

## Art Books

# The Ten Best Art Books of 2022

This month, our editors and writers have reflected on their favorite art books of 2022: artist's writings, photobooks, monographs, and exhibition catalogues featuring work by Alison Knowles, Shala Miller, Robert Motherwell, and others.

## Shala Miller's *Tender Noted* (Wendy's Subway, 2022)

Shala Miller's *Tender Noted* weaves together deeply personal, yet intimately familiar vignettes on grief and connection. Through letters, lyrics, fictional stories, and poetry, Miller meditates on loss, both personal and collective: that of her father in 2019, the cataclysmic loss of life since the beginning of the pandemic, and the ongoing mourning of Black life in US, seen and felt internationally in the summer of 2020. In considering these moments not as disparate points in time but as interconnected experiential echoes, Miller crafts a fitting metaphor for the disorientation of mourning. In both form and content, skin emerges as another metaphor, a vessel for memory, pain, and healing within the book, encased in cardboard-like paper with blood red striations along its fore edge, and an illustration entitled "Broken Girl, jumping broken rope" embossed on its cover. While Miller's thoughtful storytelling and photographic testimonials gesture to the etymological origins of the word *grief*—to be heavy, to burden, to encumber, to harm, to oppress—she reveals how the actual *process* of grief is not tethered to its root. From this process, Miller extracts moments of joy, celebration, and soothing, mid-requiem. *Tender Noted* creates a much-needed space for mourning, which itself can be a process of remembering, of coming back to oneself through a continual act of healing.



—*Re'al Christian*