

## Postcards for Perec - A call for participation from Linda Parr:

Covid-19 has affected our personal and artistic lives more than we could have imagined, isolating and distancing us from our friends and colleagues. There have been imaginative online events to help us reconnect and share our practices such as the CFPR Print and Book Festival, and the recent Collage Colloquium with the London Centre for Book Arts. (If you missed these events, the inspirational talks are still available online at <https://cfpr.uwe.ac.uk/book-and-print-summer-festival-2020/> and at: <http://www.bookarts.uwe.ac.uk/lcbacollage/>)

One of the questions posed during the Collage Colloquium asked why postcard projects seem so popular at the moment? Certainly they are cheap and small, thus available and democratic, a good start. They can lift spirits, being neither bills nor flyers. Historically the rise of postal communication in the C18 fostered long-distance discussions on art and philosophy, the sharing of ideas with the like-minded, the so-called Republic of Letters. Today, the physical sharing of post gives us a chance to reconnect our book art network, a Republic of Postcards.

Postcards were sent home from travels, the precursors of selfies from a mobile. It was sometimes an effort to decide what to write home as news, the communication seeming both a slight obligation and perhaps a chance to boast.

Georges Perec parodied these postcard messages in *Two Hundred and Forty-three Postcards in Real Colour*, dedicated to his fellow writer and friend Italo Calvino.



*We're camping near Ajaccio.  
Lovely weather. We eat well.  
I've got sunburnt. Fondest love.*

Help us to make these imaginary postcards become reality, become postal postmodernists in a Grand Tour via Perec's Postcards.

If you would like to take part, please email Linda at: [lindasusanparr@gmail.com](mailto:lindasusanparr@gmail.com) to be sent one of Perec's messages to illustrate on a postcard. Buy, make, draw, collage, paint, stamp or print your response, it's up to you. 15 x 10 cm landscape format.

The postcards will be exhibited together at UWE Bower Ashton Library, Bristol, UK in 2021, and the project will also be celebrated publicly in other ways. Questions? Email Linda. If you are interested in exhibiting the project please also contact Linda at: [lindasusanparr@gmail.com](mailto:lindasusanparr@gmail.com)

Image credit: Postcard by Gin Saunders.