

JOHANNES THIELE WOMEN AND THEIR BOOKS

The most wonderful tribute to the female reader and an irresistible invitation to read and dream.

The motif of the reading woman has fascinated generations of artists. *La Liseuse, The Reading Woman* was a favourite theme of painters from the eighteenth to the early twentieth century. But why are women such passionate readers? Is it the desire to withdraw into a world of their own? The search for seclusion and tranquillity? The pleasure in provocative beliefs and original ideas? The wish to let fantasy run free, to daydream, or to be wholly entertained? Under the spell of the written word, women allow themselves to be captivated, swept away, cheered, seized – and habitually comprehend the very essence of what holds the world together.

Pictures of reading women inevitably awaken memories of one's own literary influences and experiences. *Women and their Books* – this is a topic of never ending interest that could lead us to the very core of female existence.

This book is a tribute to the female reader over the centuries. Adorned with beautiful pictures, it searches for clues, and addresses the questions why and how women read and which books they choose. It depicts the preferred reading places of women, describes literary friendships and favourite female reading material, and how women share the desire for reading with friends and children. And also tells about those wonderful moments that belong only to themselves.

■ The perfect gift for all women who love reading and love books. With more than 60 large sized pictures — from François Boucher, Claude Monet, Albert Joseph Moore, Alphonse Mucha, Pablo Picasso, Pierre Auguste Renoir, Dante Gabriel Rossetti, John Singer Sargent, John William Waterhouse and many more.

Johannes Thiele (born 1954) has been immersed in the world of books since his university studies in history, philosophy and German language and literature. He has been the programme director and publishing director in several publishing houses. Head of Thiele Publishers since 2007.

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