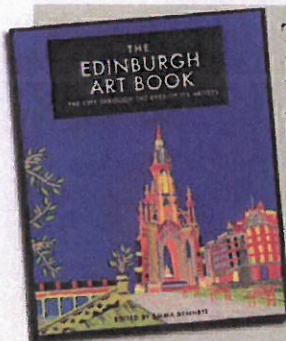


Cover to cover

A look at the latest Scottish books by **Alison Gilchrist**



The Edinburgh Art Book

BY EMMA BENNETT
UIT CAMBRIDGE
£14.99

★★★★★

This beautiful book brings together the works of 67 contemporary artists who have been inspired by Edinburgh's character to capture the essence of the capital and the surrounding

area. It is the third in a series of books

edited by collage artist Emma Bennett, who, for this edition, was aided by a selection panel of art and city experts. The collection, entitled *The City through the Eyes of its Artists*, features the editor's own vibrant collage on the cover.

“A vivid interpretation of iconic Edinburgh landmarks by contemporary artists

Spanning 127 pages, *The Edinburgh Art Book* showcases the city's diverse architectural features, iconic landmarks and extensive history through the eyes of the artists.

The collection provides varying interpretations of some of the city's most recognisable scenes through a range of mediums from watercolour and computer aided design, to vivid acrylics on

canvas and intricate detailed drawings – all of which require more than a fleeting glance. Organised into 13 sections, including Edinburgh Castle, the bridges, Calton Hill and the Scott Monument, the selection of pieces captures not only the majesty of the landmarks, but also the changing perspective influenced by season, weather, time, vantage point and perhaps the mood of the artist.

Not only does the assortment reflect the city's antiquity, present-day life is captured against the backdrop of her ancient architecture. For those who call Edinburgh home or are familiar with the city, this compact compilation – which would have been even better in a larger format – will provide an alternative perspective to everyday sights, while the images work to entice strangers to these streets to visit.

Incorporated in the front and back pages is a handy map to guide visitors and tourists to the key sites featured through its pages and links to the web pages of the contributing artists are also provided.

This hard-backed book is a lovely keepsake to flick through or ponder over once in a while, to help recapture the mood of a stroll through this glorious city.



The Burning Glass

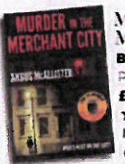
BY JENNI CALDER
SANDSTONE PRESS
£9.99

★★★★★

The Burning Glass tells the fascinating story of Naomi Mitchison, a dedicated socialist and feminist who attacked life with

an insatiable energy and a desire to speak out for the needs of others. Born into privilege in Edinburgh in 1897, she died aged 101 having given birth to seven children, travelled the world and campaigned tirelessly for feminist causes.

Her marriage to eventual Labour MP Dick Mitchison, while committed, was open to sexual freedom and her bohemian views prompted her to spend more time at her Carradale home, distanced from London society. A compulsive writer, she penned over 90 books including novels *The Corn King* and *The Bull Calves*, as well as important journalistic works. Jenni Calder captures the essence of this extraordinary woman in an engrossing biography, introducing her to the reader through her varied personas against the backdrop of the 20th century.



Murder in the Merchant City

BY ANGUS McALLISTER
POLYGON
£8.99

★★★★★

If you are looking to settle down with a gripping whodunit – and a good

measure of comedy – the latest crime novel from Angus McAllister, author of *Close Quarters*, is worth picking up. Set in Glasgow, Annette Somerville is a young single mother earning her living as an upmarket prostitute in a saunas parlour when a serial murderer strikes in the city. It's not long before the working girl realises the victims are all clients. But, as she desperately tries to maintain distance between work and family life she faces a quandary over what to do.

The cleverly crafted read presents several potential suspects, with some chapters written from the murderer's perspective, without revealing who he or she actually is. McAllister, a retired solicitor and university professor, keeps up the suspense splendidly.