

MCAD
COMMONS

THE LIBRARY
OF UNREAD BOOKS
HEMAN CHONG & RENÉE STAAL

STUDY GUIDE COLLEGE

Resil B. Mojares



Isabelo's Archive

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.

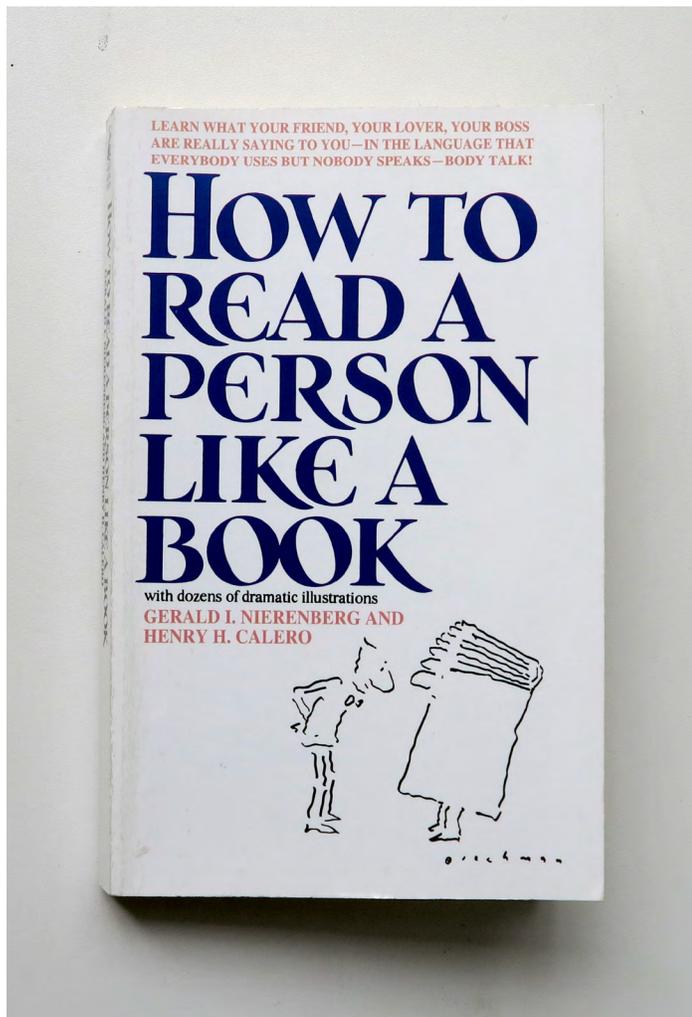
MCAD provides the experience and exposure to contemporary art works, usually only found outside the country. Its contemporary art exhibitions, projects, as well as other cultural and art-inspired undertakings showcase the possibilities of technology and new media through its internationally-designed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

5th 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

You can interview the librarian, asking the following questions:

- How has the library changed over the years? Do students use it more often? Why or why not?
- What kind of resources do you have in the library? Do you feel that these are fully utilized by the students? Why or why not? What are the most and least used? Why do you think this is so?
- How did a digital library come up? What urged you to create one? Do think that a digital library can aid or hinder students in their academic pursuits? How so?
- Are there any changes in terms of responses and behaviors of students with the advent of a digital library? What are they?

VISIT

What are the similarities and distinctions between The Library of Unread Books from other libraries one in terms of concept and breadth?

POST-VISIT

THINK AND REFLECT

- 1 You can read Walter Benjamin's Unpacking My Library and reactions to this. Write your own reflection/insight on this.
- 2 Write a reflection pertaining to the qualities of both a traditional library and other kinds of libraries.
 - Has form information takes and is stored in libraries changed over the passing of time? How can one be sure that information remains intact as it went through numerous channels of changes? Is information the same as knowledge?
 - What does The Library of Unread Books say about people's preferences of knowledge and ideas? Is the Library a picture of society's past and present? Or perhaps it's a comment relating to our evolution?
 - What do you think libraries will be in the future? Will people's thoughts and behaviors change as well? How so?