In response to the exhibition Blue Black, curated by Glenn Ligon, the Pulitzer Arts Foundation has invited artists, writers, musicians, and educators to select books, albums, films, and other media to compose an interdisciplinary library. Contributors responded to the themes of blue and black by considering historical, political, formal, social, and metaphysical references.

With items ranging from bestselling novels to avant-garde jazz albums and a tarot deck, the Blue Black Library includes the selections of more than a dozen guest contributors. In addition to the books, films, records, and objects, the library also includes exhibition references and a music playlist. Interestingly, several works—such as Barry Jenkins’s 2016 film Moonlight or Joni Mitchell’s 1971 album Blue—were listed by multiple contributors. In these and other ways, the library selections reflect the complexity of the exhibition and expand upon the nuanced conversations that emerge between the works on view.

To continue these ongoing conversations, we invite you to contribute to the Blue Black Library. We will be adding new titles and playlists as the exhibition progresses; send us your suggestions by writing them on the sheet found on the record table, or by emailing programs@pulitzerarts.org.

To see a full and up-to-date list of materials in the Blue Black Library, visit pulitzerarts.org.
Guest Contributors

Brandon Anschultz is an artist and gallery director based in St. Louis. Anschultz’s work concentrates on the materiality of painting and its intersection with sculpture and installation. Anschultz’s work has been shown in a broad range of locations.

50 Song Memoir (2017)
by The Magnetic Fields
Album

American War (2017)
by Omar El Akkad
Book

Blue (1971)
by Joni Mitchell
Album

New York: 2140 (2017)
by Kim Stanley Robinson
Book

Parable of the Sower (1993)
by Octavia Butler
Book

Paris is Burning (1990)*
directed by Jenny Livingston
Film

“S-Town” (2017)*
by Serial and This American Life
Podcast

good kid, m.A.A.d. city (2012)
by Kendrick Lamar
Album

Let the Fire Burn (2013)*
directed by Jason Osder
Film

Mo’ Better Blues (1990)*
directed by Spike Lee
Film

Moonlight (2016)*
directed by Barry Jenkins
Film

by Erykah Badu
Album

Ptah, the El Daoud (1970)
by Alice Coltrane
Album

The Epic (2015)
by Kamasi Washington
Album

Phillip Dunlap is an Iowa-born musician and educator living in St. Louis. Dunlap currently serves as Director of Education and Community Engagement at Jazz St. Louis—a not-for-profit organization whose mission is to lead its community in advancing the uniquely American art of jazz through live performance, education, and outreach.

Black, Brown and Beige (1958)
by Duke Ellington
Album

Kind of Blue (1959)
by Miles Davis
Album

Victoria Donaldson is the founder/organizer of Black Cinema Club, a quarterly event featuring films and discussions on matters regarding the African diaspora. Under the moniker Cleo Jones, Ms. Donaldson co-hosts the radio program RWTHNTC with Nappy DJ Needles on 88.1 KDHX.
Mingus Ah Um (1959)
by Charles Mingus
Album

The Shape of Jazz to Come (1959)
by Ornette Coleman
Album

Time Out (1959)
by Dave Brubeck
Album

Darby English is the author of 1971: A Year in the Life of Color (U. of Chicago Press, 2016) and How to See a Work of Art in Total Darkness (MIT Press, 2007). He is the Carl Darling Buck Professor of Art History and the College at the University of Chicago.

“Serves Me Right to Suffer” (1995)**
by John Lee Hooker and Van Morrison
Song

Audubon’s Birds of America (Tiny Folio Edition) (2005)
by Roger Tory Peterson
Book

Black is a Color (2015)
by Raymond Saunders
Catalogue

Cosmos: A Personal Voyage (PBS, 1980)*
directed by Adrian Malone
Film

Dusk and Other Stories (1998)
by James Salter
Book

Everything That Rises Must Converge (1965)
by Flannery O’Connor
Book

Nocturne: The Art of James McNeill Whistler (1964)
by Denys Sutton
Book

The Blue Planet (BBC, 2001)*
directed by Alastair Fothergill
Film

Olubukola Gbadegesin is a joint-appointed Assistant Professor in the African-American Studies Program and the Department of Fine and Performing Arts, Art History, at Saint Louis University. Her research interests include portraiture, photography, and the politics of representation in Africa and the Diaspora. She is currently working on a manuscript on early photographic practices in Nigeria, titled, Picturing the Modern Self: Politics, Identity, and Self-Fashioning in Lagos, 1861–1934.

“Afro Blue” (1959)**
by Abbey Lincoln
Song

“Deadly Force, in Black and White” (2014)
by Ryan Gabrielson, Ryann Grochowski Jones, and Eric Sagara for ProPublica
Article

by Fanon-Che Wilkins
Book

“Redbone” (2016)**
by Childish Gambino
Song

“West African Indigo Cloth” (1978)
by Marietta B. Joseph
Article
Blues People: Negro Music in White America (1963)
by Leroi Jones (Amiri Baraka)
Book

by Bridget R. Cooks
Book

“America in Black and Blue”
PBS NewsHour Weekend Special (PBS, 2016)
Film

Byron Kim is a painter living in Brooklyn, San Diego, and Mexico City. More often than not, his paintings use color to focus on the relationship between everything and nothing.

“Move, Daniel” (1984)**
by The McIntosh County Shouters
Song

A Field Guide to Getting Lost (2005)
by Rebecca Solnit
Book

Art as Art: The Selected Writings of Ad Reinhardt (1991)
edited by Barbara Rose
Book

Lightnin’ Sam Hopkins (1961)
by Lightnin’ Sam Hopkins
Album

by Margaret Livingstone
Book

Yves Klein: Incandescence (2013)
by Frédéric Prot
Book

Ingrid LaFleur is an artist, curator, cultural producer, arts advocate, pleasure activist, founder of AFROTOPIA, and candidate for mayor of Detroit. Her work centers on using Afrofuturism as a tool for psychosocial healing.

Adventures in Paradise (1975)
by Minnie Riperton
Album

by Rasheedah Phillips
Book

Black Radical Imagination (2015)
curated by Erin Christovale and Amir George
Film

“Shrine of the Black Medusa” (2017)
by Casey Rocheteau
Tarot Cards

Siboney (2014)*
by Joiri Minaya
Film

Towards a Walk in the Sun (2012)*
by Robert Pruitt
Book

Who Fears Death (2010)
by Nnedi Okorafor
Book

World Galaxy (1972)
by Alice Coltrane
Album

Glenn Ligon is an American artist who lives and works in New York. Educated at Wesleyan University, his work has been the subject of numerous solo museum exhibitions internationally and is held in the permanent
collections of museums worldwide, including Tate Modern in London and The Museum of Modern Art in New York. Ligon is the guest-curator of Blue Black.

Voyage of the Sable Venus and Other Poems (2015)
by Robin Coste Lewis
Book

1971: A Year in the Life of Color (2016)
by Darby English
Book

Bound to Appear: Art, Slavery, and the Site of Blackness (2013)
by Huey Copeland
Book

Moonlight (2016)*
directed by Barry Jenkins
Film

“Still Processing” (2016)*
by Jenna Wortham and Wesley Morris
Podcast

Thanksgiving at the Vanguard (2017)*
by Jason Moran and the Bandwagon
Album

by Arthur Jafa
Artwork

Jason Moran is a Grammy-nominated jazz musician, composer, and recording artist based in New York. The recipient of a 2010 MacArthur Fellowship, Moran’s work includes the musical scores for director Ava DuVernay’s documentary The 13th, as well as DuVernay’s award-winning film Selma.

“(What Did I Do To Be So) Black and Blue” (1930)**
by Ethel Waters
Song

“Black Blues” (1983)*
by Henry Threadgill Sextet
Song

“Blue Cellophane” (1945)**
by Duke Ellington
Song

“Blue” (1985)**
by Geri Allen
Song

“Buck” (1967)**
by Nina Simone
Song

“DNA.” (2017)**
by Kendrick Lamar
Song

Killer of Sheep (1978)*
directed by Charles Burnett
Film

Duro Olowu is a renowned fashion designer and curator based in London, whose womenswear collections are shown twice a year during London Fashion Week. Mr. Olowu also recently curated the exhibition Making & Unmaking at the Camden Arts Centre in London, which featured the work of over 70 contemporary artists.

“Brilliant Corners” (1957)**
by Thelonious Monk
Song

Aja (1977)
by Steely Dan
Album
The Art of African Textiles (1997)
by Duncan Clarke
Book

Black Girl (1966)
directed by Ousmane Sembène
Book

Blue (1971)
by Joni Mitchell
Album

Daughters of the Dust (1991)
directed by Julie Dash
Film

Diva (1981)
directed by Jean-Jacques Beineix
Film

Elis (1972)
by Elis Regina
Album

Farm (2002) *
by Jackie Nickerson
Book

I Shot Andy Warhol (1996) *
directed by Mary Harron
Film

by Frances Herskovits
Book

Keep Me In Mind (1970)
by Miriam Makeba
Album

Live! (1971)
by Fela Ransome-Kuti and the Africa ’70 with Ginger Baker
Album

Making & Unmaking (2016)
by Duro Olowu
Book

Man with a Blue Scarf: On Sitting for a Portrait by Lucian Freud (2010)
by Martin Gayford
Book

Paris Blues (1961)*
directed by Martin Ritt
Film

Pieces of a Man (1971)
by Gil Scott-Heron
Album

Tank (1998)*
Magazine

The Bluest Eye (1970)
by Toni Morrison
Book

The Fire Next Time (1963)
by James Baldwin
Book

The Man Died: Prison Notes of Wole Soyinka (1971)
by Wole Soyinka
Book

The Red Shoes (1948)*
directed by Michael Powell
Film

The Romantic View (2015)*
Magazine

Waiting for Happiness (2002)*
directed by Abderrahmane Sissako
Film
Stella Paul is an art historian educated at Harvard University and the University of Southern California. Prior to her twenty-four year tenure at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, where she served as Museum Educator-in-Charge of Exhibitions and Communication, she ran the Southern California efforts for the Smithsonian’s Archives of American Art. Paul lives in New York City.

Blue: The History of a Color (2001)
by Michel Pastoureau
Book

Bright Earth: Art and the Invention of Color (2002)
by Philip Ball
Book

by Stella Paul
Book

Color and Culture: Practice and Meaning from Antiquity to Abstraction (1999)
by John Gage
Book

by Ann Temkin
Book

Colori: Emotions of Color in Art (2017)
by Carolyn Christov-Bakargiev
Book

Colour after Klein: Rethinking Colour in Modern and Contemporary Art (2005)
by Jane Alison
Book

Colour (2008)
by David Batchelor
Book

How Culture Conditions the Colours We See (1985)
by Umberto Eco
Book

Il Libro dell’arte (c. 1400)
by Cennino d’Andrea Cennini
Book

by Josef Albers
Book

Primary Sources: Selected Writings on Color (1991)
by Patricia Sloane
Book

Carl Phillips is the author, most recently, of Reconnaissance (winner of the PEN/USA Award in Poetry and the Lambda Literary Award in Poetry, 2016) and Wild Is the Wind, forthcoming from Farrar, Straus & Giroux in 2018.

“Back to Black” (2006)**
by Amy Winehouse
Song

“Black is the Color of My True Love’s Hair” (1965)**
by Nina Simone
Song

by Alan Smithee
Song

“Fool to Cry” (1976)**
by Rolling Stones
Song
“This Bitter Earth” (1964)** by Aretha Franklin
Song

_In the Heat of the Night_ (1967)* directed by Norman Jewison
Film

_On Being Blue: A Philosophical Inquiry_ (1976) by William H. Gass
Book

_The Bluest Eye_ (1970) by Toni Morrison
Book

**Eugene B. Redmond** is the author and editor of twenty-five volumes of poetry, plays, and hybrid works. He is the recipient of fellowships and awards from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Pushcart Prize, and the American Book Awards, among others. Redmond is an Emeritus Professor of English at Southern Illinois University–Edwardsville and the Poet Laureate for East St. Louis.

“Sweet/Black Dada Nihilismus” (1964)** by Amiri Baraka & The New York Art Quartet
Recording

“Point from which Creation Begins”: _The Black Artists’ Group of St. Louis_ (2014) by Benjamin Looker
Book

26 Ways of Looking at a Black Man and Other Poems (1969) by Raymond R. Patterson
Book

_Afro Horn Mix_ (2012)* by Francisco Mora Catlett, et al.
Album

Black Pearls: _The Poetry of Maya Angelou_ (1969)* by Maya Angelou
Recording

Black Rainbows: _The Colors and Self-Images of African American Girls_ (2008)* directed by Marie A. Celestin-Young
Film

Black Spirits: _Festival of New Black Poets in America_ (1972) by various artists
Album

Book

Book

_Eighty Moods of Maya & Other Photo-Poetic Moments_ (2008)* edited by Howard Rambsy II
Book

Folk Music of Ethiopia (1951)* by various artists
Album

Goodbye, Sweetwater: New and Selected Stories (1958) by Henry Dumas
Book

Book

_New Beginnings_ (2017)* by Montez Coleman
Album


Carmen and Geoffrey (2005) directed by Nick Doob Film

Eat Out More Often (1970)** by Rudy Ray Moore Album

For My People (1969) by Margaret Walker Book

Four-Pack of Royal Crown Hair Dressing

Good Things to Eat, As Suggested by Rufus (1911) by Rufus Estes Book

Sojourner Truth collectible doll*

Songs My Mother Taught Me (2015)** by Fannie Lou Hamer Recording

Speak, So You Can Speak Again: The Life of Zora Neale Hurston (2004) by Lucy Anne Hurston Book


The Negro Motorist Green-Book (1940) by Victor H. Green Book

The Sequence Party (1983) by The Sequence Party Album

Rebecca Wanzo is an associate professor of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies and associate director of the Center for the Humanities at Washington University. She is the author of The Suffering Will Not Be Televised: African American Women and Sentimental Political Storytelling (2009) and various essays about race, feminism, popular culture, and political discourse.

“Am I Blue?” (1929)** by Ethel Waters Song

“Never to Dream of Spiders” (1986) by Audre Lorde Poem

“Sonny’s Blues” (1957) by James Baldwin Short story

“Story Books on a Kitchen Table” (1976) by Audre Lorde Poem

Black is Blue (2014)*
directed by Cheryl Dunye
Film

Blue Collar (1978)*
directed by Paul Schrader
Film

Moonlight (2016)*
directed by Barry Jenkins
Film

Nobody and Other Songs (1981)
by Bert Williams
Album

We Stories is a St. Louis-based nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting inclusive children’s literature and providing families with resources, connections, and opportunities for advancing racial equity.

by Walter Dean Myers
Book

by Don Tate
Book

Jazz Day: The Making of a Famous Photograph (2016)
by Roxane Orgill
Book

The Bat Boy and His Violin (2001)
by Gavin Curtis
Book

The Great Migration: Journey to the North (2010)
by Eloise Greenfield
Book

by Shane W. Evans
Book

Wings (2000)
by Christopher Myers
Book

* Item not featured in on-site library
** Selection featured in Spotify playlist, available at pulitzerarts.org
Staff Recommendations

Awaken, My Love! (2016)
by Childish Gambino
Album

“Black Spiderman” (2017)**
by Logic ft. Damian Lemar Hudson
Song

blisters (2017)
serpentwithfeet
Album

“Blue Bayou” (1954)**
by Roy Orbison
Song

Bluets (2009)
by Maggie Nelson
Book

by Graham Lock
Book

Bo Diddley (1955)
by Bo Diddley
Album

Ceremonies (1992)
by Essex Hemphill
Book

Chromophobia (1997)
by David Batchelor
Book

“Come Out” (1966)**
by Steve Reich
Recording

Equilibrium (2002)*
directed by Kurt Wimmer
Film

Eva Taylor and Clarence Williams’s Blue Five: 1925–1926 (1926)
by Eva Taylor and Clarence Williams
Album

Fahrenheit 451 (1953)
by Ray Bradbury
Book

Fantastic Sagas (2013)
by Robert Pruitt and Matthew Johnson
Book

Gathering Blue (2000)
by Lois Lowry
Book

Homegoing (2016)
by Yaa Gyasi
Book

I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings (1969)
by Maya Angelou
Book

I, Tituba, Black Witch of Salem (1986)
by Maryse Condé
Book

Indigo (1998)
by Jenny Balfour-Paul
Book

Kind of Blue (1959)
by Miles Davis
Album

On Being Blue: A Philosophical Inquiry (1976)
by William H. Gass
Book
One (2008)
by Kathryn Otoshi
Book

Oreo (1974)
by Fran Ross
Book

Peetie Wheatstraw LP (1975)
by Peetie Wheatstraw
Album

Reflections in Blue (1987)
by Sun Ra
Album

“Saint Louis Blues” (1929)**
by Bessie Smith and Louis Armstrong
Song

Tape Two (2013)
by Young Fathers
Album

The Black Book of Colors (2008)
by Menena Cottin
Book

The Dress Lodger (2010)
by Sheri Holman
Book

The Girl Who Fell From the Sky (2011)
by Heidi W. Durrow
Book

Voices in the Night (2015)
by Steve Millhauser
Book

by Ricky Riccardi
Book

Special thanks to Alice Blue Collective for providing fresh flowers for the library.
About the Pulitzer

The Pulitzer Arts Foundation presents experimental, progressive, and multidisciplinary exhibitions and programs, inspiring audiences to think differently about art and its relationship to their lives. Deeply committed to serving the St. Louis community, the Pulitzer has become an integral part of both the Grand Center Arts District and the broader cultural and civic landscape of St. Louis.

Location
3716 Washington Blvd
St. Louis, MO 63108
@pulitzerarts
pulitzerarts.org

Hours
Wednesday, 10am–5pm
Thursday, 10am–8pm
Friday, 10am–8pm
Saturday, 10am–5pm

Free Admission & Parking