

A May Booksense Pick

LUNCHEON OF THE BOATING PARTY

From the bestselling author of *Girl in Hyacinth Blue*



Susan Vreeland

“An amazingly engrossing reinvigoration of the lives of the individuals who modeled for Renoir...lovely prose...a riveting, complex novel.”

--*Booklist* (starred review)

“Vreeland's love for Renoir is made palpable in this brilliant reconstruction.”

--*Kirkus*

“Vreeland achieves a detailed and surprising group portrait, individualized and immediate.”

--*Publishers Weekly*

Praise for Susan Vreeland's *Girl in Hyacinth Blue*

“Intelligent, searching, and unusual...filled with luminous moments...it has a way of lingering in the reader's mind.”

—*The New York Times Book Review*

“A little gem of a novel...[a] beautifully written exploration of the power of art.”

—*Parade*

Susan Vreeland focuses on one of the most well-known and accomplished Impressionist painters, Auguste Renoir, in her latest novel **LUNCHEON OF THE BOATING PARTY** (Viking/**On-sale date: May 7, 2007**; 480 pp; /\$25.95). Instantly recognizable as one of the world's most beloved paintings, Renoir's *Luncheon of the Boating Party* portrays fourteen vibrant and fascinating individuals enjoying a summer Sunday along the Seine River.

In **LUNCHEON OF THE BOATING PARTY**, Vreeland brings to vivid life the subjects in Renoir's painting. The fourteen animated characters include: a wealthy painter and collector of Impressionist paintings; a former lover of Renoir; a mime at the Folies Bergère; an avant-garde poet; a model for Degas as well as Renoir; a celebrated actress; a keen boating competitor; a former cavalry officer and war hero. All these people were Renoir's friends as well as models, their lives here deeply researched and compassionately rendered to enrich our enjoyment of the painting.

The scenes shift between Paris and La Maison Fournaise, a riverside restaurant and boat rental a few miles west of Paris which became a magnet for Parisians of all classes seeking the pleasures of "la vie moderne" and expressing their intoxication with life. The novel also illuminates Renoir's double crisis at a time when Impressionism itself begins to disintegrate, the art market turns ever more mercenary and Renoir must determine the directions of both his personal life and creative expression. By giving voice to Renoir and seven of the fourteen models, Vreeland brings extraordinary insight to Renoir's already exquisite masterpiece.

LUNCHEON OF THE BOATING PARTY TOUR SCHEDULE

•May 3	New York	Barnes & Noble Lincoln Center, 7 PM
•May 4	Basking Ridge, NJ	Junior League Luncheon, 11-3 PM
•May 5	Greenwich, CT	Just Books (event at Greenwich Public Library) 3 PM
•May 6	Madison, CT	RJ Julia, 2:00 PM
•May 7	Edina, MN	Barnes & Noble, 7:30 PM
•May 8	Dallas	TBD
•May 9	Cleveland	Joseph-Beth, 7 PM
•May 10	D.C.	Philips Museum, 6 PM
•May 11	Bailey's Crossing, VA	Borders, 7:30 PM
•May 12	Baltimore	Walters Museum, 2:00 PM
•May 14	Bellingham, WA	Village Books, 6:00 PM
•May 15	Seattle	Elliott Bay, 7:30 PM
•May 16	L.A.	Duttons, 7 PM
•May 17	San Diego	Warwicks, 7:30 PM
•May 18	S.F.	Book Passage, 12:30 PM
•May 18	S.F.	Copperfields, 7:00 PM

For information on Susan's west coast tour please visit her website at <http://www.svreeland.com>.

LUNCHEON OF THE BOATING PARTY

Susan Vreeland

Viking /On-sale date: May 7, 2007

Also available from Penguin:

GIRL IN HYACINTH BLUE
THE PASSION OF ARTEMISIA
THE FOREST LOVER
LIFE STUDIES

Photo: Shinji Turner-Yamamoto