ARRT Nonfiction Genre Study
Let's Make Something
June 3, 2021

Let's Make Something: Food, Arts, Crafts, Fashion, Decorating

-This isn't a new genre: cooking, knitting and fashion books have been around for hundreds of years.

The Art of Cookery Made Plain and Easy by Hannah Glasse (1747)
Mrs Beeton's Book of Household Management (1861)
Natura Exenterata (1655)
The First Book of Fashion (1523)

-These books are part of a "Lifestyle Genre": books about the ways and circumstances in which people live. They discuss habits, attitudes, tastes, moral standards, economic level, and social class. They also pertain to the manner in which people live, mostly defined by money and morals. They can also be about possessions and the decorations of one's home.

Food and Cooking: 641.5

-Can include essays, histories, bio/memoirs, reporting, narrative cookbooks, instructive cookbooks
-Characteristics: blending of types/categories (health, diet, art, history, memoir), design/photos/size matter, chef vs. food on the cover discussion
-Trends: diet cookbooks (plant-based/vegetarian, keto/paleo, gluten-free, etc), emphasis on comfort, convenience and diverse foods, media/celebrity tie-ins

Crafts, Arts, Fashion, Decorating: 700s

-Crafts: crafts by material, needlework (macrame, knitting, needlepoint, cross stitch, crocheting, embroidery, quilts, etc.)
-Arts: arts/art history, graphic arts, painting styles/artists by region/period, painting techniques/materials
-Fashion: sewing, mending, textile design, designers, history
-Decorating/interior design
-Characteristics: visuals/design is crucial, online/media components
-Trends: media/celebrity tie-ins, small space organizing/decorating, eco crafting/mending/reusing, craft dabbling, cross stitch with a message, amigurumis

Resources

-*Food Lit: A Reader's Guide to Epicurean Nonfiction*/Melissa Stoeger
-*The Readers' Advisory Guide to Nonfiction*/Neal Wyatt
-Awards: James Beard Award, International Association of Culinary Professionals (IACP) Award
-Publishers, university presses, museum presses, bookstores

-Blogs/online communities, TV/media, allrecipes.com, epicurious.com, Craft Industry Alliance, Creativebug, Blueprint, Ravelry, Pinterest, Instagram, YouTube
-Best of lists, ranking sites (amazon, goodreads), gally sites, bloggers, YouTubers, Smithsonian yearly top ten food books, NY Times, Abe Books 50 top food memoirs
-Magazines: arts, crafts and food mags are still circulating and often have suggestions for book titles.

Trends
Celebrities, Fashionistas
TV shows/media
YouTube
Fashionistas
Media savvy authors
Cooking/crafting during the time of Covid-19

What's New?
New research /perspective
Microhistories
Diverse authors
Different perspectives
Working Life Memoirs - "So, what do you do?" *
More stories from the "common" folk

What we read
The Secret Lives of Color by Kassia St. Clair: history of popular colors throughout the ages, visually interesting, can read a segment and put it down, can skip around, recommend to crafters, artists, people who like trivia

The Golden Thread by Kassia St. Clair: history of various fabrics, metaphors and puns, elegant but accessible writing, short chapters, excellent audio, for fans of fiber crafts or even archeology

Crying in H Mart by Michelle Zauner: food/grief memoir, Korean American, loss of a parent, cancer, cultural conflicts, food as comfort; suggest for fans of Relish by Lucy Knisley

Bento Box in the Heartland by Linda Furiya

House Lessons by Erica Bauermeister: renovating a life, some history of building houses/architecture, couple's story, audio not narrated by author

The Food of Oaxaca by Carla Altesor: cookbook and history and culture of the area, how culture and food are intertwined; goes beyond just recipes and into the connection to a place

Knitlandia: Clara Parkes: short chapters, each related to a different aspect of knitting (sheep farm, weavers, etc)

The Magnolia Story by Chip and Joanna Gaines: couple's story, many people read this because they are familiar with the couple

The Home Edit Life by Clea Shearer: home organization, beautiful but totally impractical for most people, aesthetic porn

Alexander McQueen: Savage Beauty by Andrew Bolton: beautiful coffee table book, stories about McQueen, beautiful photographs, for readers who are very interested in fashion.

Animal Friends of Pica Pau by Yan Schenkel: instructive, crochet stuffed animals, found through Instagram, helpful pictures, short story with each design

The Lost Art of Dress: The Women Who Once Made America Stylish by Linda Przybyszewski: design and home economics, how fashion changed over the years, anecdotes, conversational, snarky, champions who are bringing sewing back, well researched, lots of resources, for fans of fashion and social histories of women

Notes From a Young Black Chef: Kwame Onwuachi: memoir, insight into how a kitchen runs, racial aspects of cooking, quick read, recipes, good audiobook

Kitchen Garden Revival by Nicole Johnssey Burke: explains kitchen gardens and history, how-to, beautiful photos and design, inspiring, accessible

Consider the Fork by Bee Wilson: history of cooking technology, series of microhistories, for fans of little known food history and evolution of cooking

Fannie's Last Supper by Christopher Kimball-author is former Cook's Illustrated editor, attempts to recreate an authentic meal from Fannie Farmer's 1896 Cookbook, using authentic tools and ingredients, history, detailed, entertaining

97 Orchard by Jane Ziegelman: history of five different immigrant families who lived in a tenement building through the stories of their food, excellent history/bio, excellent for book discussion

Vanishing Fleece by Clara Parkes: interesting, enjoyable, funny

Yarnitecture by Jillian Moreno: yarn spinning

Worn Stories by Emily Spivack: collection of short vignettes about favorite pieces of clothing, can read a piece, set it down and come back

*The Secret History of Home Economic*s by Danielle Dreilinger (just released)

Women in the Kitchen by Anne Willan

All Stirred Up: Suffrage Cookbooks, Food and the Battle for Women's Right to Vote by Laura Kumin

The Rise: Black Cooks and the Soul of American Food by Marcus Samuelsson

The Kitchen Without Borders: Recipes and Stories from Refugee and Immigrant Chefs

Instruction Series: *Teach Yourself Visually*

Gravy by the Southern Foodways Alliance: journal, original narratives about food/cooks/chefs

Next Assignment: Pop Culture, Sports, Entertainment; August 5, 2021
Read 2 books. Can be from suggested list, or choose your own:

I'm Judging You by Luvvie Ajayi
One Goal by Amy Bass
Red Card by Ken Bensinger
Friday Night Lights by H. G. Bissinger
All the Dreams We've Dreamed by Rus Bradburd
David Bowie Made Me Gay by Darryl Bullock
Under the Big Black Sun Punk by John Doe
Big Hair and Plastic Grass by Dan Epstein
The Back Roads to March by John Feinstein
A Marvelous Life by Danny Fingeroth
The Match by Mark Frost
Footnotes by Caseen Gaines
Music: A Subversive History by Ted Gioia
Soccer and the 21st Century by David Goldblatt
Meet Me in the Bathroom by Lizzy Goodman
Five Came Back by Mark Harris
Marvel Comics-A Brand, a Culture, a Community by Bobby Hundreds
Is Everyone Hanging Out Without Me? by Mindy Kaling
Moneyball by Michael Lewis
Born to Run by Christopher McDougall
Trouble Boys by Bob Mehr
I Like to Watch by Emily Nussbaum
Horror Stories by Liz Phair
Canyon Dreams by Michael Powell
Life by Keith Richards
Mobituaries by Mo Rocca
Ripped from the Headlines by Harold Schechter
Broadcast Hysteria by A. Brad Schwartz

Over the Top by Jonathan Van Ness