon and Devotion* (2002) and *Patterns of Russia* (2020), both published by Reaktion Books.
The Ruling Families of Rus

Clan, Family and Kingdom

Christian Raffensperger
and Donald Ostrowski

‘A novel interpretation of early Rus history, focusing on families rather than dynasties.’ – Morris Rossabi, Associate Adjunct Professor, Columbia University

This is a new history of the region known as Kyivan Rus, a state in eastern and northern Europe from the late ninth to the mid-sixteenth century that encompassed a variety of polities and peoples. This account for the first time focuses on the history of the region via families, which allows the discussion of a wider region and a larger group of people than has been possible before. The book examines the development of Rus, Lithuania, Muscovy and Tver, and their relations and interconnections with the Mongols, Byzantines, Ottomans and many other peoples. This readable yet thoroughly scholarly book will appeal to anyone with an interest in the history of eastern Europe, a region that is crucial in world politics today.

Christian Raffensperger is the Kenneth E. Wray Chair in the Humanities at Wittenberg University, Ohio. His many books include Conflict, Bargaining, and Kinship Networks in Medieval Eastern Europe (2018).

Donald Ostrowski is a lecturer at the Harvard Extension School, and Associate of the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute. His books include Russia in the Early Modern World: The Continuity of Change (2022).

A new, family-based history of the region known as Kyivan Rus

DYNASTIES

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The Hittites
Lost Civilizations
Damien Stone

‘Based on substantial research and written in a clear, elegant style, Damien Stone’s book presents for the general reader a concise coverage of all aspects of Hittite history and civilization.’ – Trevor Bryce, Honorary Professor in Classics, University of Queensland

‘A joy to read.’ – Candace Richards, Assistant Curator, Nicholson Collection, Chau Chak Wing Museum, University of Sydney

Famed for their skill in battle, the Hittites flourished in central Anatolia from the seventeenth to the thirteenth century BC. They were much more than a military power, however: their religion held particular reverence for the sun and storms that provided fertility to their land, and their eclectic art produced some of the most unique rock-cut relief carvings of the Bronze Age.

*The Hittites* is a fine introduction to the culture and art of this vibrant civilization. The book narrates the colourful succession of Hittite kings and their queens, complete with assassinations, intrigues and an evil stepmother banished for witchcraft. It also looks at the Hittite language, the first known example of the Indo-European language from which English descends, and considers the Hittites’ legacy today.

Damien Stone is an archaeologist based at Chau Chak Wing Museum, Sydney, Australia. He is the author of *Pomegranate: A Global History* (Reaktion, 2017).

A fine introduction to the culture and art of a vibrant ancient civilization, the Hittites

LOST CIVILIZATIONS
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The Persians
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Geoffrey Parker and Brenda Parker

‘A compact, concise history of a whole civilisation – from its nomadic origins in the first and second millennia BC to its new role as a tourist destination as modern-day Iran.’
– Minerva Magazine

‘Anyone looking for a concise overview of Iranian history from pre-Islamic times to the present could do worse than consult this elegantly written volume’ – Choice

Now available in paperback, The Persians tells the story of this cultured ancient civilization, tracing the unique features of Persian life as well as their influence down the centuries. The book describes the difficulties early Persians encountered and how these contributed to their unique character and the establishment of the Achaemenid Empire. It paints a vivid picture of the many great Persian cities and their spectacular achievements: an efficient road system that linked an empire together; respect for their subject peoples; and advances in irrigation techniques which created a ‘paradise’ envied by their neighbours.

Geoffrey Parker was Honorary Senior Research Fellow at the University of Birmingham. His books include Sovereign City (2004) and Power in Stone (2014), both published by Reaktion Books.

Brenda Parker is a former Lecturer in English and Creative Writing at the University of Birmingham.
Exist Otherwise
The Life and Works of Claude Cahun
Jennifer L. Shaw

‘A valuable contribution to the scant body of English-language scholarship on Cahun.’ – Erin Silver, CAA Reviews

‘Shaw has written a fascinating book about a gender-bending lesbian intellectual who challenged ideas of gender and sexuality in both her life and art.’ – Gay and Lesbian Review

‘This book deserves a wide readership . . . Highly recommended.’– Choice

Now available in paperback, Exist Otherwise tells the full story of Claude Cahun’s art and life. This account embeds Cahun’s work in the exciting milieu of Paris between the wars and follows it into the dangerous territory of the Nazi-occupied Isle of Jersey. Using letters and diaries, Jennifer L. Shaw brings Cahun’s ideas and feelings to life and contributes to our understanding of photography, Surrealism and the histories of women artists and queer culture.

This book includes a full range of illustrations by Cahun and other renowned photographers, as well as writings never before translated into English.

Jennifer L. Shaw is Professor of Art History at Sonoma State University, California. Her previous books include Reading Claude Cahun’s Disavowals (2013).

The first work in English to tell the full story of Claude Cahun’s art and life

April 2023 • Art
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Outrageous!
The Story of Section 28 and Britain’s Battle for LGBT Education
Paul Baker

‘Baker’s chatty, tart tone and personal asides serve to throw the heady extremes of a not-so-distant era into even sharper relief.’ – BBC History Magazine

‘Fascinating, engaging, inspiring.’ – Attitude Magazine

‘A surprising, smart, funny, and beautifully written book.’
– Jason Baumann, editor of The Stonewall Reader

‘An important and fascinating deep dive into one of the most damaging pieces of legislation in modern history.’
– Matthew Todd, author of Straight Jacket and Pride

Now available in paperback, Outrageous! tells the full story of the infamous 1988 ‘Section 28’ law, which forbade local authorities from teaching ‘the acceptability of homosexuality as a pretended family relationship’. Based on detailed research, interviews with key figures – including Ian McKellen, Michael Cashman and Angela Mason – and personal recollection, it is an impassioned, warm, often moving account of unthinkable prejudice enshrined within law, and of the power of community to overcome it.

Paul Baker is Professor of English Language at Lancaster University. His books include American and British English (2018) and Fabulosa! The Story of Polari, Britain’s Secret Gay Language (Reaktion, 2020).
The Greatest Shows on Earth
A History of the Circus
Linda Simon

‘Engrossing’ – John Carey, Sunday Times

‘A jewel of a publication’ – The Spectator

‘Simon enlivens history with roughly equal helpings of anecdote and philosophical enquiry.’ – TLS

‘This beautifully produced book, with its excellent color reproductions, extensive notes, and useful bibliography, is a must for those interested in popular culture. Essential.’ – Choice

Now available in paperback, The Greatest Shows on Earth takes us from eighteenth-century hippodromes in Britain to intimate one-ring circuses in nineteenth-century Paris, where Toulouse-Lautrec and Picasso became enchanted by aerialists and clowns. Circus people are central to the story: trick riders and tightrope walkers, sword swallowers and animal trainers, contortionists and clowns – these are the men and women who create the sensational, incomparable world of the circus.

Beautifully illustrated, rich in historical detail and full of colourful anecdotes, Linda Simon’s vibrant history is as enchanting as a night at the big top itself.

Linda Simon is Professor Emerita of English at Skidmore College, New York. Her many books include Coco Chanel (2011) and Lost Girls: The Invention of the Flapper (2017), both published by Reaktion Books.
Pan

The Great God’s Modern Return

Paul Robichaud

‘Simply the most wide-ranging and up-to-date exploration of the impact of Pan on the Western imagination yet written.’

– Ronald Hutton, author of The Triumph of the Moon

‘A tour de force.’ – Pericles Lewis, author of The Cambridge Introduction to Modernism

‘A fascinating account of a strange god with meme-like reach across the ages, and a study in the temporal shape-shifting of mythology itself.’ – The Spectator

Part-goat, part-man, Pan bridges the divide between the human and animal worlds. In exquisite prose, Paul Robichaud explores how Pan has been imagined in mythology, art, literature, music, spirituality and popular culture through the centuries. Pan: The Great God’s Modern Return traces his intoxicating dance.

Paul Robichaud is Professor and Chair of English at Albertus Magnus College in New Haven, Connecticut. He is the author of Making the Past Present: David Jones, the Middle Ages, and Modernism (2007), and his poems have appeared in various magazines, including Agenda and the Hudson Review.

A beautifully written celebration of the god of music, lust and wine, Pan

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