



The
American
Library
in Paris

e-Libris

Dispatches from the Library

15 April 2025

Featured in this edition of e-Libris: Announcing the jury of the 2025 American Library in Paris Book Award, last-chance tickets for Ways of Seeing with Maira Kalman, new arrivals for art lovers, and more.

Dear Reader,

The [American Library in Paris Book Award](#) returns for its thirteenth year, and the journey to our next winning title is officially underway. Celebrating works that deepen our understanding of France or French culture through bold and original ideas, the Book Award is one of the Library's most anticipated events of the year.

Our jury this cycle could not be more fitting. We're thrilled to announce that Adam Shatz—a fearless cultural critic and last year's prizewinner—will serve as Chair, joined by the inestimable Ruth Reichl (truly in the pantheon of greats like M.F.K. Fisher) and novelist Claire Messud. Fun fact: Messud wrote part of her novella *The Hunters* right here in the Library's reading room.

We're also pleased to announce that we are opening a second round of tickets for Ways of Seeing with the ever-inspiring [Maira Kalman](#), our Spring 2025 Cultural Fellow. Don't miss your chance to join us for this special event at Maison de la Poésie.

Finally, for those passionate about the arts, our collections have grown in exciting ways: [Artstor](#)'s expansive gallery of images is now available through [JSTOR](#) for our members, and we've added more than 100 new titles on American art to both our Special and circulating collections.

Whether you're attending an author talk, exploring new arrivals, or preparing your Read-A-Thon pack, we hope you'll find something this month that sparks your curiosity.

With gratitude,

Audrey Chapuis

Executive Director, The American Library in Paris

**Announcing the Jury of the 2025 American
Library in Paris Book Award**

We're thrilled to announce that the esteemed jury for the 2025 prize has been assembled by our Book Award Chair, novelist and screenwriter John Burnham Schwartz. The distinguished writers who will be choosing this year's winning title are:



Claire Messud is the author of six works of fiction, including *This Strange Eventful History* which was shortlisted for the 2024 American Library in Paris Book Award. A recipient of a Guggenheim and Radcliffe Fellowships and the Strauss Living Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, she lives in Cambridge, Massachusetts, with her family.



Adam Shatz (Jury Chair) is the US editor of the *London Review of Books* and a contributor to the *New York Times Magazine*, the *New York Review of Books*, the *New Yorker*, and other publications. He is also a visiting professor at Bard College, and the host of the podcast “Myself with Others,” produced by the pianist Richard Sears. Shatz won the 2024 American Library in Paris Book Award for his book *The Rebel’s Clinic: The Revolutionary Lives of Frantz Fanon*.



Ruth Reichl is the New York Times bestselling author of five memoirs, the novels *Delicious!* and *The Paris Novel*, and the cookbook *My Kitchen Year*. She was editor in chief of *Gourmet* magazine and previously served as restaurant critic for the *New York Times*, as well as food editor and restaurant critic for the *Los Angeles Times*. She has been honored with six James Beard Awards. In 2024, she received the James Beard Lifetime Achievement Award.

Submissions for the 2025 American Library in Paris Book Award are now open for books published between 1 July 2024 and 30 June 2025.

Read the submission guidelines and FAQs [here](#).

[Ways of Seeing with Maira Kalman: Last-Chance Tickets on Sale on April 28](#)

If you weren't able to grab tickets to Ways of Seeing with Maira Kalman during the first sale, a **limited second round will open on Monday 28 April at 12h00 CEST**.

This offsite, ticketed event will take place at Maison de la Poésie (157 Rue Saint-Martin, 75003 Paris).

[Purchase tickets](#)

15€ for adults | 10€ for under 26



Adult Programs



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.

Our cultural programming is made possible by GROW @ Annenberg, as well as The de Groot Foundation, the Florence Gould Foundation, and the enduring legacy of the American Center for Art & Culture.



THE END OF ENLIGHTENMENT WITH VISITING FELLOW DAVID A. BELL

In-Person or Live on Zoom
Wednesday 16 April at 19h30 CEST

In this special lecture, historian **David A. Bell**, a 2025 Visiting Fellow at the Library, will trace the idea of progress back to its Enlightenment origins, examine the forms it has taken over time, and explore its relationship to our present predicaments.

RSVP for In-Person or Zoom



[Joan Didion and the Myths of Hollywood with Alissa Wilkinson and Joanna Scutts](#)

Hybrid: In-Person or Live on Zoom
Wednesday 13 May at 19h30 CEST

New York Times film critic **Alissa Wilkinson** explores Joan Didion's complex relationship with Hollywood, from her early fascination with Western myths to her time as a screenwriter at the twilight of the studio era.

RSVP for In-Person or Zoom



[Ways of Seeing with Meredith Whittaker, President of Signal](#)

Hybrid: In-Person or Live on Zoom
Wednesday 20 May at 19h30 CEST

As surveillance technologies become ever more pervasive, how can we protect our privacy and resist corporate and state control? Join **Meredith Whittaker**, President of Signal and a leading voice on tech ethics, for a crucial conversation on the rise of surveillance, the power of AI, and what we can do to fight back.

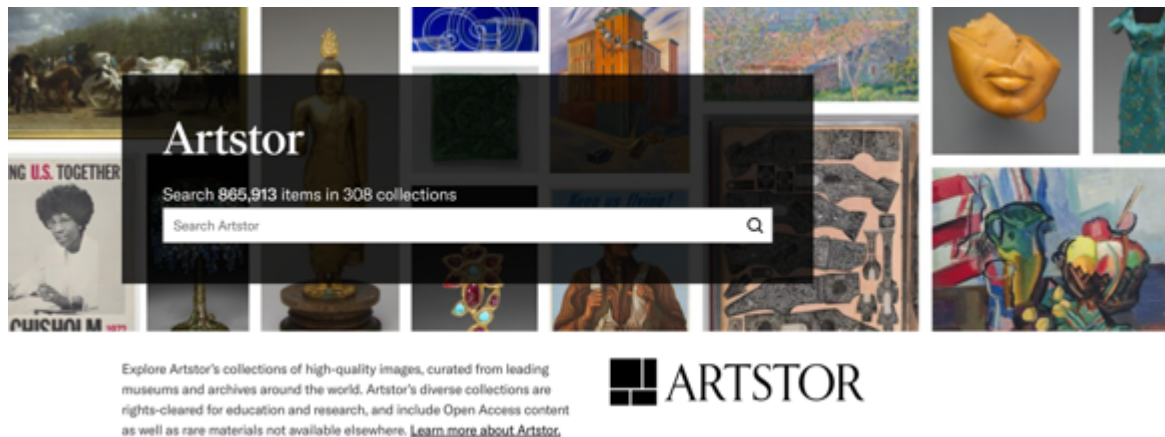
RSVP for In-Person or Zoom

Partner Event

A Mindful Tomorrow with
Michael Pollan at MK2
Institut

KADIST | Résidence
Tallard

[mk2 Institut](#) welcomes Michael Pollan, renowned American writer and journalist, for an in-depth conversation on the crises reshaping our societies. The event is in partnership with [Résidence Tallard](#), a program by [KADIST](#) hosting internationally renowned individuals recognized for their innovative ideas and impactful contribution. The talk will be followed by a book sale and signing. Sign-up [here](#).



New! Explore Our Latest Art Additions

The Library's art offerings have grown with exciting new additions to both digital and physical collections. Members are now able to access the digital library of [Artstor](#), which features over two million high-quality images of artworks and artifacts from leading museums and archives. The access is granted via [JSTOR](#), a trusted research platform offering academic journals, books, and primary sources already included in the Library's membership.

Additionally, more than forty exhibit catalogs from the American Center for Art & Culture have been added to the [Library's Special Collection](#), spanning 19th-century American folk art to contemporary works, and seventy books on American art and artists have been added to the circulating collection.

[Browse Artstor](#)

[Browse our catalog](#)

Your Spring Reading Refresh



Spring has well and truly sprung, and we've just added a wide range of fresh new print books—fiction, nonfiction, memoirs, mysteries, art, science, and more—to the Library's circulating collection. The new arrivals include *Fundamentally* by Nussairah Younis, recently Shortlisted for the [2025 Women's Prize for Fiction](#). Whatever your interest, there's something new and exciting waiting for you.

On your next visit, stop by the New Books section and load up your basket with stories that inspire, entertain, and inform!

Holiday closures in May

Thursday 1 May – Fête du Travail (Labor Day)

Thursday 8 May – Fête de la Victoire 1945 (WWII Victory Day)

Thursday 29 May – Jeudi de l'Ascension (Ascension)

2025 Read-A-Thon: Ready, Set, Read!



The Library is teaming up with [Message Paris](#) for the **2025 Read-A-Thon** to spark vacation reading and raise support for the Library's nonprofit mission to provide books, programs, and a welcoming space for readers of all ages.

Read as much as you can in the week of **21–27 April**, gather donations based on your minutes, and compete for prizes. Everyone who turns in a completed pack with at least one sponsor is entered into a prize draw, and top readers in each age group will be crowned champions!

The Read-A-Thon is open to children and teens who are members of either organization. Learn more and sign up [here](#).

Children's Events Highlights



Ages 0–5

[Music Together with Stacey Pavesi Debré](#) Saturday 10 May at 14h00

Story Hour (ages 3–5)

[Trucks and Trains](#) Wednesday 16 April at 14h30

[The Lives of Artists](#) Wednesday 23 April at 14h30

[Good Enough to Eat](#) Wednesday 30 April at 14h30

[Clever Creatures](#) Wednesday 7 May at 14h30

[Change of Plan](#) Wednesday 14 May at 14h30

Saturday Series (ages 6–12)

[Word Games](#) Saturday 19 April at 11h00

[Eat Up—Family Snacks!](#) Saturday 26 April at 14h30

[Watch It Grow](#) Saturday 3 May at 11h00

Ages 8–12

[Secret Society of Readers Book Club: Biographies](#) Sunday 4 May at 14h00

Teen Events Highlights

[Teen Night: Comedy Films](#) (ages 12–18) Friday 18 April at 19h00

[Teen Night: Capture the Flag](#) (ages 12–18) Friday 2 May at 19h00

[Collaborative Collage](#) (ages 12–18) Saturday 17 May at 16h00



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