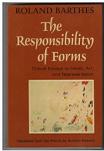


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Reading List



The Responsibility of Forms
by Roland Barthes

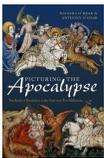
Late essays of Roland Barthes, concerned with the visible and the audible, assessing the possibility of attaching to art and to music a written text, a criticism.



Women On Nature
by Katharine Norbury

An anthology of women's writing about the natural world in the east Atlantic archipelago.

“What would happen, I wondered, if I simply missed out the fifty per cent of the population whose voices have been credited with shaping this particular ‘cultural form’.”



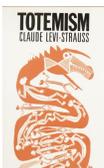
Picturing the Apocalypse
by Natasha O'Hear & Anthony O'Hear

The book of Revelation has been a source of continual fascination for nearly two thousand years. Yet few people know much about the basic meaning or original context of these concepts. This book fills these gaps in a striking and original way by means of ten concise thematic chapters which explain the origins of these concepts from the book of Revelation in an accessible way.



Courbet's Realism
by Michael Fried

The book allows the reader to reconstruct the keen eye, the commitment to perception, the gift of rapt concentration, the conviction that Courbet's great paintings are not necessarily understood easily, and the further conviction that a great painter deserves to get from us as good as he gives.



Totemism
by Claude Levi-Strauss

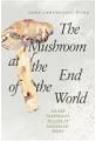
In *Totemism*, Levi-Strauss analyses totemism in the theories of the traditional anthropologists, then he demolishes the 'problem' by suggesting that the concept of totemism has been a figment of western minds, intent on classifying everything and determined to relegate certain mental attitudes to the realm of the 'primitive'.

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*The Treadwell's
Book of Plant Magic*
by Christina
Harrington

Old ways plants have been used to achieve love, win competitions, become invisible, see fairies, gain good luck, achieve success, receive protection, and many more.



*The Mushroom at
the End of the
World* by Anna
Lowenhaupt Tsing

Beginning with the *matsutake*, the most valuable mushroom in the world, Tsing examines the relationship between capitalist survival in a time of massive human destruction, and collaborative survival within multispecies landscapes. The book goes beyond just mushrooms, combining fungal ecologies, forest histories, and capitalist critiques, to answer the question: “what manages to live in the ruins we have made?”



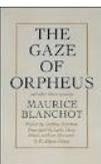
Oryx & Crake by
Margaret Atwood

A witty, speculative fiction novel set in the dystopian near-future. Atwood weaves a tale about the protagonist, Snowman; Oryx, the voice of the woman he once loved; and a group of people known as the ‘Children of Crake’. Switching between pre-apocalypse times and the present day, this novel examines life following a global catastrophe, hitting, at times, a little close to home despite bordering the science fiction genre.



The Second Body
by Daisy Hildyard

An extended essay which explores the paradox of human existence. Through interviews with an environmental criminologist, a butcher, a biologist, amongst others, Hildyard situates the human body as individual and global all at once. She turns her attention to the pressing ecological questions of our day; the participation of human animals in wider earthly life, constituting an inextricable part of wider ecosystem networks.



*The Gaze of
Orpheus* by
Maurice Blanchot

A series of translated literary essays from French author Blanchot which break down the boundaries between literature and philosophy, showing Blanchot’s development as a literary critic and thinker on a wide range of topics.



*Shapeshifters: A
History* by John B.
Kachuba

An original, compelling cultural history of the myths and magic surrounding the concept of shapeshifters- people who can transform into animals. Millions of people believe shapeshifters walk among us; this book frames this fascination with “weird

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creatures” as speaking to our dark side, our hidden desire to break free of the constrictions of proper behaviour. A holistic account of shapeshifters from history, TV, computer games, film, and literature.



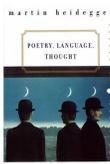
Saxifragas by
Winton Harding

A collection of articles focusing on the genus *Saxifraga*, which contains approximately 440 species of low-growing, small-flowered plants. A guide for alpine gardeners.



The Cosmic Serpent: DNA and the Origins of Knowledge by
Jeremy Narby

Written by anthropologist Narby after he spent two years living with and researching the ecology of the Peruvian Indians, this book postulates a connection between shamanism and molecular biology. Narby attempts to demonstrate that shamans in this culture are able to access information at a molecular level through the ingestion of psychotropics, primarily ayahuasca. He opens up fresh perspectives on biology and anthropology, pushing the limits of rationalism through new science approaches.



Poetry, Language, Thought by Martin
Heidegger

A collection of Heidegger’s writings on art and poetry, its connection to human life and culture, as well as its relation to thinking and truth. A relatively accessible entry into the work of one of the greatest thinkers of the 20th century.



Strangers: Essays on the Human and Nonhuman by
Rebecca Tamás

Tamás’ book consists of seven essays exploring links between the folkloric, the political, the historical, and the environmental. She takes the reader on “a journey between body, land, and spirit”. Concerned with the meeting point between the human and the nonhuman, she posits this relationship as simultaneously the most fragile, yet the most significant, connection of our times.



Feminine Persuasion: Art and Essays on Sexuality, ed. by
Betsy Stirratt and
Catherine Johnson

A showcase of five centuries’ worth of interpretations of female sexuality, including forty-five plates and two essays. This book tracks the ever-changing nature of female beauty standards, using the time of publication of Alfred Kinsey’s *Sexual Behaviour in the Human Female* as a starting point.