

# *The Books*

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Borrower's Name

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Date Due

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From Hunan Library

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	Author	Title
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THE BOOKS

Italo Calvino’s novel *If on a winter’s night a traveler* (1979, first English edition 1981) unfolds as a labyrinthine narrative centered on a reader who tries, in vain, to finish a book, continually interrupted and diverted. Written in the second person singular, the novel directly addresses “You,” drawing the reader into the story as both subject and character. It is a story about the very act of reading.

In one memorable passage, the reader/protagonist drifts through the tables and shelves of a bookshop to encounter such relatable categories as:

the Books You’ve Been Planning To Read For Ages,  
the Books You’ve Been Hunting For Years Without Success,  
the Books Dealing With Something You’re Working On At The Moment,  
the Books You Want To Own So They’ll Be Handy Just In Case,  
the Books You Could Put Aside Maybe To Read This Summer,  
the Books You Need To Go With Other Books On Your Shelves,  
the Books That Fill You With Sudden, Inexplicable Curiosity, Not Easily Justified.

For this exhibition, ten participants were invited to follow Calvino’s list inside the Hunan Library, each selecting seven books corresponding to these seven categories. The resulting selections form a collective bibliographic performance: ten subjective bibliographies that, together, shape a micro and temporary library.

In Calvino’s novel, every reader is not a passive recipient but a co-creator of the story alongside the author. In this exhibition, each participant, through their chosen books, not only becomes a character within the story but also assumes the role of a librarian in this “borrowed” library. Each bibliography functions as a model of knowledge, and through the act of performance these models are activated as “co-producers of reality.”

书目

伊塔洛·卡尔维诺的小说《如果在冬夜，一个旅人》（1979 年，英文版 1981 年）是一部迷宫般的叙事：一个读者试图读完一本书，却不断被打断、转移。小说以第二人称单数“你”来书写，将读者卷入叙事，既是阅读的主体，也是故事中的角色。这是一部关于“阅读”这一行为本身的小说。

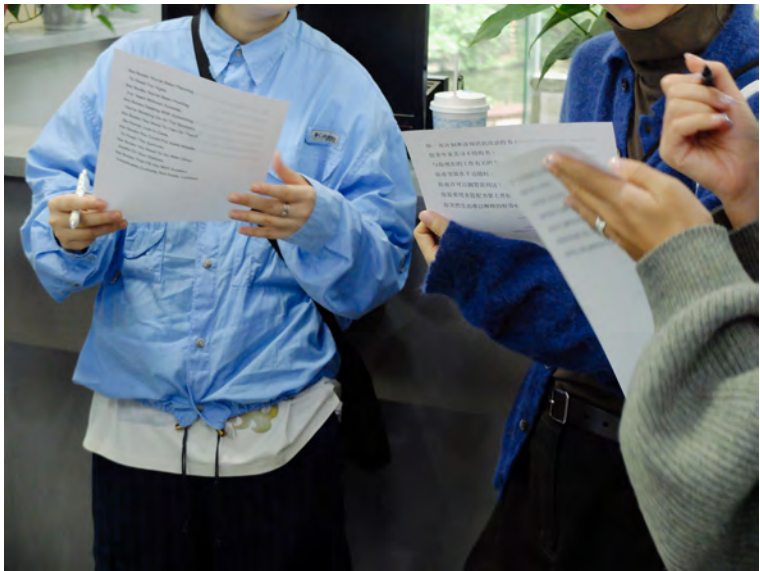
在其中一段经典描写中，读者 / 主人公在书店的桌前与书架之间徘徊，遇见那些近乎诙谐却又极为精确的分类：

你一直计划要读却迟迟没读的书，  
你多年来苦寻不得的书，  
与你现在的工作有关的书，  
你希望放在手边随时查阅的书，  
你也许可以搁置留到这个夏天再读的书，  
你需要用来搭配书架上其他书的书，  
你突然生出难以解释的好奇心的书。

在本次展览中，我们邀请了十位参与者在湖南省图书馆中依照卡尔维诺的书单，各自挑选七本书，分别对应这七个类别。这些选择共同组成了一场书目表演：十份主观的书目汇聚在一起，构建出一个微型，临时的图书馆。

在卡尔维诺的小说中，每一位读者并非被动的接受者，而是与作者共同创造故事的合作者，那么在这里，每位参与者通过自己选择的书，不仅成为故事中的角色，同时也承担起这座“借来的”图书馆的图书管理员。每一份书目都可被视为一个知识模型；而通过表演，这些模型被激活，成为“现实的共生产者”。

















THE LIBRARY PROJECT

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Ruidan Zou, Mengyu Sun, Yue Yuan

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