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Artists' Books Exhibitions in the Bower Ashton Library showcases, UWE, Bristol, UK

Two Hundred and Forty-Three Postcards in Real Colour
Curated by Linda Parr

1st July - 31st August 2021*

Georges Perec 1936-1982

Georges Perec's postcards were first published in a French magazine *Le FOU parle*, in 1978. Far from their description 'en Couleurs Véritables' (in Real Colour), they are only postcard messages, with no holiday pictures at all, and entirely in black & white.

The messages were translated into English by John Sturrock, and published in 1997 by Penguin Classics, in *Species of Spaces and Other Pieces*.

The unnumbered messages describe hedonistic vacations of happy holidaymakers, careless about sunburn and with never a hint of the discomforts of travel, nor the bills. There are so many messages that even if you took three holidays a year it would take a lifetime to experience them all.

The idea of this project was to respond to Georges Perec's 243 imaginary postcard messages by making the missing images, then sending real postcards. There was an enthusiastic worldwide response, catching the imagination of students & professors, artists & writers, Perec scholars, translators, mathematicians and architects.

Sweden, Turkey, USA & Wales. A batch of twenty-four cards rocked up late together, like a group of revellers returning from a party in a distant sorting office, in defiance of social distancing. The card from Mexico arrived a little dishevelled after a journey of three months. Only three were lost in the post; fortunately their images have been reproduced. Georges Perec's postcard messages + the images = 243 postal artworks.



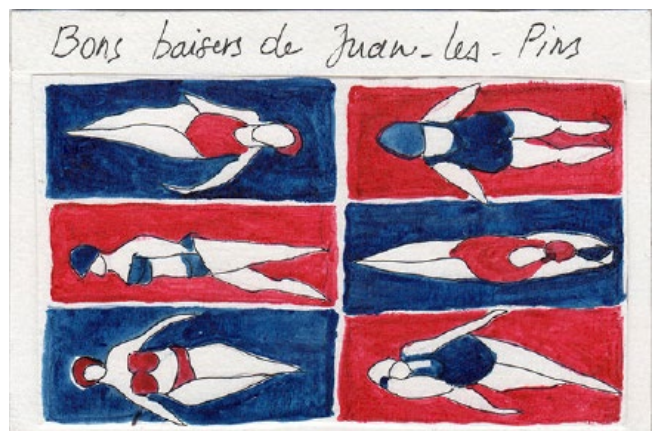
John Gayer (Finland), Hôtel de la Plage

The messages were dedicated to Perec's friend Italo Calvino, both men were members of OuLiPo, Ouvroir de Littérature Potentielle (workshop of potential literature). This group of writers and mathematicians, based in Paris from the 1960s, explored the use of constrained writing techniques, and this is the first clue to unravelling the secrets of the messages.



Mike Dutton (UK), Fréjus

The cards arrived to a Post Office Box from twenty-one countries: Austria, Australia, Canada, England, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Mexico, Nepal, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Puerto Rico,



Marie-Christine Joly (France), Juan-les-Pins

Perec made lists of countries & regions, towns and hotel names, using all the letters of the alphabet equally three times, dropping in literary and historical references, to give each message a location. He then also listed numerous

activities, entertainments, thoughts and greetings before mathematically shuffling and combining them all. A typical message would take the form, "We're at the Pension des Glycines. Weather good. We eat well. I've got sunburnt. Back on the 17th."



Claire Marcus (USA), Cheval d'Or

The postcard messages were allocated to their volunteer artists using Perec's own *knight's move* grid system, which was one of the methods he used to combine the elements of his messages.

In this year of staying at home we have travelled through the Republic of Postcards in a postal post-modernist Grand Tour. The 40th anniversary of Georges Perec's untimely death approaches. His work continues to intrigue and inspire, and through these postcards his messages have come alive.

Linda Parr

MA Multidisciplinary Printmaking UWE

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<http://www.bookarts.uwe.ac.uk/perec21>

***Physical works will be displayed in the library cabinets for students and staff to see, but due to social distancing measures we cannot currently welcome visitors.**

We will share works with the public online via UWE Bristol Library's Twitter feed at: <https://twitter.com/UWELibrary>
Up to date library info can be found here: <https://www.uwe.ac.uk/study/library/coronavirus-library-guidance>

Every Day & Special Days

Bainbridge Island Museum of Art, WA, USA

2nd July - 22nd September 2021

This new rotation from the Cynthia Sears Artists' Books Collection takes you on a journey from daily delights and mundane activities to once-in-a-lifetime events. Time is marked through postcards or weather observations, holding ceremonies, or simply surviving a pandemic. Included are *Local Conditions: One Hundred Views of Mt. Rainier (At Least)* by Chandler O'Leary, *How to Transition on 63 Cents a Day*, by Leopoldo Bloom, and *Women and Cars* by Susan E. King. *Women and Cars* holds special significance in the collection as it was the first artist's book acquired by Cynthia Sears, BIMA's Founder.



The Land, Deborah Greenwood, 2015, Cynthia Sears Artist's Book Collection

Just in time for the Independence Day holiday weekend, Bainbridge Island Museum of Art (BIMA) will open its summer exhibitions on Friday, July 2, 2021. The exhibitions are a celebration of summer in the Puget Sound, irreverence, and offer a breath of fresh air as we come out of a global lockdown together. Exhibitions include *Kurt Solmssen: The Yellow Boat*, *Nancy Callan & Katherine Gray: The Clown in Me Loves You*, *Trimpin: Hear & Now*, and a new artist's book exhibition called *Every Day & Special Days*. The exhibitions are open daily from 10am-5pm and admission is free.

The Museum is just steps away from the Bainbridge Island ferry terminal at 550 Winslow Way East, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110, USA. Complete exhibition listings can be found at <https://www.biartmuseum.org/exhibitions/>

Rawie and Pesapane: Poetry in Drawings

Huis van het boek, Den Haag, The Netherlands

Until 15th August 2021

This spring, House of the Book is organising the exhibition *Rawie and Pesapane: Poetry in Drawings*. On the occasion of Jean Pierre Rawie's 70th birthday this spring, the museum is preparing an intimate exhibition. In it, Pesapane's fascinating and sometimes disturbing drawings can be admired along with Rawie's penetrating poems about love and death. This jubilee year of Rawie is reason for Huis van het boek to provide insight into the creative process of the special bibliophile edition *Parallellen* (2017). This book by De Carbolineum Pers by Boris Rousseeuw from Kalmthout is based on the unique collaboration between poet and artist, with the motto: "You played as a child under a different sky" (Cesare Pavese).

Elisa Pesapane chose ten poems about love and death from the oeuvre of Jan Pierre Rawie for the book. She linked existing works of her hand to these poems. She says about this: They are autonomous works that meet on the pages of the book, and are interconnected in the universal themes of love and death. These poems and the original drawings can be seen in the exhibition, as well as documentation and tests. that illustrate the making process.

About the book *Parallels*, Ronald Ohlsen said to Tzum in 2017: "The irrepressible urge to bring text and image