

World Book Night 2023 - We Remember

For World Book Night 2023, WBN United Artists invite you to read one or both of the following books and consider how you might represent a memory that could be used to create a shared experience, a coming together of voices from the past and present.

***I Remember* by Joe Brainard**

Granary Books, New York City, 2001, ISBN 978-1-88712-348-8 (other editions available)

***I Remember (Je me souviens)* by Georges Perec**

Philip Terry (Translator), David R. Godine, New Hampshire, 2014, ISBN 978-1-56792-517-3 (other editions available)

About the writers:

Joe Brainard (1942 - 1994) was a New York based artist and writer. He lists his memories, remembering his early life and New York, a collage of autobiography and the times in which he grew up. He notices the everyday, providing an honest and intriguing eye-opening insight into his life as a young gay man and jogs our own memories whilst painting pictures with his words. It feels a privilege to share such candid observations; life and humanity in common despite it being another continent. He wrote in the early 70s, growing up in 40s & 50s.

Georges Perec (1936 - 1982) *Je me souviens* was a French parallel; Joe Brainard was acknowledged as inspiration in the dedication. Perec being a member of Oulipo (the French group of writers and mathematicians who applied constraints to their work) his list had to consist of things that 1) no longer exist and 2) that other people may well also remember. There is both autobiography and a common historical memory, and this book has been cleverly translated to bridge the Channel gap, the memories are about everybody else as much as about him.

Sylee Gore also sent a link to ***I Remember, I Remember, by Mary Ruefle*** which can be read at: <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poetrymagazine/articles/69829/i-remember-i-remember>

Our memories give us our personalities but we don't seem to hold all memories in an instantly reachable database, often needing something to jog memories - smell, sights, sounds, touch and taste (Proust). Memories can be helped to flood up, and a chain of associations unstopped, a recall from memory forgotten.

So, we would like to receive from you, a memory, to be part of the collaborative World Book Night 2023 exhibition, a combination of memories to document ourselves and our past, and perhaps our future. Using the constraint of something that no longer exists except in memory may jog memories for each other.

Your contribution can be text or image, digital or physical, 2 or 3-dimensional*.

Email or post it to us by **1st March 2023**. It will be photographed or scanned to include in a free download pdf publication for all to enjoy and share and exhibited in the library. In

return you will receive a printed keepsake folded poster/pamphlet with commissioned text and artwork by an artist and writer.

***Some things to note before you take part:**

Your work will be shared publicly in the exhibition, and documented and shared in the pdf download publication, video and online.

You can type/scan your work and email to us as a pdf or jpg to save postage, we will print it out for display on A4 paper (or smaller if you wish). Emails no larger than 8MB please.

Text could be a simple short sentence, or typewriter art, vispo etc.

If you send physical 2D or 3D work, zine, book, sculpture etc. please keep it within the confines of our display cabinets (no larger than A4 for 2D, max 15 x 15 x 15 cm for 3D).

If you want your work returned to you in October 2023, please supply return packaging and postage. Works will be donated to Bower Ashton Library archives unless return is requested. We will need to keep all artworks until October as the exhibition will tour to Hong Kong Design Institute from late July – end of Sept 2023.

If you are posting anything from outside the UK, please do not put any value over £10/10 euros/10\$ on your package for customs, we can't pay to receive goods.

Please supply your name and address for us to post the keepsake to you, and make sure we have your email address so we can email you news about the project. George Brainard will be sending out news and updates from wbn2023@hotmail.com so make sure this email address is in your address book / allowed list so that messages reach you.

We will reveal the keepsake and video on World Book Night Sunday 23rd April, the exhibition will be at Bower Ashton Library, UWE Bristol, UK from mid-April – late June 2023, and Hong Kong Design Institute from late July – end of Sept 2023. The keepsake will be posted out to participants in April 2023.

WBN 2023 is curated and organised by Sarah Bodman and Linda Parr. The exhibition at Hong Kong Design Institute is organised by Jessica Ho Yuk Ching.

Email to: Sarah.Bodman@uwe.ac.uk

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Deadline - 1st March 2023

<https://www.bookarts.uwe.ac.uk>