



# Art in Fiction

Brown, Dan. **The Da Vinci Code** (2003)

The paintings of Da Vinci, an ultra-rigorous Catholic sect, and an ancient secret come together in this bestselling thriller.

Chevalier, Tracy. **Girl with a Pearl Earring** (1999)

In 17th century Delft, 16-year-old Griet is forced to find work to help support her family. She becomes a maid (and later, a model and assistant) to the artist Vermeer.

Cokal, Susann. **Breath and Bones** (2005)

Artist's model Famke follows an English Pre-Raphaelite painter from Copenhagen to America, and seeks him throughout the American west.

Flanagan, Richard. **Gould's Book of Fish: a Novel in Twelve Fish** (2002)

A small-time antiques forger in Tasmania finds a mysterious illustrated manuscript recounting the life of a 19th-century prisoner in an Australian penal colony. The prisoner, William Gould, writes of the tyrannical rule of the colony's Commandant. He ingratiates himself with the island surgeon by painting scientific illustrations of local fish, and his paintings become a representation of life in the colony's confines.

Helton, Peter. **Headcase** (2005)

Painter and sometimes-private investigator Chris Honeysett reluctantly takes an art-theft case in Bath. When an old friend is murdered and seems to be connected to the case, life becomes decidedly more dangerous.

Hustvedt, Siri. **What I Loved** (2003)

Two men, one an art historian, the other a painter, form a strong and lasting friendship that includes their wives and sons. Hustvedt examines the entwining of the families as they experience professional triumphs and personal losses.

Lindsey, David. **Animosity** (2001)

Sculptor Ross Marteau takes on a new model, a beautiful but misshapen (she is a hunchback) woman. As his relationships with his subject and her sister deepen, he is drawn into a web of dark secrets and deadly intentions.

Miller, Adrienne. **The Coast of Akron** (2005)

Merit Ash has purposely distanced herself from her artist parents. Her mother, once a famous painter, is now a troubled woman with secrets. Her father Lowell, famous for his self-portraits, has mysteriously stopped painting. Buried emotions come to the surface when they come together at an ill-conceived party thrown by Lowell's spiteful lover Fergus.

Silva, Daniel. **The English Assassin** (2002)

Sent to Zurich to restore a painting owned by a reclusive millionaire, art expert and sometime Israeli agent Gabriel Allon discovers his would-be employer murdered and finds himself back in the espionage game.

Updike, John. **Seek My Face** (2002)

During an interview with a New York writer, seventy-nine-year-old artist Hope Chafetz discusses her eventful life, her three marriages (two to artists, one to a critic), and her own important place in the history of postwar American art. Art lovers will recognize echoes of Lee Krasner in Hope, and Jackson Pollock and Andy Warhol in her artist husbands.

Urquhart, Jane. **The Stone Carvers** (2001)

Canadian stonecarver Klara Becker and her brother Tilman participate in the creation of a Paris monument in Paris to Canadian soldiers who died in World War I.

Vargos LLos, Mario. **The Way to Paradise** (2003)

This novel explores the lives of civil rights campaigner Flora Tristan and her grandson, artist Paul Gauguin, recounting Flora's struggles with class imbalances and her grandson's efforts to escape civilization.

Vreeland, Susan. **Girl in Hayacinth Blue** (1999)

Eight connected stories trace the history and provenance of a Vermeer painting from the 17th century to modern times.

Vreeland, Susan. **The Passion of Artemesia** (2002)

This novel, set against the backdrops of Rome, Florence, and Genoa, imagines the life of Renaissance artist Artemisia Gentileschi and examines the difficult choices facing female artists of the era. .

Watkins, Paul. **The Forger** (2000)

Just before World War II, a gifted young American painter becomes involved in a scheme to duplicate the masterworks in the Paris museum, then sell the fakes to Hitler's minions while protecting the originals.

Watson, Larry. **The Orchard** (2003)

Ned Weaver is a philandering painter who takes his suffering wife Harriet for granted. Norwegian-born Sonya House is grieving the loss of her young son and the growing distance between she and her husband Henry. Sonya begins posing for Weaver, setting into motion a chain of events that will change all their lives.

*This is just a small sampling of novels with art and artists as their subject. For more titles, go to the **NoveList** database, click on "describe a plot", and type in "art and artists".*