Memory (the deliberate act of remembering) is a form of willed creation.—Toni Morrison

We think of memory as a creature of the past, yet it lives in the present. It begins with the perception of absence: suddenly we notice the space where a sturdy tree, a familiar storefront, a beloved person once hailed us. By the time we notice, they may be long gone. We stand in the here & now, full of desire, gathering remains, trying to piece together what has been dis-membered.

How do we do the work of re-membering at a time when so much is disappearing around us: histories, languages, rights, wrongs, whole species, entire cities, those you have loved, those you never knew? What tools do we need to train our senses on the moment of disappearance—what the poet Polina Barskova calls the half-minute foretaste of ashes—and through memory, refuse obliteration?

In this two-hour remote workshop, Q.M. Zhang will share with you some of the creative tools and practices of memory work that emerged through the making of her book, Accomplice to Memory. She will offer readings and writing provocations to guide you in your own sites of re-membering. You will experiment with hybrid forms of writing and leave the workshop with words on the page. There will be a Q&A at the end of the workshop.

Please Note: This workshop is being offered at a time convenient for writers and artists in the Asia Pacific region. Creatives in all parts of the world are welcome to join. Workshop readings and writing prompts will be offered in English. Participants are invited to write in any language that feels necessary and urgent for them.

Registration closes on September 15, 2023. All registered participants will receive a Zoom link one week in advance of the workshop.

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