Draw Write Here!SM

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Volume One, Winter 2015

In an era of individualized communication systems, we find ourselves buried in hand-held devices in public spaces, rather than making contact with those around us. The personal device has permeated public space, rendering obsolete the art of spontaneous conversation between two present human beings.

"Draw Write Here" offers a counterbalance. Without digital interference, artists and writers create work in direct relationship to each other. The resulting illustrated stories are collaborative conversations in visual space. The creators discuss and perform their collaborative pieces, an homage to the oral storyteller and to the physical theatricality of conversation.

This book, Volume 1, is the work of thirty-one Milwaukee artists & writers who collaboratively wrote, illustrated and performed stories in the Fall and Winter of 2014. Each individual was given an olfactory prompt, something exquisite smelling, upon which to ponder, and write or draw for fifteen minutes. The work of the artists was swapped with those of the writers, and they responded in their medium for the next fifteen minutes. As you leaf through the book, the odd pages (on the left, i.e. 1A) show the work which was made first, and the even pages (on the right, i.e. 1B) show the responses. The index on the following pages lists the whos, whats and whos.

Draw Write Here! was conceived of by Helene Fischman in September of 2014.

Tremendous thanks to Don at the Art Bar for letting us use his incredible space and sound-system as petri dish for this collaborative experiment.

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