

BEAUX BOOKS #3

WOMEN ARTISTS
& WRITERS





Imagine a dinner party. Round the table are Louise Bourgeois, Lee Miller, Elsa Schiaparelli, Nancy and Decca Mitford, Diana Cooper, Joan Mitchell, Kiki de Montparnasse and Gwen John. What a feast it would be.

Now imagine a bookshelf crowded with books on these women artists and writers. It would be a shelf filled with ideas, spirit, creativity and beauty.

With this rather romantic notion in mind, we have created a short catalogue of twenty books by or on women artists and writers of the twentieth century. There are some old favourites and some

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Short stories by Virginia Woolf and original woodcuts by Vanessa Bell



Monday or Tuesday

Virginia Woolf. With woodcuts by Vanessa Bell.

Published by Leonard & Virginia Woolf at The Hogarth Press, Hogarth House, Richmond. Richmond. 1921. First edition. Limited to 1,000 copies. White paper boards printed with black cover design by Vanessa Bell, brown cloth spine. 96 pages. 4 original woodcuts by Vanessa Bell. Publisher's advertisement leaf at rear. 195 x 130mm. Very good.

£1,750

An early publication of the Hogarth Press, containing eight short stories by Virginia Woolf. Woolf's sister, Vanessa provided four bold and striking wood-cuts to accompany the text, as well as the graphic cover design. *Monday or Tuesday* was published in an edition of 1,000 copies in Spring 1921. It was hand-set and printed by F. T. McDermott at The Prompt Press, Richmond, 'with Leonard's help and anguish.'

[Full description](#) | [Purchase](#) | [Video](#)



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The memoirs of Kiki de Montparnasse in the original French edition of 1929



Kiki Souvenirs

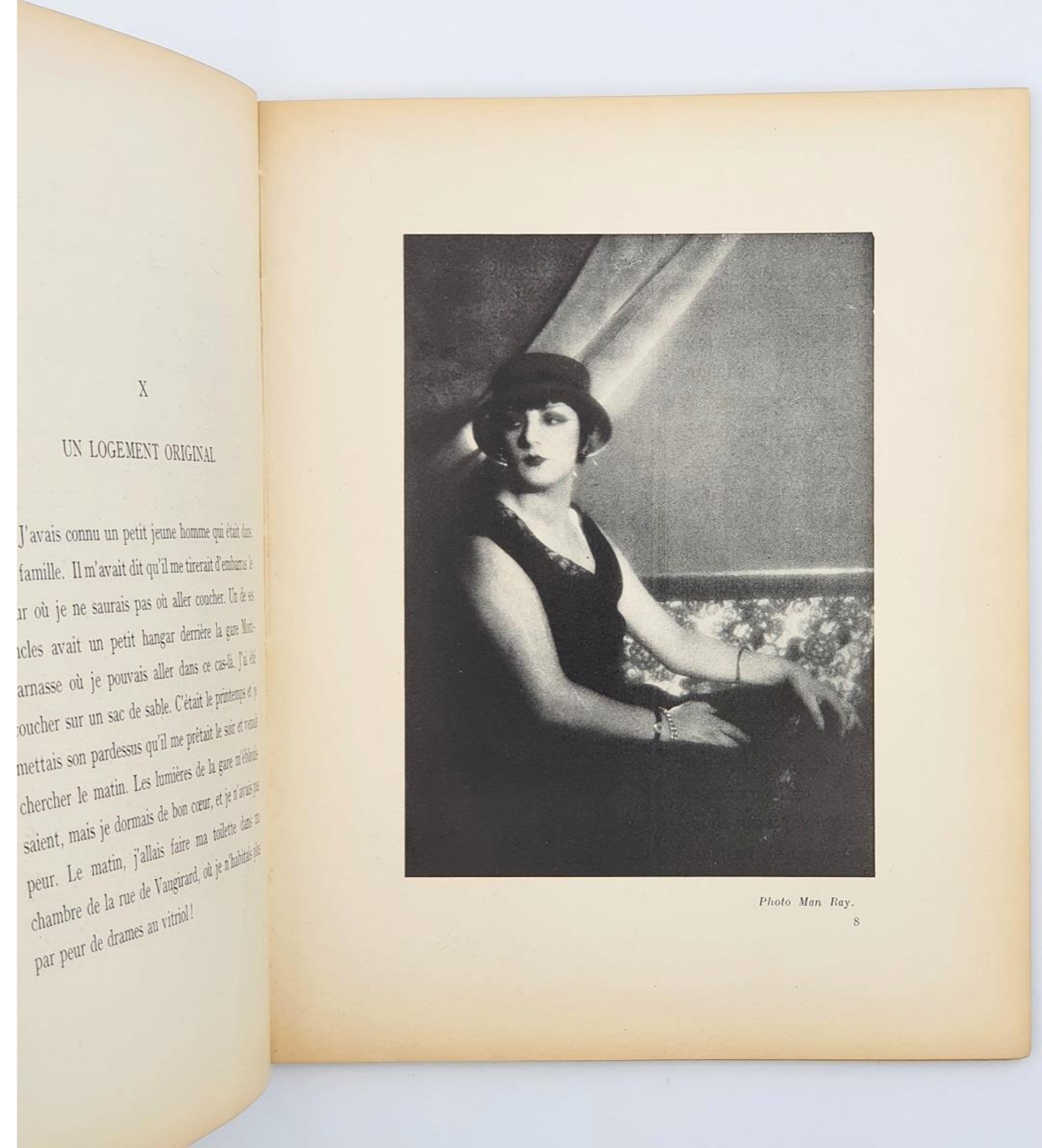
Kiki de Montparnasse [Alice Prin]. Preface by Foujita.

Henri Broca. Paris. 1929. First edition. Printed wrappers, with illustration pasted to front. 174 pages. Many b&w photographs and illustrations by Kiki, Man Ray and others. 230 x 185mm. Very good.

£500

Alice Prin, better known as "Kiki", was a bohemian creative, an embodiment of the Parisian culture of the 1920s. She was an artist in her own right, but also a muse and model for Man Ray, Foujita, Moïse Kisling and many other artists. Her memoirs cover her life to date beginning with her childhood. The text is accompanied by many illustrations, including 10 b&w photographs by Man Ray. The book was published in English in 1930 with a new preface by Hemingway, but was banned by the US until the 1970s for its explicit content.

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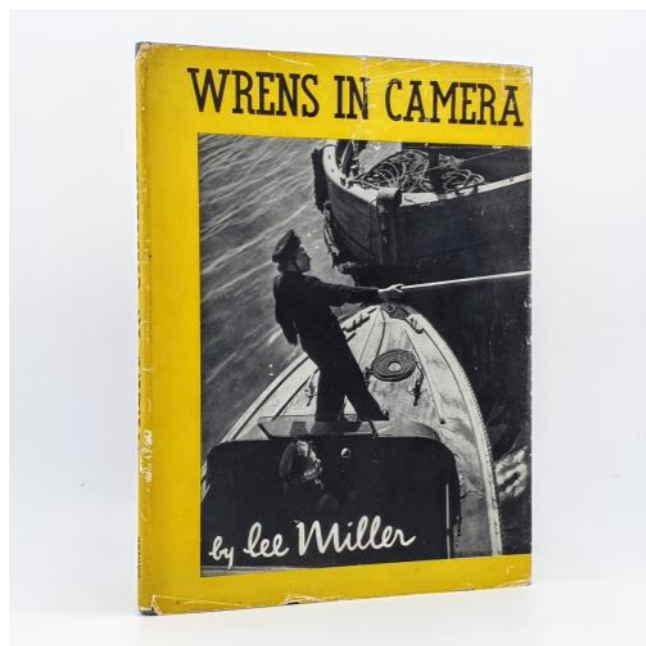
X
UN LOGEMENT ORIGINAL

J'avais connu un petit jeune homme qui était dans
famille. Il m'avait dit qu'il me tirerait d'embarras le
soir où je ne saurais pas où aller coucher. Un de ses
oncles avait un petit hangar derrière la gare Mont-
parnasse où je pouvais aller dans ce cas-là. J'ai été
coucher sur un sac de sable. C'était le printemps et je
mettais son pardessus qu'il me prêtait le soir et venait
chercher le matin. Les lumières de la gare m'éblouis-
saient, mais je dormais de bon cœur, et je n'avais pas
peur. Le matin, j'allais faire ma toilette dans ma
chambre de la rue de Vaugirard, où je n'habitais plus
par peur de drames au vitriol!

Photo Man Ray.

8

Lee Miller's war-time photographs of Wrens



Wrens in Camera

Lee Miller. Text by Miss K. Palmer. With an Introduction by Mrs. Laughton Mathews, D.B.E..
Hollis and Carter. London. 1945. First edition. Blue cloth-bound boards, dust jacket. 79 pages. Illustrated
throughout with black-and-white photographs. 255 x 195mm. Very good, in very good jacket.

£100

During the Second World War Lee Miller was the official war photographer for Vogue magazine. The images contained in *Wrens in Camera* were commissioned by the Admiralty and show the female navy officers and workers fulfilling their war duties. There are signallers, technicians, trainers, housekeepers and transport crews. The whole is an important document of women's roles in war-time Britain.

[Full description](#) | [Purchase](#)



Nancy Mitford's semi-autobiographical novel about a Anglo-French marriage



The Blessing

Nancy Mitford. With a dust jacket design by Cecil Beaton.

Random House. New York. 1951. First US edition. Book of the Month Club. Blue cloth-bound hardback, upper board decorated with fleur de lys design and lion rampant, dust jacket. 305 pages. 210 x 145mm.

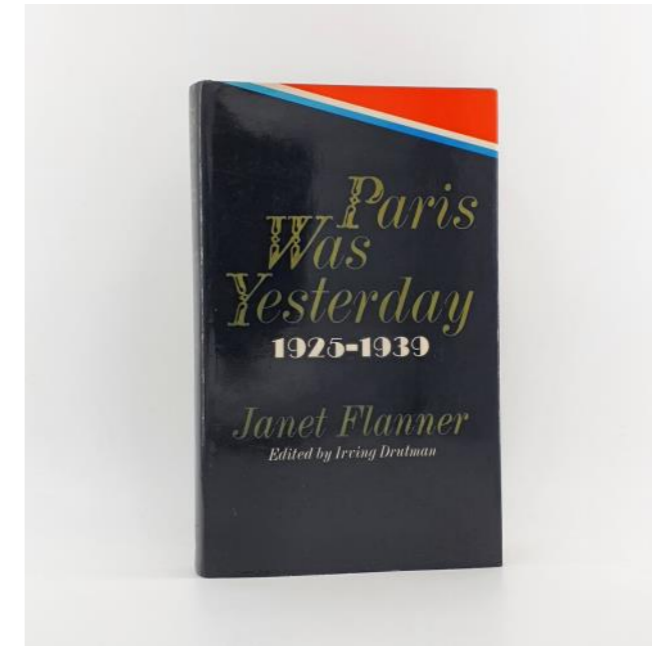
Near fine, in near fine dust jacket.

£60

Nancy Mitford's seventh novel is built around the marriage of an English beauty, Grace Allingham to a French aristocrat, Marquis Charles-Edouard de Valhubert. The "Blessing" is their son, Sigismond. The plot centres on the contrasting views of the English and French on the nature of marriage and the importance of fidelity (or infidelity). The book is semi-autobiographical, touching on the difficulties of Mitford's relationship with Gaston Palewski. With a dust jacket design by Cecil Beaton. The jacket includes a short humorous biography of Mitford by Evelyn Waugh, to whom the book is dedicated..

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A selection of articles from Janet Flanner's fortnightly "Letter from Paris" in *The New Yorker*



Paris Was Yesterday 1925-1939

Janet Flanner (Genêt). Edited by Irving Drutman.

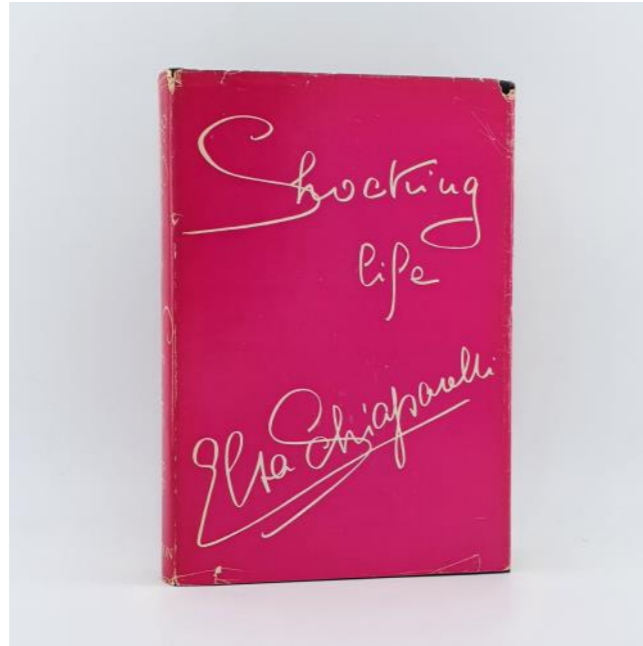
Angus and Robertson. London. 1973. First published in US in 1972. Black cloth-bound hardback, dust jacket. xxiv, 232 pages. Illustrated with drawings from *The New Yorker*. 240 x 150mm. Very good, in near fine dust jacket.

£35

Flanner wrote under the pen-name Genêt and her dispatches provided snapshots of Parisian life between the Wars. The articles start in 1925 with Josephine Baker, Tristan Tzara, La Cuisine, and Henri Rousseau, and finish in 1939 with War Clouds, Exodus (Spanish Civil War), Diaghilev's Ballet, "Peace in Our Time", Preparation for War, and War in Our Time (Declared on September 3).

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A first edition of Schiaparelli's autobiography with the shocking pink dust jacket



Shocking Life

Elsa Schiaparelli.

E. P. Dutton & Co. New York. 1954. First edition. Black cloth-bound hardback, with pink titles to cover and spine, shocking pink dust jacket. 255 pages. Frontispiece, 16 b&w and 3 colour hors-texte plates, tail-piece line drawings. 215 x 150mm. Very good, in good dust jacket.

£180

With her own inimitable style, Elsa Schiaparelli provides an honest autobiography of her life and career. The book takes the reader into the heart of Schiaparelli's fashion house and introduces the many characters she lived amongst, including Lady Mendl, Greta Garbo, Gloria Swanson, Joan Crawford, the Duchess of Windsor, Picasso, Berard, Dali, Anita Loos, Katherine Hepburn, and many more. The striking dust jacket is emblazoned with Schiaparelli's trademark Shocking Pink.

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A complete three-volume set of the memoirs of Lady Diana Cooper



The Rainbow Comes and Goes; The Light of Common Day; Trumpets from the Steep

Diana Cooper.

Rupert Hart-Davis. London. 1958; 1959; 1960. All first editions; vol. I is a second impression. 3 volumes. Cloth-bound hardbacks with title to spine and gilt horse motif to front board, dust jackets. 256; 264; 253 pages.

Many black-and-white hors texte plates. 225 x 150mm. Very good; in very good dust jackets.

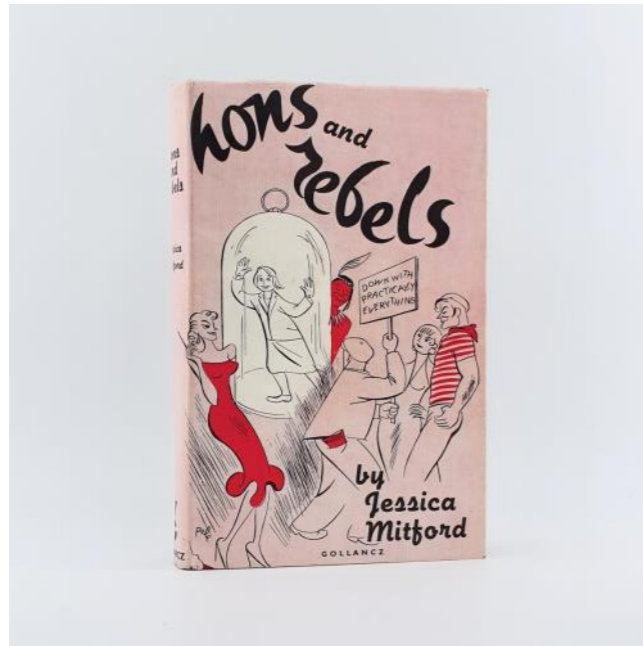
£180

Cooper's memoirs reveal a life well-lived, populated with royalty, politicians, artists and aristocrats. They begin with her childhood and then cover her involvement with *The Coterie*, two World Wars, her celebrated appearance as the Madonna in Max Reinhardt's *The Miracle*, her marriage to Duff Cooper and their time at the British Embassy in Paris. The volumes finish with their retirement to Chantilly.

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A first edition of Jessica "Decca" Mitford's classic memoir



Hons and Rebels

Jessica Mitford.

Victor Gollancz Ltd. London. 1960. First edition, first impression. Red cloth-bound hardback, dust jacket. 222 pages. 225 x 145mm. Near fine, in very good dust jacket.

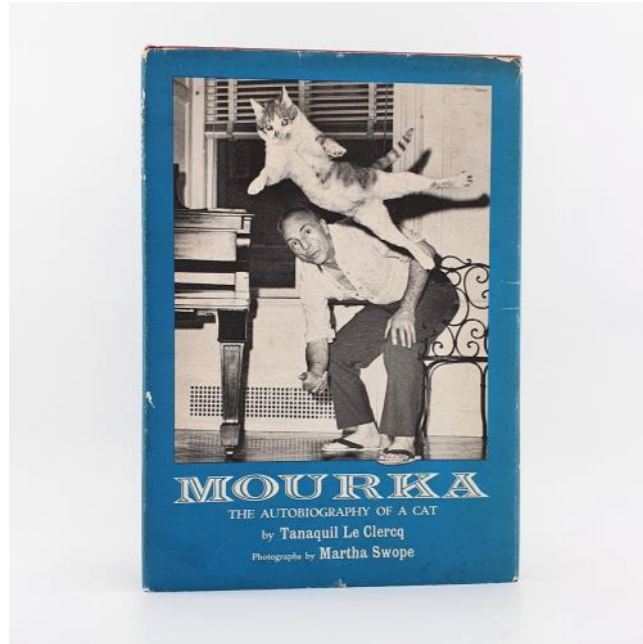
£240

As one of the Mitford sisters Jessica had an unconventional childhood, with eccentric parents and forceful siblings. Aged 19, she eloped with her cousin Esmond Romilly to war-torn Spain. The pair married and spent the years before the Second World War in America. All this is recounted in *Hons and Rebels* in brilliant and entertaining detail.

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Charming photo book celebrating the life & exploits of George Balanchine's cat Mourka



Mourka. The Autobiography of a Cat

Tanaquil Le Clercq. Photographs by Martha Swope.

Stein and Day. New York. 1964. First edition. Pink cloth-backed boards, with gilt cat motif to front board, dust jacket. Unpaginated [c.80 pages]. Illustrated throughout with b&w photos. 260 x 185mm. Very good, in very good dust jacket.

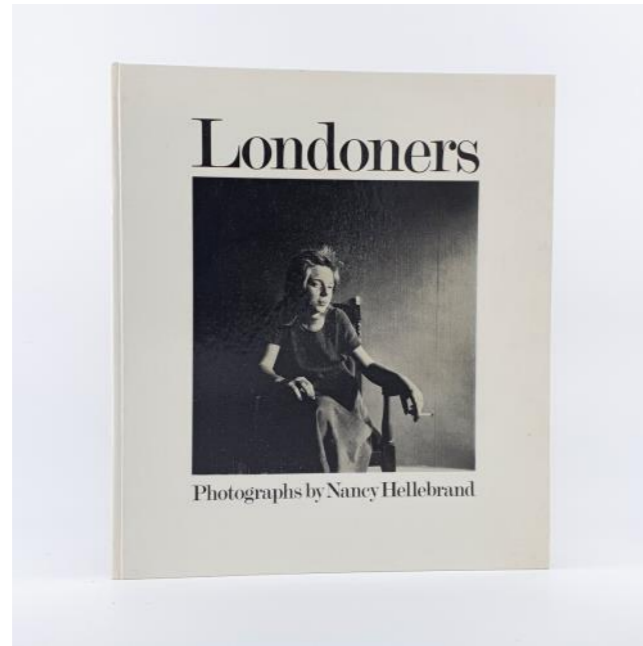
£180

Martha Swope, official photographer of the New York City Ballet, placed a photo of Mourka leaping, ballet-like, into the air in Life magazine. The popularity of the image led to star status and an autobiography was born. The ballet dancer Tanaquil Le Clercq, then married to Balanchine, provides the witty captions to Swope's photos - 'Anyone looking at my mother's wedding picture could foresee disaster', 'The critics all praised my lovely arms... and my stunning pas de chats... and entrechats'.

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A documentary photobook by American photographer Nancy Hellebrand



Londoners

Nancy Hellebrand. Introduction by Simon Wilson.

Lund Humphries. London. 1974. First edition, first printing. White illustrated boards, no dust jacket as issued. [56 pages.] 48 black-and-white photographic plates. 265 x 230mm. Near fine.

£70

Londoners contains a series of portraits taken by an outsider, mainly shot in North London and of the working classes. The realist images feature the sitters in their homes, surrounded by possessions which are loaded with meaning. Titles include 'Rock fan' (a Ziggy Stardust wannabe), 'Man with three weeks to live', 'Marion in a bed-sitter', and 'Bernice alone'. The book coincided with an exhibition at the National Portrait Gallery, London.

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An early example of Rena Gardiner's privately printed guide books to historic houses



Trerice, Cornwall

Rena Gardiner.

Rena Gardiner at the Workshop Press for the National Trust. Blandford Forum. 1974. First edition. Limited to 5,000 copies. Printed wrappers. 32 pages. Illustrated with original colour lithographs. 285 x 215mm. Near fine.

£150

The book describes and illustrates Trerice, an Elizabethan manor house near Newquay in Cornwall, owned by the National Trust. The text and lithographic illustrations are all provided by Gardiner, who printed the books herself by hand in her studio in Dorset.

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Rena Gardiner's privately-printed guide book to Hardwick Hall



Look at Hardwick Hall

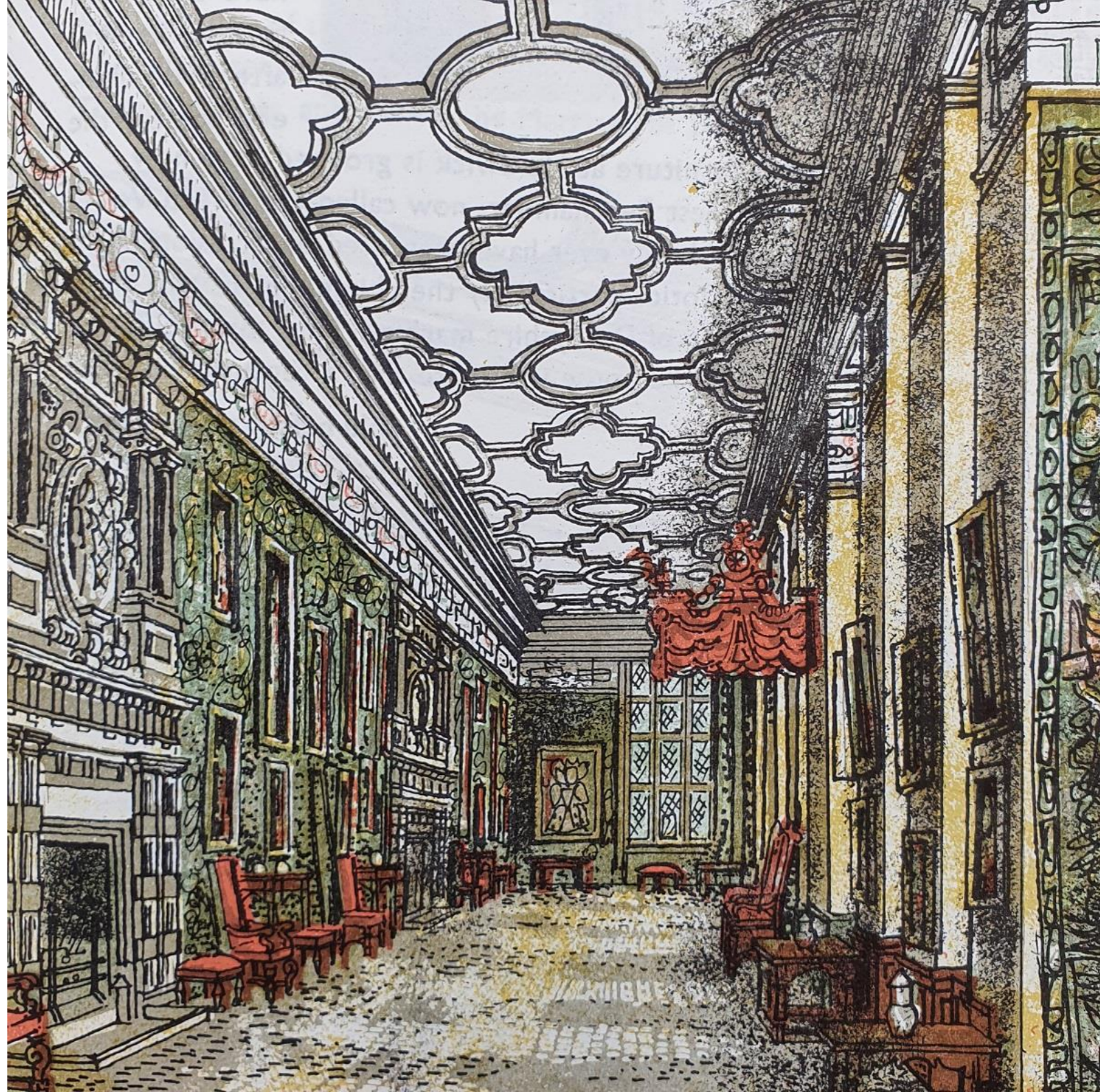
Rena Gardiner.

Rena Gardiner at the Workshop Press for the National Trust. Blandford Forum. 1976. First edition. Limited to 15,000 copies. Printed wrappers. 22 pages. Illustrated with original colour lithographs. 220 x 155mm. Very good.

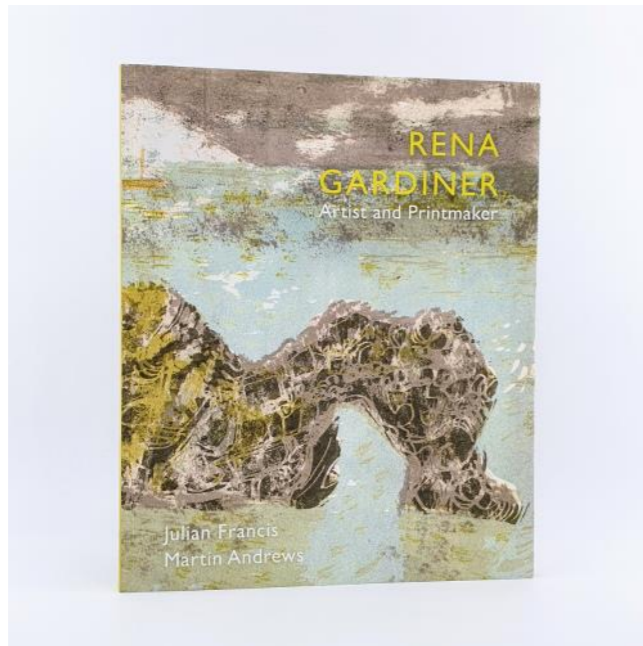
£125

An early example of Rena Gardiner's privately-printed guide books to historic houses. The book describes and illustrates Hardwick Hall, the Elizabethan home of Bess of Hardwick in Derbyshire, owned by the National Trust. The text and lithographic illustrations are all provided by Gardiner, who printed the books herself by hand in her studio in Dorset.

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A study of the life and work of Rena Gardiner, with a catalogue of the books and prints



Rena Gardiner. Artist and Printmaker

Julian Francis & Martin Andrews.

Little Toller Books in association with The Dovecote Press. Toller Fratrum. 2015. First edition, second impression. Wrappers with French flaps. 160 pages. Nearly 200 illustrations, mainly in colour. 270 x 225mm. Fine.

£125

The first book to be published on the artist Rena Gardiner. Gardiner is most famous for her hand-printed guide books to historic houses and the countryside of England. She has a unique post-War style and her prints are now highly collectable. Francis and Andrews' book tells the story of the artist, supported through many illustrations and by a list of her books, leaflets, cards and prints.

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An illustrated survey of the life and art of the photographer Lee Miller



The Lives of Lee Miller

Antony Penrose.

Thames and Hudson. London. 1985. First edition. Grey cloth-bound hardback, dust jacket. 216 pages. 171 duotone illustrations. 290 x 230mm. Near fine.

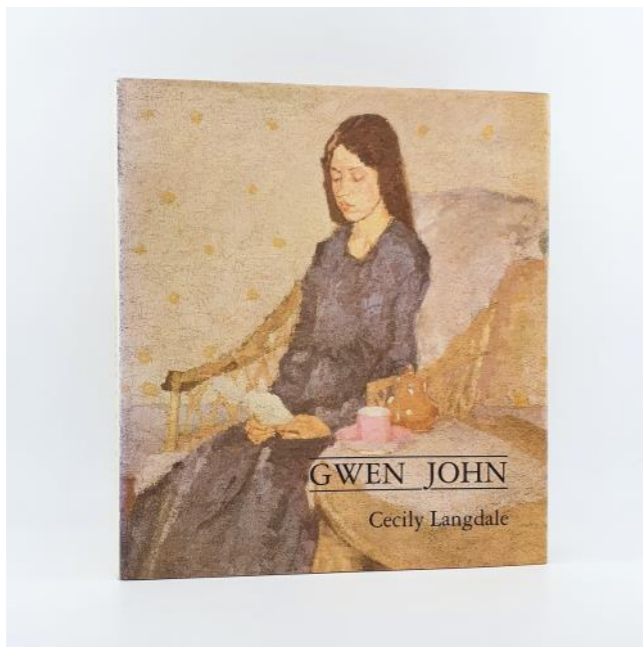
£140

Lee Miller was an independent and free spirit, and fearlessly travelled across international borders. Her many "lives" include photographer, model, muse, lover, wife, surrealist, actor, war correspondent, and mother. *The Lives of Lee Miller* is told by her son Antony Penrose, who draws on his privileged access to her unpublished writings and large archive of photographs.

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A definitive study of the art and life of Gwen John



Gwen John. With a Catalogue Raisonné of the Paintings and a Selection of the Drawings

Cecily Langdale.

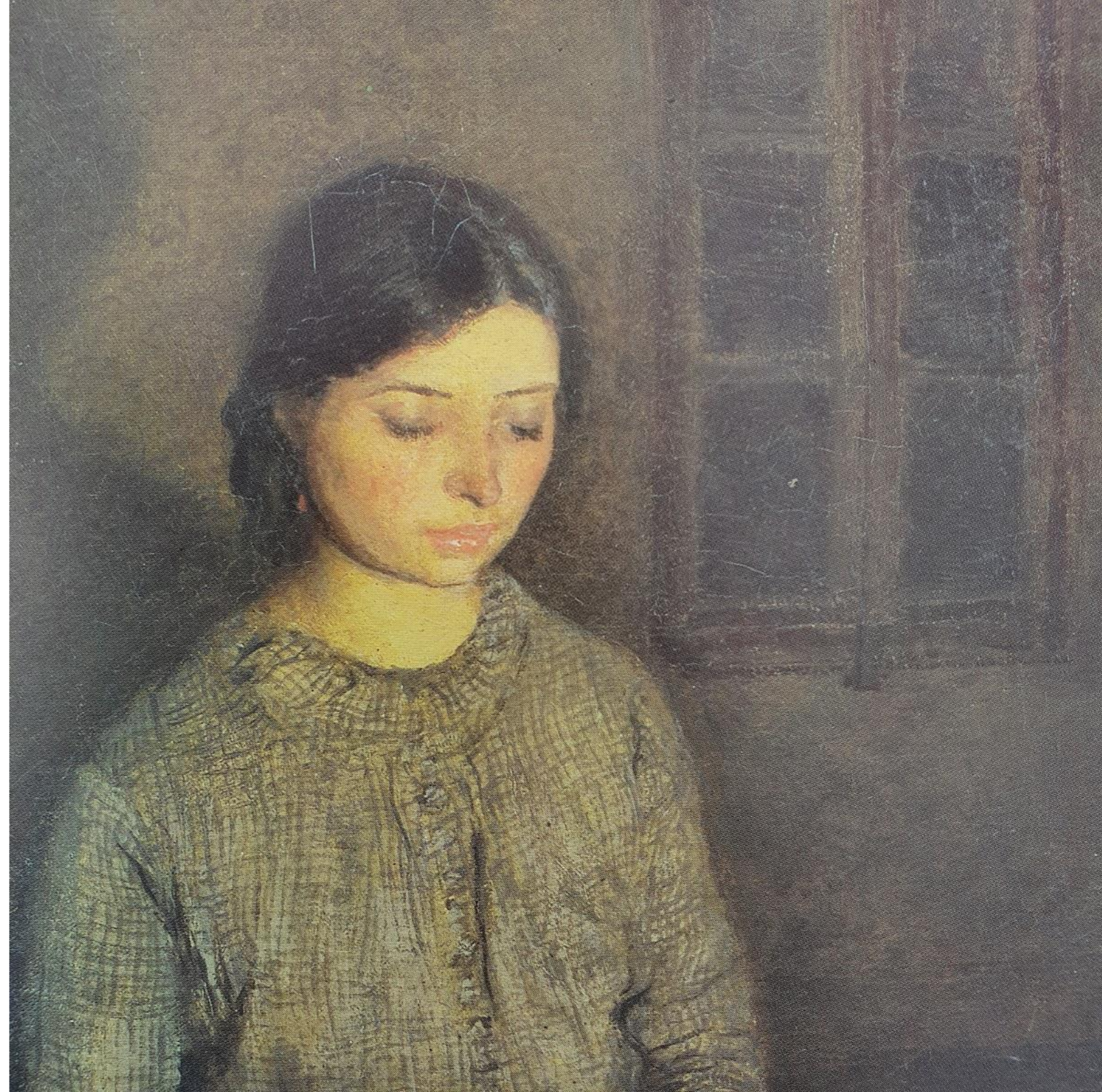
Yale for the Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art. New Haven & London. 1987. First edition. Grey cloth-bound hardback, dust jacket. xii, 251 pages. 379 illustrations in black-and-white and colour. 285 x 255mm.

Near fine, in near fine dust jacket.

£120

The author brings an intensely private John out of the shadow of her brother, Augustus, and her lover, Rodin. John's artistic development is examined, touching on her childhood, her time at the Slade, her connections within her brother's artistic circle and her life in Paris. All of John's paintings are listed as well as a good selection of drawings.

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Bourgeois' "family photo album", examining the influence of her childhood on her art



Louise Bourgeois. Album

Louise Bourgeois. Introduction by Peter Blum.

Peter Blum Edition. New York. 1994. Limited to 850 copies. Beige cloth-bound hardback with brass binding screws. 123 pages. 68 black and white photographs, with captions printed on half-page glassine overlapping the photos. 305 x 215mm. Fine.

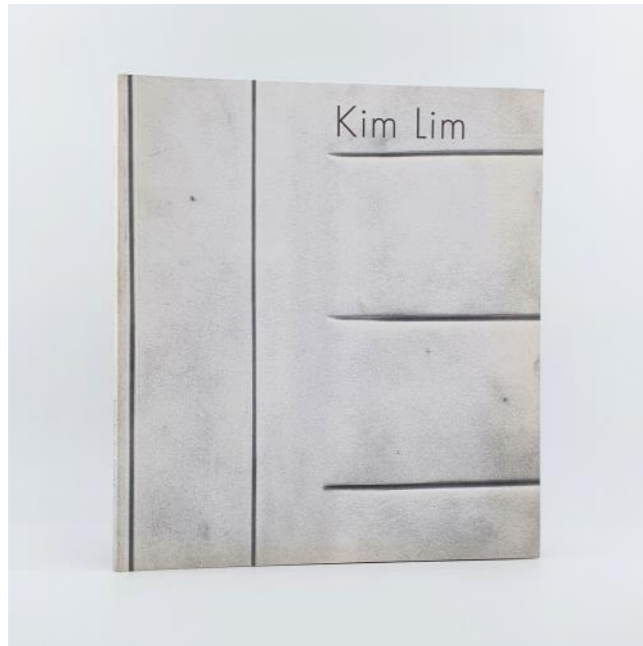
£450

Photographs from Bourgeois' childhood - herself, parents, siblings, cousins, homes, neighbourhood, animals - are interspersed with personal short texts, creating a visual memoir. Her failure to be a boy, her mother's independence and work as a tapestry repairer, her father's departure for war and his infidelity, the arrival of her orphaned cousins, the importance of animals all formed an influence which she was unable to detach from and which she constantly explored in her work.

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The catalogue for an exhibition of the sculpture and prints of Kim Lim



Kim Lim

Jenni Lomax and Mel Gooding.

Camden Arts Centre. London. 1999. First edition. Paperback. 64 pages. Illustrated throughout. 270 x 240mm.

Near fine.

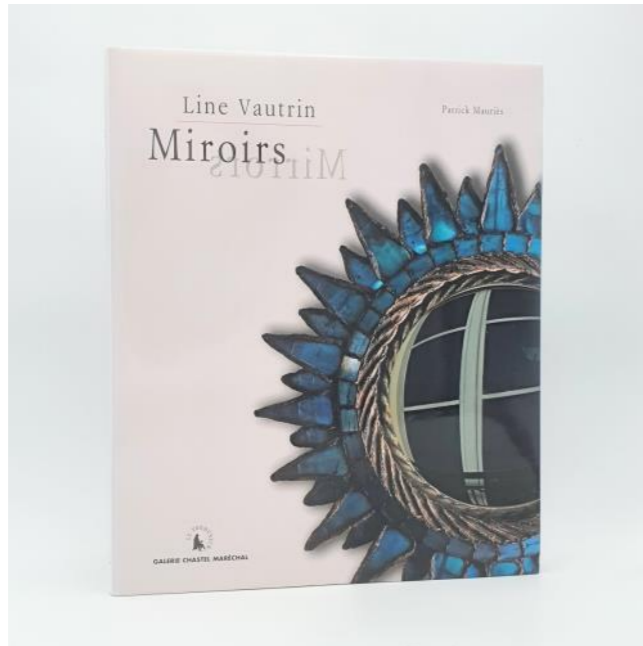
£85

The catalogue for an exhibition of the sculpture of Kim Lim. Essays and photographs examine the abstract work of Lim, her materials and influences. The catalogue includes a section on Lim's prints, a biography and list of exhibitions.

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A book on the sculptural and poetic mirrors created by the French designer Line Vautrin



Line Vautrin Miroirs

Patrick Mauries.

Galerie Chastel Marechal. Paris. 2004. First edition. Grey paper-covered hardback, dust jacket. 120 pages. Illustrated in colour. 300 x 250mm. Near fine, in near fine dust jacket.

£300

Line Vautrin's mirrors were formed using a material she created called Talosel, a plastic based on cellulose acetate. The Talosel base was shaped, scraped and encrusted with multi-coloured pieces of mirror. Her works are instantly recognisable and are widely collected. *Line Vautrin Miroirs* was published to coincide with an exhibition at the Galerie Chastel Marechal and acts as a foundation catalogue of Vautrin's mirrors.

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Catalogue of paintings and works on paper around the theme of the sunflower



Joan Mitchell Sunflowers

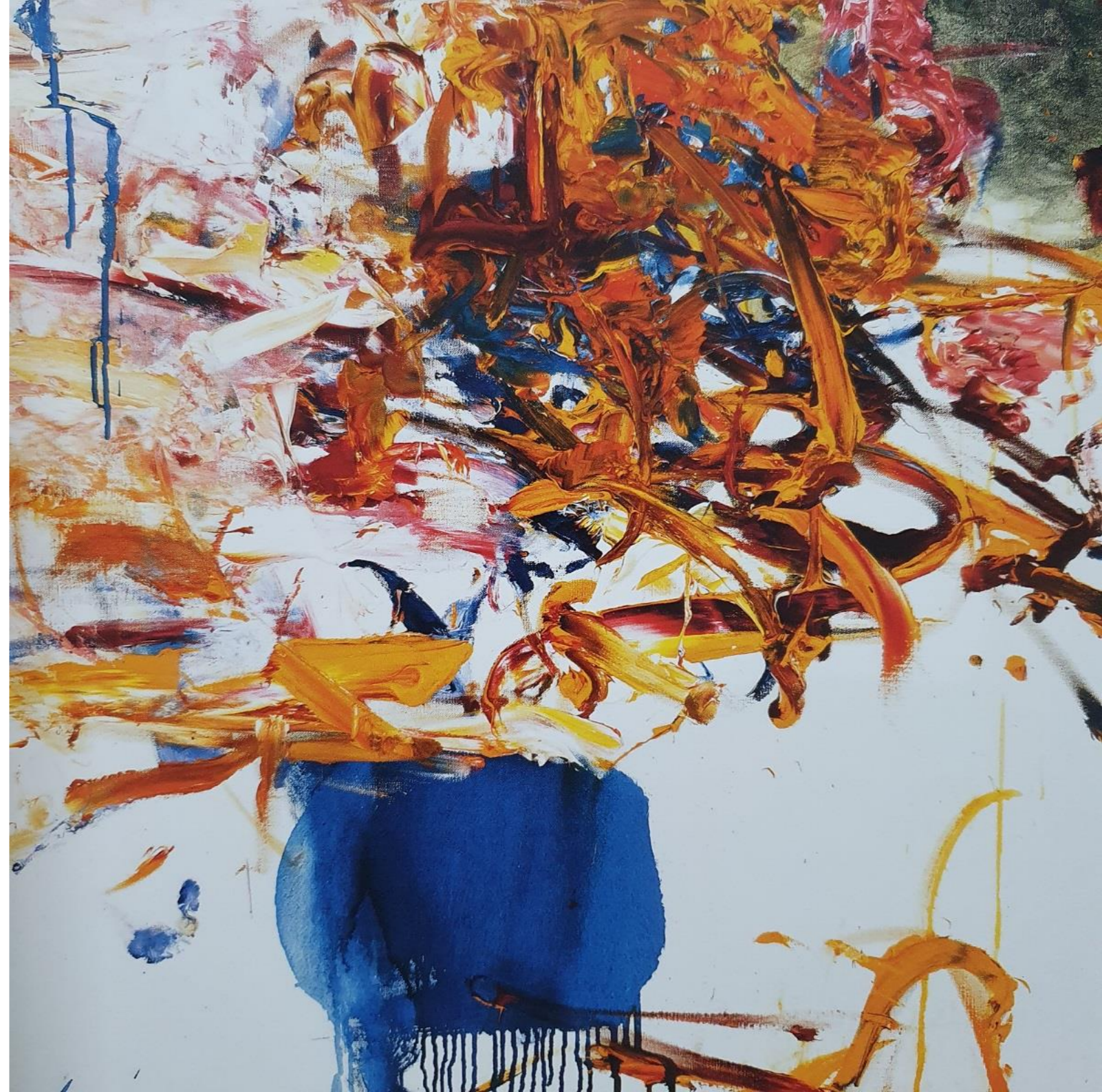
Joan Mitchell. Essay by Dave Hickey.

Steidl / Cheim & Read. New York. 2008. First edition. Limited to 1,500 copies. Grey cloth-bound oblong hardback, dust jacket. [80 pages.] 23 full-page colour plates. 225 x 305mm. Fine, in fine dust jacket.

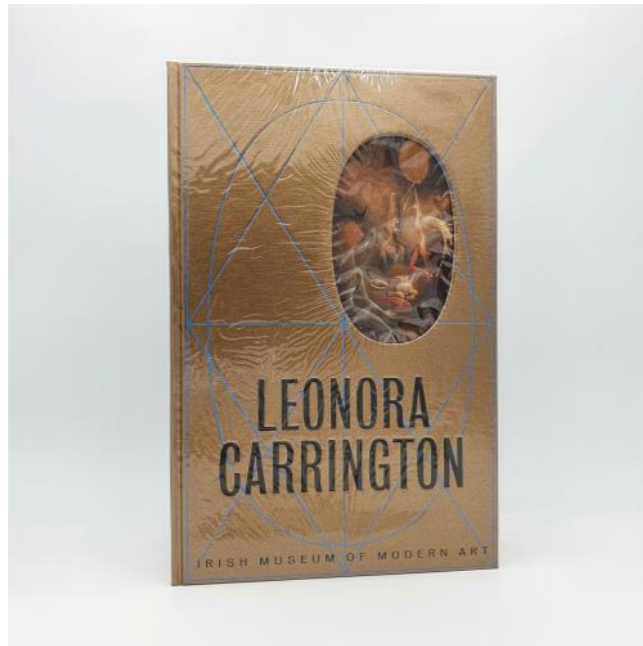
£160

A catalogue for an exhibition of Joan Mitchell's Sunflower pictures held at the Cheim & Read Gallery, New York. Mitchell moved to Vetheuil, a town forty miles north of Paris, in 1968 and it was here that she was inspired, like Van Gogh, by the fields of Sunflowers that grew outside of her studio. She returned to the motif throughout her career and these paintings and works on paper are presented within the catalogue.

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The scarce catalogue for an exhibition of Leonora Carrington's work at the Irish Museum of Modern Art



Leonora Carrington

Edited by Sean Kissane.

Irish Museum of Modern Art. Dublin. 2013. First edition. Gold cloth-bound hardback, with debossed blue geometric pattern and black titles, oval die-cut to front board and endpaper. 164 pages. Over 150 illustrations in colour and b&w. 305 x 200mm. Fine.

£300

The catalogue examines the themes of metamorphosis, madness and transformation that run through Carrington's surrealist artworks and writings. Carrington's mother was Irish and the influence of Irish folklore and history on the artist's imagery is also discussed. The catalogue includes an interview between Leonora Carrington and Hans Ulrich Obrist.

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