WOMEN ARTISTS & WRITERS
Imagine a dinner party. Round the table are Louise Bourgeois, Lee Miller, Elsa Schiaparelli, Nancy and Decca Mitford, Diana Cooper, Joan Mitchell, Kiki de Montparnasse and Gwen John. What a feast it would be.

Now imagine a bookshelf crowded with books on these women artists and writers. It would be a shelf filled with ideas, spirit, creativity and beauty.

With this rather romantic notion in mind, we have created a short catalogue of twenty books by or on women artists and writers of the twentieth century. There are some old favourites and some
Monday or Tuesday

Virginia Woolf. With woodcuts by Vanessa Bell.
Published by Leonard & Virginia Woolf at The Hogarth Press, Hogarth House, Richmond, Richmond. 1921.
First edition. Limited to 1,000 copies. White paper boards printed with black cover design by Vanessa Bell, brown cloth spine. 96 pages. 4 original woodcuts by Vanessa Bell. Publisher's advertisement leaf at rear. 195 x 130mm. Very good.
£1,750

An early publication of the Hogarth Press, containing eight short stories by Virginia Woolf. Woolf's sister, Vanessa provided four bold and striking wood-cuts to accompany the text, as well as the graphic cover design. Monday or Tuesday was published in an edition of 1,000 copies in Spring 1921. It was hand-set and printed by F. T. McDermott at The Prompt Press, Richmond, 'with Leonard's help and anguish.'

Full description | Purchase | Video

Short stories by Virginia Woolf and original woodcuts by Vanessa Bell
The memoirs of Kiki de Montparnasse in the original French edition of 1929

Kiki Souvenirs
Kiki de Montparnasse [Alice Prin]. Preface by Foujita.

£500

Alice Prin, better known as "Kiki", was a bohemian creative, an embodiment of the Parisian culture of the 1920s. She was an artist in her own right, but also a muse and model for Man Ray, Foujita, Moïse Kisling and many other artists. Her memoirs cover her life to date beginning with her childhood. The text is accompanied by many illustrations, including 10 b&w photographs by Man Ray. The book was published in English in 1930 with a new preface by Hemingway, but was banned by the US until the 1970s for its explicit content.
Lee Miller’s war-time photographs of Wrens

Wrens in Camera


£100

During the Second World War Lee Miller was the official war photographer for Vogue magazine. The images contained in Wrens in Camera were commissioned by the Admiralty and show the female navy officers and workers fulfilling their war duties. There are signallers, technicians, trainers, housekeepers and transport crews. The whole is an important document of women’s roles in war-time Britain.

Full description | Purchase
Nancy Mitford’s semi-autobiographical novel about a Anglo-French marriage

The Blessing

£60

Nancy Mitford’s seventh novel is built around the marriage of an English beauty, Grace Allingham to a French aristocrat, Marquis Charles-Edouard de Valhubert. The “Blessing” is their son, Sigismond. The plot centres on the contrasting views of the English and French on the nature of marriage and the importance of fidelity (or infidelity). The book is semi-autobiographical, touching on the difficulties of Mitford’s relationship with Gaston Palewski. With a dust jacket design by Cecil Beaton. The jacket includes a short humorous biography of Mitford by Evelyn Waugh, to whom the book is dedicated.

Full description | Purchase

A selection of articles from Janet Flanner’s fortnightly “Letter from Paris” in The New Yorker

Paris Was Yesterday 1925-1939

£35

Flanner wrote under the pen-name Genêt and her dispatches provided snapshots of Parisian life between the Wars. The articles start in 1925 with Josephine Baker, Tristan Tzara, La Cuisine, and Henri Rousseau, and finish in 1939 with War Clouds, Exodus (Spanish Civil War), Diaghilev’s Ballet, “Peace in Our Time”, Preparation for War, and War in Our Time (Declared on September 3).

Full description | Purchase
A first edition of Schiaparelli’s autobiography with the shocking pink dust jacket

Shocking Life

Elsa Schiaparelli.


£180

With her own inimitable style, Elsa Schiaparelli provides an honest autobiography of her life and career. The book takes the reader into the heart of Schiaparelli’s fashion house and introduces the many characters she lived amongst, including Lady Mendl, Greta Garbo, Gloria Swanson, Joan Crawford, the Duchess of Windsor, Picasso, Berard, Dali, Anita Loos, Katherine Hepburn, and many more. The striking dust jacket is emblazoned with Schiaparelli’s trademark Shocking Pink.

Full description | Purchase
The Rainbow Comes and Goes; The Light of Common Day; Trumpets from the Steep

Diana Cooper. Rupert Hart-Davis. London. 1958; 1959; 1960. All first editions; vol. I is a second impression. 3 volumes. Cloth-bound hardbacks with title to spine and gilt horse motif to front board, dust jackets. 256; 264; 253 pages. Many black-and-white hors texte plates. 225 x 150mm. Very good; in very good dust jackets.

£180

Cooper’s memoirs reveal a life well-lived, populated with royalty, politicians, artists and aristocrats. They begin with her childhood and then cover her involvement with The Coterie, two World Wars, her celebrated appearance as the Madonna in Max Reinhardt’s The Miracle, her marriage to Duff Cooper and their time at the British Embassy in Paris. The volumes finish with their retirement to Chantilly.

Full description | Purchase
Hons and Rebels

Jessica Mitford.

£240

As one of the Mitford sisters Jessica had an unconventional childhood, with eccentric parents and forceful siblings. Aged 19, she eloped with her cousin Esmond Romilly to war-torn Spain. The pair married and spent the years before the Second World War in America. All this is recounted in Hons and Rebels in brilliant and entertaining detail.

Full description | Purchase
Mourka. The Autobiography of a Cat
Tanaquil Le Clercq. Photographs by Martha Swope.
£180

Martha Swope, official photographer of the New York City Ballet, placed a photo of Mourka leaping, ballet-like, into the air in Life magazine. The popularity of the image led to star status and an autobiography was born. The ballet dancer Tanaquil Le Clercq, then married to Balanchine, provides the witty captions to Swope’s photos - “Anyone looking at my mother’s wedding picture could foresee disaster”, “The critics all praised my lovely arms... and my stunning pas de chats... and entrechats”.

Full description | Purchase
A documentary photobook by American photographer Nancy Hellebrand

Londoners
[56 pages.] 48 black-and-white photographic plates. 265 x 230mm. Near fine.
£70

Londoners contains a series of portraits taken by an outsider, mainly shot in North London and of the working classes. The realist images feature the sitters in their homes, surrounded by possessions which are loaded with meaning. Titles include ‘Rock fan’ (a Ziggy Stardust wannabe), ‘Man with three weeks to live’, ‘Marion in a bed-sitter’, and ‘Bernice alone’. The book coincided with an exhibition at the National Portrait Gallery, London.

Full description | Purchase
An early example of Rena Gardiner’s privately printed guide books to historic houses

Trerice, Cornwall

Rena Gardiner.


£150

The book describes and illustrates Trerice, an Elizabethan manor house near Newquay in Cornwall, owned by the National Trust. The text and lithographic illustrations are all provided by Gardiner, who printed the books herself by hand in her studio in Dorset.

Full description | Purchase | Video
Look at Hardwick Hall

Rena Gardiner.


£125

An early example of Rena Gardiner’s privately-printed guide books to historic houses. The book describes and illustrates Hardwick Hall, the Elizabethan home of Bess of Hardwick in Derbyshire, owned by the National Trust. The text and lithographic illustrations are all provided by Gardiner, who printed the books herself by hand in her studio in Dorset.

Full description | Purchase
A study of the life and work of Rena Gardiner, with a catalogue of the books and prints

Rena Gardiner. Artist and Printmaker
Julian Francis & Martin Andrews.

£125

The first book to be published on the artist Rena Gardiner. Gardiner is most famous for her hand-printed guide books to historic houses and the countryside of England. She has a unique post-War style and her prints are now highly collectable. Francis and Andrews’ book tells the story of the artist, supported through many illustrations and by a list of her books, leaflets, cards and prints.

Full description | Purchase
Lee Miller was an independent and free spirit, and fearlessly travelled across international borders. Her many “lives” include photographer, model, muse, lover, wife, surrealist, actor, war correspondent, and mother. *The Lives of Lee Miller* is told by her son Antony Penrose, who draws on his privileged access to her unpublished writings and large archive of photographs.

[Full description | Purchase]
Gwen John. With a Catalogue Raisonné of the Paintings and a Selection of the Drawings

Cecily Langdale.
Near fine, in near fine dust jacket.

£120

The author brings an intensely private John out of the shadow of her brother, Augustus, and her lover, Rodin. John’s artistic development is examined, touching on her childhood, her time at the Slade, her connections within her brother’s artistic circle and her life in Paris. All of John’s paintings are listed as well as a good selection of drawings.

Full description | Purchase
Bourgeois' "family photo album", examining the influence of her childhood on her art

Louise Bourgeois. Album
Louise Bourgeois, Introduction by Peter Blum.
£450

Photographs from Bourgeois’ childhood - herself, parents, siblings, cousins, homes, neighbourhood, animals - are interspersed with personal short texts, creating a visual memoir. Her failure to be a boy, her mother’s independence and work as a tapestry repairer, her father’s departure for war and his infidelity, the arrival of her orphaned cousins, the importance of animals all formed an influence which she was unable to detach from and which she constantly explored in her work.

Full description | Purchase | Video
The catalogue for an exhibition of the sculpture and prints of Kim Lim

Kim Lim

Jenni Lomax and Mel Gooding.
Near fine.

£85

The catalogue for an exhibition of the sculpture of Kim Lim. Essays and photographs examine the abstract work of Lim, her materials and influences. The catalogue includes a section on Lim's prints, a biography and list of exhibitions.

Full description | Purchase
A book on the sculptural and poetic mirrors created by the French designer Line Vautrin

**Line Vautrin Miroirs**

Patrick Mauries.

£300

Line Vautrin’s mirrors were formed using a material she created called Talosel, a plastic based on cellulose acetate. The Talosel base was shaped, scraped and encrusted with multi-coloured pieces of mirror. Her works are instantly recognisable and are widely collected. Line Vautrin Miroirs was published to coincide with an exhibition at the Galerie Chastel Marechal and acts as a foundation catalogue of Vautrin’s mirrors.

Full description | Purchase
Catalogue of paintings and works on paper around the theme of the sunflower

Joan Mitchell Sunflowers


£160

A catalogue for an exhibition of Joan Mitchell’s Sunflower pictures held at the Cheim & Read Gallery, New York. Mitchell moved to Vetheuil, a town forty miles north of Paris, in 1968 and it was here that she was inspired, like Van Gogh, by the fields of Sunflowers that grew outside of her studio. She returned to the motif throughout her career and these paintings and works on paper are presented within the catalogue.

Full description | Purchase
The scarce catalogue for an exhibition of Leonora Carrington’s work at the Irish Museum of Modern Art

Leonora Carrington
Edited by Sean Kissane.

£300

The catalogue examines the themes of metamorphosis, madness and transformation that run through Carrington’s surrealist artworks and writings. Carrington’s mother was Irish and the influence of Irish folklore and history on the artist’s imagery is also discussed. The catalogue includes an interview between Leonora Carrington and Hans Ulrich Obrist.

Full description | Purchase