

# 2020

## Reading Challenge for Adults

### Suggested Reading List\*

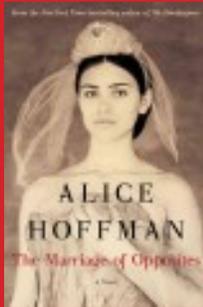
*\*This list is for ideas only. Chosen book should fit the theme, but no specific titles are required to participate in the reading challenge. Please enjoy!*

C.H.

**BOOTH**  
**LIBRARY**

### August: Read a Masterpiece!

This month why not read about the fascinating world of art!



#### **Marriage of Opposites by Alice Hoffman**

Dreaming of an exotic life in Paris while coming of age in a St. Thomas refugee community, young Rachel is forced to marry a widower before falling scandalously in love and becoming the mother of Impressionist master Camille Pissarro.



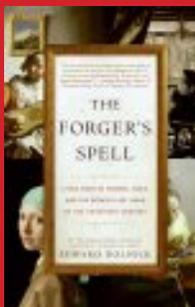
#### **Loving Frank by Nancy Horan**

Fact and fiction blend in a historical novel that chronicles the relationship between seminal architect Frank Lloyd Wright and Mamah Cheney, from their meeting, when they were each married to another, to the clandestine affair that shocked Chicago society.



#### **A Piece of the World by Christina Baker Kline**

Tells the story of Christina Olson, who served as the host and inspiration for artist Andrew Wyeth, despite an incapacitating illness.



#### **The Forger's Spell by Edward Dolnick**

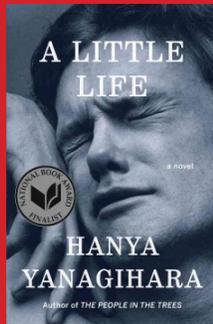
Describes how a small-time Dutch painter conned a reviled Nazi leader by creating works that impersonated those of Jan Vermeer, a seven-year deception during which the forger hid his mediocre abilities through psychologically manipulative practices.

*Annotations from NoveList*



## **The Music Lesson by Katharine Weber**

Grieving over the loss of her daughter, Irish-American art historian Patricia Dolan struggles to cope with a passionate love affair with her dangerous and charming Irish cousin Michael O'Driscoll, a stolen Vermeer painting, and a violent splinter group of the IRA.



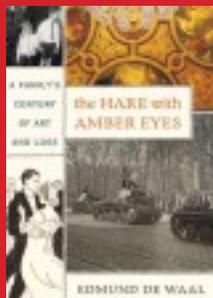
## **A Little Life by Hanya Yanagihara**

Moving to New York to pursue creative ambitions, four former classmates share decades marked by love, loss, addiction and haunting elements from a brutal childhood.



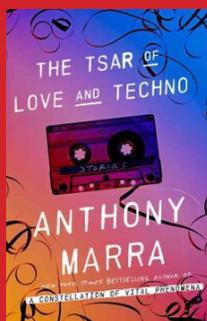
## **The Muse by Jessica Burton**

A Caribbean immigrant in 1960s London and a bohemian woman in 1930s Spain are bound together by a painting rumored to be the work of a genius artist and the mystery surrounding his death.



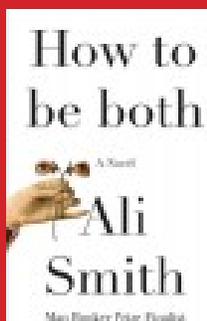
## **Hare with the Amber Eyes by Edmund De Waal**

Traces the parallel stories of 19th-century art patron Charles Ephrussi and his unique collection of 360 miniature netsuke Japanese ivory carvings, documenting Ephrussi's relationship with Marcel Proust and the impact of the Holocaust on his cosmopolitan family.



## **The Tsar of Love and Techno by Anthony Marra**

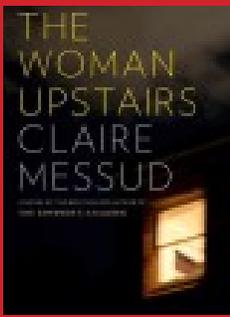
A collection of interwoven tales explores themes of family, sacrifice, war, and the redemptive power of art.



## **How to Be Both by Ali Smith**

This is a novel all about art's versatility. Borrowing from painting's fresco technique to make an original literary double-take, it's a fast-moving genre-bending conversation between forms, times, truths and fictions. Two tales of love and injustice twist into a singular yarn where time gets timeless, structural gets playful, knowing gets mysterious, fictional gets real--and all life's givens get given a second chance.

*Annotations from NoveList*



## **The Woman Upstairs by Claire Messud**

Relegated to the status of schoolteacher and friendly neighbor after abandoning her dreams of becoming an artist, Nora advocates on behalf of a charismatic Lebanese student and is drawn into the child's family until his artist mother's careless ambition leads to a shattering betrayal.



## **Sacré Bleu by Christopher Moore**

Baker-turned-painter Lucien Lessard and bon vivant Henri Toulouse-Lautrec vow to discover the truth behind the untimely death of their friend Vincent van Gogh, which leads them on a surreal odyssey and brothel-crawl deep into the art world of late-nineteenth-century Paris.



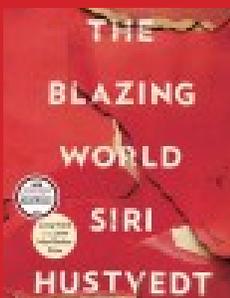
## **The Art Forger by B. A. Shapiro**

On March 18, 1990, thirteen works of art worth today over \$500 million were stolen from the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston. It remains the largest unsolved art heist in history, and Claire Roth, a struggling young artist, is about to discover that there's more to this crime than meets the eye.



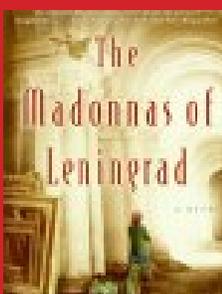
## **My Name is Red by Orhan Pamuk**

In sixteenth-century Istanbul, a furor erupts when the Sultan hires a group of artists to illuminate a great book in the European style at a time in which all figurative art is considered Islamic heresy, but the situation becomes worse when one of the miniaturists vanishes.



## **The Blazing World by Siri Hustvedt**

A provocative tale told through a series of scholarly texts draws on notebooks and conflicting accounts about the life and work of an acclaimed artist who after years of being marginalized conceals her female identity behind three male fronts.



## **The Madonnas of Leningrad by Debra Dean**

In a novel that moves back and forth between the Soviet Union during World War II and modern-day America, Marina, an elderly Russian woman, recalls vivid images of her youth during the height of the siege of Leningrad.