

# CREATIVE CONNECTIONS

Feeling bookwormish? Here are Artella's favorite books that combine words and art!



Simply click on the links to read more about each book on [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com). If you purchase a book through this link, you will support Artella's various creative endeavors. Or, consider using this portal each time you shop at amazon to support our work:

<http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/redirect-home/artella-20> Many thanks!



[\*\*The Griffin & Sabine Trilogy Boxed Set\*\*](#) is a set of three books by Nick Bantok, the king of the illustrated novel. This boxed set includes the entire Griffin and Sabine trilogy ([\*\*Griffin & Sabine\*\*](#), [\*\*Sabine's Notebook\*\*](#), [\*\*The Golden Mean\*\*](#)). I think readers can be divided into two groups - those who know and love Griffin and Sabine, and those who've never heard of them. If you don't know these books, you are in for a very rapturous surprise. This dreamy trilogy tells the story of a mysterious relationship that defies the reality that we are used to. Each book is a beautiful, surprising journey.

Years after the trilogy of was complete, Bantok published two additions that continue Griffin & Sabine's story. Somehow the images are just as stunning and the language just as magical as the original set. They are:



[\*\*The Gryphon: In Which the Extraordinary Correspondence of Griffin & Sabine Is Rediscovered\*\*](#) and



[\*\*Alexandria: In Which the Extraordinary Correspondence of Griffin & Sabine Unfolds\*\*](#)



Also, Nick Bantok has a handful of other illustrated novels that he's published, but my favorite is [\*\*The Venetian's Wife: A Strangely Sensual Tale of a Renaissance Explorer, a Computer, and a Metamorphosis\*\*](#).



[\*\*The Book of Embraces\*\*](#) by Eduardo Galeano is a book that honestly changed my life. I really think it made me better at living. I picked it up at a used book store in San Francisco about 4 years ago because I liked the surreal art on its cover. I have never experienced anything like this book. The Uruguayan author takes you all over the world in this book, changing his form from essay to poetry to abstract fiction to mini-vignette so swiftly that your mind somersaults to keep up. Some of the pieces are whimsical and fruity, some are grand rhapsodies, some scathingly satirical, some raw political protest. And interspersed through it all are his quirky fantastic ink sketches and hand-carved woodcut prints. I bet it will make you better at living, too.



If you're a *Like Water for Chocolate* fan, I recommend this book. It's part fiction, part cookbook, part art book: [\*\*The Secrets of Pistoulet: An Enchanted Fable of Food, Magic, and Love\*\*](#) by [Jana Kolpen](#) (Illustrator), [Mary Tiegreen](#) (Photographer). It's a delightful, light experience.

**(Creative Connections, cont.)**

 Barbara Hodgson is a invigorating writer and multi-dimensional artist who is known for her illustrated novel, [\*\*The Tatoed Map\*\*](#), which is a fiction about a woman's exotic, mysterious journey through Morocco. The illustrations are lovely, the plot is wild and fantastic. It's my favorite of her books.

 Hodgson's book, [\*\*Hippolyte's Island\*\*](#), is also a great find, if you've never seen it. It's an adventure/love story with maps, collages, and all kinds of art that folds out from the novel. A great way to escape to another world.

 I'll also mention [\*\*The Sensualist: An Illustrated Novel\*\*](#), which is the darkest and most bizarre of Hodgson's books but worth a look if you are fascinated by the use of anatomy/medical/scientific/machine paraphernalia in art...she does some interesting collages with unusual objects, and I love the way she describes Vienna throughout the text.

 Though it's not as all-out illustrated as the above books, [\*\*Paris Out of Hand\*\*](#) by Karen Elizabeth Gordon is an amazing read with lavish artwork and quirky hand-drawn images. The premise? An imaginary guide to Paris, mimicking a 19th-century tour guide book...guiding you through a Paris that exists in a parallel universe. Tons of fun!

 If you're in the mood for imaginary travel, check out [\*\*The Dictionary of Imaginary Places : The Newly Updated and Expanded Classic\*\*](#) by Alberto Manguel. It's a resource of all the imaginary places you know and love - plus lots more. Beautiful imaginary maps invite your visual senses to join the playdate.

 [\*\*The Secret Language of Dreams: A Visual Key to Dreams and Their Meanings\*\*](#) by David Fontana is a non-fiction reference book about the psychology of dreams, but I included it in this list because, oh my gosh the images are to die for. Looking through this book really feels like strolling through someone else's dreams. I find myself wandering through this book quite often just to get lost in the artwork. (Oh yeah, and there's some great info about dreams and archetypes in there, too)

 My friend Ann recommended [\*\*The Illustrated Rumi: A Treasury of Wisdom from the Poet of the Soul\*\*](#) (translated by Philip and Manuela Dunn) to me and I was lucky to receive it as a Christmas present this year from my sister, Launa. Ann knew that I loved the writings of Rumi (a 12th century Sufi poet) and told me that this book was very Artella-esque, and she was right. The translations are wonderful and the words are woven with so many breathtaking images that reading a passage from the book becomes a meditation for the senses. In addition to Rumi's poetry, the book also contains many of his fables and parables, which were new to me.

 [\*\*The Republic of Dreams: A Reverie\*\*](#) by G. Garfield Crimmins is a strange, seductive tale about irrational life on a fictional island. The story would stand well on its own without the art - it's that rich in detail and plot. The art is an added bonus.