

**SUMMER READING LIST 2011
VISUAL ARTS DEPARTMENT**

Hendrickson, Paul. *Looking for the Light: The Hidden Life and Art of Marion Post Wolcott.* This is an undocumented biography of a photographer best known for the compassionate Farm Security photographs she took during the final years of the Depression and nearly forgotten today. Traveling alone thru the south in her twenties, Post documented some of the Depressions most iconic and startling images. This is a great exploration of an artist's life, and a very affirming book in the sense of the choices one makes in life. (grades 10-12)

Weston, Edward (Photographer), Newhall, Nancy (Editor). *The Daybooks of Edward Weston.* This book brings together more than 15 years of journal entries by the great American photographer, Edward Weston. Beginning with entries from 1923, the volume includes the three years spent in Mexico and the following years in California. It is an intimate account that documents his thoughts on life, art, love affairs, and doubts about his own abilities as a photographer. (grades 10-12)

Albers, Patricia. *Shadows, Fire, Snow: The Life of Tina Modotti*
Tina Modotti's short, intense life (1896-1942) has sparked numerous biographies, but museum curator Patricia Albers's is the first to do true justice to Modotti's photography and to persuasively trace its roots in her personal experiences. An impoverished childhood in Italy; introduction to bohemianism and radicalism in California; amorous and artistic fulfillment in Mexico; a murder that launched her into the maelstrom of Communist Party activism in Nazi Germany, the Soviet Union, and Spain; return to Mexico and premature death. (grades 10 – 12)

Park, Linda Sue. *A Single Shard.* In this book you will find 12th century Korean pottery and a homeless child who has found a passion. We empathize with him even though he is certainly a character of his time. (Fiction) (Grades 9-12)

Brown, Dan. *The DaVinci Code.* From secret religious societies, to ancient cover-ups to savage vengeance, this action thriller has it all. Brown has assembled a whopper of a plot that will please both conspiracy buffs and thriller addicts. (Fiction) (Grades 9-12)

Clark, Garth, Ellison, Robert A., Hecht, Eugene, White, John (Photographer). *The Mad Potter of Biloxi.* Biography and photographs of work by an 19th century potter known for his imagination, virtuosity, and recently rediscovered as a major ceramist after being unappreciated when he lived. He is now considered a genius, and a radical and sophisticated artist. (Nonfiction) (Grades 9-12)

Doczi, Gyorgy. *The Power of Limits.* Doczi shows the commonality and connectedness of all things in the universe through the perspective of the golden mean. He does so in such a manner that the expert or layman, the physicist or metaphysicist can readily understand. (Nonfiction) (Grades 9-12)

Gallagher, Winnifred. *The Power of Place.* In this fascinating and enormously entertaining book, Winifred Gallagher explores the complex relationships between people and the places in which they live, love, and work. Drawing on the latest research on behavioral and environmental science, *The Power of Place* examines our reactions to light, temperature, the seasons, and other natural phenomena and explores the interactions between our external and internal worlds. (Nonfiction) (Grades 9-12)

Davies, Robertson. *What's Bred in the Bone* The secret life and mysterious past of an artist (most believe he is just an art collector) before and during World War II. (grades 11-12)

Stone, Irving. *The Agony and the Ecstasy.* Historical fiction, the story of Michelangelo, who would rather sculpt statues from marble, but is forced by the Pope to paint the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel first. (Grades 9-12)

Stone, Irving. *Lust for Life.* Historical fiction, about a painter whose work nobody wants to buy, yet he keeps painting to satisfy his passion- Vincent Van Gogh. (Grades 10-12)

Maugham, Somerset. *Moon and Six Pence.* The story of a 19th century wealthy man who leaves his family and job to satisfy his passion to be a painter, first in Paris and then on Tahiti- based on the life of Paul Gauguin. (Grades 11-12)

Chevalier, Tracy. *Girl with a Pearl Earring.* History and fiction merge seemingly in Chevalier's luminous novel about artist vision and sensual awakening.

Vreeland, Susan. *Girl in Hyacinth Blue.* A luminous tale about art and human experience that is as breathtaking as any Vermeer painting. (Grades 10 – 12)

Bantock, Nick. *Griffin & Sabine: An Extraordinary Correspondence.* It all started with a mysterious and seemingly innocent postcard, but from that point nothing was to remain the same in the life of Griffin Moss, a quiet, solitary artist living in London. (Grades 9 – 12)

Bailey, Martin (selected and introduced by). *The Illustrated Letters, Vincent van Gogh, Letters from Provence.* The moving story of Vincent van Gogh's last years, told through his own words and pictures. Selected letters from his most creative period, in Provence, beautifully illustrated with paintings, drawings and informal sketches. (Grades 9 – 12)

Hirsch, Edward (selected and introduced by). *Transforming Vision: Writers on Art.* Numerous twentieth-century writers have found inspiration in the visual arts. This fascinating and beautifully illustrated book brings together a selection of writings about works of art in one of the world's preeminent museums. This book is a collection

of poems, essays, and short fiction suggested by works of art in The Art Institute of Chicago. (Grades 9 – 12)

Stone, Irving. *Dear Theo: The Autobiography of Vincent van Gogh.* Vincent van Gogh, the great and tormented artist, bared his tortured yet ecstatic soul in his letters to his confidant and companion, his beloved brother Theo. (Grades 9 – 12)

Brown, Christy. *My Left Foot.* An inspiring novel about a young boy yearning to live a life full of communication. The story began with doctors giving his parents no hope for the future for this boy with cerebral palsy. Life takes an unexpected turn when his left foot comes alive. (Grades 10 – 12)

Ms. Rivkin recommends some great short stories:

"The Idyll of Miss Sarah Brown" by Damon Runyon: If you like the musical *Guys and Dolls*, check out the original short story! Damon Runyon's characters are funnier and more colorful than most of the light hearted criminals you encounter on tv.

"The Lottery" by Shirley Jackson: Just about as scary as any twilight zone, I remember reading this story in my English class in high school. There is a great juxtaposition between the setting and the content in *Mayberry-gone-wrong*.

"Mateo Falcone" by Prosper Mérimée: Originally written in French, this is a great story about honor, loyalty, values, and family. And Corsica sounds like a very beautiful place to be, if you can avoid some of the characters in this story. My favorite part is the correlation between the way the characters take care of the land and future generations.

Mrs. Fairall recommends:

Vreeland, Susan. *The Passion of Artemesia.* The remarkable fictional portrait of Artemisia Gentileschi, one of the few female post-Renaissance painters to achieve fame during her own era.

Follet, Ken. *Pilars of the Earth.* Is a historical novel about the building of a Cathedral. Spans years of construction, crosses architectural styles and develops character relationships.

Cather, Willa. *My Antonia.* Tells the story of a Bohemian family who moved to rural Nebraska. The book follows the life of the eldest daughter and main character, Antonia.

Ms. Van Helden recommends:

Quinn, Daniel. *Ishmael.* A gorilla teaches his human "student" about the impact man has had on nature.

Smith, Betty. *A Tree grows in Brooklyn.* A tale of growing up as a poor Irish American girl in Brooklyn in the early 1900's.

Lee, Harper. *To Kill a Mockingbird.* A story about the racial injustice in the South (Alabama). Deals with the friendship between a young girl, her brother and another boy in town and the case the girl's father (lawyer) takes up defending a black man wrongly accused of raping a white woman.