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ART & ARCHITECTURE

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Edited by Andrea Bacchi & Anna Coliva Stunning catalogue of the recent exhibition at the Galleria Borghese of Bernini's astonishing sculpture. £48.00

CHARLES I KING & COLLECTOR

Edited by Desmond Shane-Taylor & Per Rumberg Catalogue to the breath-taking exhibition at the RA. Fascinatingly, the modern 'commonwealth' (ie public money) has been used to buy back one or two pieces in recent years of the staggering collection dispersed by the Parliamentarians after the king's execution. Memorable for its Holbein's, Raphaels, Hilliards, Mantegnas, Van Dycks (of course) and a brilliantly sinister portrait of Philip IV looking like a teddyboy with a flick knife up his sleeve. £40.00

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Martin Gayford £24.95

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Harry Moore-Gwyn Catalogue to an exhibition in Salisbury, focussing on 50 works spanning his career. Introductory essay by Lamb's cousin, Thomas Pakenham. On the slim side, but well produced and very interesting. £25.00

PETER LANYON: CATALOGUE RAISONNÉ OF THE OIL PAINTINGS AND THREE DIMENSIONAL WORKS

Toby Treves A magnificent and substantial book, by the small press that produced the fine William Nicholson catalogue raisonné a few years ago. £150.00

MATISSE BONNARD LONG LIVE PAINTING

Felix Kramer Friends for many years, their shared tastes in terms of subject - still lives, interiors, landscapes and female nudes - make for easy and interesting parallels. Also included are several photographs by Cartier Bresson and Hahnloser of the two men in their respective studios on the French Riviera, and sometimes in each other's. There is a particularly delightful one of Bonnard in the pose of an odalisque, lying on a divan covered with exotic textiles with a beautiful cloth hung behind him, taken chez Matisse in 1929. £45.00

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Desmond Morris The zoologist famous for 'The Naked Ape' is also a surrealist painter, now aged and spilling the odd bean about his earlier life and circle. £24.95

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Diana Henry In the bath, surely? £25.00

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Deborah Madison Vegetarian splendour from the ex-Chez Panisse chef and found of Greens Restaurant in San Francisco. £28.00

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SOME OF OUR RECENT FAVOURITES

CHARMED LIVES IN GREECE: GHIKA, CRAXTON, LEIGH FERMOR

Edited by Evita Arapoglou The beautifully-produced catalogue of a wonderful exhibition that has moved from Cyprus to Athens and now to the British Museum. The friendship of these three men lasted five decades, and is illustrated by a profusion of paintings, letters, photographs, etc. The labyrinthine network of their circle (Stephen Spender, Ann Fleming, Lucian Freud, Nikos Kazantzakis...) is a roll-call of lasting fascination. We have imported this from Cyprus, and believe stock may prove limited. £30.00

BATTLESHIP YAMATO: OF WAR, BEAUTY AND IRONY

Jan Morris A brief illustrated reverie about the Japanese battleship Yamato, once the largest and most powerful warship in the world - "the Dreadnought of Dreadnoughts". This noble dinosaur, unprotected from air attack and hopelessly vulnerable, went down with flags still flying on 7th April 1945. Morris's meditation on this "last arrow from the imperial quiver" delivers pathos and compassion, and admiration too. £14.99

THE SHELTERING SKY

Paul Bowles A wonderfully atmospheric tale of two lost souls wandering through the post-war Sahara, well worth (re)visiting. Bowles's voice is fascinatingly dispassionate, even as the trajectory of his characters becomes ever more implacable. £7.99

ZAHHAK LEGEND OF THE SERPENT KING

Hamid Rabmanian There is nothing new under the sun but there are moments of genius that catch the light. This insanely elaborate pop-up retelling of Persia's great epic, Ferdowsi's 'Shahnameh', is such a one. £34.99

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Camille Paglia A collection of polemical essays old and new from the eminent scholar and feminist thinker gathered in one volume. As a dissident and a provocateur who often goes against the grain of the new feminist orthodoxy, CP is no stranger to controversy. That a number of us here of both genders have read and considered her views important, sane and brilliant, is a testimony to the power of her writing. £9.99

DANCING BEARS: TRUE STORIES ABOUT LONGING FOR THE OLD DAYS

Witold Szablowski This gem of reportage from one of Poland's foremost journalists looks at how individuals - human and ursine - cope with sudden freedom. When Communism collapsed in Eastern Europe, many found the new-found liberty 'problematic'. The writer talks to many individuals who, having spent their life under totalitarian rule, long for the good/bad old days. £12.99

THE SALE OF THE LATE KING'S GOODS

Jerry Brotton Anyone who has seen, or intends seeing, the exhibition of Charles I's art collection at the RA, should read this wonderful account of its formation and dispersal under Cromwell. £10.99

NO PLACE TO LAY ONE'S HEAD

Françoise Frenkel, introduction by Patrick Modiano FF was born a Polish Jew, studied in Paris and then opened a French bookshop in Berlin in the 1920s. Just weeks before the war she fled to Paris, and from there to Nice, Avignon, and on... an odyssey of fear until she managed, at her second attempt, to cross the border into Switzerland in 1943. Almost nothing is known about the author of this remarkable memoir beyond its pages, published in a tiny way in Geneva in 1945 and then lost until a copy turned up in a jumble sale in 2015. Her account is austere and deeply sympathetic. £16.99

AN ARTIST OF THE FLOATING WORLD

Kazuo Ishiguro This delicate, melancholy novel about a Japanese artist coming to terms with his past in the years following WW2 gradually supplants the dreamlike formality of his existence with something more sinister. A beguiling tale which prises itself open by degrees, told with the Nobel laureate's beautifully balanced prose. £8.99

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