



Discover. Read. Share.

Book Club Companion: *The Museum of Modern Love*



The Artist Is Present: You've read the book, now see the film!



In an article about the documentary by *The Atlantic*, the MoMA curator featured in *The Museum of Modern Love*, Klaus Biesenbach, says, "Marina is never not performing. The audience is fuel to her, in effect, a lover."

How fitting then that a full-length HBO-screened documentary* should be made about the 2010 exhibit, as well as providing a window to Marina's life. The film lets us into the seductive, fearless, and outrageous woman who has been redefining what art is for nearly forty years.

You can watch the film as prep for your book club meeting, then discuss how your understanding of the performance varied between reading the book and viewing the film.

* Now available on hoopla - US only

SPARK! Creativity

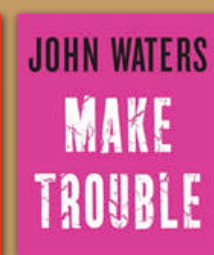
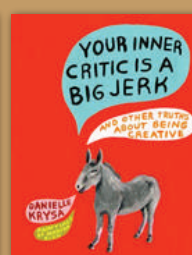
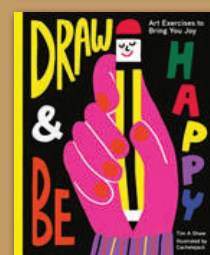
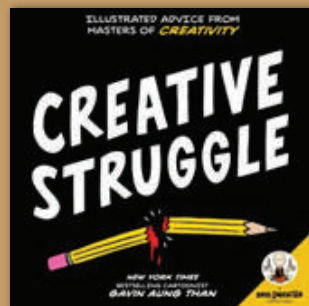
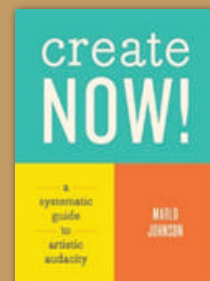
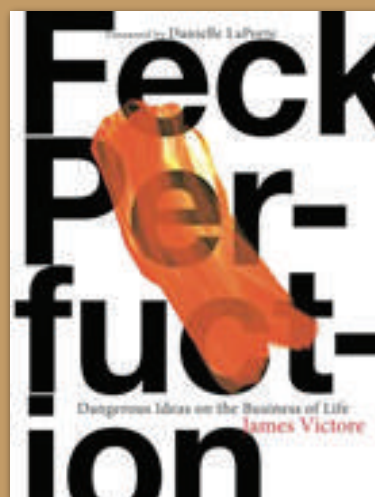
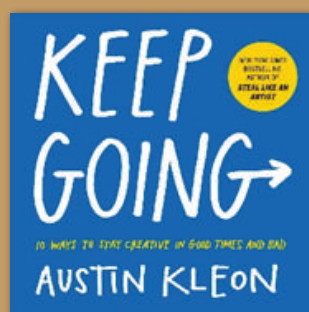
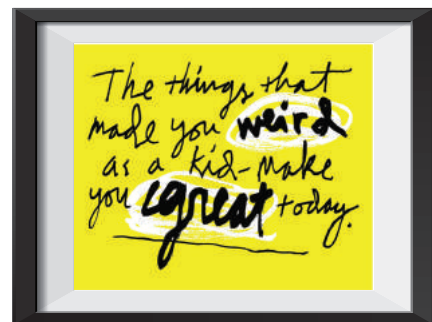
Get ready for an inspiring, art-filled book club discussion by exchanging a few of your own favorite encouraging quotes or strategies from artists themselves. Nothing top of mind? That's all right – we've got lots of creative content to jump-start your conversation!

Quite applicable to piping up in-group discussions, James Victore's *Feck Perfection* advises:

"Sadly, most of us don't let our light shine, for two reasons: It's too easy and it's too hard...If you play it safe and choke back your real voice, you are like a rudderless ship, taking directions from the waves."

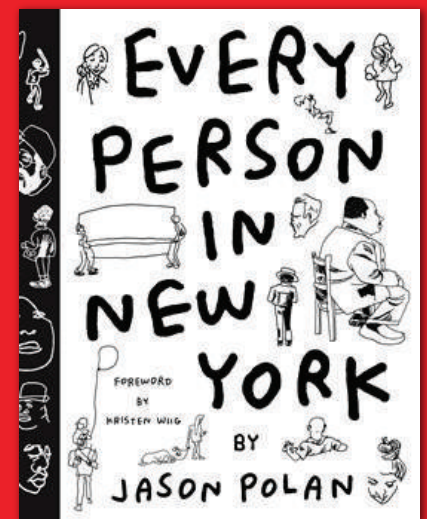
Book clubs – all clubs! – are great places to discuss ideas. In "Chapter 9: Creating in a Vacuum Sucks," of *Your Inner Critic Is a Big Jerk*, Danielle Krysa advises:

"Vacuums are dark and dusty, and clearly not a place for creativity to flourish, yet so many of us insist on setting up shop in there...But, that vacuum has an Off switch and you can get out of there today. **Creative tribes, trusted voices, and encouraging dust bunny-free friends are ready and waiting for you to step out into the light.**"



Showing Up & Settling In: NYC as an Art Destination

Those who attended *The Artist Is Present* started with the simple act of showing up. And while the 850,000 attendees weren't all from New York, there's no doubt the city has a rich culture and history because of people supporting creative endeavors. So...who are they? Check out *Every Person in New York* and identify drawings of people you think could have attended. Imagine their backstory, and share with book club members how you think Marina's show affected them.



Created in 2009-10, within Jason Polan's *Every Person in New York* eBook you'll find, among photos of people in the subway, in restaurants, walking down the street, that many of the portraits are actually of visitors to the Museum of Modern Art! There's even a page featuring people waiting to sit with Marina at 10:23pm on May 30 of 2010.

Why not have a fun little contest to see who in your book club can spot it first?

Film, Food, & Further Reading

The following pages include a few more ideas to round out one incredible, art-filled evening with your best buds - your book club. First off? The all-important menu! Explore inventive food guides to help you and your book club cook up cool ways to take a bite out of the Big Apple. Get creative with cuisine! Because book club night should be buffet style, no?

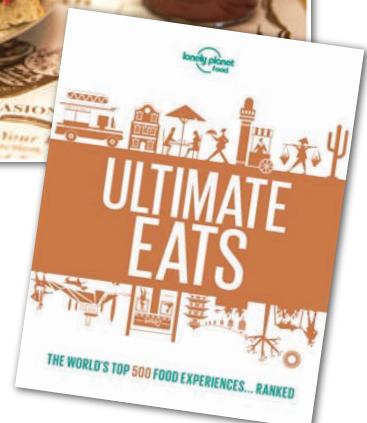


Have diverse dietary needs among club members? If you need alternatives for vegetarian and vegan friends, hoopla's got an option for that!

NYC Vegan: Iconic Recipes for a Taste of the Big Apple to the rescue, complete with spins on Old New York staples like Manhattan clam chowder and New York-style cheesecake, Street and Festival Faves such as soft pretzels, churros, and Italian ice, and Neighborhood Noshes including Polish pierogis, Dominican arroz con maíz, and Puerto Rican mofongo.



Certainly you could seek out a straightforward cookbook with easy-to-follow steps to whip up a spread for your book club, but why not trek off the beaten path a little? **Lonely Planet's *Ultimate Eats*** features the classic NYC dishes you've come to expect – pizza slices, lox bagels, cheesecake – and of course, Katz's Deli Reuben recipe! It also includes recipes for everything from pumpkin pie to eggs benedict and burgers. *Ultimate Eats* ranks the world's top 500 food experiences, and lucky for you eight of them are NYC-centric.



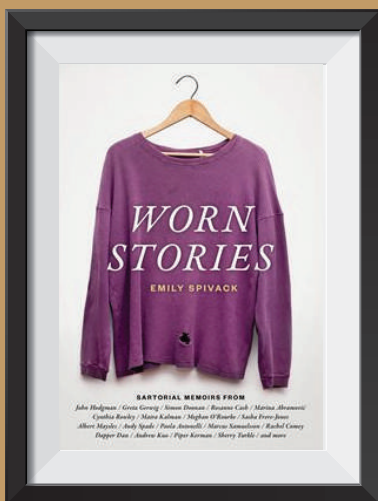
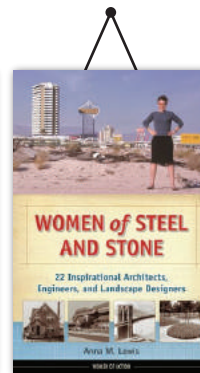
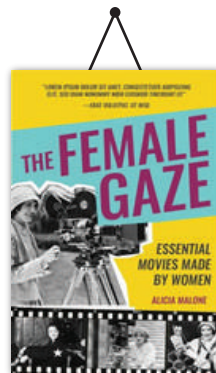
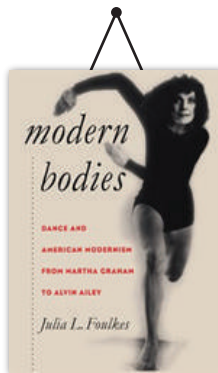
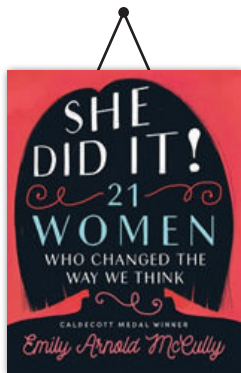
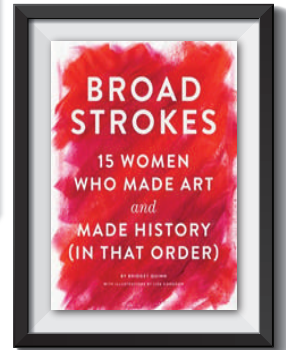
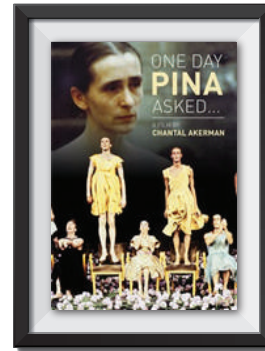
Art on Film, in Music, and in Print

In addition to *The Artist Is Present* documentary, hoopla has a kind of museum of its own when it comes to content that can introduce you to new artworks and artists. Here are a few of our favorite categories, but you can check out a much larger collection at this link: <https://www.hoopladigital.com/collection/6087>

Groundbreaking Female Creatives

Historically, major women artists have been excluded from the mainstream art canon. Aligned with the resurgence of feminism in pop culture, *Broad Strokes* offers an entertaining corrective to that omission. Art historian Bridget Quinn delves into the lives and careers of fifteen female artists from around the globe in text that's smart, feisty, educational, and an enjoyable read.

An encounter between two of the most remarkable women artists of the 20th century, *One Day Pina Asked...* is Chantal Akerman's look at the work of choreographer Pina Bausch and her Wuppertal, Germany-based dance company. "This film is more than a documentary on Pina Bausch," a narrator announces at the outset, "it is a journey through her world, through her unwavering quest for love."



Everyone has a memoir in miniature in at least one piece of clothing. In *Worn Stories*, Emily Spivack has collected over sixty of these clothing-inspired narratives from cultural figures and talented storytellers. First-person accounts range from the everyday to the extraordinary, such as artist Marina Abramovic on the boots she wore to walk the Great Wall of China.

Art on Film, in Music, and in Print (Continued)

Art as Healing – Performance and Political Art

A Mouth Is Always Muzzled is a dazzling analysis of the insistent role of art in contemporary politics and life. It is a moving meditation, documenting the artistic legacy generated in response to white supremacy, brutality, domination, and oppression.

Berlin Calling is a gripping account of the 1989 "peaceful revolution" in East Germany that upended communism and the tumultuous years of artistic ferment, political improvisation, and pirate utopias that followed. It's the story of a newly undivided Berlin when protest and punk rock, bohemia and direct democracy, techno and free theater were the order of the day.



Meet the Contemporary Artists

Filmed over three years in Venice, Nsukka, and the United States, *Fold Crumple Crush: The Art of El Anatsui* is a powerful portrait of Africa's most widely acclaimed contemporary artist. *Ai Weiwei: Never Sorry*, the first feature-length film about the internationally renowned Chinese artist and activist, Ai Weiwei, examines the complex intersection of artistic practice and social activism as seen through the life and art of China's preeminent contemporary artist.

Meet the most dynamic visual artists of our time in the award-winning documentary series *Art 21: Art in the Twenty-First Century*. Unparalleled in its access to today's artists, this unique series invites viewers into artists' studios, homes, and communities to provide an intimate view of their lives, creative processes, and sources of inspiration. Six seasons of these one-hour PBS programs are available now on hoopla!



The Composer's Picks – An Arky-Inspired Playlist

Enjoy the music Arky's composition is inspired by, or that he's listening to on his way to and from MoMA in *The Museum of Modern Love*. Using hoopla music's shuffle feature, pick a few of these albums to play in the background of your book club gathering!



"Arky liked New York in summer. The hot heavy nights, the sticky evenings with the windows open. The bliss of air-conditioning and cold showers and a breeze coming in off the Hudson... When he thought about that time he thought of John Coltrane, Thelonious Monk, and craft beer." – *The Museum of Modern Love*

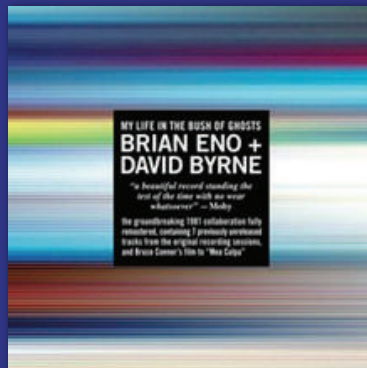


Arky and Hal "took the Williamsburg Bridge accompanied by Ella Fitzgerald singing the Gershwin songbook. The roof was off the convertible and the day was fine."
– *The Museum of Modern Love*



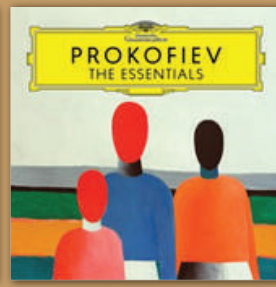
Arky "finally unpacked his old vinyls and had come across some Morrissey, Nick Drake's *Pink Moon*, and several Leonard Cohen albums that Tom had given him years back. It had felt good to play music loudly with the doors open onto the balcony and let the sound ripple out over the treetops on Washington Square."

– *The Museum of Modern Love*



Arky "thought of how rarely he had touched her at such moments, as she dressed and undressed. She had seemed unreachable, distant, something to be observed tacitly... The music he heard at such times was Brian Eno's flashes of sound, light touching here and there, the morning's texture having the weight of feathers or the static of nylon."

– *The Museum of Modern Love*



"Nobody came after Howard Shore and nobody came after Joe Hisaishi. Like Clint Eastwood or Ennio Morricone. John Williams. Randy Newman. As composers, they lived in their own stratospheres. Levin had always wanted to be in that league." – *The Museum of Modern Love*

A full collection of Arky's selections – featuring one album for every piece of music mentioned in the book – is available here: <https://www.hoopladigital.com/collection/6026>

