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Get ready to "eat your words" at the International Edible Book Festival at Portland Public Library on April 4th, 2007. Register now to enter.

Portland, Maine: Join local artists, chefs, bakers and other creative folks as they exhibit their best use of food products as art. The International Edible Book Festival is an annual event that takes place the first week of April throughout the world. This is the third Edible Book Festival for the Portland Public Library. Participants create "books" out of food products that are exhibited, documented, then eaten. The only rule is to make edible art that has something to do with books as shapes and/or content. Examples of past years' books include "The Crepes of Wrath," "The Dablini Code," and "A Parfait of the Artist as a Young Man." Images of this world celebration are posted at www.Books2Eat.com.

The Edible Book Festival was initiated by Judith A. Hoffberg over a Thanksgiving turkey with book artists in 1999. It became an international event in 2000 through the artist Béatrice Coron's Books2Eat website. Portland artist and professor Rebecca Goodale suggested the event to the Portland Public Library as a way to raise money for the Library's Annual Campaign and to combine books with art (and food). With the help of Goodale, the event became a reality and huge success in 2005. Last year's event had over 40 entries. Prizes were awarded in categories like: Most Profound, Most Beautiful, Best Pun and Crowd Favorite.

The Festival will take place at the Portland Public Library's Rines Auditorium, 5 Monument Square, from 11:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 4th. Participants should drop off their books from 10:30 – 11:30. The exhibit and judging will take place from 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. For \$5.00, attendees will receive three voting tickets and a plate. Prizes will be awarded for the top three books based on the voting and from a panel of judges in pre-determined categories. Prizes will be awarded from 12:30 – 1:00, and from 1:00 – 2:00 those with a plate can dig in. There is no fee to stop by and look, and everyone is welcome.

Proceeds from the International Edible Book Festival go to the Portland Public Library's Annual Campaign to fund books, materials and access to information at the Library. The Annual Campaign enables the Library to provide the very best information, materials and technology to its users at no charge.

This event is open to anyone who would like to participate. You don't have to be an artist or a pastry chef, and there is no entry fee. Pre-registration is suggested. To register or for more information, call 207-871-1700 ext. 758 or e-mail progdev@portland.lib.me.us.

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