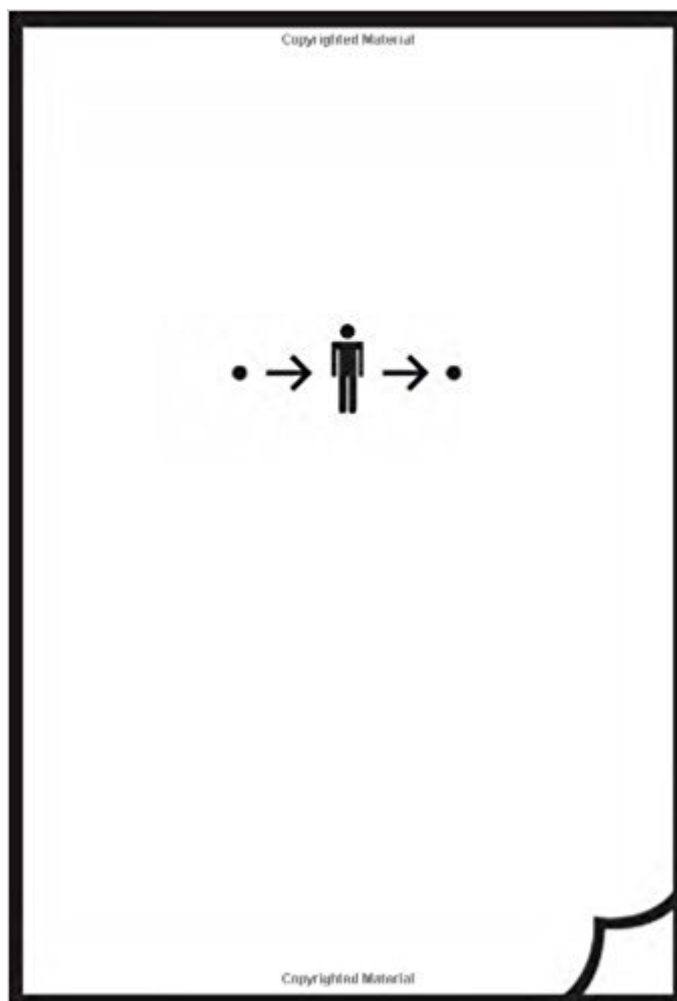The book was found

Book From The Ground: From Point To Point (MIT Press)

Synopsis

Twenty years ago I made Book from the Sky, a book of illegible Chinese characters that no one could read. Now I have created Book from the Ground, a book that anyone can read. -- Xu BingFollowing his classic work Book from the Sky, the Chinese artist Xu Bing presents a new graphic novel -- one composed entirely of symbols and icons that are universally understood. Xu Bing spent seven years gathering materials, experimenting, revising, and arranging thousands of pictograms to construct the narrative of Book from the Ground. The result is a readable story without words, an account of twenty-four hours in the life of "Mr. Black," a typical urban white-collar worker. Our protagonist's day begins with wake-up calls from a nearby bird and his bedside alarm clock; it continues through tooth-brushing, coffee-making, TV-watching, and cat-feeding. He commutes to his job on the subway, works in his office, ponders various fast-food options for lunch, waits in line for the bathroom, daydreams, sends flowers, socializes after work, goes home, kills a mosquito, goes to bed, sleeps, and gets up the next morning to do it all over again. His day is recounted with meticulous and intimate detail, and reads like a postmodern, post-textual riff on James Joyce's account of Bloom's peregrinations in Ulysses. But Xu Bing's narrative, using an exclusively visual language, could be published anywhere, without translation or explication; anyone with experience in contemporary life--anyone who has internalized the icons and logos of modernity, from smiley faces to transit maps to menus -- can understand it.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

While this book might turn off readers looking to escape into a more conventional narrative, anyone interested in experimental fiction, modern art, or a little bit of challenge will be delighted. (Library Journal)

Xu Bing is an internationally acclaimed artist whose work has been shown and collected by museums and galleries including the National Art Museum of China; the British Museum; the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; the Museum of Modern Art; the Metropolitan Museum of Art; and the Arthur M. Sackler Gallery at the Smithsonian Museum. He is a recipient of a MacArthur "genius" grant and is currently serving as Vice President of the Central Academy of Art, Beijing. Based in Beijing, he maintains a studio in Brooklyn.

Rather curious,quite elegant and clean visually

very creative!ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â

Amazing concept and execution. Fantastic!

Lynn Xu and her husband Joshua Edwards presented their poetry at the University of Oklahoma this past January. Lynn Xu mentioned her time as an assistant to Xu Bing and a little about his Sky Book. I was facsinated. Not only did I order a copy of The Art of Xu Bing, but I pre-ordered Book for the Groud: from point to point.I received my copy and have "read" it once. Beautifully realized by MIT Press, the book is at once daunting and completely accessible.Book people tend to be verbal. Since I was a child I have been interested in exactly what thought is and how thinking takes place. It took me years to realize that thought is not exclusively verbal, that perhaps the first from of communication, ofexpressive thought, was dance.Xu Bing's new book is phenomenal. While the book can be translated into words as you read it--you can tell the story to yourself, the pictographic nature of it allows the "reader" to experience the book without verbalizing anything.The bookbecomes a practice in symbolic thought through imagery, almost like calculas.All of this is very heady stuff, but ultimately it is fun. I laughed, not only because the man, the main character, finds himself in funny situations but because the way the book enters the brain tickles.Anyone who appreciates eye-candy will find this book worth a look or two.I particularly like the fact the book is bound with a ribbon marker.This is truly book as art. Simply wonderful!

Brought two and kept one for myself. Love figuring out the emoji symbols. The new wave of reading another language in symbols.

I could feel my mind working in a different way to "read" this book. This felt good. The story and the experience are both fun.

I was really hoping for more from this book. It does indeed tell a story in graphical terms, but it could have been so much better:First, the story itself is not interesting. There's no emotional depth, no clever twist (no breaking of the fourth wall for example). Nothing that would make you want to know the story in itself. There's an attempt at humour but it's pretty slapstick.Second, the graphics are poor. There's no consistent style, and in some cases they are taken from such low resolution images that they are pixellated. They're also very literal - there doesn't seem to have been much though put into how they could be used in new ways (looking again at the book the neatest thing i can find is the opening 'sentence' which has progressive levels of zoom - that's about as imaginative as it gets).The only real positive here is that it exists at all. And even that's not so great on reflection - I know next to nothing about graphic novels, but I bet there's more than a few without text. And while it may sound impressive that this uses only "symbols and icons", in practice that is stretched to include, for example, a line drawing of a man sitting in bed with a red face and a bag of ice on his head (pretty sure that's not a standard symbol for anything).

This is the most interesting book I can remember encountering, ever.If I could invest in this somehow, I would buy all the stock.I love this thing: I have bought 6 copies for friends. Incredible!!

Book from the Ground: from point to point (MIT Press) Ground Turkey Cookbook: 50 Quick, Easy to Make and Delicious Ground Turkey Recipes - Try These Recipes at Home and Bet Me Everyone Will Love the Taste Rikugun: Guide to Japanese Ground Forces 1937-1945: Volume 1: Tactical Organization of Imperial Japanese Army & Navy Ground Forces Breaking Ground, Breaking Silence: The Story of New York's African Burial Ground (Coretta Scott King Author Honor Books) Lerne FranzÃƒÂ¶sisch mit Mimi: Mimi und die Ausstellung. Ein Bilderbuch auf FranzÃƒÂ¶sisch/Deutsch mit Vokabeln (Mimi de-fr 2) (German Edition) Lies Mit Mir! Intermediate Reader 2 (Komm Mit) Komm mit!: Beginner Reader Lies mit mir Level 1 Komm mit!: Advanced Reader Lies mit mir Level 3 Komm mit! German: PRAC & ACT BK KOMM MIT! HOLT GERMAN 2 95 Level 2 Westafrika mit dem Fahrrad: Mit dem Rad durch Marokko, Mauretanien, Senegal, Mali,

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