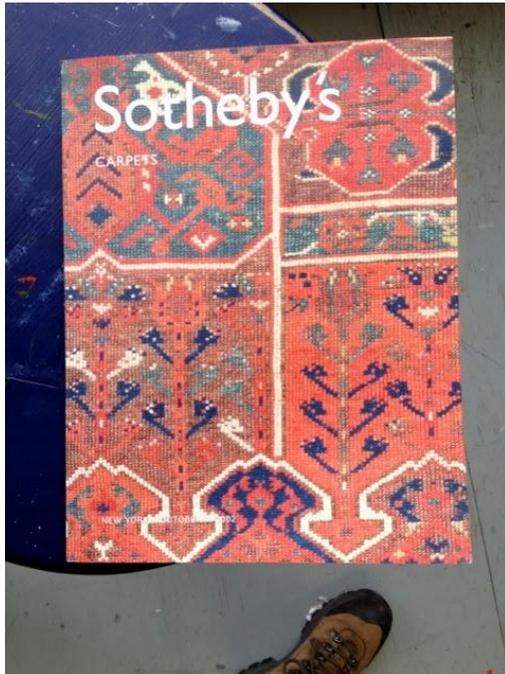


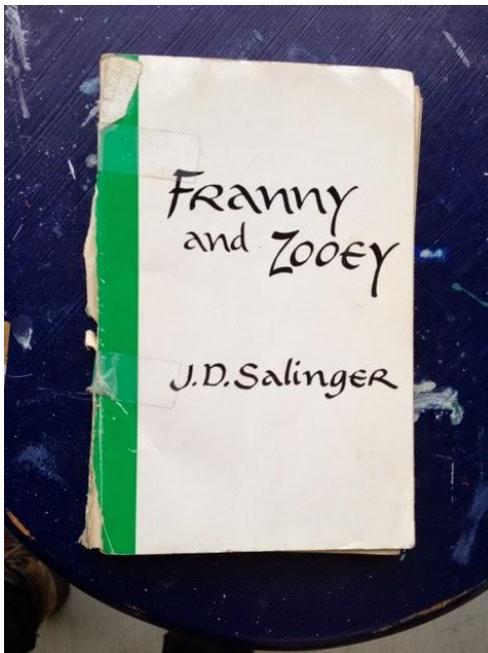
Reading List: Kate Shepherd
www.atlantaccontemporary.blogspot.com
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by Kate Shepherd



1. I thrive on *coming upon things*, on randomness, so I say: Hail the Strand Book Store. The carts outside hold treasures about unexpected areas of expertise. From forty eight cents to \$2.00, they are the dregs of used books. I often buy auction catalogs, however this one I requested directly from Sotheby's, as I was interested in Caucasian carpets for a while. The first painting I made in 2003 that required a computer was like the carpet in this photo. The method of drawing I had been using to create perspective was taping threads to an imagined horizon line on the studio wall- but this was no longer an option as the rug pattern had multiple diagonal lines with unknowable vanishing points. In addition to the bold geometry, I am drawn to the limited palette; this period of dying leans towards blues and reds with an accent of green.

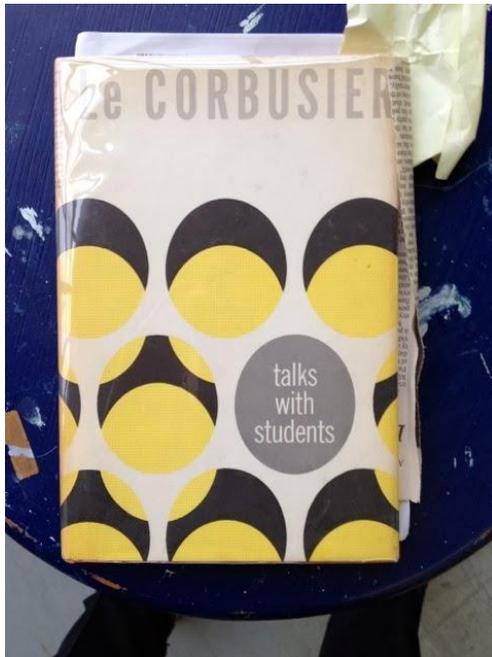


2. As common of a choice this book is, I return to it again and again. The dialogue sounds immediate, the use of italics is hilarious, the cinematic imagery is so easy to imagine. At its heart is the insistence on the ideal and parody of the "normal," yet all the while an argument in reverse: a mockery of standards and spirituality. Then there is an avid embrace of Jesus in the crescendo, to indirectly and constantly see the Christ in every man. I await the year that I have forgotten this book enough so that I can return to it and be surprised again by its construction.

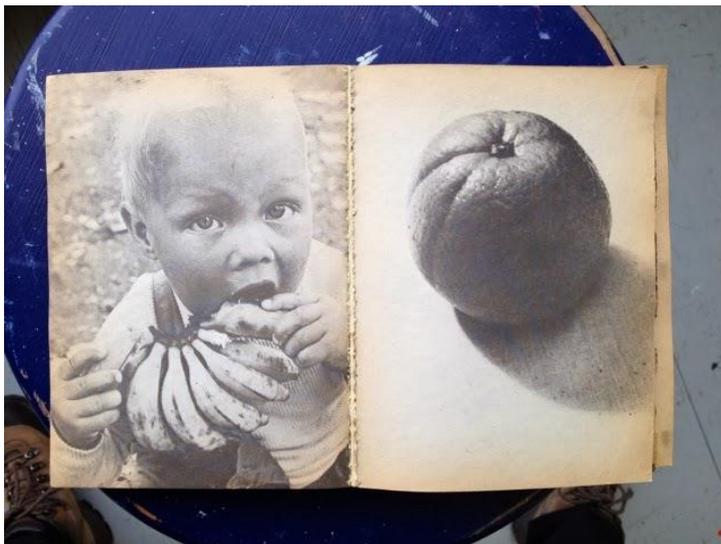


3. Another source of powerful idealism, Le Corbusier aims to guide his architecture students to aim higher and more spiritually. He espouses considering the whole. A subject he addresses adamantly, and which fascinates me as an essential but lost art, is the design of public space.

Looking and moving on the street and in parks affects us subconsciously yet substantially, because in our passage all our senses are engaged often without realizing it. For Le Corbusier, architecture is the experience we have transitioning from the micro to the macro, from our intimate quarters to the general public flow of traffic. The passion in these talks is dumbfounding at times; I read only a bit at a time. Later came Jane Jacobs who wrote *The Death and Life of Great American Cities* in 1961; she disputed some of Le Corbusier's tenets and helped save lower Manhattan from Robert Moses' destructive highway plan.

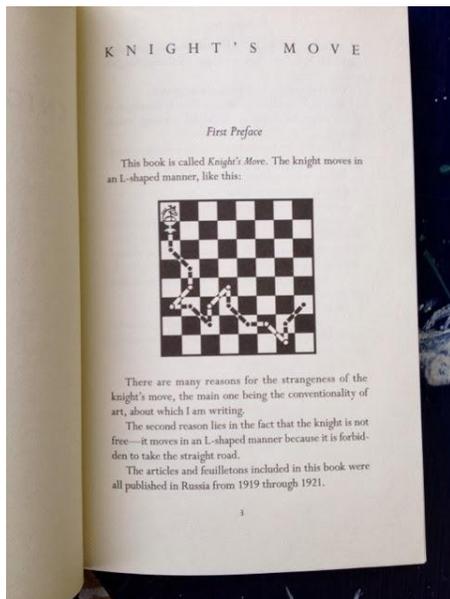


4. Any black and white photograph from this period (60s and 70s) I find to be utterly poignant. This book is from Denmark, I believe, and has absolutely no text. A thick publication delicately bound, every page is a full bleed image, singularly depicted. I gather it is meant to teach children to talk about situations and describe things. Because there is no color, only light serves to give the forms weight and substance.



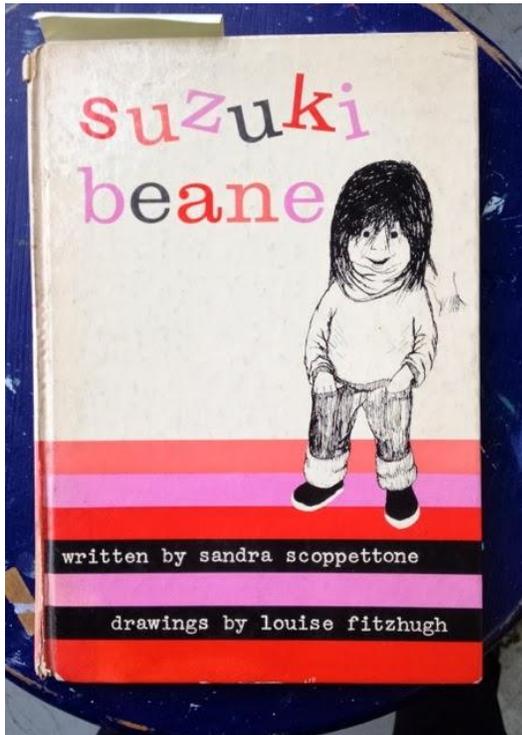


5. I often choose to read books about books rather than books with stories. Shklovsky was a Russian literary critic, and a political one. In this book, he addresses the path of influence which he calls "the knight's move," a term he uses to mean that there is rarely a direct path from one idea to a subsequent one, or from one influence to the next. He explains that there is a jog in the connection as a knight makes in chess. I was fascinated and excited to see a diagram of intellectual movement. When first reading the book, I remembered how I am attracted to areas which are seemingly unaffiliated to what I am doing.



6. Suzuki Beane is another book that uses dialogue, also specific vocabulary to animate and carry the story, which is told by the "wild" Suzuki Beane who

sees the world confidently through her own lens. She has her own vernacular and, at the end, there is even a glossary of the words she uses. She is a proud free spirit who embraces and sticks up for her "beatnik" parents--one is an artist and the other a poet. While holding her own, a relationship forms with a wealthy schoolmate from an uptight household. All hell breaks loose when she defies all the rules and their cultures really clash.



-Kate Shepherd

*Kate Shepherd is an exhibiting artist in our Coloring exhibition, which closes Saturday March 8, 2014. Read a recent interview with Shepherd, by Ridley Howard, **HERE**.*