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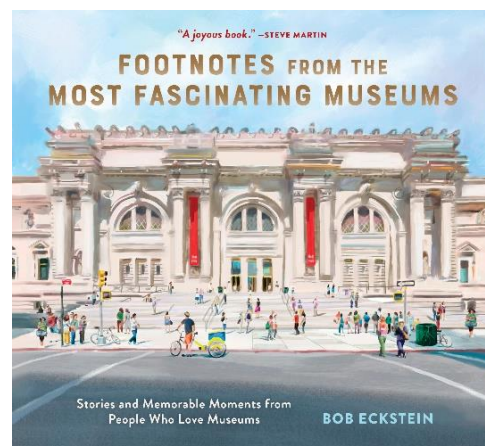
"A joyous book." –Steve Martin

A love letter to museums and museum-goers, filled with lush and whimsical illustrations paired with stories and anecdotes from curators, museum workers, museum visitors, and more.

Footnotes from the Most Fascinating Museums

Stories and Memorable Moments from People Who Love Museums

By **Bob Eckstein**



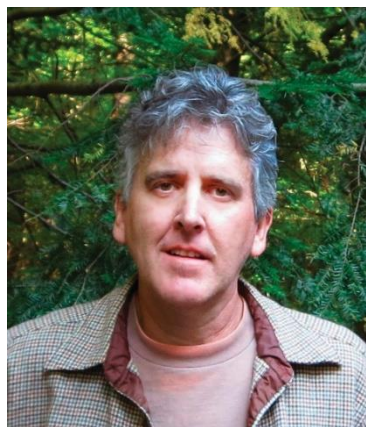
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[Full Book PDF](#) | [Cover Image](#)

On Sale: May 14, 2024

We already know and love Bob Eckstein's *New York Times* bestselling [Footnotes from The World's Greatest Bookstores](#). Now, ***Footnotes from the Most Fascinating Museums*** looks at the most beloved museums in North America. More than 75 museums are featured here (full list below) including those specializing in art, natural history, academia, science, and more. Profiles from curators and museum workers appear alongside 155 original pieces of whimsical artwork that illustrate a story about the museum or showcase a particular work of art in its collection. This is a thought-provoking, inspiring reminder of why we go to museums and in the first place why we love them so much.

Artists, art lovers, students, travelers, and adventurers of all ages will delight in this highly giftable book.



BOB ECKSTEIN (he/him) is an award-winning illustrator, writer, and cartoonist for the *New Yorker*, *New York Times*, *Reader's Digest*, *Smithsonian Magazine*, *Atlas Obscura*, and many others. His *Footnotes from the World's Greatest Bookstores* was a *New York Times* bestseller and made many 'Best Of' 2016 lists and continues to be an 'Amazon Most Wished for Title' years later. He is also the author of *The History of the Snowman*, *The Illustrated History of the Snowman*, and *The Complete Book of Cat Names (That Your Cat Won't Answer to Anyway)*. He was editor for *The Ultimate Cartoon Book of Book Cartoons* series and is contributing editor for *Writer's Digest*. He lives in New York City.

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MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, BOSTON

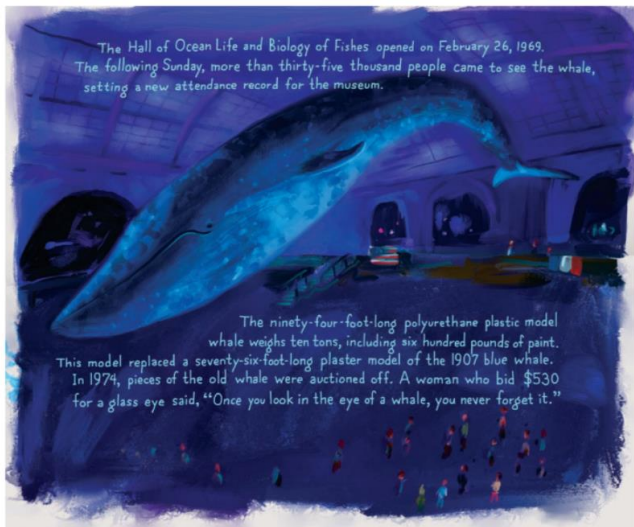
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS • EST. 1870

The Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, or the MFA, was founded in Copley Square in 1870 and moved in 1909 to its new location in Fenway just down the street from the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum. It has since become one of the most comprehensive art museums in North America.

Highlights include John Singleton Copley's *Watson and the Shark* (1778) and *The Daughters of Edward Darley Boit* (1882) by John Singer Sargent. At the top of the stairs, it is flanked by the very vases depicted in the oil painting. The pair of large blue-and-white Japanese vases traveled with the Boit family and were later donated to the museum. While clearly influenced by the master Diego Velázquez's *Los Meninos* (critics have made the comparison), Sargent goes further, creating a Freudian drama of adolescence, abandoning traditional modes of portraiture through the use of light, composition and body language. The painting certainly means different things to different people depending on their own family upbringing and relationships with their siblings. "It's the MFA's *Mona Lisa*. No composition or portrait was ever executed like that before," wrote Sargent scholar and author Richard Rosen.



98 *Ravine*, 1889, Vincent van Gogh



INTERNATIONAL TENNIS HALL OF FAME

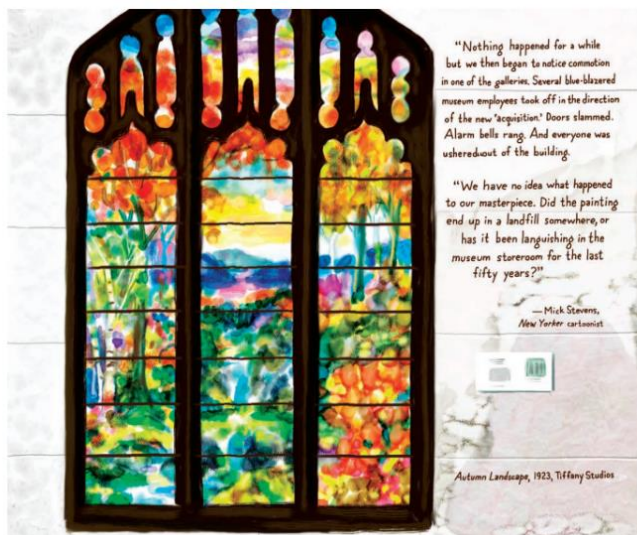
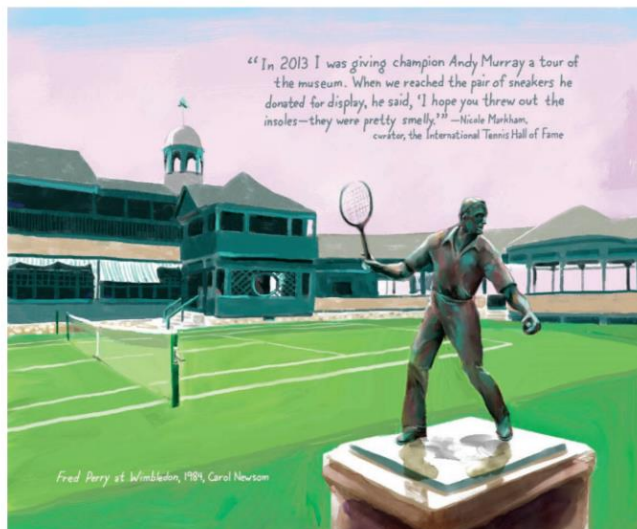
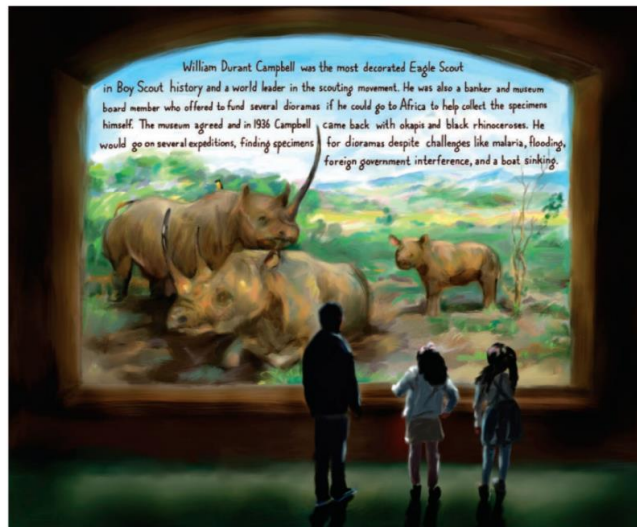
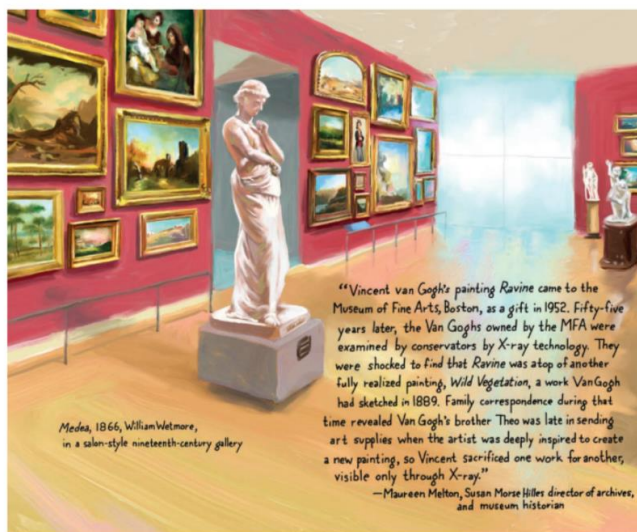
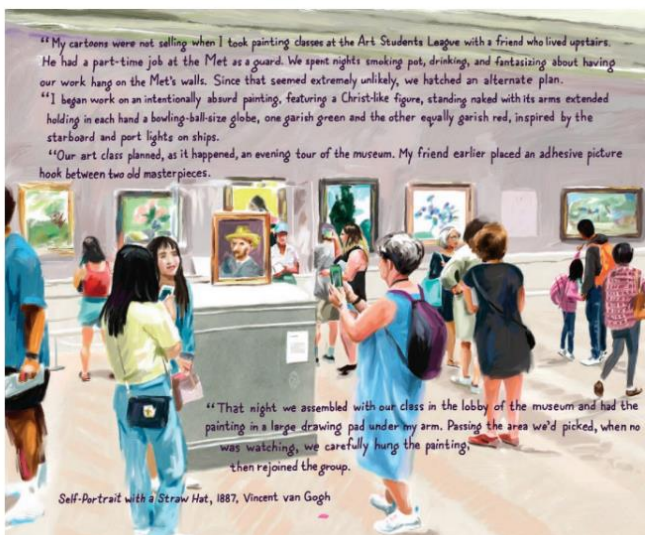
NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND • EST. 1954

The International Tennis Hall of Fame was the site of the first United States National Lawn Tennis Championships in 1881 (which grew into the US Open in Flushing, New York). The grounds include twenty tennis courts, including thirteen grass courts. Along with the buildings, they make up the most regal of any tennis club in North America and rival Wimbledon.

A highlight is the large state-of-the-art interactive museum documenting the first days of the sport to modern tennis today. Another highlight is what they call a "Kings Court," first played by monks and kings in religious buildings and courtyards. These courts bear little resemblance to a tennis court today and date back to 1538. It's not so much a tennis court but an off-kilter rectangular-shaped room with surprising slopes and angles. The racquet used is small and curved. The ball is handmade with horsehair and cork. These balls are heavier and can bounce off walls and windows and still be in play. The net is intentionally drooping over a "moat" in the center of the court but there are also small nets surrounding the asymmetrical court. There are only eleven such courts in North America, as they cost approximately \$3 million to make. What makes these courts even more special is that visitors can rent them with equipment and play this ancient game here at the museum.



Bowed racquets for Royal Court Tennis



Full List of Museums

Academia and Science

- Aftel Archive of Curious Scents (Berkeley, CA)
- Explorers Club (New York, NY)
- Greenfield Village (Dearborn, MI)
- Mütter Museum (Philadelphia, PA)

Culture

- Brooklyn Museum (Brooklyn, NY)
- Chapultepec Castle (Mexico City, Mexico)
- International Tennis Hall of Fame (Newport, RI)
- Met Cloisters (New York, NY)
- Mob Museum (Las Vegas, NV)
- National Comedy Center (Jamestown, NY)
- National Museum of African American History and Culture (Washington, DC)
- Neon Museum (Las Vegas, NV)
- Shelburne Museum (Shelburne, VT)
- Academy Museum of Motion Pictures (Los Angeles, CA)

Encyclopedic

- Art Institute of Chicago (Chicago, IL)
- Columbus Museum of Art (Columbus, OH)
- Getty Center (Los Angeles, CA)
- Metropolitan Museum of Art (New York, NY)
- National Museum of Anthropology (Mexico City, Mexico)
- Peabody Essex Museum (Salem, MA)
- Philadelphia Museum of Art (Philadelphia, PA)
- Smithsonian Institution (Washington, DC)
- Soumaya Museum (Mexico City, Mexico)
- Baltimore Museum of Art (Baltimore, MD)
- Detroit Institute of Arts (Detroit, MI)
- National Gallery of Art (Washington, DC)
- Seattle Art Museum (Seattle, WA)

Fine Arts

- American Visionary Art Museum (Baltimore, MD)
- Bainbridge Island Museum (Bainbridge Island, WA)
- The Broad (Los Angeles, CA)
- Clark Art Institute (Williamstown, MA)
- Frick Collection (New York, NY)
- LACMA, Los Angeles County Museum of Art (Los Angeles, CA)
- Maryhill Museum of Art (Goldendale, WA)
- MASS MoCA (North Adams, MA)
- MoMA (New York, NY)
- Museum of Bad Art (Boston, MA)
- Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (Boston, MA)
- National Museum of American Illustration (Newport, RI)
- National Portrait Gallery (Washington, DC)
- Norman Rockwell Museum (Stockbridge, MA)
- Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum (New York, NY)
- Whitney Museum (New York, NY)
- Winterthur Museum (Winterthur, DE)
- American Writers Museum (Chicago, IL)

Historic Homes

- Beauport Sleeper-McCann House (Gloucester, MA)
- Driehaus Museum (Chicago, IL)
- Graceland (Memphis, TN)
- Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum (Boston, MA)
- Marc Twain House and Museum (Hartford, CT)
- Tenement Museum (New York, NY)
- Wenham Museum House (Wenham, MA)

The Human Condition

- Museum of Anthropology (Vancouver, Canada)
- Rothko Chapel (Houston, TX)
- Museum of Motherhood (St. Petersburg, FL)
- Museum of Tolerance (Los Angeles, CA)

Natural History and The Great Outdoors

- Adirondack Experience Museum on Blue Mountain Lake (Blue Mt. Lake, NY)
- American Museum of Natural History (New York, NY)
- Field Museum (Chicago, IL)
- La Brea Tar Pits (Los Angeles, CA)
- Storm King (New Windsor, NY)
- Death Valley National Park Museum (Furnace Creek, NV)

Planes, Trains, Automobiles, and Ships

- Hollywood Car Collection (Las Vegas, NV)
- Maritime Museum of San Diego (San Diego, CA)
- Petersen Automotive Museum (Los Angeles, CA)
- Steamtown National Historic Site (Scranton, PA)
- Art Car World (Douglas, AZ)
- Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum (New York, NY)

Miscellany

- Museum of Jurassic Technology (Los Angeles, CA)
- National Lighthouse Museum (Staten Island, NY)
- Noah's Ark Encounter (Williamstown, KY)
- SPAM Museum (Columbus, OH)