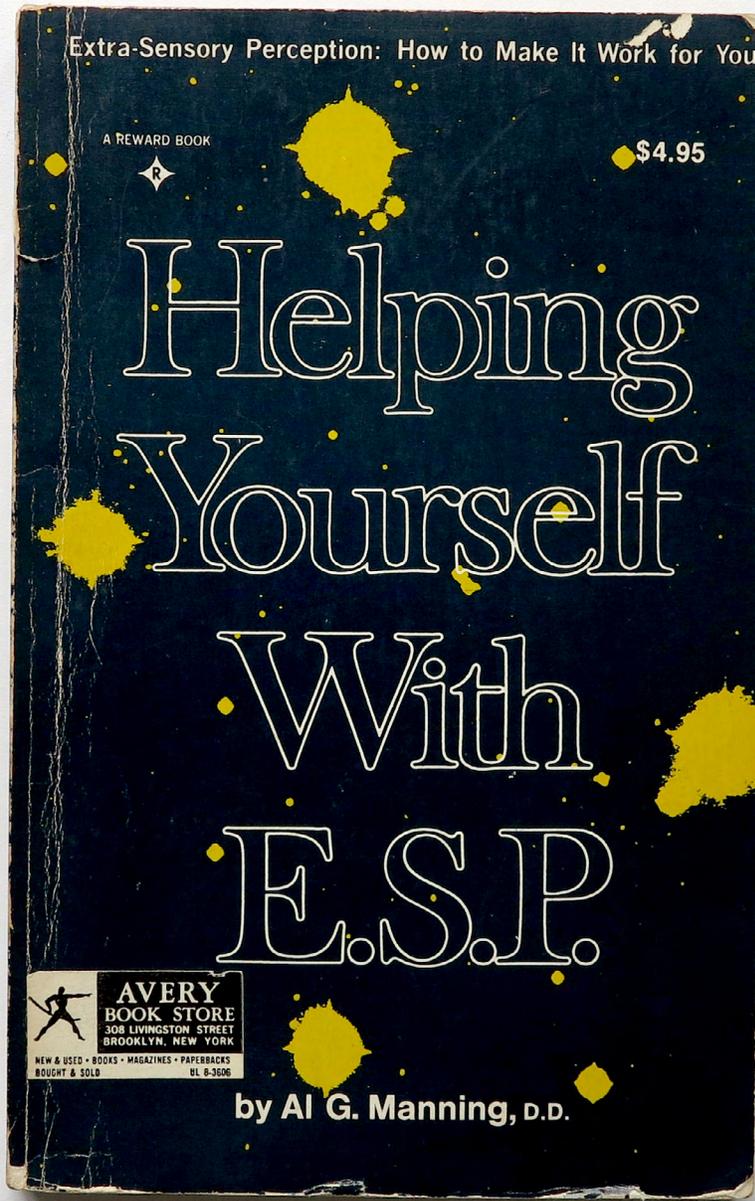


MCAD  
COMMONS

THE LIBRARY  
OF UNREAD BOOKS  
HEMAN CHONG & RENÉE STAAL

# STUDY GUIDE SECONDARY SCHOOL



## MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART & DESIGN

Housed within the stunning architecture of the College of Saint Benilde's School of Design and Art (SDA), designed by local architect Ed Calma, the Museum of Contemporary Art and Design (MCAD) is the only space in the Philippines that approximates an international contemporary art museum and gallery space.

Located within an art college, MCAD's programmes are molded in line with the school's courses: film, fashion design, animation, multimedia art, photography, arts management, production design, technical theater, architecture, as well as music production. In step with this, MCAD produces outstanding exhibitions with world-wide standards by collaborating with professional artists and curators, both local and international.

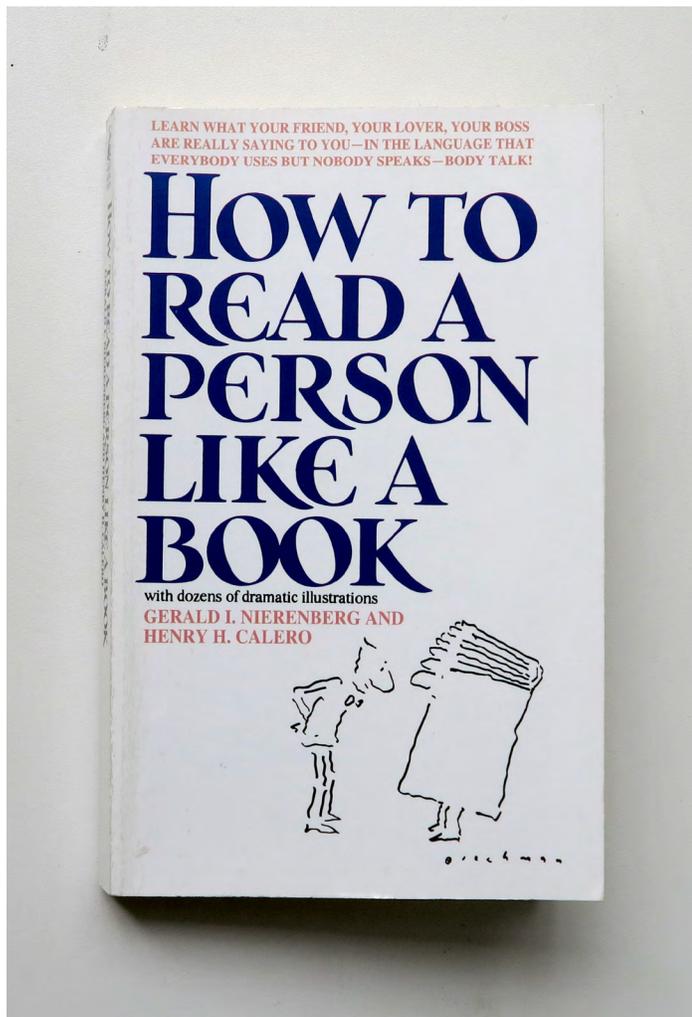
MCAD provides the experience and exposure to contemporary art works, usually only found outside the country. Its contemporary art exhibitions, projects, as well as other cultural and art-inspired undertakings showcase the possibilities of technology and new media through its internationally-designed programme of contemporary art exhibitions enhanced by an ever-widening educational platform.

## MCAD COMMONS

MCAD Commons is as an upcoming exhibition programme of the Museum of Contemporary Art and Design, Manila. It is conceptualised as a programmed space that is removed from the main gallery space of the museum.

Conceived as a project to continue the expanding activities of the museum, MCAD Commons brings MCAD's singular programming to a larger audience that allows for the engagement with creative development, ideas exchange, and support of the artistic process across the areas of research, art practice, and curatorial discourse.

Following the thinking that art is reproducible, the choice of space is developed in-step with the creative formation of the show rather than as a passive, neutral receptacle. The varied formations of the shows will tie in with the community that sustains the site and the process of art making.



## THE LIBRARY OF UNREAD BOOKS HEMAN CHONG & RENÉE STAAL

29 June – 26 August 2017

Tuesdays to Saturdays

5<sup>th</sup> Floor, First United Bldg, 413 Escolta St,  
Binondo, Manila 1006 Philippines

The second iteration of a ten-year-long project, *The Library of Unread Books* develops from the artist's deep-seated longing for books. Open to the public, the reference library is made up of donated books that are unread by their previous owners. By receiving and revealing that which people choose not to read, the Library is the result of a collective gesture that traces the perimeters of unwanted knowledge.

# PRE-VISIT

## VISIT A FRIEND'S LIBRARY

- 1 You and your friend can visit each other's personal libraries. Make a list of the books he/she has. Take note of the following:
  - Do you have the same books? Do you have different books from one another?
  - What are the books in his/her library mostly about? Do you share the same preferences?
  - Are there any books that stand out in his/her collection? Why do you think so?
  - Do you share the same modes of acquiring books for your libraries? Are most of your books bought, borrowed, or given? Why do you think a particular method of getting books stands out for your library?
  - What are the reasons for having unread books in your libraries? What makes you keep them in your collections? Have you ever thought of giving or donating them? Why or why not?
- 2 Make a shared library with your friend (or make a new friend by creating a shared library)
  - To make this new library, you and other persons can gather and combine your books.
  - Make a table listing down the books you have in your shared library as well as the reasons or methods why or how you have them. You will be needing this for your museum visit.

## WHAT TO EXPECT

Talk about your expectations of the exhibition. What kind of books do you think you'll see? Do you think you'll see books similar to those in your shared collection in the Library of Unread Books? Will you have the same reasons of leaving books unread just like the donors of the exhibit? Speculate as to why these books were unread and donated. Jot down your answers.

# VISIT

## EXPLORE THE EXHIBIT

You can try these activities during the museum visit with your friend:

- 1 Have a book hunt!
  - Bring your table listing down the books you and your friend have in your shared library.
  - Try hunting down these books in the exhibit. You can also search for the unread books you have.
  - At the back of your table, make a reflection.
    - a How did you feel when you saw your favorite books in the in the Library of Unread Books? Do you agree with the reasons on as to why the donors gave away those books? Will you donate your favorite books? Why or why not?
    - b How did you feel when saw your unread books in the exhibit too? Do you agree with the reasons on as to why the donors gave away those books? Will you donate your unread books also? Why or why not?
    - c In hunting down your favorite and unread books in the exhibit, did it bring back any memories? Have you discovered or rediscovered some ideas and knowledge? Explain your answers.
- 2 Look for books you are interested and excited to read from the Library of Unread Books. Read them while you are in The Library of Unread Books. Why do you think these books resonate with you when the previous owners left them unread?

## TALK WITH YOUR BUDDY!

Once done exploring the museum, share your thoughts and ideas about the exhibit with your friend or buddy. Exchange your book hunt list and your new table with the books you wish to read from the exhibit. Comment about each other's answers and reflections. Let these questions guide your discussion:

- Did your expectations match with what you saw from the Library of Unread Books? How so?
- What were the books from the exhibit mostly about? Were there any similarities in terms of genre, topic, author, length, or type? Why is this so?
- What were the common reasons for donating the books to the exhibit? Will you leave books unread for the same reasons, too?

# POST-VISIT

## GO LIBRARY HOPPING!

In your library hopping adventure, take pictures of the books you haven't read and would like to do so someday, or of books you find interesting for one reason or another. Although there is a saying that one should not judge a book by its cover, there are instagram and pinterest accounts that focus on book covers which you may want to explore. Do you think you would want to start a similar kind of account? What kind of books would you feature?