

## Books

# The Best Art Books of 2023

Our editors and contributors select their top art books of this year, featuring Pacita Abad, Nan Goldin, Marina Abramovic, Wendy Red Star, and more.

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## *Pacita Abad*

Born in 1946 in Basco, Filipina artist Pacita Abad charted an unusual course through life from the beginning. Raised in a political family that was threatened by the rise of dictator Ferdinand Marcos, Abad began studying law but was diverted into the arts during a move to San Francisco in 1971, where she witnessed the predominant counter-culture movement of the times. Abad then hitchhiked with her life partner Jack Garrity across Asia in 1973, traveling overland from Turkey to the Philippines through Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Taiwan, and Hong Kong. It was during this yearlong journey that Abad began to collect and wear traditional fabrics and jewelry and absorb the techniques and aesthetics that would ultimately shape her work for decades to come. Abad is perhaps best known for her *trapunto* technique, inspired by the Italian embroidery method, but this career-spanning publication, which accompanies the *Pacita Abad* exhibition at the [Walker Art Center](#) in Minneapolis, brings every aspect of the artist's colorful and multifaceted life and art into view. Cataloguing more than 100 works and featuring oral histories from Abad's closest interlocutors, the book extensively details the beautiful visual practice of an artist who was remarkably unbounded in lifestyle, medium, vision, and process. —Sarah Rose Sharp

