

RESPOND

#BABEartistsbooksRESPOND



RESPOND is an artists' books multi-person curated on-line exhibition organised by artists' book maker Julie Johnstone (hyperlink <https://www.juliejohnstone.com/>) and artists' book collector Maria White that will be created day by day in the fortnight leading up to the BABE 2021 lost weekend, 5-18 April.

Exploring artists' books is an experience of holding, touching, seeing, thinking. The reader experiences many things, sensory, emotional and intellectual. Connections are made, some obvious, some subtle, some subliminal.

Julie and Maria are developing a project that seeks to explore these connections through a chain of responses to artists' books.

Initially growing out of their frustration that the artists' book community have been unable to gather together physically during the pandemic, with the cancellation of book fairs and the creative exchanges these can offer, they began a two-person response email exchange that has been ongoing over the past year. They responded to the other's choice of bookwork – each following their own individual sense of connective spark – creating an ongoing linked 'book chain'. The activity has proved a lively and rewarding process that has enabled both of them to discover new books, rediscover known titles, to delve into their collections, and to see the works in new ways.

For BABE lost weekend, a group artists, curators, collectors and librarians will respond in turn to an artists' book, creating a unique chain of responses. One person responding with one book per day, with just 24 hours to make their choice. The responses or connections can be prompted by anything: the use of the space of the page, the materiality of the work, typography, colour, subject matter, the use of a word, the layout of words or image, emotions aroused, whatever the viewer chooses.

You can follow the daily chain of this curatorial experiment on Instagram @respondproject (hyperlink <https://www.instagram.com/respondproject/>)

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