

BFA (Fine Art) Freshers' Suggested Reading List, 2026

These are not set texts: they are just suggestions of books that contemporary art students often find useful or stimulating. You are not expected to have read them all before commencing your studies.

Roland Barthes, *Camera Lucida* (Vintage, 1993)

Alice Correia (ed.), *What is Black Art?* (Penguin, 2022)

Maja Fowkes and Reuben Fowkes, *Art and Climate Change* (Thames & Hudson, 2022)

Dan Hicks, *Every Monument Will Fall: A Story of Remembering and Forgetting* (Penguin, 2026)

Linda Nochlin, *Why have there been no great women artists?* 50th anniversary edition (Thames & Hudson, 2021)

Alice Proctor, *The Whole Picture: the colonial story of the art in our museums and why we need to talk about it* (Cassell, 2020)

Legacy Russell, *Glitch Feminism: A Manifesto* (Verso, 2020)

Terry Smith, *What is Contemporary Art?* (Chicago, 2009)

Susan Sontag, *On Photography* (Penguin, 1979)

Julian Stallabrass, *Contemporary Art*, 2nd edition (Oxford, 2020)

Hito Steyerl, *Medium Hot: Images in the Age of Heat* (Verso, 2025)

Anna Lowenhaupt Tsing, *The Mushroom at the End of the World* (Princeton, 2021)

We also recommend books that are published in these two series (here you might like to follow your own interests and chose one artwork or theme to explore in more depth):

- Afterall's *One Work* <https://www.afterall.org/books/one.work/>
- Whitechapel/MIT's *Documents of Contemporary Art* <https://mitpress.mit.edu/series/whitechapel-documents-of-contemporary-art/>

It is also very rewarding to read art magazines such as *Frieze* (<https://frieze.com>), *Art Monthly* (<http://www.artmonthly.co.uk>), and *e-flux* (<https://www.e-flux.com>).

The Tate Modern website has links to articles and videos on contemporary art and artists: <https://www.tate.org.uk/art>.