

APOCALYPSE READING ROOM

ROOM2ROOM

Apocalypse Reading Room: Room2Room – Engagement Guide

During a time of many social, political and environmental apocalypses, could we read enough to shape a new future? The Apocalypse Reading Room is an on-site library curated by Ama Josephine Budge: a world of talking stories in the face of environmental and social collapse, a gathering of all the books we might need to change the end of the world...

A welcome from Ama

When creating *The Apocalypse Reading Room* in late 2018, I envisioned a time when social, political or environmental collapse might leave me stuck in my house for a long period of time. I told myself that then, freed at last from capitalism's eight-day calendar week, I could finally read enough books, absorb enough knowledge, enough dreams to change the many unhealthy and at times catastrophic ways that we live with each other and all other life forms. I thought of all the writers that have gifted us other ways of being in the world, of being with each other. I thought if we only had enough time, their visions could be truly enacted.

Then, in the year 2020 the global pandemic COVID-19 led to a worldwide quarantine. It turned out; I created *The Apocalypse Reading Room* for right now. And yet...

I found myself too stressed out, uncertain, anxious, and suspended by shock to read much of anything. I thought about all the books I had accumulated from second hand shops, online shopping, conference book stands and anarchist bookshops, and I became even more anxious thinking of all the people who might need these texts, all over the world, who now find themselves adrift and far from feelings of safety. So, I decided to bring the *Apocalypse Reading Room* to you: **Room2Room**. So that in some small way, we might feel like we're part of something more than a pandemic, might feel we're on a journey together, even though many of us are isolated or far apart.

What is the project?

Over the next two months an initial offering of seven readings will go live on the newly curated *Apocalypse Reading Room* webpage. Selected guests will be invited to read a section of their

apocalypse survival guide from their favourite reading rooms: nooks, living rooms, bedrooms, attics, garages, closets, stairwells and basements. Each reading will be accompanied by questions or provocations for reading groups to discuss.

The Apocalypse Reading Room: Room2Room has been produced and supported by Artsadmin, and is a part of Season for Change, a national programme celebrating the environment and inspiring climate action in partnership with Julie's Bicycle. This project is supported by BE PART through the Creative Europe programme of the European Union.

When will the readings be uploaded?

We will be revealing each text along with the reader on a weekly basis, so make sure you are following the #ApocalypseReadingRoom hashtag or @artsadm to keep up to date. The timeline for the readings can be found below:

Tuesday 28th July: reading 1
Tuesday 4th August: reading 2
Tuesday 11th August: reading 3
Tuesday 18th August: reading 4

Tuesday 25th August: reading 5
Tuesday 1st September: reading 6
Tuesday 8th September: reading 7

Each set of questions or provocations will be released alongside the accompanying reading and uploaded to the *Apocalypse Reading Room: Room2Room* webpage.

How can we get involved?

There are so many ways to get involved with the project; we hope the selected texts provide you with a source of intrigue, inspiration, joy, comfort and delight!

- Listen to the videos as they are uploaded and share them with your networks and across your social media channels.
- Use our “prompts for reading groups” to engage with the videos in your household, bubble, or reading group.
- Join the discussion and share your thoughts via the hashtag #ApocalypseReadingRoom. We are very excited to see how you engage with the project – share your thoughts creatively via reflective writing, photos or videos.
- Think about which books would feature in your apocalypse survival guide and submit your own Apocalypse Reading Room suggestions via the #ApocalypseReadingRoom hashtag.
- Pick your favourite book out of the Room2Room selection, use our “Find Your Local Bookstore” button to purchase a copy, and sink into the whole world of the text.
- Promote the project with your network across Twitter and Instagram. We have put together some Tweet templates below that you could use, but feel free to create your own.

During a time of social, political & environmental disruption, we can read enough to shape a new future? Asks the #ApocalypseReadingRoom from @AmJamB & @Artsadm. This week's book is [insert text]



[insert text] would feature in my apocalypse survival guide because [insert reason why]. What's yours? #ApocalypseReadingRoom @AmJamB @Artsadm



Just listened to #ApocalypseReadingRoom from @AmJamB & @Artsadm. What's the one book you'd want to build a new world?



We are excited to be taking part in #ApocalypseReadingRoom by @AmJamB. This week we will be reading [insert text] & sharing our thoughts. @artsadm



This week, our reading group is listening to [insert text] read by [insert reader] as part of the #ApocalypseReadingRoom by @AmJamB @artsadm.



Can we read enough to shape a new future? We're taking part in the #ApocalypseReadingRoom virtual installation by @AmJamB, listening to texts we might need to change the end of the world... @Artsadm



We would really love for you to engage in a way that is nurturing and fulfilling to you. We want to create an open dialogue with readers, building connections and community.



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SEASON FOR CHANGE