

Announcing the Shortlist of the 2025 American Library in Paris Book Award



The American Library in Paris is pleased to unveil the shortlist for the 2025 Book Award, which celebrates outstanding works of literature that draw on France as a timeless source of inspiration.

Now in its thirteenth edition, the Book Award builds on the Library's century-long tradition of bringing France, its culture, and its history into dialogue with the wider world. After careful deliberation, we are thrilled to announce the four remarkable shortlisted titles.



Creation Lake

by Rachel Kushner (Jonathan Cape UK/Scribner US)

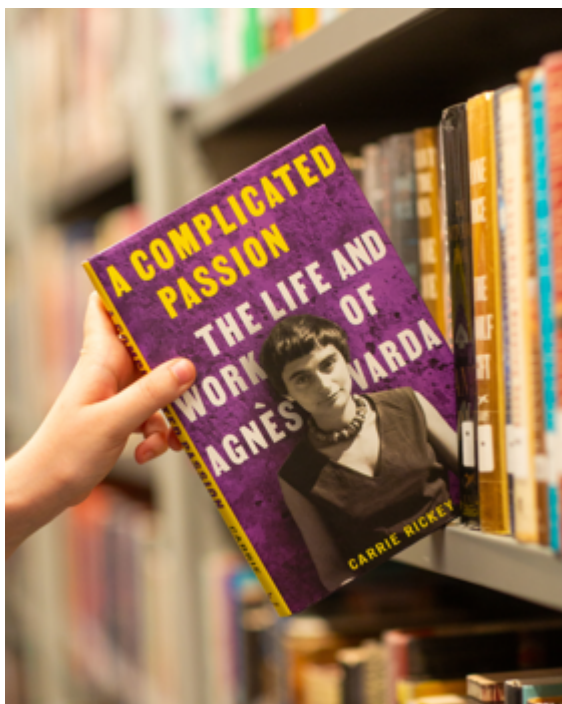
A seductive and cunning American woman infiltrates an anarchist collective in France in this propulsive page-turner.



Wild Thing: A Life of Paul Gauguin

by Sue Prideaux (Norton)

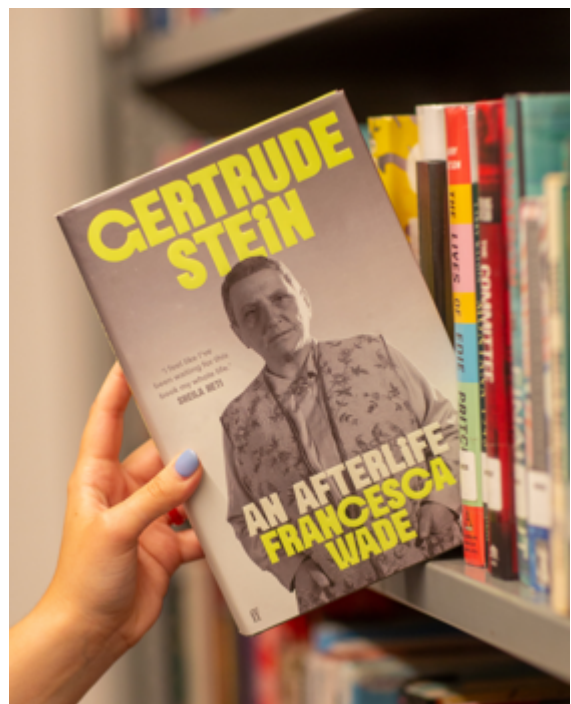
An original and revealing portrait of the misunderstood French Post Impressionist artist.



A Complicated Passion: The Life and Work of Agnès Varda

by Carrie Rickey (Norton)

The first major biography of the French New Wave filmmaker hailed as “one of the Gods of Cinema” by Martin Scorsese.



Gertrude Stein: An Afterlife

by Francesca Wade (Faber & Faber UK, Scribner US)

A biography as unconventional as the life it tells, this literary detective story delves into the creation of the Stein myth.

An advisory screening panel led by the Book Award Chair and bestselling author **John Burnham Schwartz** selected the shortlist from a longlist of eight titles, which was announced in June 2025.

The winning title will be selected by an independent jury chaired by last year's winner, Adam Shatz, with fellow jurors Ruth Reichl and Claire Messud. The 2025 laureate will be announced at a ceremony on 7 November.

All submissions are in the Library's [circulating collection](#) and are available for checkout by members.

Read more about the American Library in Paris Book Award on the Library's [website](#).

