**Preliminary Reading**

I’ve tried to include the genuinely introductory (if sometimes very detailed) here, but I also list work that is essential, like Clark; current (like Marshall or Antliff); illuminating (Conrad, Raban, the novels), or important.

The City

These are intriguing – and intriguingly varied - introductions to urban aesthetics and experience.

* Yves Bonnefoy, *L’Arrière-Pays* (Gallimard, 1972 – translation *The Arrière-Pays)*
* Michel de Certeau, *The Practice of Everyday Life* (University of California Press, 1984)
* Peter Conrad, *The Art of the City: Views and Versions of New York* (Oxford UP, 1984)
* Richard Dennis, *Cities in Modernity: Representations and Productions of Metropolitan Space, 1840-1930* (Cambridge, 2008)
* Jonathan Raban, *Soft City* (London, 1974 and reprints)
* Gary Bridge and Sophie Watson, eds, *The Blackwell City Reader*, 2nd ed (Wiley-Blackwell, 2010)
* Virginia Woolf, *The London Scene* (essays from 1931 and 1932 published as a book by the Hogarth Press in 1975 and subsequently reprinted)

Good introductory histories of the three cities:

I’d suggest you dip into these to orientate yourself in our period and places.

* Peter Ackroyd, *London: The Biography* (2000)
* Edwin G. Burrows and Mike Wallace, *Gotham: A History of New York City to 1898* (1999)
* Yvan Combeau, *Histoire de Paris* (Paris, 2013)
* David Harvey, *Paris, Capital of Modernity* (2003)
* Andrew Hussey, *Paris: the Secret History* (2006)
* Stephen Inwood, *A History of London* (1998)
* Colin Jones, *Paris: Biography of a City* (2004)
* George J Lankevich, *New York City: A Short History* (2002)
* Roy Porter, *History of London* (1995)
* Joanne Reitano, *The Restless City: A Short History of New York from Colonial Times to the Present* (2010)
* *The London Nobody Knows* (film, 1969, dir. Norman Cohen. Looks back from a key moment in London’s post-1945 development to earlier versions of the city)

Art Historical Studies:

Again, read sections that appeal to you in several books rather than attempting to consume the whole of any one. Breadth at this point is the most useful thing.

* Antliff, Mark, and Vivien Green, eds., *The Vorticists*, Tate (2010). *Informative synoptic view.*
* Camden Town Group in Context:

<http://www.tate.org.uk/art/research-publications/camden-town-group>

*Lots of information and links in this excellent website.*

* Boime, Albert, *Art and the French Commune: Imagining Paris After War and Revolution* (1995). *Contrasting reading to Clark.*
* Clark, T J, *The Painting of Modern Life: Paris in the Art of Manet and His Followers* (1985 and multiple editions), *Still the necessary starting point for any consideration of French city painting.*
* Herbert, Robert L. *Impressionism: Art, Leisure and Parisian Society* (1988). *An instructive, wide-ranging, complement to Clark.*
* Corbett, David Peters, ‘City Painting in American Art, 1880-1930’, in John Davis, et al, eds, *The Blackwell Companion to American Art* (2015), pp. 562-580. *Introductory, if only to your tutor’s cast of mind*.
* Marshall, Nancy Rose, *City of Gold and Mud: Painting Victorian London* (2012). *Most recently published study on the topic.*
* Corn, Wanda, *The Great American Thing: Modern Art and National Identity, 1915-1939* (Berkeley, 1999). *Detailed, wide-ranging, influential*

Novels:

Here are some suggestions from a vast range of possibilities. See what appeals to you.

* Stephen Crane, *Maggie: A Girl of the Streets* (1893)
* Theodore Dreiser, *Sister Carrie* (1900)
* Upton Sinclair, *The Jungle* (1906)
* John Dos Passos, *Manhattan Transfer* (1925)
* Robert Louis Stephenson, *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* (1886)
* Henry James, *The Princess Casamassima* (1886); *What Maisie Knew* (1897)
* George Gissing, *New Grub Street* (1891)
* Arthur Morrison, *A Child of the Jago* (1896)
* Joseph Conrad, *The Secret Agent* (1907); *Heart of Darkness* (1902)
* Virginia Woolf, *Mrs Dalloway* (1925)
* Guy de Maupassant, *Bel-Ami* (1885)

Also collections of Maupassant’s short stories with a Parisian theme

* Joris-Karl Huysmans, *A rebours* (1884)

*If you don't know it, read the account of Des Esseintes’ attempt to visit London, inspired by reading Dickens*.

* Emile Zola, *L’Assommoir* (1877); *Au Bonheur des Dames* (1883); *L’Oeuvre* (1885)
* Louis-Ferdinand Céline, *Mort à crédit* (1936); *Voyage au bout de la nuit* (1932)

Some novels that helped to define the representation of their cities were written outside our period, but are nevertheless important. I’m thinking particularly of Balzac and Dickens: *Illusions perdues* (1843); *La Fille aux yeux d’or* (1835); *Le Père Goriot* (1835); *Splendeurs et misères des courtisanes* (1847); *Little Dorrit* (1857); *Great Expectations* (1861); *Our Mutual Friend* (1867).

America:

If you’re new to American art the following are helpful general surveys:

* Baigell, Matthew, *A Concise History of American Painting and Sculpture* (1996)
* Bjelajac, David, *American Art: A Cultural History* (2000)
* Craven, Wayne, *American Art: History and Culture* (1994)
* Miller, Angela L., et al, *American Encounters: Art, History, and Cultural Identity* (2008).

DPC

June 2022