Donald Judd Writings (David Zwirner Books), a chronological collection of Judd’s prose spanning 56 years, includes previously unpublished college papers, never-before-seen notes, and requisite well-known essays, such as “Specific Objects.” This tome illuminates the thought processes of this influential visual artist who helped shape the field of art criticism and review.

Sterling Ruby (Phaidon) presents photographs of the American artist’s multimedia creations and installations, alongside interviews and essays from prominent museum directors. The richly illustrated book presents Ruby’s works like Rorschach blots from which the reader is invited to construct meaning. The Art of the Blues (University of Chicago Press) presents an archive of the genre’s history and identity, anthologized by freelance music journalist and historian Bill Dahl. Posters, advertisements, and album covers delineate a colorful timeline for the evolution of a distinctly American art form, the blues. In Modern Life (Feneues), French illustrator Jean Jullien’s clever and instantly replete works lampoon contemporary culture. Rip with visual language and semantics, Jullien’s collection of cartoonish illustrations is a proverbial children’s book for adults.