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The
American
Library
in Paris

e-Libris

Dispatches from the Library

16 April 2024

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Editor: Carolyn Dubol

This Week at the Library: The Art of Play

This week our programming celebrates play in many forms: music, visual art, theater, writing, games, and—at its most pure—on the playground! Keep reading for more information about this week's events, and many more for adults, children, and teens in April and May.



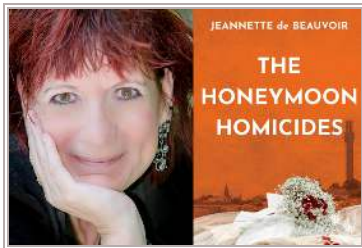
[Tonight, 16 April, our Music and Mingle series presents violinist Dan Flanagan](#), who will play contemporary classical compositions inspired by French paintings. If you're a Library member looking to make new friends, meet Executive Director Audrey Chapuis, or simply enjoy an evening of music, we invite you to join us tonight. For Library Members.

Tomorrow, Wednesday 17 April, our weekly interactive Story Hour for members ages 3–5 explores what it means to make and be friends through stories, songs, and rhymes. Come sing and play with us, and meet fellow Library families. For Library members.



Tomorrow, Wednesday 17 April, we welcome the creative team of the Opéra Comique's new production, *Archipel(s)*, to the Florence Gould Reading Room. Librettist Adrien Borne, choreographer Ewan Jones, and stage director James Bonas will discuss the process of creating this brand-new show for and with the Opéra Comique's youth theater troupe, La Maîtrise Populaire de L'Opéra Comique. If you enjoy theater, you won't want to miss this behind-the-scenes look into this new production. Free and open to the public.

Thursday 18 April, participants of all ages are invited to an evening workshop on play and creativity, presented by the authors of *Playgrounds*, writer Lillian Davies and artist Chloe Briggs. The book explores how public spaces can activate creativity and build community. Attendees will engage in guided creative exercises inspired by the book. Free and open to the public.



Friday 19 April, teens ages 12–18 are invited to create and solve, an original, improvisational murder mystery. Best-selling novelist Jeannette de Beauvoir will guide participants through the conception of their tale. Young authors will love learning the craft of writing for the mystery genre. For members, and non-members who purchase a 15€ day pass.

What to Read Next: New eBooks and e-Audiobooks

Fresh titles have just been added to the Library's collection of ebooks and e-audiobooks. Bestsellers, classics, and new releases in both formats are now available on OverDrive's Libby app. If you need help installing or using Libby, don't hesitate to ask us.

Attending our spring Gala? Honored guest Maureen Dowd's books are part of our digital (and print) collection and may be checked out by Library members.



Need a reading recommendation? Visit our online [catalog](#) to find lists of print books, ebooks, and e-audiobooks in the collection. You'll discover titles by Evenings with an Author speakers, submissions to the 2024 Book Award, and much more.

The American Pavilion at the Cannes Film Festival

The American Pavilion

Each year at the Cannes International Film Festival, the American Pavilion offers memberships for film professionals, a place to meet and connect, provocative and insightful programming, immersive student programs, an Emerging Filmmaker Showcase, and more.

In January 2024, the Library partnered with the American Pavilion for a screening and discussion with past winners of the Emerging Filmmaker Showcase. Next month at Cannes, the Library continues its partnership with the American Pavilion. Programs Manager Emilie Biggs will head down to the Riviera to represent the American Library and present conversations, panels, and debates on the symbiosis between literature and cinema. If you're a member of the American Pavilion and are planning to attend the Cannes Festival this year, please stay tuned for upcoming announcements on this special programming lineup.

If you're not a film professional, but you'd like to have insider access to this year's festival, consider the [American Pavilion's Cannes Insider program](#). This organized group trip offers six-night festival experience from 20 to 26 May that gives you admittance into film screenings, press conferences, and parties usually reserved only for the film industry and the press. The American Pavilion is offering a 15% discount on the trip to American Library in Paris members. Use code LIBRARY15.

Programs for Adults

Evenings with an Author, sponsored by GRoW @ Annenberg

Evenings with an Author and other evening programs are free and open to the public, unless otherwise noted. You must RSVP to attend our programs, whether you join us in person or via Zoom.

We thank the following for their support: the Florence Gould Foundation, The de Groot Foundation, and the American Center for Art & Culture.



TONIGHT

Music and Mingle: The Bow and the Brush with Dan Flanagan
In Person at the Library; Reserved for Library members.
Tuesday 16 April at 19h30 CEST

Library members seeking to foster new friendships, build their networks, and celebrate the arrival of spring in good company are invited to an evening of solo violin performance accompanied by projections of visual art.

Violinist Dan Flanagan will play his own compositions as well as those by eighteen other New Music composers. All of the pieces are inspired by important artworks by Pissarro, Rafaëlli, Guillaumin, and Pinchon, as well as works by living visual artists including Paul Gibson, Nikki Vismara, and Elaine Prat.

[Register to attend in person](#)



TOMORROW

The Opéra Comique presents Archipel(s)
Hybrid Event: In Person at the Library; Live on Zoom
Wednesday 17 April at 19h30 CEST

Join us in welcoming the Opéra Comique back to the Library and discover their new show *Archipel(s)*. Commissioned by their youth theater troupe La Maîtrise Populaire de L'Opéra Comique, this production combines singing, acting, and dance. The story, inspired by a series of workshops conducted with the Maîtrise's pupils, is an exploration of coming-of-age and how young people follow, or choose to break, society's rules.

Librettist Adrien Borne, choreographer Ewan Jones, and stage director James Bonas will offer a behind-the-scenes perspective on the show's creation and share their thoughts on opera's place in the future.

The Opéra Comique has kindly offered our community discounted tickets to *Archipel(s)*. Tickets are 15€–30€ if you [purchase through this link](#).

[RSVP to attend in person or on Zoom](#)



**Play and Creativity: A Workshop
with Lillian Davies and Chloe Briggs**

In Person at the Library

Thursday 18 April at 19h00 CEST

Please note the special start time for this workshop.

Writer Lillian Davies and artist Chloe Briggs's collaboration began with a conversation while observing their children at play in the Parc de Belleville in Paris. Their resulting book, *Playgrounds*, is set up like a workbook and uses images and text to explore how public spaces can activate creativity and create a sense of community and connection. The authors also show how play—the freedom to imagine the world differently—is essential to our artistic endeavors.

Guided by the authors, workshop participants will complete creative exercises inspired by *Playgrounds*. The event will wrap up with participants sharing their creations to foster a sense of camaraderie and mutual inspiration.

Open to all ages. Book sale and signing after the event.

RSVP to attend in person



IN PERSON FULL. ZOOM SPOTS STILL AVAILABLE.

US Presidential Elections: Journalists Look at What's Ahead

Hybrid Event: In Person at the Library; Live on Zoom

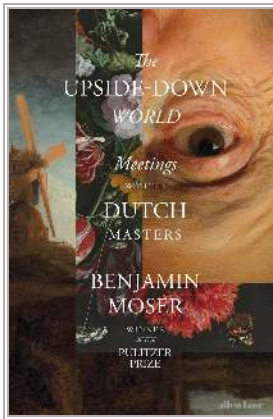
Tuesday 23 April at 19h00 CEST

Please note the special start time for this event.

The upcoming US presidential race has provoked anxiety, not only among American voters but also around the world. The results will have profound domestic and international implications on many fronts: immigration, the war in Ukraine, the Middle East, NATO, Russia, the Supreme Court.

Join us for a ninety-minute media panel moderated by Vivienne Walt, in partnership with the Overseas Press Club of America, to discuss how the campaign is going, what to look for in the months ahead, and to answer your questions.

RSVP to attend on Zoom



[Looking to Art At Home and Abroad with Benjamin Moser](#)

Hybrid Event: In Person at the Library; Live on Zoom

Wednesday 24 April at 19h30 CEST

Cocktail reception to follow.

In 2002, at the age of twenty-five, Benjamin Moser moved from New York to the Netherlands. In search of anchors to his new home, he began visiting Dutch art museums, where he developed a fascination with the 17th century paintings produced by the “Dutch Masters” such as Rembrandt and Vermeer. In his new book, *The Upside-Down World: Meetings with the Dutch Masters*, the Pulitzer Prize-winning biographer delves into the details of the lives of the artists, drawing from scant historical records to generate imaginative biographies of these beloved painters.

Moser will appear in conversation with journalist and author Pamela Druckerman.

Book sale and signing after the event thanks to [Smith&Son](#).

[RSVP to attend in person or on Zoom](#)



[Lunar Horizons: To the Moon with NASA Experts](#)

Hybrid Event: In Person at the Library; Live on Zoom

Thursday 25 April at 19h30 CEST

NASA's upcoming crewed mission to the Moon, Artemis III, is currently scheduled for 2026, marking humanity's first return to the lunar surface in over 50 years, and the first-ever visit to the lunar South Pole. The astronauts' objectives will include conducting scientific research and performing a series of moonwalks.

Scientists Ryan Zeigler, Lunar Sample Curator at NASA, and Christine Shupla, responsible for scientific engagement at the non-profit Lunar Planetary Institute, will discuss the latest and greatest advancements in lunar research. They will share ideas on science education and literacy, and how we can make learning about lunar science accessible to all.

This event is presented in partnership with Ephémérides, the organization founded by French astrophysicist Fatoumata Kébé.

[RSVP to attend in person or on Zoom](#)



**Annie Ernaux & Photography:
with Lou Stoppard and Lauren Collins**

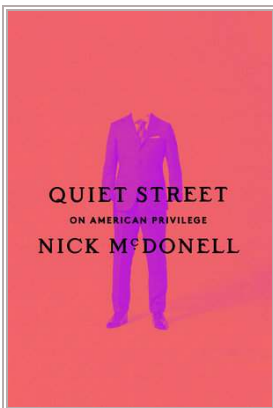
**Hybrid Event: In Person at the Library; Live on Zoom
Tuesday 30 April at 19h30 CEST**

French author Annie Ernaux, winner of the 2022 Nobel Prize for Literature, writes of her desire to "describe reality as through the eyes of a photographer and to preserve the mystery and opacity of the lives I encountered."

Curator Lou Stoppard's exhibition "Exteriors—Annie Ernaux & Photography" (at La Maison européenne de la photographie, now through 26 May) traces this close relationship between Ernaux's autobiographical prose and the medium of photography. Stoppard will appear in conversation with writer and journalist Lauren Collins.

The program is produced in collaboration with la Maison européenne de la photographie and art book publisher MACK, which has released a book accompanying the exhibition.

[RSVP to attend in person or on Zoom](#)



The Anatomy of Privilege: Nick McDonell on Quiet Street

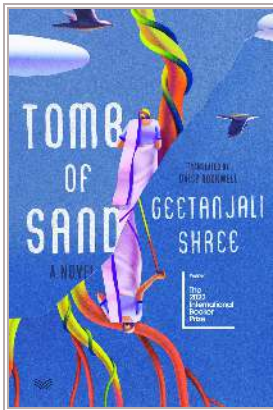
**Hybrid Event: In Person at the Library; Live on Zoom
Thursday 2 May at 19h30 CEST**

Nick McDonell has written eleven books, ranging from novels (the first of which he wrote at the age of seventeen) to nonfiction accounts of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. With his latest, a memoir called *Quiet Street*, McDonell turns his gaze inward to his own wealthy New York upbringing. He considers his private all-boys school in Manhattan, his time as a student at Harvard, and his summers at the Devon Yacht Club.

McDonell uses his own life as a prism through which to understand larger dynamics of class, race, and inequality. He will appear in conversation at the Library with photographer and filmmaker Roopa Gogineni.

Book sale and signing after the event thanks to [Smith&Son](#).

[RSVP to attend in person or on Zoom](#)



The International Library:

[Geetanjali Shree and Daisy Rockwell on *Tomb of Sand*](#)

**Online: Livestreamed from the Center for Fiction, Brooklyn
Monday 6 May at 19h00 CEST**

Please note the special start time for this event.

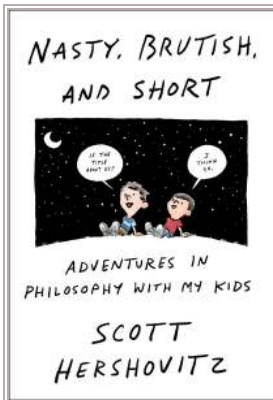
When acclaimed author Geetanjali Shree first released her playful feminist epic *Tomb of Sand* in 2018, it pushed the boundaries of experimental Hindi literature. After the publication of an English translation by Daisy Rockwell, *Tomb of Sand* received the 2022 International Book Prize, becoming the first work originally written in a South Asian language to do so.

Join Shree and Rockwell for a fascinating conversation on this subversive and original novel, the boundaries of language, and the relationship between writer and translator.

This conversation is part of the International Library, an event series launched in collaboration with the [Center for Fiction](#) in Brooklyn and the [Center for the Art of Translation](#) in San Francisco.

Tickets to watch the livestream are \$10. It is also possible to attend in person at the Center for Fiction, Brooklyn.

[Register for Tickets](#)



[The Examined Life with Scott Hershovitz and Sarah Bakewell](#)

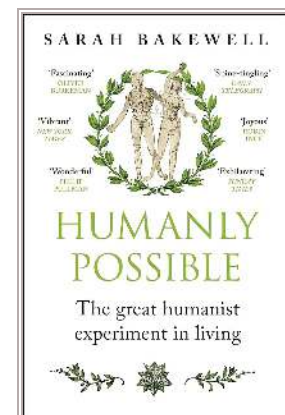
**Hybrid Event: In Person at the Library; Live on Zoom
Thursday 9 May at 19h30 CEST**

Special note: Doors will open at 19h00, and the event will be followed by a reception. (Please be aware that the Library facility is closed during the day for the Ascension holiday.)

In *Nasty, Brutish, and Short*, Scott Hershovitz takes the reader on a romp through classic and contemporary philosophy, assisted by the perceptive insights and pointed questioning of his two young sons. In his latest book, *Law is a Moral Practice*, the author approaches the relationship between moral action and the law with refreshing frankness and levity, uncovering a very human history of setting, breaking, and remaking rules for good living.

Sarah Bakewell's work is similarly engaged with the idea of ethical living. Her latest book, *Humanly Possible*, masterfully recounts the long history of humanism and freethinking. Join these two professional philosophers to discuss the big questions of life: the nature of goodness, the possibility of ethical living, and the meaning of being human.

Book sale and signing after the event thanks to [Smith&Son](#).





Find recordings of past programs on our [YouTube](#) channel:

- The International Library: Brown Diaspora with Moon Charania
- Plant-Based Paris: The Future of Vegan Cuisine with Amanda Bankert and David Lebovitz
- Writing Now: A Conversation with Patricia Lockwood
- Seminar: In Three Lines (or less) with Patricia Lockwood



Evenings with an Author are free and open to the public (with a 10€ suggested donation) thanks to support from GROW @ Annenberg, our members, and those who attend programs.



Children's and Teens' News



Story Hours for 3–5 year-olds and their grown-ups take place on Wednesday afternoons at 14h30. These interactive programs are full of songs, story readings, and fun, and are intended to encourage young children to actively engage with literature. Over the next several weeks, we'll explore the themes of friendship, dinosaurs, underwater worlds, and more!

For Library members. You must register online in advance to attend. Keep reading to see upcoming Story Hour dates, or visit our [web calendar](#).

Children's Event Highlights

Open to Library members. Advance registration required.

Story Hour: Making Friends (ages 3–5) Wednesday 17 April at 14h30

Toddler Time (ages 1–3) Thursday 18 April at 11h00

Saturday Series: Upcycled Art (ages 6–12) Saturday 20 April at 11h00

Story Hour: Dinosaurs Galore (ages 3–5) Wednesday 24 April at 14h30

Saturday Series: Basket Weaving (ages 6–12) Saturday 27 April at 11h00

Fact-Finding Scavenger Hunt (ages 5–12) Saturday 4 May at 11h00

Saturday Series: Design It, Build It, Test It (ages 6–12) Saturday 11 May at 11h00

Story Hour: Underwater Worlds (ages 3–5) Wednesday 15 May at 14h30

Toddler Time (ages 1–3) Thursday 16 May at 11h00

Saturday Series: Word Games (ages 6–12) Saturday 18 May at 11h00

Saturday Series: Crafternoon (ages 6–12) Saturday 25 May at 11h00

Event Highlights for Teens

Ages 12–18. Free for members. 15€ for non-members. Advance registration required.

Teen Night: Candlestick in the Library (ages 12–18) Friday 19 April at 19h00

Writing A College Admission Essay (ages 14–18) Saturday 27 April at 14h00

Teen Night: Book-Binding (ages 12–18) Friday 26 April at 19h00

Great Value Programs, Degrees, & Experiences (ages 14–adult) Sunday 28 April at 14h00

Teen Night: Create a Quest (ages 12–18) Friday 3 May

Painting and Planting (ages 12–18) Sunday 5 May at 15h00

Teen Night: 12th Annual Literary Reaping (ages 12–18) Friday 24 May at 19h00

Writing Historical Fiction with Amy Plum (ages 12–18) Saturday 25 May at 14h00

How Can You Help the Library?



As an independent, non-profit institution, we rely on the support and generosity of our community. How can you help the American Library in Paris throughout the year? [Become a member](#) or [renew](#) your Library membership, make an online [donation](#), become a [volunteer](#), and tell your friends about the Library.



The American Library in Paris is an independent, non-profit institution that receives no regular government funding. Your generosity is essential in keeping the Library vibrant and creative.

All contributions are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

The logo for The American Library in Paris, featuring the text "The American Library in Paris" in white serif font on a dark red square background.

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