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Holiday Gift Guide

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Gifts Worth Buying a Coffee Table For



LIBRARY OF DUST (Chronicle Books, \$80), from the photographer David Maisel, may well be this year's most haunting book of images. It is a collection of photographs of copper canisters, each containing the unclaimed remains of a patient from a psychiatric hospital in Oregon (the same one used for filming "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest"). Rivulets of chemical corrosion, almost oceanic in their intense coloring, run down the sides. Mr. Maisel's book is a fevered meditation on memory, loss and the uncanny monuments we sometimes recover about what has gone before.