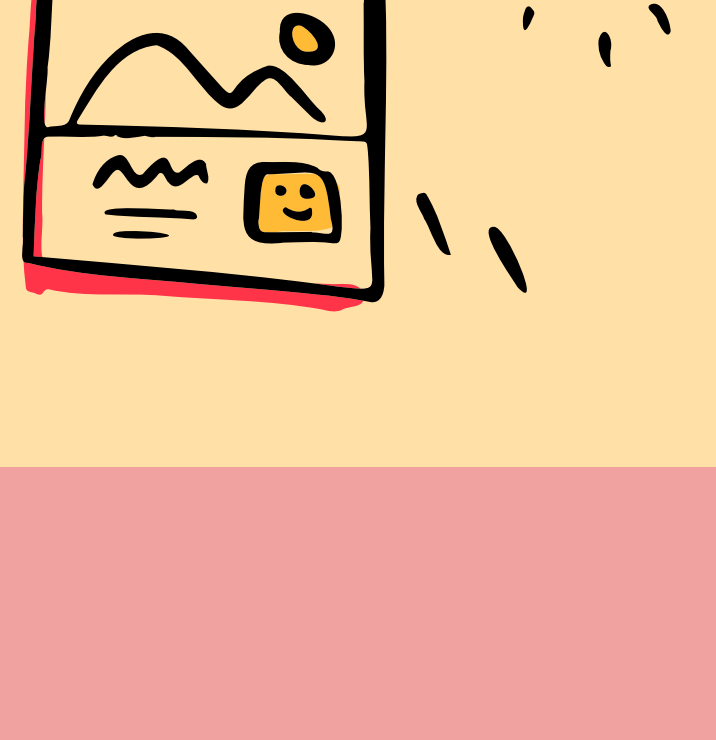


# Get Started In: Reading Art

## Orientalism and the Ways We View Non-Western Art

Fine arts can be accessible! **Get Started In: Reading Art** is a series of art-centric newsletters and talks that does just that, on top of giving you a foundation in art literacy, history and analysis. Attend the programmes, read the books, or explore the variety of resources recommended to get started in reading and understanding art.

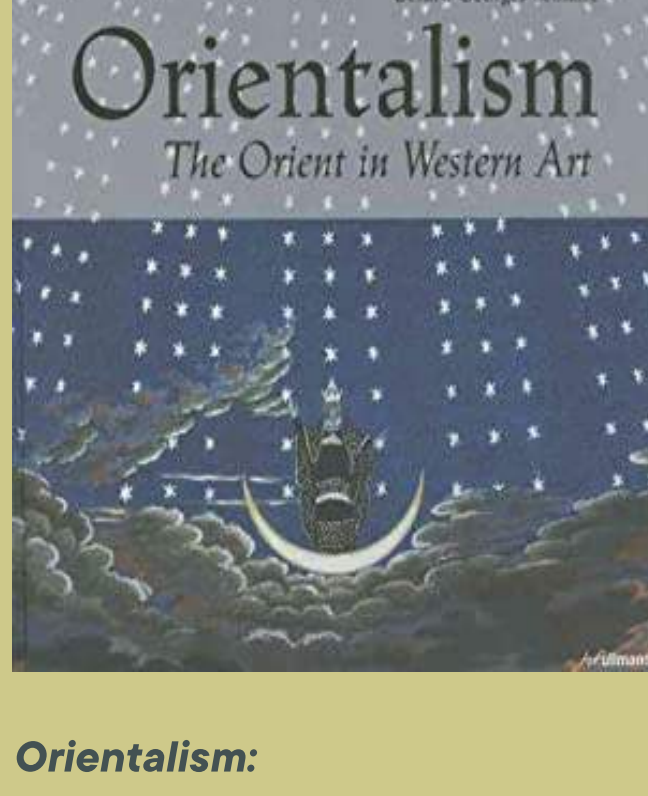
**Orientalism and the Ways We View Non-Western Art** covers the effect of Western-centric ideas and critical theories, such as Orientalism, on the creation and consumption of Asian art. This designation prioritises the view of the "East" from a Western-European lens over that of the native inhabitants. Orientalism constructs a mythology full of cultural, spatial, and visual stereotypes that are often connected to the geopolitical ideologies of governments and institutions. The influence of these mythologies has impacted the formation of knowledge and the process of knowledge production.



"Orientalism imposed limits upon thought about the Orient. Even the most imaginative writers of an age, men like Flaubert, Nerval, or Scott, were constrained in what they could either experience of or say about the Orient. For Orientalism was ultimately a political vision of reality whose structure promoted the difference between the familiar (Europe, the West, "us") and the strange (the Orient, the East, "them"). This vision in a sense created and then served the two worlds thus conceived. Orientals lived in their world, "we" lived in ours. The vision and material reality propped each other up, kept each other going."

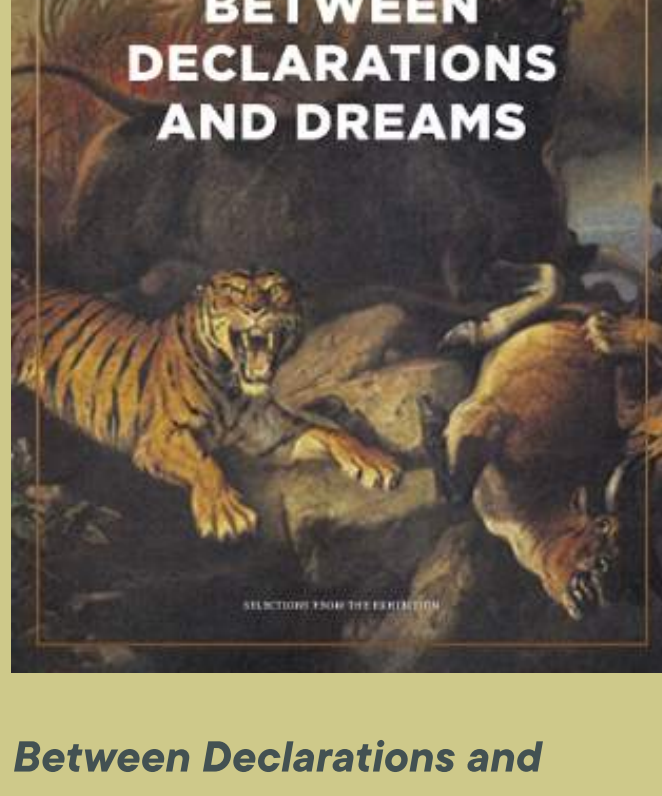
- Orientalism by Edward W. Said

## Curated Reads



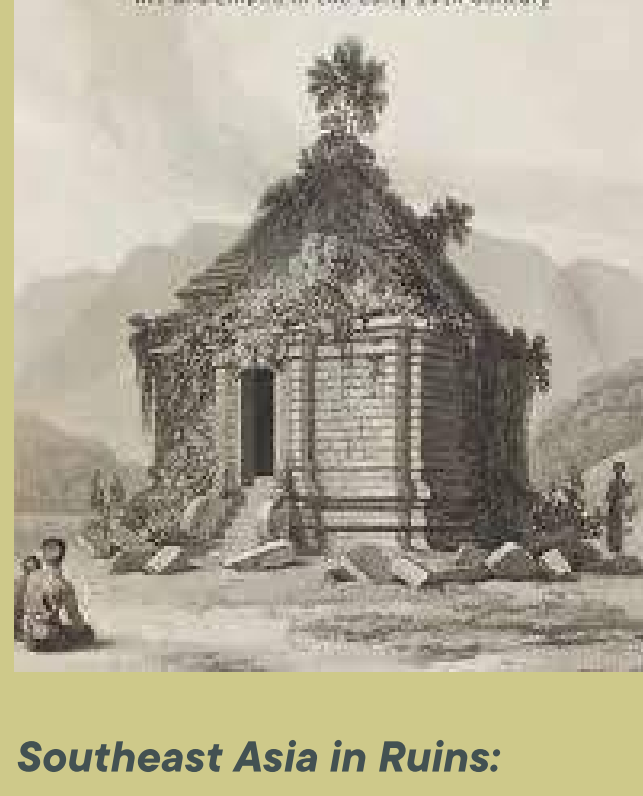
**Orientalism: Orient in Western Art**  
Gerard-Georges Lemaire  
H.F.Ullmann Publishing GmbH, 2013  
Call No.: English 75994 LEM -[ART]

The mysterious aura of the Orient has repeatedly served as a romantically idealised counterpoint and escape route for European fantasies and longings. This book presents the history of Oriental images in painting and follows the traces of a phenomenon that remains intriguing even today.



**Between Declarations and Dreams: Art of Southeast Asia since the 19th Century: Selections from the Exhibition**  
Sara Siew  
National Gallery Singapore, 2015  
Call No.: English 709.59074 BET -[ART]

This book presents an overview of *Between Declarations and Dreams* through 100 works from the exhibition.



**Southeast Asia in Ruins: Art and Empire in the Early 19th Century**  
Sarah Tiffin  
NUS Press, 2016  
Call No.: 9591 TIF

British artists and commentators from late 18th to early 19th century encoded the aspirations of progress and power in the imagery of Southeast Asia's ruined religious iconography. This book covers this often-neglected period in British art history, showing how anxieties of empire were encoded in the genre of landscape paintings and prints.



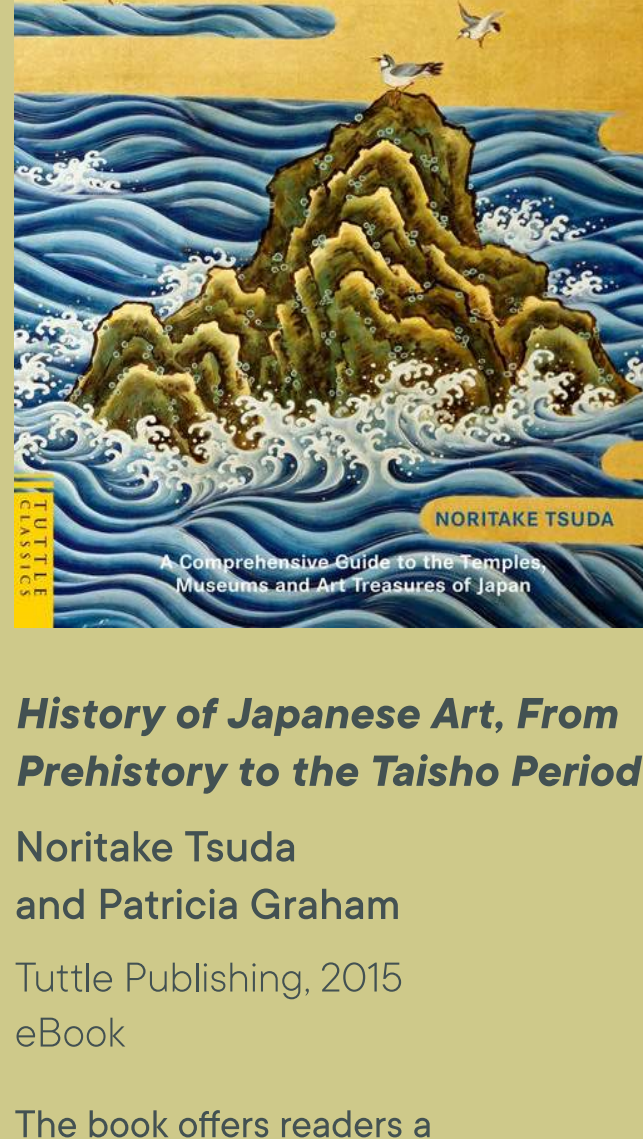
**Orientalism**  
Edward W. Said  
Knopf Doubleday Publishing Group, 2014  
eBook

In this book, Said traces the origins of "orientalism" to the centuries-long period during which Europe dominated the Middle and Near East and, from its position of power, defined "the Orient" simply as "other than" the Occident.



**Arts of Thailand**  
Steve Van Beek and Luca Tettoni  
Tuttle Publishing, 2012  
eBook

This book examines the stunning visual history of Art in Thailand. Blending a multiplicity of cultural influences with their own artistic genius, the Thai people have created some of the world's finest art.



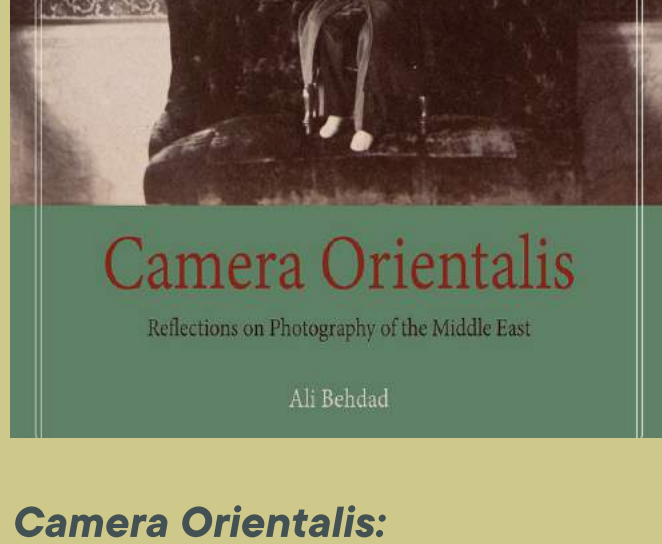
**History of Japanese Art, From Prehistory to the Taisho Period**  
Noritake Tsuda and Patricia Graham  
Tuttle Publishing, 2015  
eBook

The book offers readers a comprehensive view of Japanese art through Japanese eyes — a view that is the most revealing of all perspectives. At the same time, it provides readers with a guide to the places in Japan where the best and most representative creations of Japanese art can be seen.



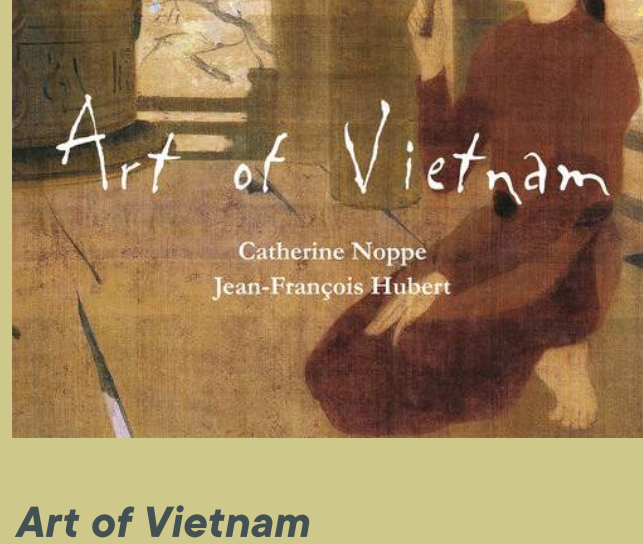
**Chinese Art**  
Stephen W. Bushell  
Parkstone International, 2015  
eBook

Dealing not only with architecture, sculpture, and painting, but also culturally significant mediums such as bronze and ceramics, this book offers a complete panorama of Chinese arts and civilisation.



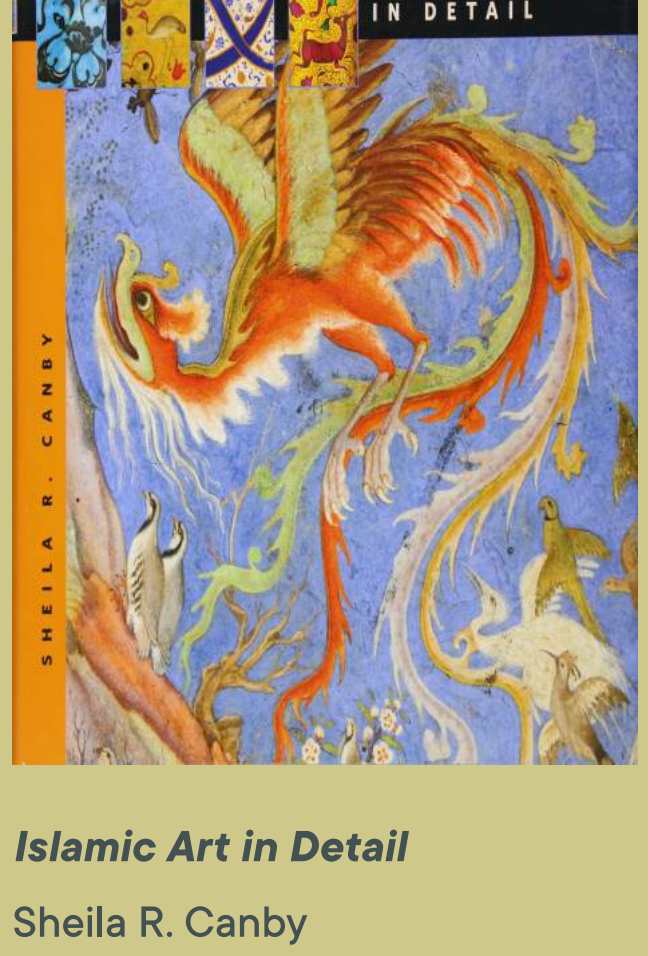
**Camera Orientalis: Reflections on Photography of the Middle East**  
Ali Behdad  
University of Chicago Press, 2016  
Call No.: 770.956 BEH

Camera Orientalis traces the Middle East's influences on photography's evolution, as well as photography's effect on Europe's view of 'the Orient'.



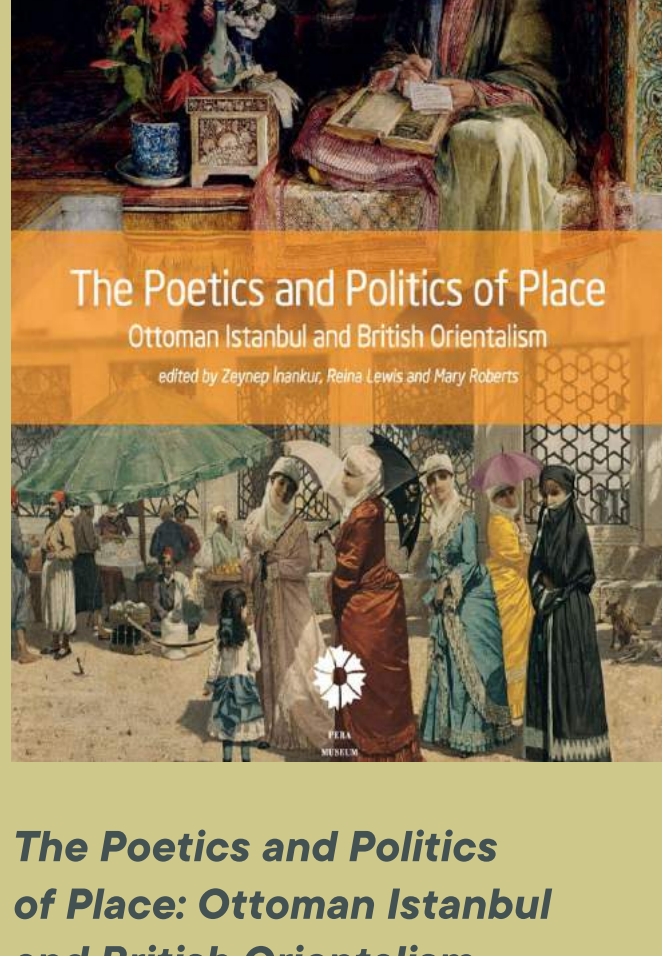
**Art of Vietnam**  
Catherine Noppe and Jean-François Hubert  
Parkstone International, 2018  
eBook

Since the foundation of the Au Lac kingdom three centuries ago – famous for their bronze drums and their magnificent artilleries – until the works of the painters from the Ecole des Beaux-Arts of Indochina, created in Hanoi in 1925, the arts of Vietnam have been marked by its profoundly original cultures and the fusion between Asia and the Occident.



**Islamic Art in Detail**  
Sheila R. Canby  
Harvard University Press, 2005  
Call No.: 709.1767 CAN

This stunning book highlights outstanding examples of design and craft in paintings, manuscripts, calligraphy, metalwork, ceramics, glass, wood and ivory. It offers an exceptional view of an imposing collection of arts from across the Muslim world.



**The Poetics and Politics of Place: Ottoman Istanbul and British Orientalism**  
Zeynep Inankur, Reina Lewis and Mary Roberts  
University of Washington Press, 2011  
Call No.: 709.4209034 POE

This unique collection takes a fresh look at Orientalism by shifting its center from Europe to Ottoman Istanbul and thinking about art in terms of exchange, reciprocity, and comparative imperialisms.

## Online Reads

1. **Orientalism, a Cultural Field of Study** by Britannica
2. **Orientalism in Nineteenth Century Art** by the Met

## Video Picks



**Orientalism and Power: When Will We Stop Stereotyping People?** by BBC Ideas

Orientalism is a term that was coined by the late academic Edward Said. What does Orientalism mean? This video breaks it down.



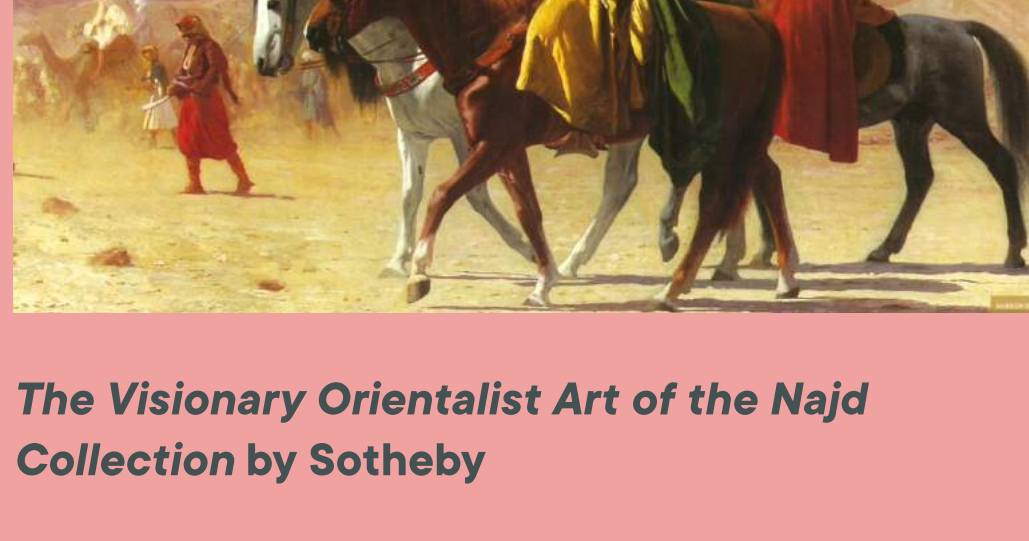
**Edward Said and Orientalism: A Simple Explanation** by University Quick Course

This video gives a simple overview of Edward Said's book, *Orientalism*, a key text in cultural studies and postcolonial studies.



**Edward Said - Framed: The Politics of Stereotypes in News** by Al Jazeera English

Palestinian-American literary historian Edward Said showed how the West had the power to represent the colonial 'other' – while simultaneously leaving them silent.



**The Visionary Orientalist Art of the Najd Collection** by Sotheby

One of the most significant collections of Orientalist paintings in existence, the cinematic canvases are precious records of the region's history, as depicted by artists such as Jean-Léon Gérôme, Ludwig Deutsch, Gustav Bauernfeind and Osman Hamdy Bey.

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