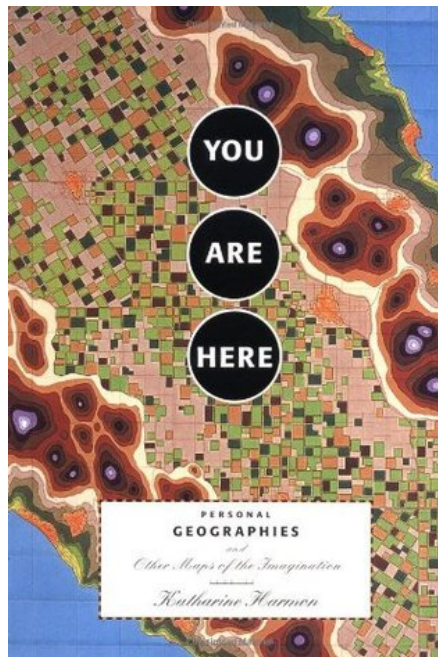




You Are Here: Personal Geographies and Other Maps of the Imagination

Katharine Harmon

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You Are Here: Personal Geographies and Other Maps of the Imagination Katharine Harmon

Mapmaking fulfills one of our most ancient and deepseated desires: understanding the world around us and our place in it. But maps need not just show continents and oceans: there are maps to heaven and hell; to happiness and despair; maps of moods, matrimony, and mythological places. There are maps to popular culture, from Gulliver's Island to Gilligan's Island. There are speculative maps of the world before it was known, and maps to secret places known only to the mapmaker. Artists' maps show another kind of uncharted realm: the imagination. What all these maps have in common is their creators' willingness to venture beyond the boundaries of geography or convention.

You Are Here is a wide-ranging collection of such superbly inventive maps. These are charts of places you're not expected to find, but a voyage you take in your mind: an exploration of the ideal country estate from a dog's perspective; a guide to buried treasure on Skeleton Island; a trip down the road to success; or the world as imagined by an inmate of a mental institution. With over 100 maps from artists, cartographers, and explorers, *You are Here* gives the reader a breath-taking view of worlds, both real and imaginary.

You Are Here: Personal Geographies and Other Maps of the Imagination Details

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Author : Katharine Harmon

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From Reader Review You Are Here: Personal Geographies and Other Maps of the Imagination for online ebook

Sherri says

Gorgeous inspiration of map making of all kinds.

Rainey says

Interesting exploration of the varied histories and possibilities of maps.

Noah says

A beautiful collection of maps, real and imaginary, and essays about maps, collecting maps, and and mapping imagination.

Daniel says

I'm always interested in seeing the world through another person's eyes and get a glimpse into how their mind works. This book allows you to get a glimpse into how people organize, classify and arrange the world as they see it or imagine it/remember it. It's a good coffee table book that will trigger interesting conversations.

Alex Sarll says

A handsome collection of imaginings and reimaginings - from old allegorical maps of sin and redemption as landscapes, or the human body, through to landscapes delineated in unusual manners by artists and children, those evocative opening maps found in the better sort of novel, prospectuses for dream towns and visions of the world as the deranged thought it. Like all the best maps, it's an atlas of possibilities and a spur to daydreams.

M2t2 says

Interesting coffee table book. Beautiful maps. I learned and reflected a lot about a topic I don't normally think about!

Peter says

more magic & imagination.....

Bryn (Plus Others) says

A beautiful book of art that are maps and maps that are art, all centred in New York City. There is enough text to provide context and perspectives, but mostly it is images, and the ones Harmon chose are universally fascinating -- I cannot think of a single boring page.

Powells.com says

In a chaotic and uncertain world there is something very calming about maps. Across all cultures, mapmaking is a commonality. Harmon's collection beautifully documents humanity's obsession with knowing who, where, why, when and how we as explorers fit in.
Recommended by Amy

Maps are magical pieces of paper. Who doesn't love to pore over them and imagine traveling to New York, Paris, Amsterdam or even Weed, California? Maps are reassuring when you are lost, and they inspire you to dream when you're stagnant. Author Katherine Harmon collects maps of a different sort in her new book, *You are Here*. There is a map for every human emotion, and the artists in this book map the ways of the heart, the way to God, the way to Success, and the Way to the Deep Woods. Artists map their dreams and fears and inner selves in these pages.

But not all of the maps in here are traditional ones. One artist, Ronald White, documents his long walks with photographs. There's a photo of his bare feet cooling off in a river, and next we see an artfully abstract photo of some bird excrement. His maps are more gritty than most, but also amusing.

What else is inside? Lots. There's a dense poem in the shape of the island of Manhattan as well as a map of "Loveland." A lifetime's worth of scars on a woman's body is another kind of map, both physical and mental. "Imagined maps" feature the work of Edward Gorey, Quentin Blake, folk artist Howard Finster and William Wegman's geographical paintings. *You Are Here* is a lovely book to lose yourself in, whether you're a cartographer, an avid traveler, or an artist looking for whimsical inspiration. C. Reichstein, Powells.com

<http://www.powells.com/biblio?isbn=15...>

Have you read this book? Add your own review to our website and enter for the chance to win a \$20 gift certificate.

Deborah Mantle says

Maps can be generally defined as representations of areas that show the location of features, such as rivers,

streets or buried treasure. By looking at a modern, two-dimensional map of a part of this sphere we call Earth, we can work out where we are, where we're going to and roughly how long it will take to get there.

And yet, as 'You are here' shows, maps don't have to obey strict rules of measurement or accuracy. Maps may be subjective, emotional and fanciful. They can represent states of mind, alternative perspectives of familiar areas or views of places that existed only in fiction – or, perhaps, in just one person's imagination. They may be illustrations of how the map-makers relate to their physical environments, their social environments or to themselves.

'Humans have the urge to map,' says Katharine Harmon. To map is instinctual; it is a means of understanding 'the world around us and our place in it.' The maps in Harmon's book are examples of both traditional and creative cartography made by explorers, scientists, artists and poets. The series of images take the reader on journeys through time, place and space, as well as bodies, experiences and dreams. Situated amongst the more than one hundred maps are six, short, personal essays that consider the role of maps and mapping in each of the writers' lives.

I've always been fascinated by maps. As a child, I examined copies of ancient maps with oddly shaped continents and 'Cave! Hic dragones' (Beware! Here be dragons) written around the edges and tried to imagine what it must've been like for so much of the world to be unknown and assumed dangerous (and yet, has much changed?). As a teenager, I pored over maps in my favourite novels imagining the characters going about their dramatic lives in their fictional settings. More recently, I compared physical and political maps of the world and thought about how political borders have been (and continue to be) constructed and re-constructed due to perceived differences and/or an appetite for resources.

In 'You Are Here', Harmon sets out to show that mapping is both fundamental to human existence and wide open to the imagination. The only drawback to the book is its size – some of the maps are so intricate it's difficult to see the details. On the plus side, being in paperback makes the book affordable.

'You Are Here' is a book I've dipped into, studied and enjoyed; it offered new viewpoints, made me think and, finally, got me wondering how I'd map my own personal geographies.

Lisa Vegan says

I love maps, all kinds of maps. I love street maps, wall maps, globes, and I especially love maps in books, of both real and imaginary places. (The one in the book *The Phantom Tollbooth* has always given me great joy.) Whenever I start a book and see included maps, I am very happy. I was very excited to find and read this book.

The premise gets a 5 from me, the art (because that's what these maps are) and creativity I give a full range of stars but overall I can give it a 4, but overall the maps in this book were somewhat disappointing to me; they were just ok = 2 stars. The range of how I'd rate each map goes from 5 to 1, but I didn't enjoy them as much as I'd anticipated.

The book was divided into sections of personal geography, at home in the world, and fantasy, but those lines were blurred. Some introductory text is given per section and some descriptive text is given for each map.

Most of the maps in this book are so intricate and detailed, and many have tiny print, so many are difficult to read/view. I actually used a magnifying glass to look at many of them.

Most of the maps are more works of art than maps as I had thought of them, but most are interesting and very creative, and there are also many more traditional maps that are creatively altered.

My favorite “map” was on pages 36-37: Body Map of My Life, which was all in writing and very, very funny. I was going to list several other personal favorites but there ended up being too many, and I assume each reader will have different taste as to which maps they enjoy the most.

One thing this book did was get me thinking about various kinds of maps and the possibility of using graphic means of journaling or using map making as a personal project, for myself and as projects to do with children or adults.

Henry Sturcke says

There are aspects to map-making Rand McNally never told us. An objective rendering in two dimensions of the real world? There are so many other ways to map. What about subjective renderings? And imaginary worlds? This book offers a generous selection of both, although one has the impression that this is only scratching the surface of the territory where cartography and art intersect. The essays and maps brought many insights, among them, the consideration that maps not only tell us about the space they depict, but also about the map-maker and his or her intended audience. Recommended

Katherine says

This was such a cool book - it's had me constantly thinking about my environment and paths and landmarks; fact, creativity, and the bigger and simpler picture.

Quinn says

I am an admitted map freak. I make maps of places I've been, house- and room layouts, even maps of time rather than space. This 192-page, hefty book satisfies on every level. In full color, the book shows maps of ancient ideas, spaces, time periods and thoughts.

The maps may have been explanations or guides, but they are also art expressed in rugs, mixed media, true cartography, and much more.

There are also pages of explanations of big ideas and descriptions of individual maps. It's not an art-how-to book in the traditional sense, but if you love maps and want to start bringing them into your writing or art, you will get page after page of inspiration and great ideas.

Jill says

I bought this thinking the illustrations would be inspiring for my own art practice, and they were. Ed Ruscha was one of the first big name American artists to focus on maps and places--

he's here plus artists that were new to me.
