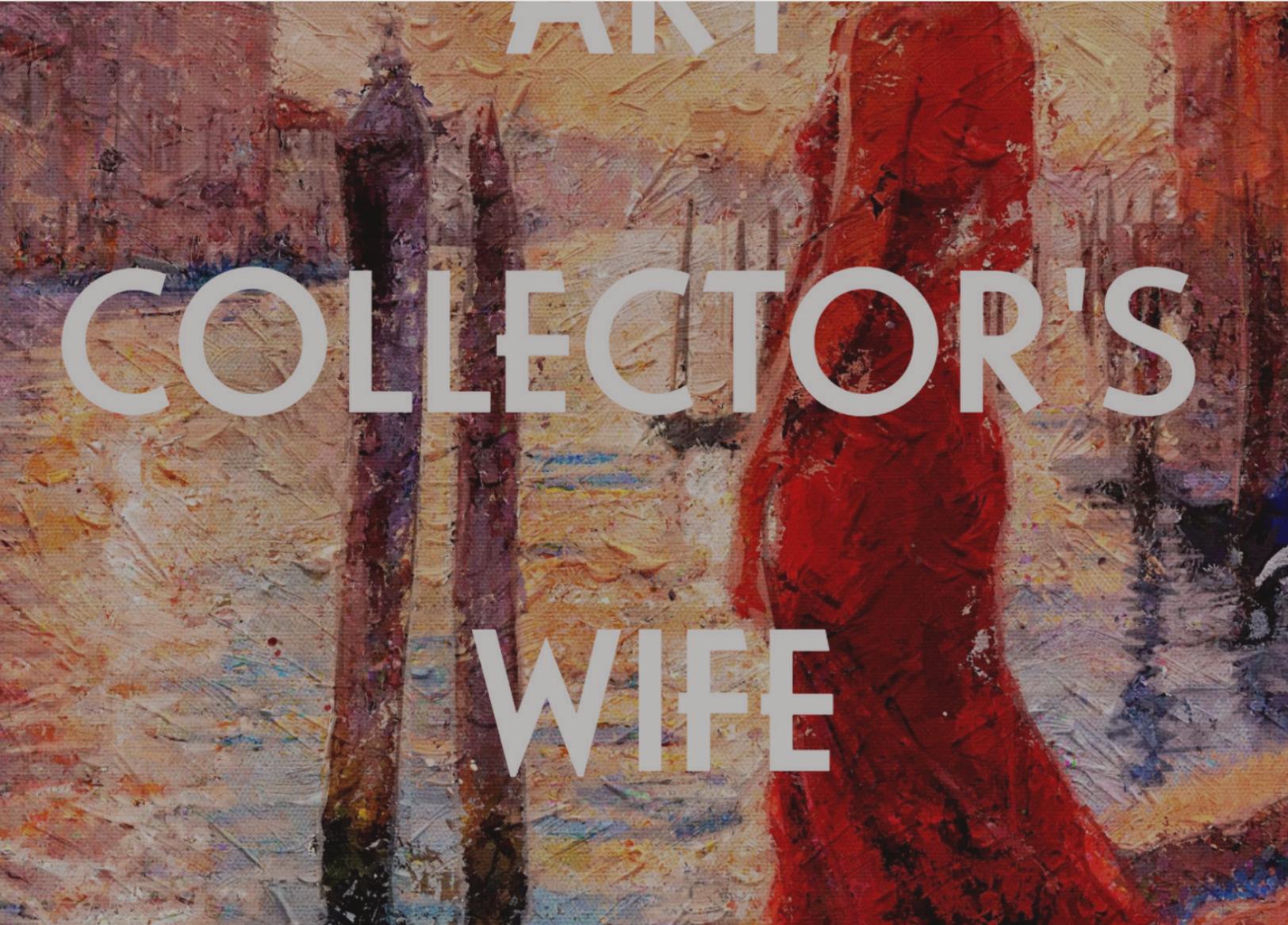


BOOK CLUB GUIDE

A GUIDE FOR READERS AND DISCUSSION GROUPS

BOOK CLUB
GUIDE

SEA CROW PRESS



ART COLLECTOR'S WIFE

WHEN THE WORLD STOPPED, ART SURVIVED, AND A HIDDEN COLLECTION HOLDS THE KEY TO A FAMILY'S TRUTH.

In 1962 Venice, Italy, seventeen-year-old Isabel is shoplifting and skipping class until she discovers a fantastical secret about her Holocaust survivor grandmother Lila: she has stashed away a collection of Renaissance Art. To be fair, it's not a complete surprise: Lila is secretive about the war and that dreadful time before when the whole living world came to a standstill.

ABOUT

The Art Collector's Wife & Susan Knecht



The Book: In 1962 Venice, Italy, seventeen-year-old Isabel is shoplifting and skipping class until she discovers a fantastical secret about her Holocaust survivor grandmother Lila: she has stashed away a collection of Renaissance Art. To be fair, it's not a complete surprise: Lila is secretive about the war and that dreadful time before when the whole living world came to a standstill. More than anything else, Isabel longs to know about her mother and father who perished. THE ART COLLECTOR'S WIFE is a story that travels across the canals of Venice all the way to the catacombs of Paris in search of a family's truth.

The Author: Susan Knecht completed the two-year Online Novel Writing Certificate Program at Stanford University. Her narrative non-fiction was published in the Write On Mamas Anthology, and her short story THE HIJAB in THE GOOD REVIEW literary journal and in the Aestas 2017 edition of Fabula Press.



The Art Collector's Wife

DISCUSSION GUIDE

01

In what ways did the novel adhere to the coming-of-age genre (trope) and in what ways was it a departure from it?

02

What are the themes in this work of female-driven and period fiction that drew you in?

03

Which of the main POVs was most relatable to you and why?

04

One of the themes explored in the book is social class and ethnicity – how is the theme of being "othered" explored within this context?

05

Would you say this novel fell more in the category of historical thriller than historical fiction? If yes, why?

The Art Collector's Wife

DISCUSSION GUIDE

06

How would you describe the idea of "voice" in this novel?

07

What was the central point of conflict for you as a reader in the narrative?

08

How did you experience the resolution of conflict in the end? What feelings did it produce in you as the reader?

09

What does a novel with a cinematic writing style mean to you?

10

Did you experience this in the novel and what drove that experience?