

# Merci

The chapter titled "Merci" serves as a dedication section for the book "Merci, The Art Thief." It is organized into several headings, each acknowledging different groups or individuals who have influenced or supported the author. The tone is appreciative and respectful.

The first section is addressed to "my Louvre," specifically to Jill Barker Finkel, suggesting a connection to personal or familial significance tied to art. The next dedication moves to "my little Pompidous," honoring three individuals: Phoebe Finkel, Beckett Finkel, and Alix Finkel, indicating a close family relationship and perhaps a shared passion for the arts.

The author then nods toward Stéphane Breitwieser, described as "a curiosity cabinet unto himself," which hints at the eclectic, possibly unconventional nature of his contributions to the art world. The following section acknowledges the "chief curators," including Andrew Miller, Stuart Krichevsky, Paul Prince, and Gary Parker, indicating the importance of guidance and curatorial expertise in the author's journey.

A notable list of "appraisers, aesthetes and connoisseurs" follows, showcasing a lengthy roster of individuals deeply engaged in art criticism and appreciation, such as Bill Magill, Mike Sottak, Ian Taylor, and others. This implies that the author has drawn inspiration and knowledge from a broad array of perspectives, highlighting the collaborative nature of art and its critique.

Subsequent sections recognize the "early impressionists," naming various individuals, further emphasizing the interconnectedness of art history and influence within the art community. The final dedicatory section is directed to "the muses and iconoclasts and provocateurs," celebrating creative thinkers and innovators who challenge norms and inspire new expressions in art.

Throughout the dedications, the acknowledgment of specific individuals suggests an appreciation for community, mentorship, and the shared journey in the pursuit of artistic understanding. The chapter presents a rich tapestry of names that presumably resonate with the broader themes of art, dedication, and collective influence, setting a reflective and introspective tone for the ensuing content of the book.