

2024 Tulane Research, Scholarship, and Artistic Achievement Award

Publication Award, Book Award Short List

Let Us Descend by Jesmyn Ward

Jesmyn Ward, a two-time National Book Award winner and acclaimed novelist, offers a powerful narrative in *Let Us Descend*, exploring themes of resilience, survival, and the African American experience.

“Award winning author Jesmyn Ward’s *Let Us Descend* is a poetic and lyrical story of the impact of transgenerational trauma on individual lives. Ward’s emotional novel touches on themes of resilience, family, systemic oppression, and survival. *Let Us Descend* offers readers a timely and thoughtful narrative about identity, race, memory, and social justice in the American South.”

Raquel Horlick on *Let Us Descend*

“Ward’s singular voice immerses the reader in historical experiences too often overlooked and avoided in American fiction. Compelling, poetic narration guides us through internal and external realities experienced by an enslaved young woman in the American South. Ward’s exquisite, understated prose burns Annis’ devastations and yearnings into our hearts, the injustice of her situation into our minds. This is an artfully rendered, triumphant testament to the restorative power of loving and of cultivating a rich interiority.” Golan Moskowitz on *Let Us Descend*

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Cro-Magnon: The Story of the Last Ice Age People of Europe by Trenton Holliday

Trenton Holliday, a professor of anthropology, delves into the history of Europe’s last Ice Age inhabitants in *Cro-Magnon*.

[Cro-Magnon: The Story of the Last Ice Age People of Europe](#)

“Holliday’s *Cro-Magnon* achieves one of the rare of academic literary feats— making research compulsively readable. This clear-eyed yet optimistic work leaves the reader more aware of the resonance of human experience and our eternal ties to environment. Timely and timeless.” –

Lindsay Cronk on *Cro-Magnon*

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First Viral Images: Maerten de Vos, Antwerp Print,

and the Early Modern Globe by Stephanie Porras

Stephanie Porras, an art historian and associate professor at Tulane, brings early modern art history to life in *First Viral Images*.

[The First Viral Images: Maerten de Vos, Antwerp Print, and the Early Modern Globe](#)

“Covering a dazzling array of religio-cultural geographies, Porras shows how the movement and evolution of specific, mass-circulated early-modern images expose negotiations and impositions of knowledge, power, and community. Speaking to a number of academic fields (and to a contemporary era of memes, influencers, and virtual virality), this thoroughly researched, far-reaching study speaks powerfully to notions of the iconic image as a world-shaping instrument and as a record of how worlds have already been shaped.” - Golan Moskovitz on Viral Images

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Regenerating Romanticism: Botany, Sensibility, and Originality in British Literature, 1750-1830
by Melissa Bailes

Melissa Bailes, an associate professor specializing in British literature and the natural sciences, explores the intersections between botany, literature, and originality during the Romantic period in *Regenerating Romanticism*.

[Regenerating Romanticism: Botany, Sensibility, and Originality in British Literature, 1750–1830](#)

“*Regenerating Romanticism* is a very well argued and very well written book will be important to the field of literary studies broadly. It reflects on the limitations of the romantic studies, which have suffered due to the weight a group of male writers have received, and the artificial separation between literary and scientific writing of its time. Bailes cites Erasmus Darwin's important poem as the ‘Straw man’ on which the field of literature and nature writing separated. This separation also made it so that women writers who tended to write about nature were further discounted from the literary canon.” – Yuri Herrera on *Regenerating Romanticism*