



33 Artists in 3 Acts

by Sarah Thornton

"In her previous book, *Seven Days in the Art World*, Thornton examined the institutions that form the channels through which contemporary art may find its way to the public. In *33 Artists in 3 Acts*, she converses with some of today's most high-profile artists, including Ai Weiwei, Jeff Koons, Cindy Sherman, and Damien Hirst. None of the artists display reticence or mystery; rather, philosophy, politics, narcissism, and even some genuine candidness are evident. Thornton does not overly editorialize, allowing the artists to speak for themselves, and the results are sometimes thought-provoking, sometimes maddening, but always entertaining."

—Michael Bristow, University Book Store, Seattle, WA

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The Final Silence

by Stuart Neville

"Rea Carlisle inherited a house from an uncle she never knew. In it was a locked room, and when she forced open the door what she found terrified her—a book detailing the murders of a variety of people over a period of many years. After attempts to investigate were thwarted by her father, Rea reached out to the only policeman she knew, disgraced inspector Jack Lennon. When Lennon arrived, he found Rea dead, and he quickly became the number one suspect in her murder. What follows is a harrowing investigation that pulls down Rea's father, a local politician with ties to the IRA—ties that lead directly to a serial killer who will keep killing until he gets what he wants."

—Janice Hunsche, Kaleidosaurus Books, Metamora, IN

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Fire Shut Up in My Bones

A Memoir, by Charles M. Blow

"Mirroring so many of the memories, feelings, and imaginings from my own childhood in small-town Arkansas, Blow's moving memoir tells the pitiless Southern experience of a black man coming of age in Louisiana in a world and time when the legacy of slavery's grip is slipping away ever so slowly but still leaves its searing sting. An important book."

—Chris Crawley, That Bookstore in Blytheville, Blytheville, AR

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The First Bad Man

A Novel, by Miranda July

"Miranda July does not coddle readers; rather, she unapologetically throws them into the world of gritty irony that she has masterfully created. July spins a complex web that reflects the absurdity, horror, and glory of life. Her protagonist, Cheryl Glickman, allows us to understand the flawed characters of her world—herself included—and to see past the grotesque. Cheryl's quirkiness and July's mastery of inner dialogue keep readers entranced and perhaps make them a bit more human as a result of the experience."

—Letizia Acosta, University Book Store, Seattle, WA

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Florence Gordon A Novel, by Brian Morton

"Irrascible, intellectual, life-long activist Florence Gordon never sought the limelight, and her work now seems to be receding into feminist history. But, at 75, she receives a rapturous review in the *New York Times*. That, plus some disconcerting physical difficulties, increasingly unreasonable demands from her ex-husband, and the recent move of her son and his family to her Upper West Side neighborhood throw this fiercely controlled, independent woman off balance. Every character in this novel faces unexpected challenges and is vividly, memorably drawn."

—Banna Rubinow, the river's end bookstore, Oswego, NY

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Gutenberg's Apprentice A Novel, by Alix Christie

"This novel about the making of the first printed book, the Gutenberg Bible, is a dramatic and gripping tale of betrayal and intrigue. A young scribe is apprenticed to the visionary and difficult genius Johann Gutenberg at the behest of his father, Gutenberg's financial backer. Tension between genius and finance, between old ways and the new, that is aggravated by threats from the Church and the traditional guilds make for a great read. Christie is a master printer herself, and in *Gutenberg's Apprentice* she brings a real feeling for the beauty and artistry of printing and honors one of the most revolutionary achievements in history."

—Rod Froke, DIESEL: A Bookstore, Larkspur, CA

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Moriarty A Novel, by Anthony Horowitz

"I've been reading Sherlock Holmes pastiches for 20 years, but I've never read anything as devious as this! After the famous encounter between Holmes and Moriarty at Reichenbach Falls, Inspector Athelney Jones and Pinkerton Agent Frederick Chase are thrown together to combat the rising shadow of an American crime boss looking to take over Moriarty's empire. Horowitz comes up with a unique voice with several parallels to the Holmes and Watson dynamic. As soon as you finish, you'll want to read it again with a new appreciation for Horowitz's masterful plotting. Exquisitely done!"

—Steven Sautter, Books Inc., San Francisco, CA

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Not Fade Away A Memoir of Senses Lost and Found, by Rebecca Alexander with Sascha Alper

"In this time of many memoirs, this one stands out beautifully. As a bookseller, I know the demand for books to encourage and teach living in the moment, living a vibrant and mindful life, and approaching life with grace. Alexander is right there with her own story of loss and obstacles overcome with tenacity, honesty, and humor. As with Susannah Cahalan's *Brain on Fire*, you will not be able to put this book down and will have a new perspective on life when you finish it."

—Dana Brigham, Brookline Booksmith, Brookline, MA

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The Paying Guests

by Sarah Waters

"At the end of WWI, 26-year-old Frances and her mother find themselves in dire financial circumstances. Both of Frances' brothers died in the war, and now her father's death has left them in debt. Frances and her mother reconfigure their home in a gracious London neighborhood so that they can take in lodgers. From the moment Mr. and Mrs. Barber—the 'paying guests'—arrive, the young couple pulls Frances out of her staid routine, and before long sexual sparks are flying. Waters is a brilliant writer, a master of the hothouse atmosphere and the slow reveal, and her new novel is utterly absorbing."

—Ellen Sandmeyer, Sandmeyer's Bookstore, Chicago, IL

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A Sudden Light

A Novel, by Garth Stein

"Stein's new novel of family relationships and responsibilities explores the connections between the living and the dead, between parents and children, and what it means to be stewards of the land. Two very compelling characters drive the story: a 14-year-old boy trying to patch his family back together and a centuries-old ghost trying to make sure that the wrongs of the past are put right so that a family's legacy can be maintained. *A Sudden Light* is a compelling search for faith and meaning in a world where bad things sometimes happen."

—Andrea Jones, The Galaxy Bookshop, Hardwick, VT

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Sweetland

A Novel, by Michael Crummey

"Crummey takes readers into the heart of the insular fishing community of Chance Cove, Sweetland Island, Newfoundland. Sixty-eight-year-old Moses Sweetland's family founded the town, and he is the only holdout when the government offers the residents a generous cash settlement to relocate to the mainland, that is effective only if everyone signs on. Told in sparse, beautiful prose with generous helpings of the local dialect, *Sweetland* is a requiem for the intimate knowledge of place that a transient society can just barely remember."

—Sarah Goddin, Quail Ridge Books & Music, Raleigh, NC

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Wolf in White Van

A Novel, by John Darnielle

"Darnielle is an outstanding storyteller writing about lives on the outside edges of society and the extreme moments in those lives. Sean, the narrator of *Wolf in White Van*, has had an isolated existence since he was disfigured at the age of 17. As the creator of a mail-based role-playing game called Trace Italian, Sean influences the lives of others in unexpected, unintended ways. *Wolf in White Van* is captivating, haunting, and powerful. Highly recommended!"

—Carol Schneck Varner, Schuler Books & Music, Okemos, MI

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