PICTURE PERFECT

From city streets to the African plains, images to inspire, surprise, and delight.

1. In Nick Brandt’s On This Earth, Shadow Falls (Abrams), stunning black-and-white photographs show wild animals—cheetahs, rhinos, giraffes, and elephants—stamping, grazing, and wading through the equally untamed grandeur of the Serengeti.

2. See the World Beautiful (Glitterati) captures the colorful individuality of indigenous communities and the landscapes they inhabit, from Mongolia to Argentina, in images taken by fashion photographer Anne Menke.

3. Bodies of breathtaking grace and agility transform ordinary spaces, seemingly defying gravity as they plié and pirouette through busy streets, a record shop, along a heliport tarmac, and under the Santa Monica boardwalk in Dancers Among Us: A Celebration of Joy in the Everyday (Workman), by Jordan Matter.

4. The arresting portraits in Seth Casteel’s Underwater Dogs (Little, Brown) reveal what’s happening below the surface. Teeth gnashing, paws paddling, primal and hilarious, these canines bubble with irresistible energy.

5. Drawing from Captain Robert F. Scott’s diaries, Christine Dell’Amore chronicles the doomed 1910–1913 British expedition to Antarctica in South Pole (Assouline). Photographs from the voyage illustrate the haunting account.

—A.W.