Bet You Missed It—What do artists and librarians have in common?

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Recommended Citation
Strauch, Bruce (2013) "Bet You Missed It—What do artists and librarians have in common?," Against the Grain: Vol. 25: Iss. 4, Article 34.
DOI: http://dx.doi.org/10.7771/2380-176X.6586

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REAL ESTATE THRILLERS
by Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)

Who says we’re a nation of illiterates? A raft of thrillers by realtors has come out. Illegal adoption ring. Killing for the commission. Con artist posing as wealthy countess. All grist for the mill.

Want some titles? Vicki Doudera, A House to Die For (2010); Kat Martin, Season of Strangers (2008) (this one has realtors abducted by aliens); Bente Gallagher, A Cutoffot Business (2010).


MIND GAMES WITH MENSA
by Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)

For 19 years a couple hundred people have gathered in a St. Louis hotel ballroom to test new games from toy companies. The event is sponsored by the high-IQ Mensa Society. Winners get to put a “Mensa Select” sticker on their games. The players love the intellectual challenge and the total immaturity of the experience.

Educational games are despised. Ditto political and green agendas. There’s a hard-partying wing in the crowd — “Hell’s Mensans” — founded in a Dayton, Ohio hot tub. And of course, geek romance is in the air. Jillian Sanderson, master of Zombie Pox, now has a patent-attorney boyfriend.


LET’S READ SOME BOOKS FOR THE ANGLOMANIAC
by Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)


LET’S READ ABOUT OBSESSED ARTISTS
by Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)

And many are by the obsessed artists themselves. (1) Salvador Dali, Diary of a Genius (1965); (2) Elsa Schiaparelli, Shocking Life (1954); (3) Paul Gauguin, Noa Noa (1900); (4) Joyce Cary, The Horse’s Mouth (1944) (this is based on the life of Augustus John); (5) Amanda Vaill, Everybody Was So Young (1998) (about Gerald and Sara Murphy on Cap d’Antibes).


WHEN LIBRARIANS VISIT PARIS
by Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)

Anyone who has seen the famous Paris libraries is looking at the work of Henri Labrouste (1801-75) or those inspired by him. The “Salle Labrouste” is the stunning reading room of the original Bibliothèque Nationale. Likewise, the Bibliothèque Sainte-Genevièvre, the main research library for the students of the various Universités de Paris. They are breathtaking and just cry out repository of treasures. Stone, wood and figured cast iron soaring in barrel vaults with hundreds of thousands of books being the primary interior décor. Tall windows provide natural light to suffuse the room.

Charles Garnier’s Opéra was inspired by Labrousse.