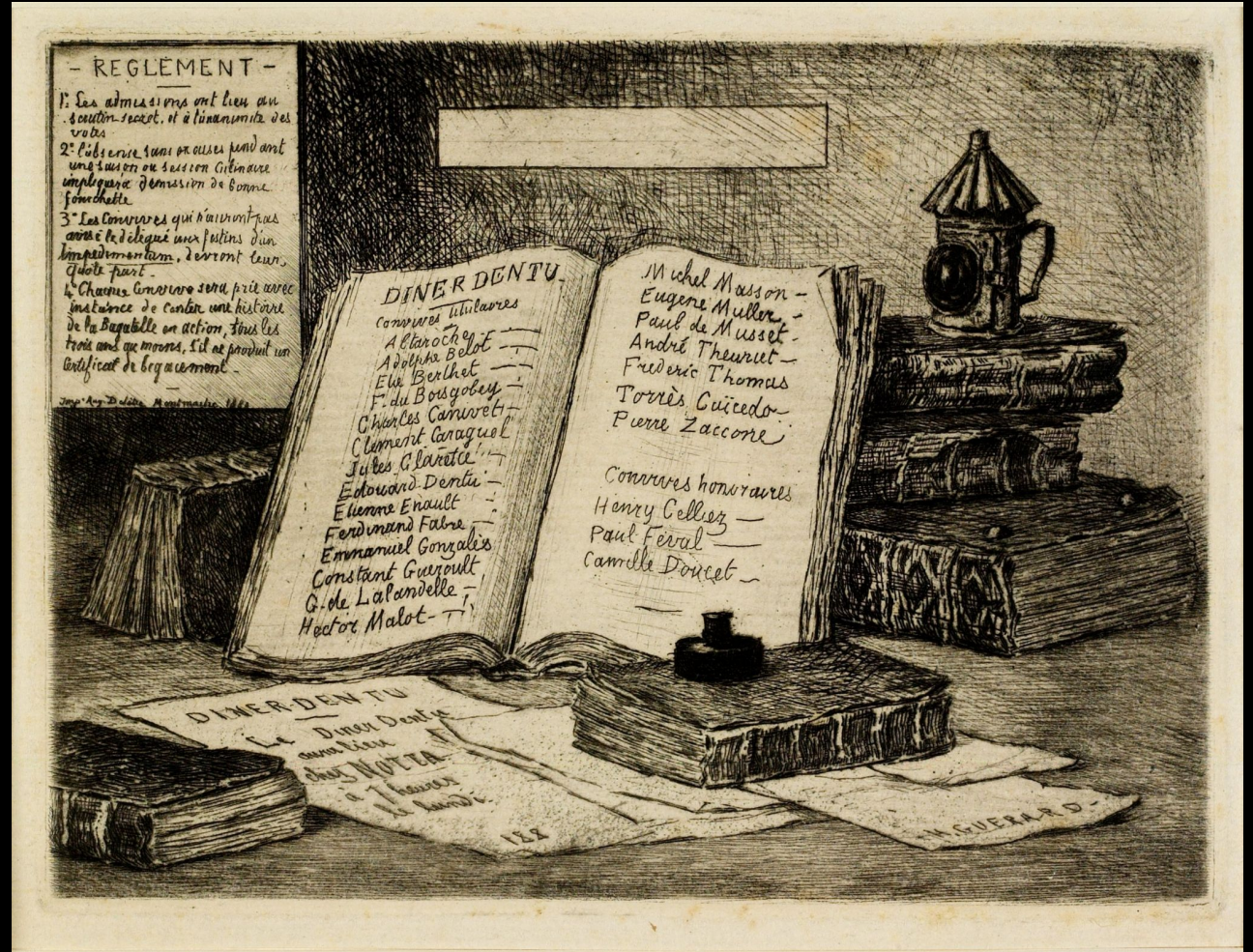


Mia Guides

Book Tours

December 12 and 18,
2024



Henri-Charles Guérard, *Books and Lantern*, 1880,
Etching and drypoint, 1916, P.2,216

Mia

Agenda

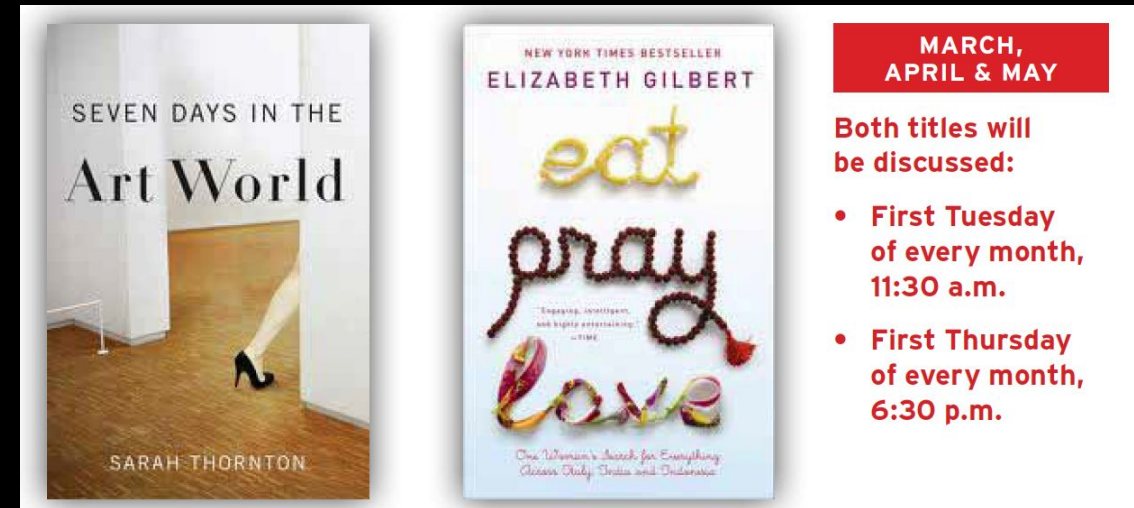
- Book tours: history and development
- Selecting titles
- Promotion: public and private tours
- Book tour assignments
- Tour logistics and guidelines
- Questions to consider
- Book tour sampler: presentations by Mia Guides

Inspired by Books: History and development

Join lively discussions of artworks related to popular books

Evolution of an idea:

- Originated with book clubs
- Started in 2011-12 with 2 titles for 3 months, 4 tours per month
- As audience grew, changed to 1 title with 16+ tours per month
- Added additional guides to each tour time to meet the demand
- Cultivated many repeat visits!



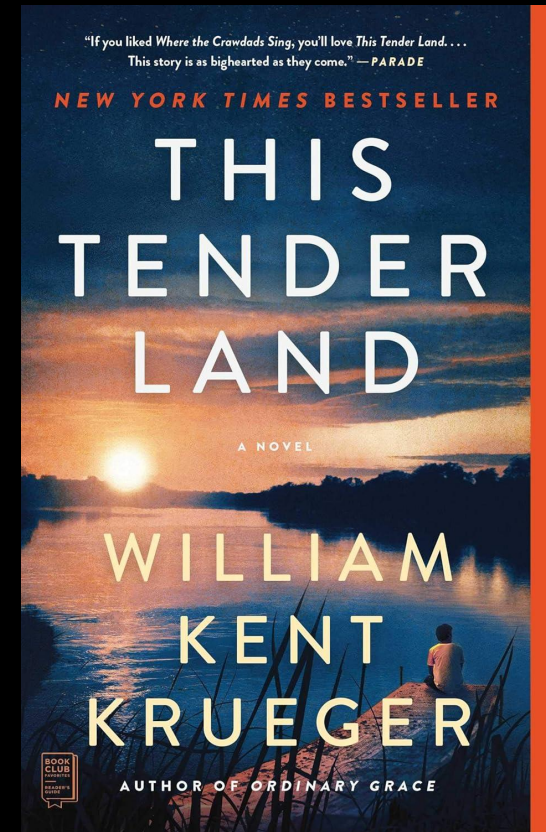
Inspired by Books: Selecting titles

Connect to artworks and engage our audience by:

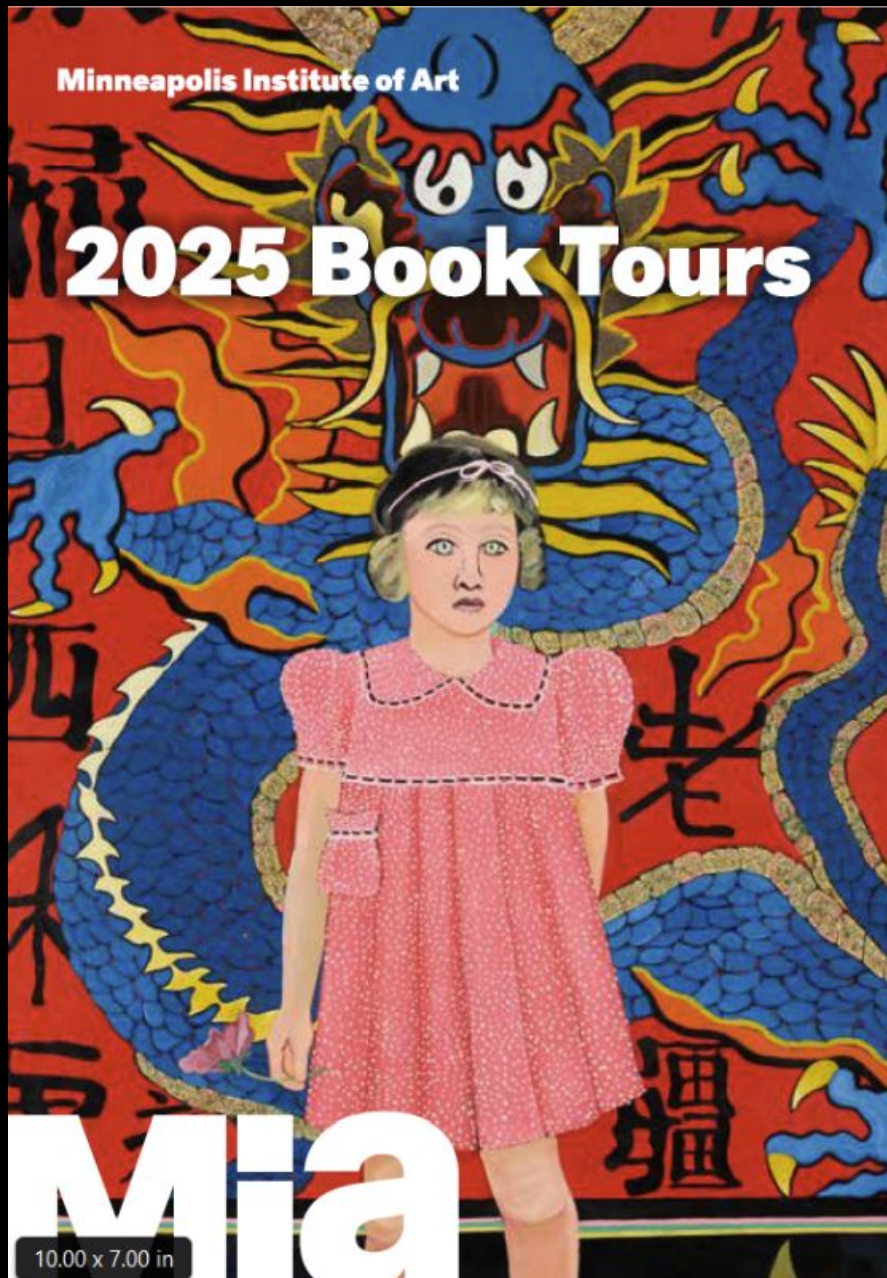
- Selecting popular reads: *A Gentleman in Moscow*, *Lessons in Chemistry*, *Killers of the Flower Moon*
- Prioritizing availability at local libraries
- Representing a variety of cultures that connect with Mia's collections: *Spirit Car*, *The Island of Sea Women*, *The Latehomecomer*, *Exit West*, *A Choice of Weapons*
- Reviving classics: *Fahrenheit 451*, *Rebecca*, *The Great Gatsby*, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, *Jane Eyre*
- Showcasing local authors: Diane Wilson, Laura Landvik, William Kent Krueger, Louise Erdrich, and more

Let us know if you'd like to serve on the selection committee

Minneapolis Institute of Art



Book tour promotion card



Join lively discussions of artworks related to popular books.

FREE book tours

Held each month on the last three Tuesdays at 11:30AM and 1:30PM and last three Thursdays at 11:30AM and 6PM. No reservations necessary. Meet the guide at the Information Bar in the General Mills Lobby.

January

Cheneyville: A Novel of Murder, Loss, and Vengeance
by Paulette Jiles

February

Deacon King Kong
by James McBride

March

When Women Were Dragons
by Kelly Barnhill

April

Tom Lake
by Ann Patchett
(No tours April 24: Art in Bloom)

May

Lady Tan's Circle of Women
by Lisa See

June

Go Tell It on the Mountain
by James Baldwin

Looking for other good reads?

Go to artsmia.org/tours and scroll down to find "Book Tours" in the menu on the left.

Use your member discount to purchase available book tour titles at The Store at Mia.

Find updates about Mia book tours or request a private tour at artsmia.org/tours.

Joan Brown (American, 1938-1990). *Portrait of a Girl* (detail), 1971, enamel and glitter on Masonite. The John R. Van Derlip Fund, 2018.21

Minneapolis Institute of Art
2400 Third Avenue South
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55404

Highlights
member
brochure
(with poster insert)

Minneapolis Institute of Art
Winter and Spring
Programs and Events

Meet at Mia

Thursdays, 5-9PM

Minneapolis Institute of Ice

February 6

Date Night

February 13

Power to the People

February 20

Closing the Gap

March 6

Giants

March 20

Becoming Giants

March 27

On the Shoulders of Giants

April 3

Giant Conversations

April 10

Giant Presence

April 17

Art in Bloom Open Studio

April 24

Living Legacies

May 15

Human Nature

Art Play!

Saturdays, 10AM-2PM

Collage

February 1

Collage

February 15

Assemblage

March 1

Assemblage

March 15

Printmaking

April 5

Printmaking

April 19

Additive Sculpture

May 3

Additive Sculpture

May 17

Mia Matinee*

Saturdays, 2PM

13th

February 22

Barbie

March 29

Tours

Purcell Cutts House*

Saturday, February 8, and
Sunday, February 9

Saturday, March 8, and
Sunday, March 9

Saturday, April 12, and
Sunday, April 13

Saturday, May 10, and
Sunday, May 11

Book Tours

Held each month on the last
three Tuesdays at 11:30AM
and 1:30PM and last three
Thursdays at 11:30AM and 6PM.

February: *Deacon King Kong*
by James McBride

March: *When Women Were
Dragons* by Kelly Barnhill

April: *Tom Lake* by Anna
Patchett

May: *Lady Tan's Circle of
Women* by Lisa See

June: *Go Tell It on the Mountain*
by James Baldwin

Talks

MAEP Artist Talk: Roshan Ganu
February 6

**Ernest Cole Lecture:
Leslie M. Wilson**
February 16

**Pre-Lecture Tour and Friends
Lecture: Deborah Roberts**
February 20

Mary Sully Lecture TBA
March 2

**Pre-Lecture Tour and Friends
Lecture: Andy Barnes**
March 9

**Pre-Lecture Tour and
Friends Lecture: Colin Turner
and Megan Emery**
April 10

Tibetan Panel Discussion TBA
May 3

MAEP: Charles Matson Lume
May 8

**Pre-Lecture Tour and Friends
Lecture: Joe Earle**
May 15

January - June 2025 public tour titles

January - *Cheneyville: A Novel of Murder, Loss, and Vengeance* by Paulette Jiles

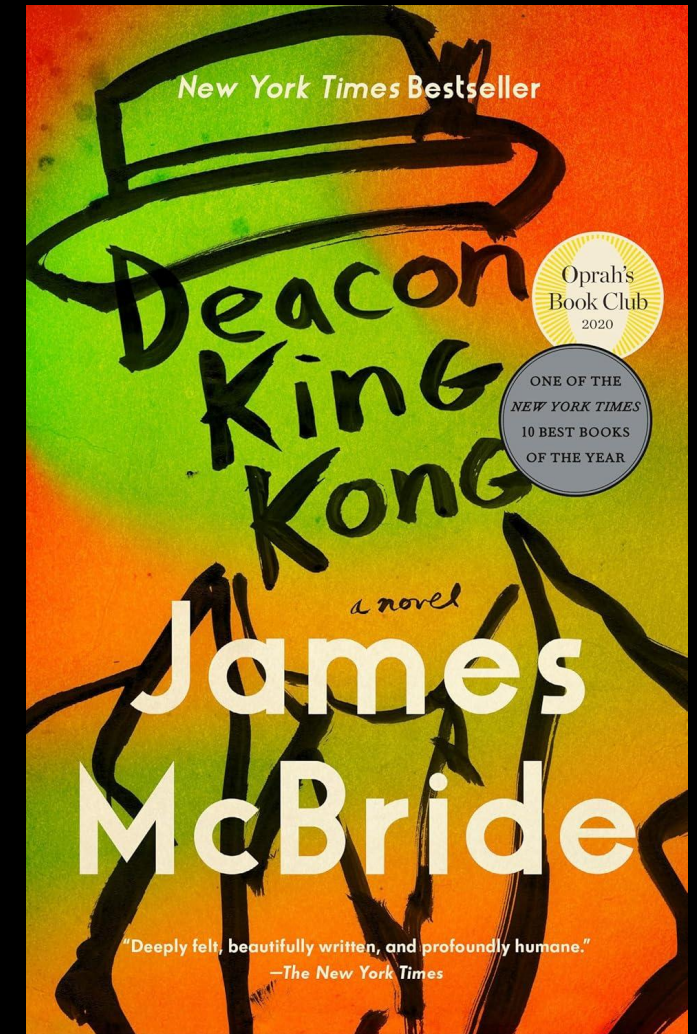
February - *Deacon King Kong* by James McBride

March - *When Women Were Dragons* by Kelly Barnhill

April - *Tom Lake* by Ann Patchett

May - *Lady Tan's Circle of Women* by Lisa See

June - *Go Tell It on the Mountain* by James Baldwin



Inspired by Books: Private tours

Private Book Club Tours

Private book tours are available for groups. [Request a tour](#) for any of the following books:

Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston

Wish You Were Here by Jodi Picoult

Horse by Geraldine Brooks

1000 Years of Joys and Sorrows: A Memoir by Ai Weiwei

Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI by David Grann

The Book of Hope: A Survival Guide for Trying Times by Jane Goodall and Douglas Abrams

The Namesake by Jhumpa Lahiri

A Choice of Weapons Gordon Parks

The Sentence by Louise Erdrich

All the Beauty in the World: The Metropolitan Museum of Art and Me by Patrick Bringley

Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus

The Personal Librarian by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray

Inspired by Books: Tour assignments

- Book tours are optional
- Request to tour goes out twice a year for 6 titles (6 months at a time)
- Chart of interest is drawn up - you will be contacted 5-6 weeks in advance to see if still interested
- Signup does not guarantee assignment
- NEW! Tour slots will be offered via a Google form starting in February

George Louis Du Maurier,
Beauty and the Beast (detail),
19th century, Watercolor,
54.33.6



Logistics and guidelines

- Last three Tuesdays at 11:30 am and 1:30 pm and last three Thursdays at **11:30 am and 6 pm** (time addition + change)
- No substitute dates when holidays occur
- Guides meet to collaborate: choose their own themes and objects; some objects in common
- Each tour has a lead guide to help divide groups
- Approaches to tours reflect creativity, variety, and surprises!
- Dedicated repeat audiences may go on more than one tour to see how another guide approaches the book

Questions

- How much time should be spent talking about the book compared to the art itself?
- How many people have read the book?
- Did the book inspire you to go on the tour or the tour inspire you to read the book?
- What about spoilers for those who haven't read/finished?
- How do I connect literary works and visual works?

Literary and visual devices

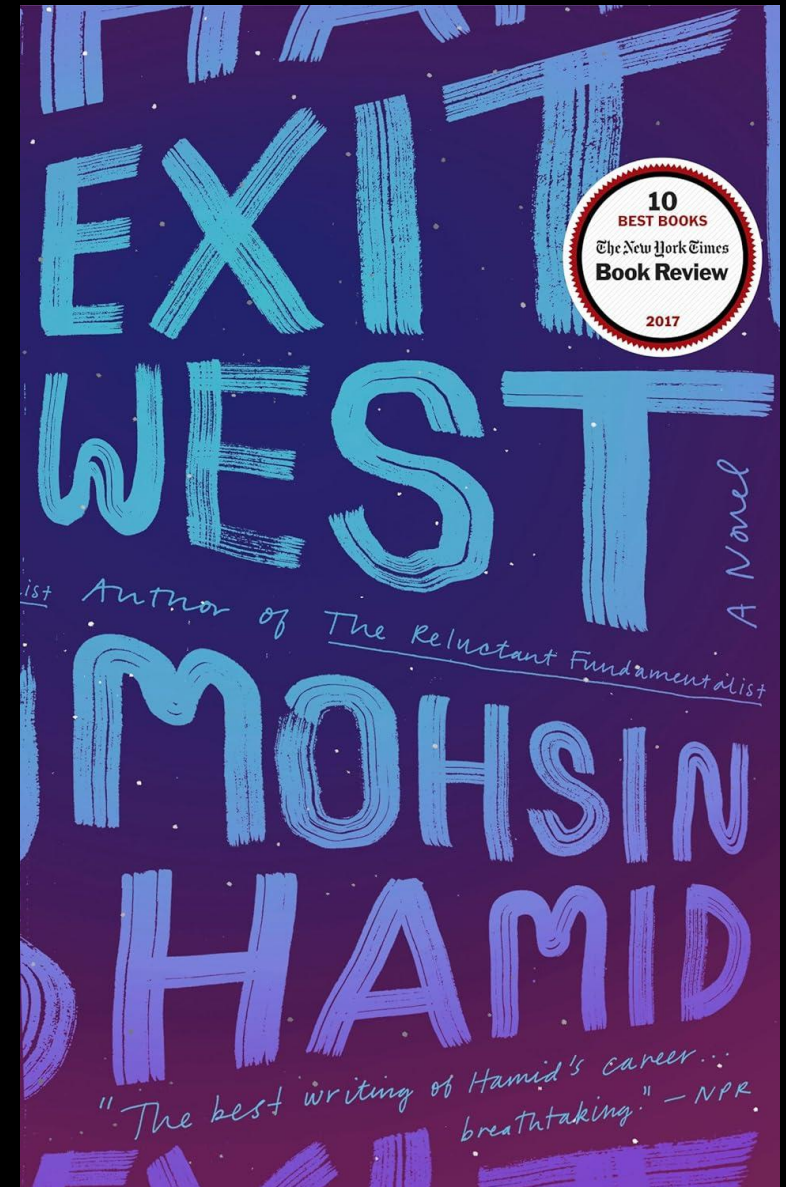
Authors engage readers with topics/issues through the use of written language. Artists express ideas through visual representation. On a tour, explore “tools” used by both literary and visual artists to create the worlds they seek to share with their readers/viewers, such as:

- Setting
- Perspective/point of view
- Metaphor
- Composition
- Characters
- Symbolism
- Style

Selecting a Theme

Exit West by Mohsin Hamid

Finding Home: A Search for Belonging



Introduction: Brief synopsis and theme

This tour complements the novel *Exit West*, by Mohsin Hamid, a story of two young lovers who leave an unnamed city/homeland on the brink of civil war. They embark on an astounding journey that will challenge their understanding of home, security, and belonging. In their quest to reclaim home and community, they face new beginnings in a series of strange and unfamiliar places.

As a backdrop to this tour, we will think about these essential questions:

How does this story impact your feelings about home and belonging?

What do we all share in the desire for “finding home”?

Literary vs visual expression of an idea:

The book's author engages with issues of finding home through the use of language. Let's look at how artists can express this same theme through visual representation.

In the story, special doors are **metaphors** for passage between one country and another.

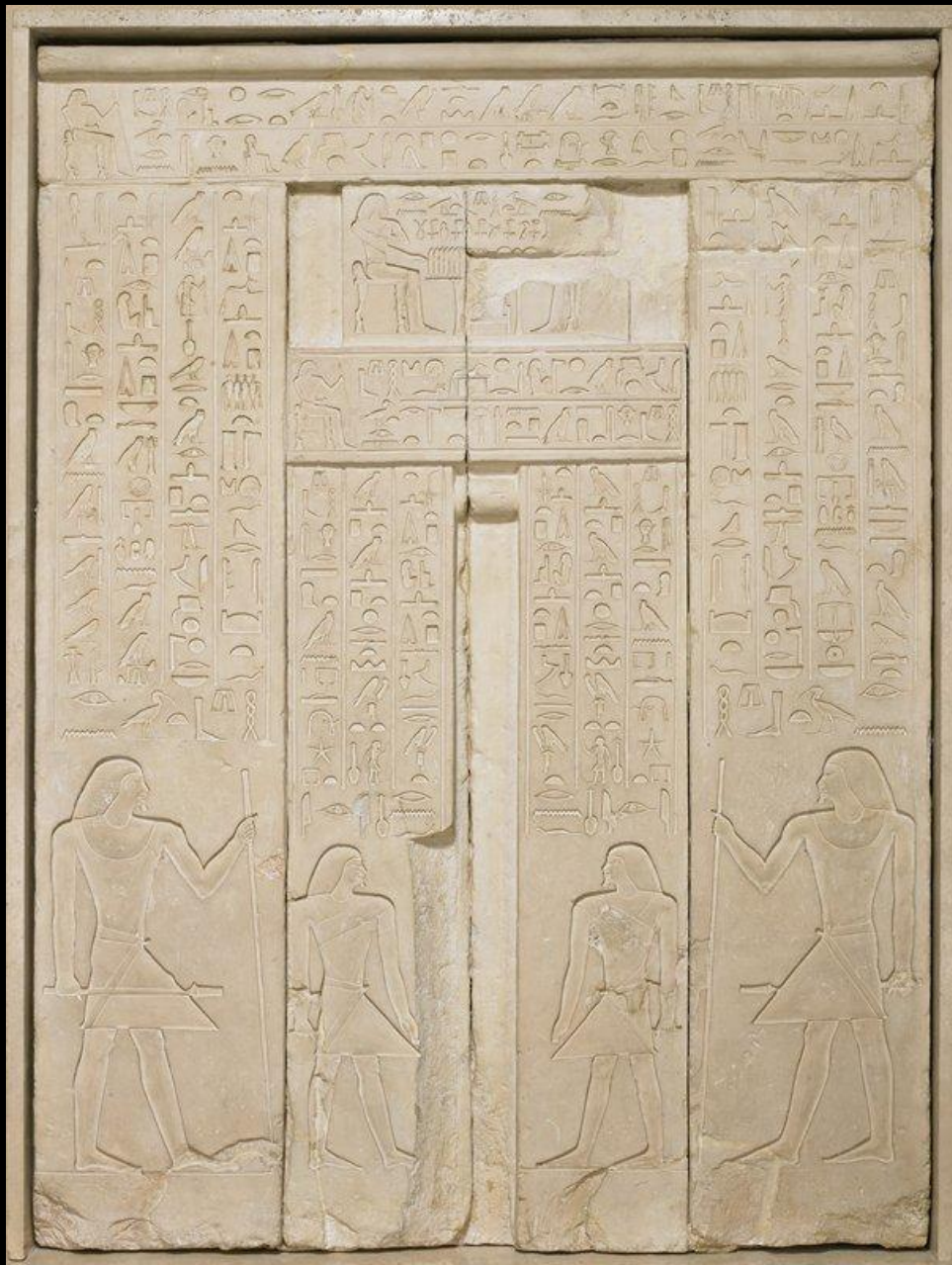
What does a door represent for you?

Finding Home: A Search for Belonging

The author uses **metaphor** and **magical realism**, as people pass through “special doors” that lead them to new places. The main characters, Nadia and Saeed, will pass through several doors in a search for a place of safety and acceptance.

“Rumors had begun to circulate of doors that could take you elsewhere, often to places far away, well removed from this deathtrap of a country. Some people claimed to know people who knew people who had been through such doors. A normal door, they said, could become a special door, and it could happen without warning, to any door at all.” (p. 72)

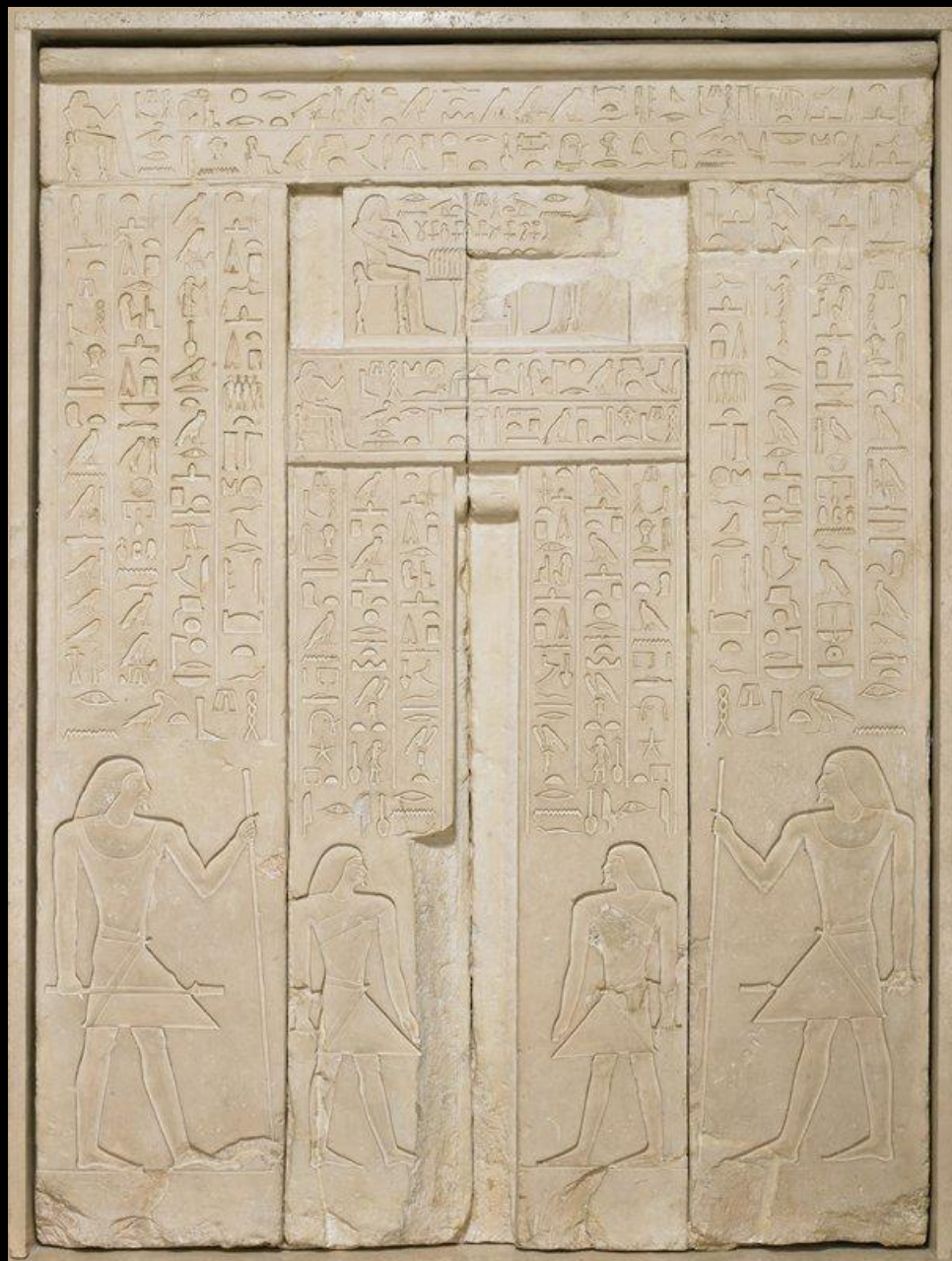
Our first work visually examines the significance of passing from one world into another.



The ancient Egyptians believed that a deceased person's body and soul traveled from the world of the living to the afterlife. When the body was placed in a tomb, the spirit reunited with it by passing through a portal called a **false door**. The spirit found the body because of the images and inscriptions, called hieroglyphs, that filled the door.

The figures and writing on this door tell us it is the tomb of a priest, who is depicted seven times. Look for his images along the top and bottom of the door. Notice how the Egyptians had a particular way of displaying the human body.

Ancient Egyptian, *False Door*, about 2400 BCE, Limestone, 52.22 (G250)



What do you think is meant by the name “false door”?

How would you relate this door to the author’s use of special portals that get characters from one place to another?

Ancient Egyptian, *False Door*, about 2400 BCE, Limestone, 52.22 (G250)

Transition:

Nadia and Saeed's first door leads them to a beach in Greece. They make their way to a refugee camp where they discover:

“ . . . the doors to richer destinations were heavily guarded, but the doors in, the doors from poorer places, were mostly left unsecured, perhaps in the hope that people would go back to where they came from—although almost no one ever did.” (p. 106)

With this quote in mind, we'll look at two photographs from a series that depicts a young woman who is living in a refugee camp.

Setting and Characters

Photographer Rania Matar has taken a series of portraits of Samira, a young Palestinian who lives in a refugee camp in Beirut, Lebanon.

Samira has experienced hardships and barriers to her education and wellbeing. Her life reflects the lack of permanence, freedom, and belonging that comes with being stateless. Yet this is the place that she and her family call “home.”

What do you think Matar has captured about Samira in this photograph? (D)

What in the photograph suggests elements of “home” to you? (I)

Is “home” a place or a state of mind, in your view? (A)



Rania Matar, *Samira 13, Bourj El Barajneh Refugee Camp, Beirut, Lebanon*, 2012, Archival pigment print, 2019.100.3

As you look at the series of pictures, you see Samira's transition from girlhood to womanhood.

What are your thoughts when you see photos of Samira as a girl and then as young woman, still living as a refugee in the same place?



Rania Matar, *Wafa'a and Samira, Bourj El Barajneh Refugee Camp, Beirut, Lebanon, 2017*, Archival pigment print 2019.100.2

Conclusion

Through these various works of art, we've discussed many factors explored in the novel that, together, comprise a sense of "home" and "belonging": where we live, who we live with or are connected to, what values we share, and how secure we feel in our current setting. This book tells a story of one such search; we each have our own unique stories. Let's revisit the questions I asked at the beginning of the tour:

How does this story impact your feelings about home and belonging?

What do we all share in the desire for "finding home"?

Sample book tour themes and how to select objects:

December 12:

Beth Germick and Mary Bowman - *Station Eleven* by Emily St. John Mandel

Ginny Wheeler and Karen Nerison - *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus

December 18:

David Fortney - *The Personal Librarian* by Marie Benedict and Victoria

Christopher Murray

Emily Shapiro - *Jacqueline in Paris* by Ann Mah

Rose Stanley-Gilbert - *Killers of the Flower Moon* by David Grann