

# 8 Art Books to Read This February

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Sometimes it takes a book to remind us of how all-encompassing art can be. Or a few books. The eight below span centuries, countries, and topics — the birth of modernism in 19th-century Montmartre, the shaping of the internet from the sexual margins, the warm embrace of Pyaari Azaadi's art world, to name a few. What connects it all is an investment in creative production, and how it can enrich the world and promote different perspectives. While publications by the Equal Justice Initiative and artist Joseph Grigley powerfully resist racism and ableism, respectively, artists Kaylene Whiskey and Edmonia Lewis, both trailblazing women of color, have brought beauty into the world — and we all need more of that in our lives right now. —

Otherhow: Essays and Documents on Art and Disability, 1985–2024 by Joseph Grigley | Primary Information

This intimate and poignant book is not defined by Joseph Grigley's deafness. Instead, it takes readers through the creative life of the artist and educator over the past 40 years, revealing how his hearing loss has inflected it and, accordingly, how the art world has responded — or failed to. Grigley's personal stories, lectures, and essays are engaging and provide a glimpse into the inner workings of art museums, festivals, schools. He recounts explicit ableism, such as being denied an ASL translator by a major art institution, but his book is also a study in microexpressions of ableism. His philosophical and practical insights should resonate with anyone, however you navigate the world. —*Natalie Haddad*