2026 Summer Reading List for First Year History of Art Students

This is a short list of books and websites, any of which you might enjoy looking at over the summer before you come up to Oxford. Study at Oxford will entail widening your horizons, and these writers and their books should help you to embark on this now. As you read, think critically not only about the material discussed but about the particular methods used by the writer, and try reading about periods and subjects with which you are unfamiliar.

Books

- Thames and Hudson's *World of Art* series (a comprehensive series of over books dealing with individual art historical themes and subjects and written for non-specialist audiences).
- The Whitechapel's *Documents of Contemporary Art* (anthologies that deal with an individual theme in contemporary art/ visual culture).
- Catherine Grant and Dorothy Price, 'Decolonizing Art History,' *Art History*, 43: (February 2020): https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1111/1467-8365.12490
- Maria Loh, 'After the Plague: The state of Renaissance Art History,' *Art in America* (3 August 2021): https://www.artnews.com/art-in-america/features/new-books- renaissance-art-history-1234600744/
- Geraldine A. Johnson, *Renaissance Art: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford: OUP, 2005).
- Sria Chatterjee, 'The Arts, Environmental Justice, and Ecological Crisis,' Conversation Piece in *British Art Studies*, Issue 18, Available here: https://www.britishartstudies.ac.uk/issues/issue-index/issue-18/arts-environmental-justice-ecological-crisis
- Denise Murrell, *Posing Modernity: The Black Model from Manet and Matisse to Today,* (London New Haven: Yale University Press, 2018).
- Kobena Mercer, *Annotating Art's Histories: Cross-Cultural Perspectives in the Visual Arts*, (a series of four publications, published by MIT Press between 2005-8).
- T.J. Demos, *Decolonizing Nature: Contemporary Art and the Politics of Ecology,* (Berlin: Sternberg Press, 2016).
- Tina Campt, *A Black Gaze: Artists Changing How We See*, (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2021).

Online resources at Oxford

The History of Art Department
Events:
https://www.hoa.ox.ac.uk/events

Bluesky:
https://bsky.app/profile/oxfordhistoryofart.bsky.social
Follow History of Art

Ashmolean Museum
Ashmolean from Home:
https://www.ashmolean.org/ashmoleanfromhome
Includes stories, videos and online exhibitions.

Treasures:
https://www.ashmolean.org/treasures
Read more about collection highlights.
Collections:
https://collections.ashmolean.org/

Explore the complete collection online.

Pitt Rivers Museum
Virtual Tour:
https://my.matterport.com/show/?m=ns3yCKpUzSq&help=1
Tour the museum's galleries in 3D.

Research projects:
https://www.prm.ox.ac.uk/research
Scroll to the bottom for fascinating online research.

Bodleian Libraries

Stories:
https://visit.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/online-projects
Explore the curated content about the Bodleian's rich collections.

Modern Art Oxford

Blog:
https://www.modernartoxford.org.uk/blog/
Explore the online content at Oxford's only public contemporary art space.

Online resources from around the world

Art UK
http://artuk.org/
Extensive digital resource on works in public collections in the UK.

Google Arts and Culture
https://artsandculture.google.com/
Explore the world's museums virtually.

The Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Denmark
https://www.youtube.com/user/TheLouisianaChannel
Watch short video interviews with artists.

The J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles
https://www.getty.edu/news/

The Walker Art Center, Minneapolis
https://walkerart.org/magazine

Tate Galleries, London
https://www.tate.org.uk/research/tate-papers
Tate Papers, an online research journal publishing articles on British and modern international art.

Afterall Contemporary Art Research Centre, London
https://www.afterall.org/

L'internationale, a European confederation of museums, arts organizations and universities, founded in 2009
https://www.internationaleonline.org/
Follow their open access e-books and publications.

MoMA, New York
https://post.moma.org/
Post: notes on art in a global context