

DoD MWR Libraries Summer Reading Program



# Dig Deeper: Read, Investigate, Discover



2020 Annual Report



DOD MWR LIBRARIES  
SUMMER READING PROGRAM  
*on Military Installations Worldwide*



**In line with social distancing guidelines, children were able to successfully participate in DoD MWR Libraries Summer Reading story times, crafts, and other activities at home and via the internet.**

# Thirty-eight Million Minutes Read During 2020 Summer Reading Program

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, over 200 military installations from around the world participated in the Department of Defense Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (DoD MWR) Summer Reading Program this year.

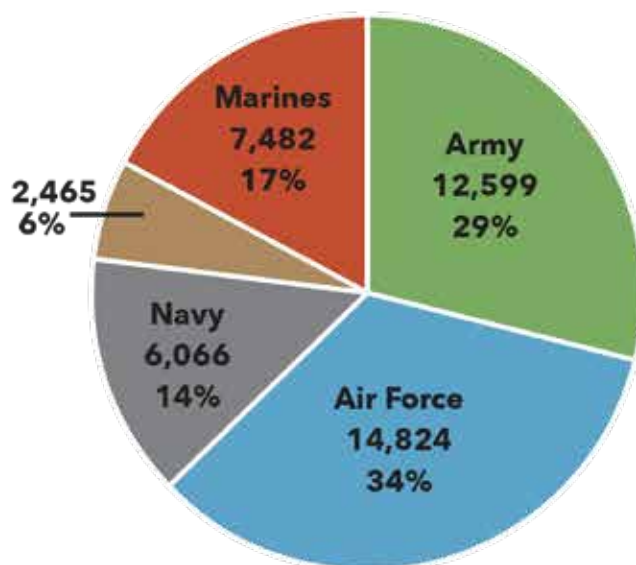
The program, which took place between May 18 and September 13, was open to all MWR customers of all ages. The theme, Dig Deeper: Read, Investigate, Discover, encouraged readers to explore their world. Over 43,000 readers read more than 38 million minutes and joined in a wide variety of virtual and at-home activities.

Teens and adults were encouraged to create online accounts to log their reading time. Most installations also awarded badges for completing activities, such as borrowing a book from an MWR digital library or investigating their neighborhood on a nature walk.

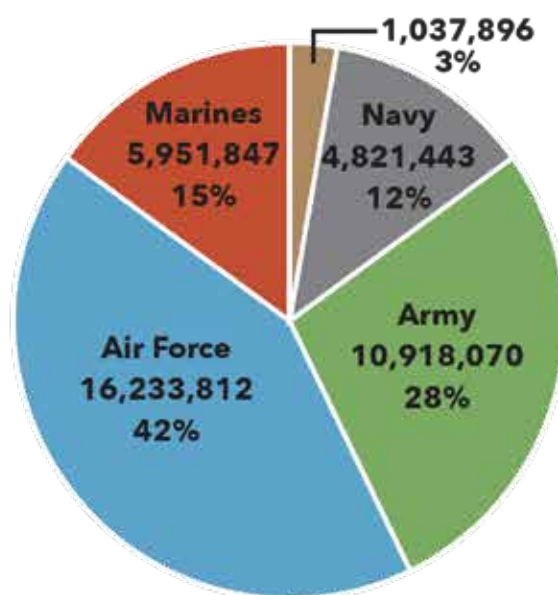
While challenging, the unprecedented situation of COVID-19 provided an opportunity for libraries to develop new program services and communication delivery methods. Many libraries offered curbside pick-up for at-home activity kits, library books, videos, and other collection materials. New technology also continued to play a central role in services, as libraries transformed from mere book warehouses to community commons that support innovation, life-long learning, and collaboration.

Readers could also join the DoD Virtual Summer Reading Program, which was first offered in 2017 as a way for families who did not live near an installation with a reading program to participate. With the pandemic restricting movement and closing facilities, the virtual program was expanded to include a spring challenge and encouraged all eligible readers to join. The online emphasis paid off, with virtual enrollment reaching a record high of over 9,000 readers and 6.5 million minutes logged.

Summer Reading Enrollment:  
**43,436**



Summer Reading Minutes Read:  
**38,926,978**



● DoD Site, Installation Not Selected

# Librarian SUPERHEROES



★ Sierra Hochstatter, Combined Arms Research Library circulation library technician, sets up for phone-to-record. Megan Hunter, museum specialist, gets ready to read *Wagons Ho!*, by George Hallowell, Joan Holub, and Lynne Avril, for the library's Community Reads series, August 19, at the Frontier Army Museum.

Photo credit: Prudence Siebert/Fort Leavenworth Lamp

## DoD MWR Librarians dug deeper to inspire summer readers

This past year brought challenges on top of challenges. For librarians on military installations worldwide, that meant writing a new chapter for the traditional Summer Reading Program. Story time went virtual. Staying safe and healthy took on new meaning. Books, craft kits, and prizes were delivered via curbside pickup. And through it all, DoD MWR librarians used their superpowers and kept kids reading.

While superhero librarians tweaked the 2020 Summer Reading Program with unique plot twists to reflect these unprecedented times, the program's theme remained strong: prevent "summer slide."

For anyone new to the term, summer slide refers to a decline in reading abilities when a student, regardless of age, doesn't read or reads infrequently during their summer vacation. One study, involving children in grades 3 through 5, showed that students can lose about 20 percent of their school-year gains in reading and 27 percent in math during summer break.<sup>1</sup>

Summer slide—the arch-enemy—can be controlled. Let's look at a few of the ways DoD MWR librarians turned summer 2020 into a riveting page-turner for students.

1. Thum Y. M., & Hauser, C. H. (2015). NWEA 2015 MAP Norms for Student and School Achievement Status and Growth. NWEA Research Report. Portland, OR: NWEA



## Create Reading Challenges

During different times, the colorfully carpeted reading pit at MCAS Cherry Point Library is filled with kids. This summer, librarians used the mini-theater to lay out an array of prizes for reading challenges met. Librarians snapped photographs to share on social media and to encourage kids to go for the win.



## Send Books Home with Students

Super readers typically have easy access to books. At Fort Leavenworth, after participating in the Ike Skelton Combined Arms Research Library's July 14 StoryWalk, featuring Leonardo, the Terrible Monster, by Mo Willems, sisters Emma (5) and Meredith Bailey (3) found their free book, Sam, the Most Scaredy-Cat Kid in the Whole World, also by Willems, offered outside the library.

---

## Read Just for Fun

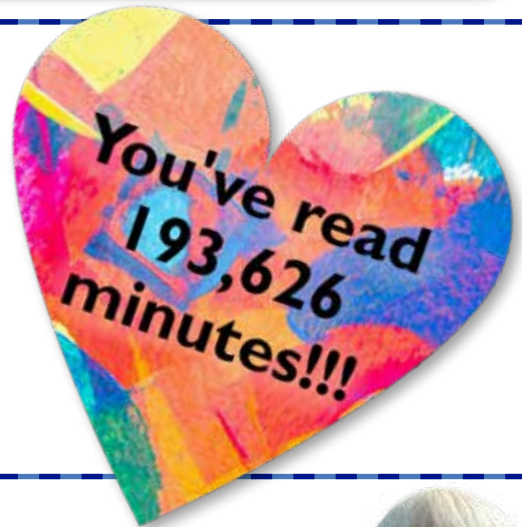
The Commander, Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) Morale Welfare and Recreation Library Summer Reading Program wanted children to discover just how fun books are. That’s precisely what Harlie Fraser taught her daughter, Charlotte, who happily piled this summer’s must-read favorites into Mom’s waiting arms.



---

## Share Celebrations

To keep everyone—from early readers to tweens to teens—engaged and challenged, librarians at the Fort George G. Meade Library routinely went on Facebook to celebrate Summer Reading Program minutes logged. On August 3, the message celebrated amazing Summer Reading Challenge participants. “We have 4 weeks left in the program and plenty of prizes left, so if you haven’t signed up yet please do!”



---

## Bring Words and Characters to Life

Altus Air Force Base librarians introduced kids to the book *Ada Twist, Scientist*, written by Andrea Beaty and illustrated by David Roberts. Then everyone was invited to pick up a mystery take-home craft, and just like Ada, discover the importance of asking “Why?”

At Hurlburt Field Air Force Base, the adventure began with *The Tiny Seed*, by Eric Carle, a classic story about a flower’s life cycle. Everyone followed up by planting their own story.



---

## Build Anticipation

DoD MWR librarians use their superpowers to build excitement for each new Summer Reading Program theme—and at the same time, build anticipation for next summer’s program. At an MCCS Okinawa Library, the goal was met, as shown by Matilda, who holds her 2020 reading program T-shirt while proudly wearing her 2019 T-shirt.





# AIR FORCE

## ★ Robbins Air Force Base, Georgia



★ Through Facebook posts, readers of all ages were encouraged to register online for the summer reading program, which came with great prizes, including a T-shirt, water bottle, and drawstring bag!



## ★ Altus Air Force Base, Oklahoma

A May 22 Facebook post celebrated Danielle Brome as the week's Airman of Altus. Ms. Brome is from Almira, Washington, and she is a member of Altus AFB FSS.

**"I am the programming technician at the Altus AFB library,"**

Brome says. "I plan, create, and implement fun and exciting activities and events to encourage airmen and their families to incorporate reading into their lifestyles."

Ms. Brome does whatever it takes to get people excited about reading, whether its through dressing up as story characters or challenging patrons in reading competitions. In addition, Ms. Brome tries to do outreach programs with the Youth Center and Child Development Center.

"Altus AFB library's mission is to support the education of Airmen, provide material to essential offices needed for the mission, and provide quality of life products for Airmen and families," she explains. "My position is to fulfill the quality of life section of our mission through the variety of programs offered at the library."

Ms. Brome is a self-proclaimed Harry Potter nerd! "If anyone ever wants to challenge me to a friendly game of Harry Potter trivia, I am ready," she says.

Ms. Brome, thank you for all you do to support the Airmen and families of Mobility's Hometown!

*Photo credit: Staff Sgt. Cody Dowell*

★ Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota

★ On June 20, Minot Air Force Base Library used Facebook to promote early literacy and a virtual Baby and Me Story Time. Minot AFB asked: Did you know by reading your child just 1 book a day they will start kindergarten having absorbed 290,000 new words?



★ Osan Air Force Base, Pyeongtaek, South Korea



★ Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi

★ Family of Champions (left to right): Trevyn Shields (Children's Winner), Melissa Shields (Adult Winner), and Brayden Shields (Teen Winner)  
Photo origin: Facebook



★ Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas





# ARMY



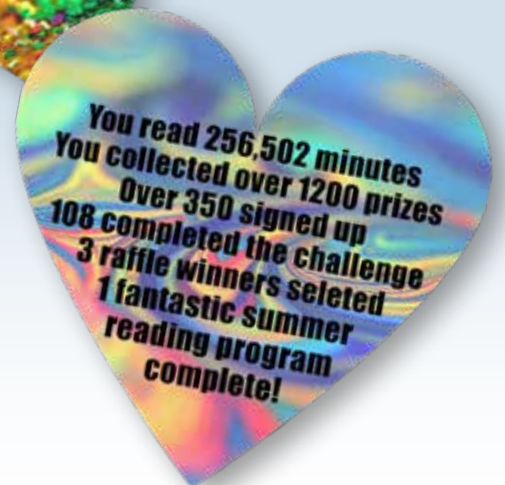
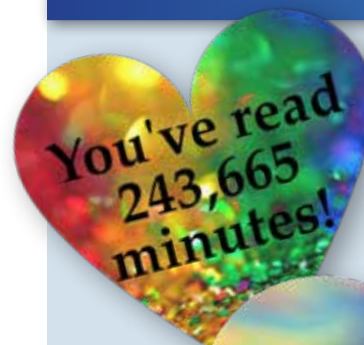
**★ U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart, Stuttgart, Germany**

Facebook posts kept everyone up to date on Story Time with Raechele! This day was all about *Holler Loudly*, by Cynthia Leitich Smith.

**★ U.S. Army Garrison Italy, Vicenza, Italy**



**★ Fort Meade, Maryland**





★ Fort Bragg, North Carolina



★ Fort Rucker, Alabama

Army MWR Library  
June 27 at 9:03 AM · 🌐

The staff at Ft. Rucker's Center Library have been furiously creating curbside (or take and make) craft kits for families to enjoy as part of this year's Summer Reading Program. Pictured are the Judo-bot Engineering Project, a kit educating participants on local Native Americans provided by the Alabama Dept. of Archives and History, and a DIY summer fun kit with make your own sidewalk chalk and confetti poppers. #SRP2020 #readingisnotcancelled #ruckerreadersabovethebest #FtRu... See More



👍👍👍 7

1 Share

★ U.S. Garrison Wiesbaden, Wiesbaden, Germany

A July 2020 online article encouraged reading.

The U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden Library is keeping kids' reading skills strong with its virtual summer reading program.

The program, themed "Dig Deeper: Read, Investigate, Discover," is already under way and runs through Aug. 16. Participants can still join if they have not yet done so.

In years past, the library hosted weekly gatherings to read stories, do activities and make projects. This year's program is more self-directed, said Library Director JoAnn Ogreenc.

"The focus continues to be reading," she said. "The whole point of why libraries do summer reading programs is to prevent summer slide, where kids lose their reading skills."

Besides reading and logging those minutes, activities include painting rocks and hiding them in the community for others to enjoy, and word searches.

The program is divided into four categories with different age and grade requirements. Children can sign up in their appropriate age group and log their minutes spent reading to earn tickets that they can then enter to win prizes, just like in years past, except it's all done online. Additional tickets can be earned by participating in various challenges throughout the summer. Prizes include games, sports balls, experiments and activities, geared to the age of the children in the category. Categories include a family program for kids up to age 4, ages 5-12, teens 13-17, and adults 18 and up.



Dig Deeper

Read. Investigate. Discover

Summer Reading Program for all ages

<https://usagwiesbaden.beanstack.org>

Photo credit: Emily Jennings



# MARINE CORPS

## ★ MCAS Yuma, Arizona



★ Mad scientist costume contest



★ Teen prize winner

## ★ MCAS Miramar, California



★ Grand prize winner

## ★ MCB Hawaii



★ Make-and-take art project

★ MCCS Camp Pendleton, California



★ MCB Camp Butler, Okinawa, Japan



★ The slime program went virtual.

★ MCAS Cherry Point, North Carolina



★ Sarah Newton, the Marine Corps Community Services youth services and programming manager, showed off a bottle of slime at the Marine Warrior Library, July 15, 2020. A bottle of slime is a popular Summer Reading Program prize every year. With COVID-19 affecting normal indoor summer activities, the library offered the slime presentation and the entire reading program virtually.

Photo credit: Cpl. Alexandra Santos Arambulo

★ MCLB Barstow, California



Colonel Craig Clemans, base commanding officer, and Sgt. Major Edward Kretschmer, base sergeant major, pose with the families of the children involved in the Summer Reading Program held aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California, Aug. 11. The children were given awards for their participation, as well as gift bags loaded with goodies during a recognition ceremony for their reading accomplishments over the summer.

★ The Prospector documented summer reading fun and challenges met.



★ NSA Naples, Italy



★ In regard to programming, the 2020 socially-distanced summer reading challenge was a success with over 200 children and a number of adults partaking. Every week, participants recorded which books they read and for how many minutes to win a prize. They could also pick up a grab bag from the library with an activity to complete at home, such as a coloring page or clay craft.

As reported in the *Napoli Navigator*, August 2020, by AliciaMcNeely, NSA Naples Public Affairs.

★ Commander, Fleet Activities Chinhae, Chinhae, Korea

Chinhae Community Recreation celebrated the contributions of our military police and learned about investigations as part of their Dig Deeper: Read, Investigate, Discover program kickoff.



★ United States Fleet Activities Yokosuka, Yokosuka, Japan



★ Hudson Fraser selects a book as part of the Commander, Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) Morale Welfare and Recreation Library Summer Reading Program.

*Photo credit: Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Tyler R. Fraser*



★ Harlie Fraser and Charlotte Fraser select books as part of the Commander, Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) Morale Welfare and Recreation Library Summer Reading Program.

*Photo credit: Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Tyler R. Fraser*

★ NAS JRB Fort Worth, Texas



★ Library staff provided curbside craft kit and prize pick up and virtual story time throughout the summer.



**DoD MWR libraries**  
 Summer Reading Program Through the Years



**2010**

**Voyage to Book Island**

Oceans, vacations, and treasure hunts

Featured artist: Kevin Luthardt

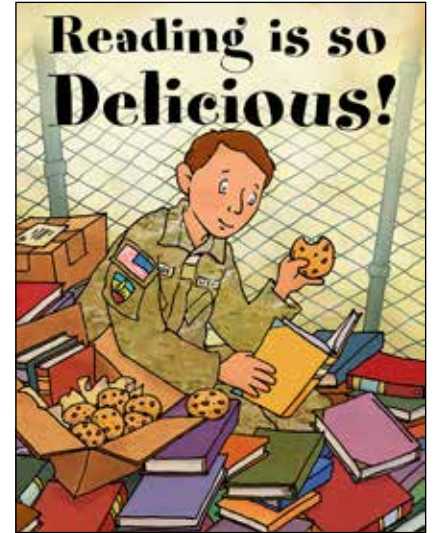


**2011**

**A Midsummer Knight's Read**

Medieval times and fantasy

Featured artist: David Catrow

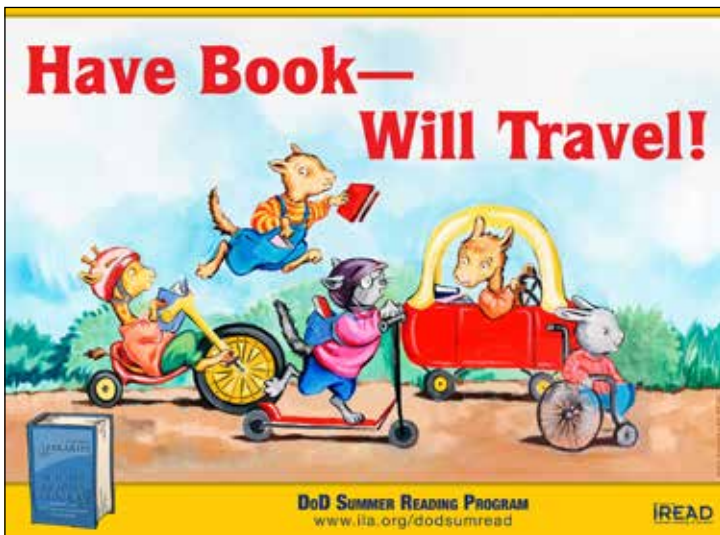


**2012**

**Reading is So Delicious**

Food, eating right, and exercise

Featured artist: Patrick Girouard

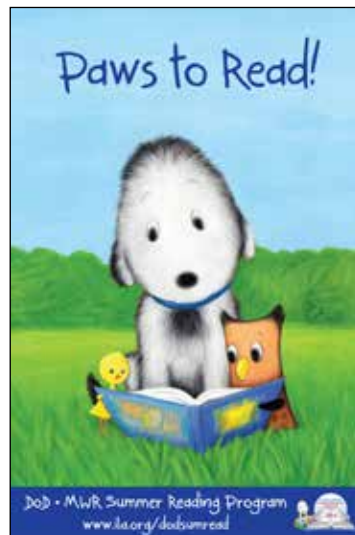


**2013**

**Have Book Will Travel**

Travel, types of transportation, and geography

Featured artist: Anna Dewdney



**2014**

**Paws to Read**

Pets and other animals

Featured artist: Tad Hills

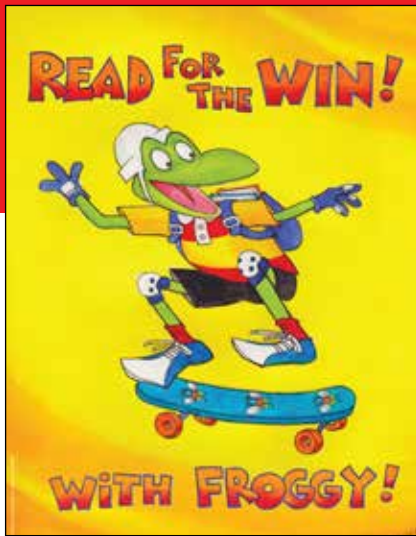


**2015**

**Read to the Rhythm**

Music and dance

Featured artist: Don Tate



**2016**

**Read For the Win!**

Sports, the Olympics, achievement

Featured artist: Frank Remkiewicz



**2017**

**Reading by Design**

Technology, engineering, design, STEAM

Featured artist: Nick Dragotta

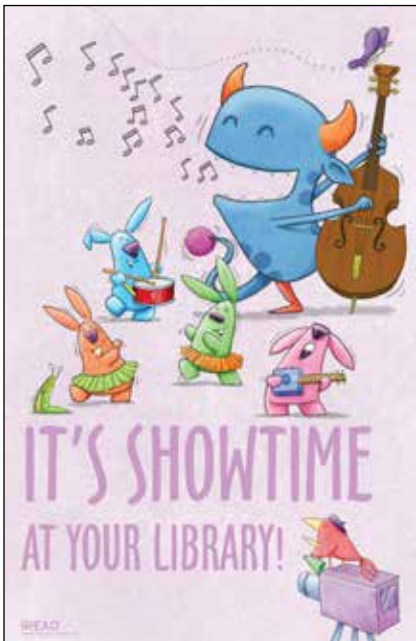


**2018**

**Reading Takes You Everywhere**

Exploration, discovery, and adventure

Featured artist: Terri Murphy

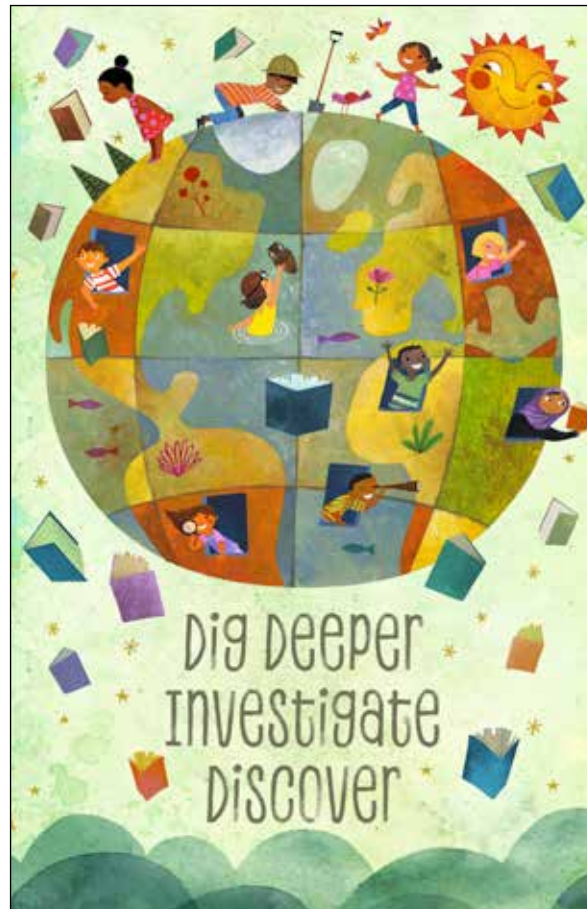


**2019**

**It's Showtime at Your Library**

Movies, theater, dance, music

Featured artist: Kevan Atteberry

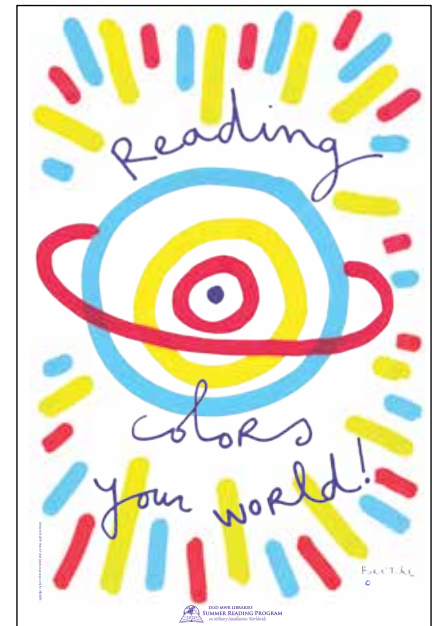


**2020**

**Dig Deeper: Read, Investigate, Discover**

Investigation, discovering hidden information, and exploring mysteries

Featured artist: Rafael López



**2021**

**Reading Colors Your World**

Featured artist: Hervé Tullet

# Coming in 2021

## READING COLORS

Your  
WORLD.

