ARTS



Savage Beauty NYC Metropolitan Museum of Art (2011)

The debate around whether fashion can be art is put to bed for me when I look at the work of Alexander McQueen. I only wish I'd had the chance to see this exhibition.



Nickolaus Seffrin

Any work by this amazing artist - he's my Dad!



William Barton "Birdsong at Dusk" (2018)

William Barton is not only an extraordinary musician and composer who has developed a sound that speaks to me of Australia, he is also my definition of grace.



Patrick White "The Aunt's Story" (1948)

The first Patrick novel I read, aged 19. The heroine is a wonderful eccentric, and I loved her name so much, I ended up calling my daughter Theodora.



The Sweet Smell of Success (1957)

This masterful film, beautifully shot & written, still packs a mean punch with its commentary on fame, ambition & the commodification of young attractive people in the entertainment industry.



Irving Penn Small Trades (2009)

While these images weren't published in a text until 2009, Penn started taking portraits in 1950. Penn knew that many of these trades would disappear as the century wore on. The images are such a testament to little pockets of life that no longer exist.

NEUROSCIENCE / PSYCHOLOGY

"Forget the Pecking Order at Work" Barbara Heffernan

I love the findings of the research, and Heffernan's unassuming yet very authoritative discussion.

"A kinder, gentler philosophy of success" Alain de Botton

I respond to almost anything de Botton presents, not only because of his gentle humour and kind forgiveness of human foibles, but his beautiful voice.

EDUCATION / LEARNING



Madness and Civilization: A History of Insanity in the Age of Reason

Michel Foucault (1961)

Foucault's dissection of madness across a broad sweep of European history is timely, as the acceptance of diversity and difference is more accepted and even celebrated in mainstream cultural expression. And yet, many continue to be marginalised, pilloried and even demonised.



The School of Life: an emotional education

Alain de Botton (2019)

Just so in sync with what we aspire to do.

LEADERSHIP



My Life On the Road Gloria Steinem (2015)

"If you want people to listen to you, you have to listen to them. If you hope people will change how they live, you have to know how they live. If you want people to see you, you have to sit down with them eye-to-eye."

This is a space I aim to inhabit sometimes with greater success than others!



Leadership for the disillusioned

Amanda Sinclair (2007)

This text provided me with profound insight earlier in my career into what constitutes powerful leadership, and it was quite the antidote to much of the other content that was out there. Her writing is beautiful, as she draws a potent balance of scholarly research and personal experience to build a highly engaging argument.

SCIENCE / AWE / WONDER



Murmurations Dylan Winter (2010)

This phenomenon is so artful in its execution: immensely calming and wonder-ful at the same time.

PEOPLE / AUTHORS / THOUGHT LEADERS



Albert Einstein

"I have no special talent. I am only passionately curious."



My Family

My family is funny, at times delightful and deeply lovable, absurd, argumentative, even polarising smart and blindsided – just like most people's, I expect. But they have been the most profound influence on shaping me, both the good bits and the less inspiring qualities. I am what I am because of, and at times, despite them, and I adore them.