

LUBOV

ELEPHANT

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ESSENTIAL ART BOOKS

These Are the Essential Art Books You Need to Know Right Now

With the cold drawing in, there has never been a better time to hunker down with a book of art and photography. A glut of new releases sees everything from occultism to queer photography hit the shelves, as chosen by Elephant's editors.



Afternoons, Jenna Westra (Hassla)

The subtle gestures of even the briefest of encounters are unravelled by photographer [Jenna Westra](#). She uses staged portraiture to construct and observe casual interactions between her models, drawing out the dynamics that are built up between them before the lens. Westra uses snippets of text, vignettes and simple instructions to create these scenes between her subjects, who are often dancers, encouraging movement and touch. Props and garments interact with bare skin, emphasising the sensual interplay of textures. Westra's models bend, crouch and embrace freely in scenes that feel more charged than ever in the age of social distancing. Westra's first book, [Afternoons](#), accompanies her latest exhibition at [Lubov Gallery](#), New York, which

runs from 27 September to 22 November. **(Louise Benson)**

<https://elephant.art/these-are-the-essential-art-books-you-need-to-know-right-now-29092020/>

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