Revolution
Goodnight
Goodnight Revolution

An ABC storybook by
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“A Klee painting named 'Angelus Novus' shows an angel looking as though he is about to move away from something he is fixedly contemplating. His eyes are staring, his mouth is open, his wings are spread. This is how one pictures the angel of history. His face is turned toward the past. Where we perceive a chain of events, he sees one single catastrophe which keeps piling wreckage upon wreckage and hurls it in front of his feet. The angel would like to stay, awaken the dead, and make whole what has been smashed. But a storm is blowing from Paradise; it has got caught in his wings with such violence that the angel can no longer close them. This storm irresistibly propels him into the future to which his back is turned, while the pile of debris before him grows skyward. This storm is what we call progress.”

Walter Benjamin, Theses on the Philosophy of History (1940)
Dear reader,

As the destructive forces of death, consumerism and despair wash over you in a seemingly endless cycle, how do you pick up the pieces and continue to live?

Welcome to *Goodnight, Revolution*: an ABC storybook memorial to the debris of history, to everything that piles at your feet as the winds of progress irresistibly sweep you into an uncertain future.

The (un)finished collection will put to sleep the idea that historical turning points progress along a linear continuum with a clear beginning, middle, and end. Instead, the ABC storybook will allow you to manifest a version of history that is folded into different moments of time. It will visualize the ghosts that lurk in the corners of seemingly banal landscapes, and it will blast open the quiet whisperings of violence at the heart of capitalist consumerism.
The debris that you include in your own storybook can be open-ended and may include found objects and artifacts: textiles, drawings, photographs, montages, postcards, letters, poetry, mourning prayers, and natural elements such as flowers or vials of water. It will form a constellation, composed of multiple interconnections between past and present, visibility and invisibility.

Once assembled, your ABC memorial will seem dizzying at first. When you lie awake at night, the collection of words may resemble a jumble of “wreckage upon wreckage” that fails to soothe your restless mind. But fear not. The ABCs should also contain elements of self-care, creativity and community. Amongst the rubble of violence and despair are a number of coping mechanisms—crafts, recipes, and poems. As Audre Lorde wrote in 1988, “Caring for myself is not an act of self-indulgence, it is self-preservation, and that is an act of political warfare.”
ABC’s of Revolution, Despair, and Comfort
for atonement, affect, anthropocene, analysis, Arab Revolt, Arab Spring, anis, alcohol, arrogance, angelus novus

for barricades, #BlackLivesMatter, barbiturates, banal, brilliant, bitter, Bolshevik Revolution, bite, brugmansia, baggage, Black Power

for cats, corner, cut, culprit, courteous, continuum, conundrum, combat, climate change
for despair, detail, drone, delphinium, deny, delude, desire, death, door, delicacy

for electricity, electric, eclectic, enraged, establish, extinction, endorphins

for fumes, fun, funeral, foliage, ferment, festive, forbidden, fresh, fortune, fortified, failure, feelings
for gift, god, good, gorgeous, ghostly, gangrene, garrison, gin, glory, guilt

for hope, hostile, holy, horrific, honor, hero, hemlock, hinder, healthcare, homeland security

for imagination, improbable, indifferent, iris, irritant, Intifada, isolation, ideology
J for joy, jasmine, jezebel, jacobin, justice, jury, jeer, jab, jail, judge

K for killjoy, kindred, knowledge, kneed, knife, kneel, kerosene, keepsake, kids

L for love, loneliness, lost, language, light, lure, lurid, lice, loose, loser, lost
M for music, mystical, myth, murderous, men, multitudes, millions, many, machines
Conceived in the age-old Mediterranean tradition yet executed in a straightforward modern technique, with a simple white building group centering about a landscaped courtyard, the Jewish Palestine Pavilion is the creation of four men: Avish El Hanani, Chief Architect and Designer; the late Norvin R. Lindheim, Associate Architect, who died while engaged in this work; Lee Simonson, Consultant Designer; and J. J. Levison, Consultant Landscape Forester. The exhibits were built at the Levant Fair Studios, Tel Aviv, Palestine.

N for nostalgia, noise, nails, northstar, numbers, nodes, nonsense, new, numb
for occupation, occasion, offensive, ousted, oysters, outsiders, outnumbered, Occupy Wall Street

for Palestine, pain, pleasure, push, pull, pulverize, promise, Paris Commune, propose, pen, pontificate, puzzle, provide

for quilt, quote, queer, quick, quip, qualify, quantify, question, quit, quiet
for resourceful, resolve, revolve, revere, rebuke, retire, return, rapid, raid, raw, repeat, refugee

for survive, structure, system, sinful, surreal, The Sioux Uprising, surprise, sunlight, safe, solidarity, sexual revolution, strategy, Syria

for tourism, temporality, tea, tear gas, total, theory, turnout, tunein, talk, torture, technique, teach, tatreez, telepathy, tender
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for universal, unsound, understand, undo, unite, unionize, uniform, unique, utilize

for vulnerable, vulgar, virtual, vanity, vicious, viscous, vine, virtue, velvet, valuable, vegetable

for world fair, #WaterIsLife, witch, weather, wild, war on terror, Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, whimsy, wistful, watch, wash, wish, wonder, whoa, Walter Benjamin, workers of the world unite
X
for xenophobia, x-chromosome, x marks the spot, xxx, xanax

Y
for youth, yearn, yesterday, yolk, yield, yeast, yank, yell, y-chromosome

Z
for zeal, zero, zone, zoom, zine, zzzzz...
The beginning of BLING.

MIDDLE EAST GALLERIES
Dear reader,

As the winds of progress seductively sweep you from A to Z, look behind you to find the wreckage of failed, dormant, or unfinished revolutions piled at your feet.

But do not despair. Take comfort in the fact that revolutions rarely sleep for long.

Remember, you can awaken one at any moment and from any page.

Goodnight.
The End or A New Beginning
Created by Shimrit Lee, Egina Manachova, and Ada Petiwala

For a special workshop with Lara Baladi:
Archiving as Resistance & the ABC of Revolting

The Kevorkian Center for Near Eastern Studies
New York University
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