

## BOOKS

**BY JOAN BRUNSKILL**  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

**It's not hard to find**

It's not hard to find wonderful art books to give as holiday gifts. The hard part is deciding *which* book to give. This season, as in past years, the selection is gloriously, confusingly varied. To help clarify matters, here's a sampling of the wide range of the latest art books.

**For specialists:**

■ "Egyptian Treasures From the Egyptian Museum in Cairo" (Abrams, \$75), edited by Francesco Tiradritti, photographs by Araldo De Luca.

Lovers of Egyptian art need look no further. This sumptuous book gives the reader a private tour of a priceless collection, the legacy of one of the world's most intriguing civilizations. Its overview covers early and late periods, more than 5,000 years of art: sculpture, paintings, jew-

This is a large-format book, its lavish illustrations laced with enough informative and scholarly text to keep a recipient enthralled well into the next millennium.

■ "Surrealism: Two Private Eyes" (Guggenheim-Abrams, \$95) is a massive, two-volume, slip-cased set that surveys the collections of surrealist art assembled by magazine publisher Daniel Filipacchi and record producer Naumi Ergaz.

The highly-rated collections were publicly exhibited for the first time at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum earlier this year. These volumes are made up almost entirely of full-page color reproductions of the works; there are more than 1,000 illustrations.

For anyone who's a fan of surrealism, his fantasies, dreams and nightmares, this is a special treasure. The collections include paintings, sculpture, photographs, works on paper and rare books by most of the movement's leading artists, from Salvador Dali and Rene Magritte to Giorgio de Chirico and Frida Kahlo.

The books were edited by Fillipacchi, with essays contributed by art historians and scholars.

■ "French Art Treasures at the Hermitage: Splendid Masterpieces, New Discoveries" (Abrams, \$75) by Albert Kostenevich gives readers multiple insights: handsome reproductions of legendary artworks and an insider's comments about them.

## BOOK HAPPENINGS

**Book Happenings** features events at suburban bookstores, libraries and literary gatherings. Send news leads to Keely Wygonik, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150, or fax them to (734) 591-7279 or e-mail to [kwygonik@cc.hometown.net](mailto:kwygonik@cc.hometown.net).

**LOCAL INTEREST**  
Northville resident James E. Person Jr. will discuss and sign copies of his book, "Russell Kirk, A Critical Biography of a Conservative Mind," noon to 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 5, at the Little Book Shoppe on the Park in

Plymouth. Person is a graduate of Plymouth Salem High School and his book is an account of the noted thinker Russell Kirk, who also lived in Plymouth as a youth. Kirk developed a unique philosophy of conservative values and perspectives. The Little Book Shoppe is located at 308 S.

■ Author David Carson, who wrote "Rockin' Down the Dial: The Detroit Sound of Radio from Jack the Bellboy," will sign copies of his book at the Detroit Historical Museum. The signing is scheduled for 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 5, in the Louise C. Booth

Carson, whose book was recently published by Troy-based Momentum Books, will be joined by a few of the radio personalities featured, including current WOMC-FM morning man and Detroit radio institution Dick Butts. Former WWJZ and MANE

Puritan, former WXYZ and WJLB radio personality Jack Surrel and veteran WJR and WJBK radio personality Clark Reid. The program is presented in conjunction with the Museum's new

■ Here is a roundup of some of this year's best art books covering painting, buildings and even crafts.

Kostenevich is the curator of modern European art at the

museum in St. Petersburg, Russia, so who better to have as guide to its wealth of French art from 1860 to 1950? The tour only starts with some 60 works by Matisse and 40 by Picasso; the tally of other artists represented

and illustrated meanders richly, via Manet and Monet, Gauguin and Rodin, and on through a familiar litany of revered names. The author's stories about the works smoothly combine individual history with art history, and the illustrations include six gatefolds.

■ "Monet and Bazille: A Collaboration" (High Museum of Art-Abrams, \$24.95) is about the

relationship between Claude Monet and his fellow artist Frederic Bazille as they struggled to develop the new style of painting that became Impressionism.

And "Faces of Impressionism" (Baltimore Museum of Art-Rizzoli, \$50) by Sara Johnston et

This last title is echoed to very different effect in "Masks: Faces of Culture" (Abrams, \$60) by John W. Nunley and Cara McCarty, a series of startling encounters.

one face-to-face with a 5,000-year-old stone funerary mask – or the most celebrated film masks of recent years, that gleaming black head of Darth Vader. A hockey goaltender's mask recalls another movie villain, Hannibal Lecter.

warriors and headpieces of medieval armor, ceremonial masks of African tribesmen and American Indian dancers.

The range presented is full of drama and contrast, the masks executed in a dazzling variety of materials. The text surveys the record of mask usage, worldwide, from prehistory to today.

■ "Art in Venice" (Abrams, \$39.99) by Stefano Zuffi. Text and about 500 color plates taken

readers on a chronological tour of Venetian art - paintings, sculpture, architecture and decorative arts - from the Byzantine era through the Renaissance and into the modern age. Artists represented include Bellini, Carpaccio, Titian, Veronese and Tintoretto.

■ "Buildings that Changed the World" (Prostel, \$29.95) by Klaus Reichold and Bernhard Graf takes readers on a series of picturesque visits to 180 remarkable structures, spanning at least 5,000 years.

Start with Stonehenge, a magnificent mystery looming out of the shadows of prehistoric times. As a grand finale, contemplate a visionary design for a Millennium Tower, twice as tall as Chicago's Sears Tower, that has not yet been built.

En route, enjoy fine color photographs of the Pyramids, the Great Wall of China, the Acropolis and the Leaning Tower of Pisa. Compare the Tower of London with Frank Lloyd Wright's Fallingwater house at Bear Run, Pa. and you have some idea of

■ "Treasures of Taliesin: Seventy-Seven Unbuilt Designs" (Pomegranate, \$50) by Bruce Brooks Pfeiffer focuses on two

It is a collection of designs by Wright, from that American master's extraordinary range of creative achievement. There are 106 color plates of exquisite

drawings - churches and bridges, monuments and private houses, buildings for a world's fair and a dress shop. You do not have to be a student of architecture to appreciate the fantasy here.

■ "Collecting African-American Art: Works on Paper and Canvas" (Crown,\$50) by Halima Taha combines a very practical text with a selection of glowing images.  
The writer, an art consultant,

encourages aspiring collectors by offering a helpful survey of points to consider, including the basics: what to collect, prices, display and care of artworks. Her text is profusely illustrated with examples, details of styles and individual artists, plus pages of glossy reproductions that are a pleasure to contemplate even without any thought of acquisition.

Kensington Metropark in his book, "The Nature of Kensington." The 94 images captured within the book's covers bring the understated beauty of southeast Michigan's crown jewel as near as the living room coffee table. Meet the author and see the stunning photos for yourself at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 8, at the Farmington Hills Borders, 30995 Orchard Lake Road. Call (248) 737-3980.

**BORDERS ROCHESTER HILLS**  
Story teller Laura Kamienny will entertain children with rousing renditions of favorite winter tales by great kids' authors such as Leo Lionni and Jan Brett. The fun starts at 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 9.

**KINDERMUSIK**  
Parents and their children are invited to experience free interactive 20-30 minute programs of seasonal story telling, music and movement during Story Times.

Registrations are suggested, but not mandatory. Call (734) 455-5220 to register at Little Book Shop on the Park, 389 S. Main

Shoppers on the Park, 380 S. Main in Plymouth. Story times are planned for the first or second Saturday of each month. Story times are also planned for the first Tuesday of each month at Plymouth Coffee Bean, 884 Penniman in Plymouth. Call (734)

454-0178 to register. And Baby  
Baby Children's Resale Shop,  
153 E. Main in Northville, also  
offers sessions. Call (248) 347-  
2229 for registration information.  
Karen Schanerberger, a licensed  
Kindermusik educator at Evola  
Music, will instruct.

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