

The New York Times

Best Art Books of 2023

The art critics of The Times select their favorites, from Botticelli to Vermeer, Lucy Lippard's memoir, and Wade Guyton's intelligent rereading of Manet.

Holland Cotter

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Have art books, will travel. And this year's prime selections clock up a lot of visual, historical and personal mileage. We get an up-close tour through the Vermeer extravaganza that became the focus of international pilgrimage in 2023. The contemporary American artist Wade Guyton leads us, with a volume of his own drawings, through a lifetime fascination with the work of Édouard Manet. And at last we have the much-anticipated autobiographical account — actually an anti-memoir — of the long, continuing and indispensable career of one of our most influential and personable art writers.

— HOLLAND COTTER

'Darrel Ellis: Regeneration' Edited by Antonio Sergio Bessa and Leslie Cozzi. (*Skira*).

When the New York artist Darrel Ellis died of AIDS in 1992 at 33, he was all-too-well aware that the chances of the work of a young, gay, Black experimental photographer surviving, much less gaining critical and institutional notice, were less than slim. Fortunately, through the vigilance of curators, artist-friends and family, his work is very much with us and permanently visible in this lovingly conceived book, the catalog for a traveling survey.



Clockwise from top left: "Vermeer," "Darrel Ellis: Regeneration," "Trad, Gras och Stenar: A Collective History," "Abraham Ángel: Between Wonder and Seduction," "Miyoko Ito: Heart of Hearts" and "Coco Fusco: Tomorrow, I Will Become an Island."

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