

Score for Marginal Objects
By Candice Hopkins and Raven Chacon

For 7 to 21 performers
Duration: 20 minutes to an hour

Materials:

Marginal objects (i.e.: things relating to, or situated at a margin or border; not very important; very slight or very small)
4x6 lined notecards (enough notecards for 3 times the number of players; notecards in three different colors, if possible)
At least one pen, preferably more
Memories
Stories

Preparation (done silently):

- Performers each provide 1 pre-chosen marginal object.
- Sit on the floor in a circle.
- Place all objects in the center of the circle.
- Using 3 notecards, each performer writes the following on each:
 - On the first card, write (carefully; legibly) any instruction for ordering the objects in a horizontal row (i.e.: Smallest to tallest, alphabetically, etc).
 - On the second card, write (carefully; legibly) the first memory that comes to mind in as much detail as the space provides.
 - On the third card, write a story of how you acquired, or write a possible history of, the object you supplied in as much detail as the space provides.

Make a shuffled stack of all first cards and place facedown next to the grouping of objects in the center of the circle.

Make a shuffled stack of all second cards and place facedown next to the stack of first cards.

Keep the third card facedown in front of you.

Assign a player to begin the performance.

Performance:

Player 1 picks one card from the first stack and one card from the second stack. This performer then arranges the objects in a row in the order instructed by the first card while steadily reciting the story written on the second card. The action of arranging the objects and reciting the story takes place simultaneously within the same time span (for any duration desired). Upon completing the action of arranging and reading, Player 1 retakes their seat, placing the read cards behind or beneath their body.

The player to the left (Player 2) reads from the card in front of them (the third card), for any duration desired. Upon completion, the player places the card behind or beneath them.

The player to the left (Player 3) draws a new card from both stacks and performs the actions indicated on the cards as Player 1 did, arranging the row of objects in a new order while reciting a different memory. Upon completion, the read cards are placed behind or beneath their body.

Continue clockwise* around the circle alternating between arranging & reciting, and reading the objects' stories, until all cards are removed from the inner circle.

Each performer then takes any one object and places it in front of them.

**In the event of an even number of performers, Player 1 performs their third card on their second turn.*