

**Doté d'une mémoire phénoménale, George Widener  
archive le passé, tout en prédisant le futur.**

George Widener uses his phenomenal capability for numerical  
computation to archive the past – and foresee the future.

## **WIDENER George**

1962, Covington, Kentucky (États-Unis)

### **BIOGRAPHIE**

George Widener est séparé très tôt de ses parents : son père meurt lorsqu'il n'a que 9 ans, tandis que sa mère, alcoolique et violente, est internée. Il est alors élevé par sa grand-mère, puis par sa tante. À 17 ans, il est embauché comme technicien par la US Air Force. Durant son temps libre, il se consacre au dessin. Il fréquente l'université du Tennessee, mais son état dépressif chronique et son comportement social le conduisent à des séjours réguliers en hôpital psychiatrique. Il est en outre atteint d'une forme légère d'autisme, le syndrome d'Asperger, diagnostiqué à l'âge adulte et qui se caractérise par une extraordinaire capacité de calcul ainsi qu'une mémoire hors normes des noms, dates et faits divers.

Sa production artistique, quotidienne, met en œuvre des listes complexes, calendriers, diagrammes, cartes, codes et chiffres, inscrits à l'encre sur des nappes en papier collées entre elles et teintées avec du thé. Le temps est son véritable médium : Widener tente de donner une cohérence au monde grâce au système de chiffres qu'il met en place dans ses carrés magiques. S'y entrecroisent catastrophes aériennes, naufrages de bateaux, numéros de téléphone et de plaques d'immatriculation, ainsi que les événements marquants de sa vie personnelle.

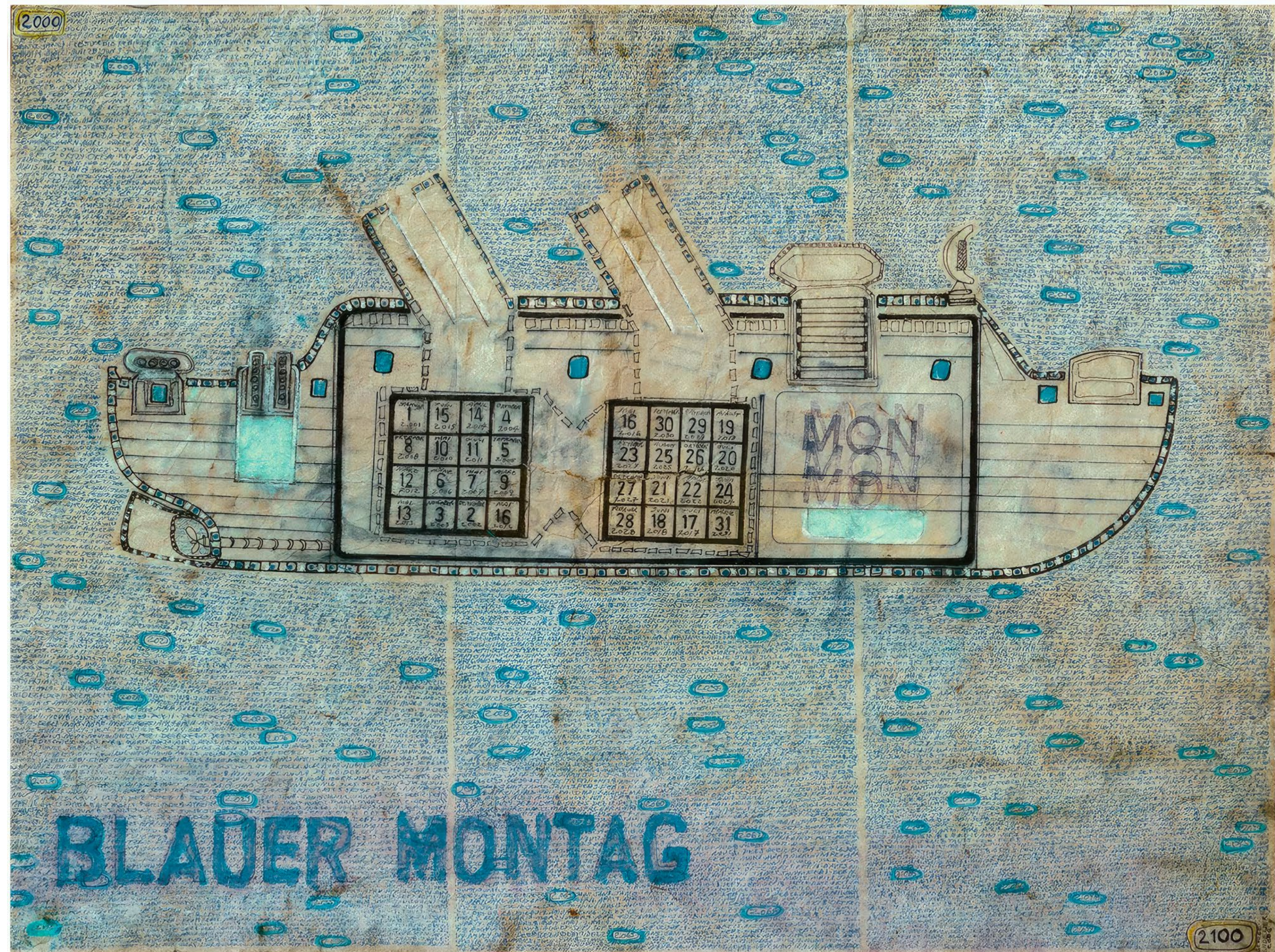
## **WIDENER George**

1962, Covington, Kentucky (United States)

### **BIOGRAPHY**

George Widener was separated from his parents at an early age: his father died when he was only 9, and his mother, an alcoholic and violent, was institutionalized. He was then raised by his grandmother, and later by his aunt. At 17, he was hired as a technician by the U.S. Air Force. In his free time, he devoted himself to drawing. He attended the University of Tennessee, but his chronic depression and social behavior led to regular stays in psychiatric hospitals. He was also diagnosed in adulthood with a mild form of autism, Asperger's syndrome, characterized by extraordinary calculation skills and an exceptional memory for names, dates, and miscellaneous facts.

His artistic production, which he pursued daily, involves complex lists, calendars, diagrams, maps, codes, and numbers, inscribed in ink on paper tablecloths glued together and stained with tea. Time is his true medium: Widener attempts to bring coherence to the world through the system of numbers he establishes in his magic squares. These combine air disasters, shipwrecks, telephone numbers, license plates, and significant events from his personal life.



George Widener  
*Blauer Montag*, 2006, encre, feutre,  
gouache et tampon sur papier,  
37,3 × 49,7 cm

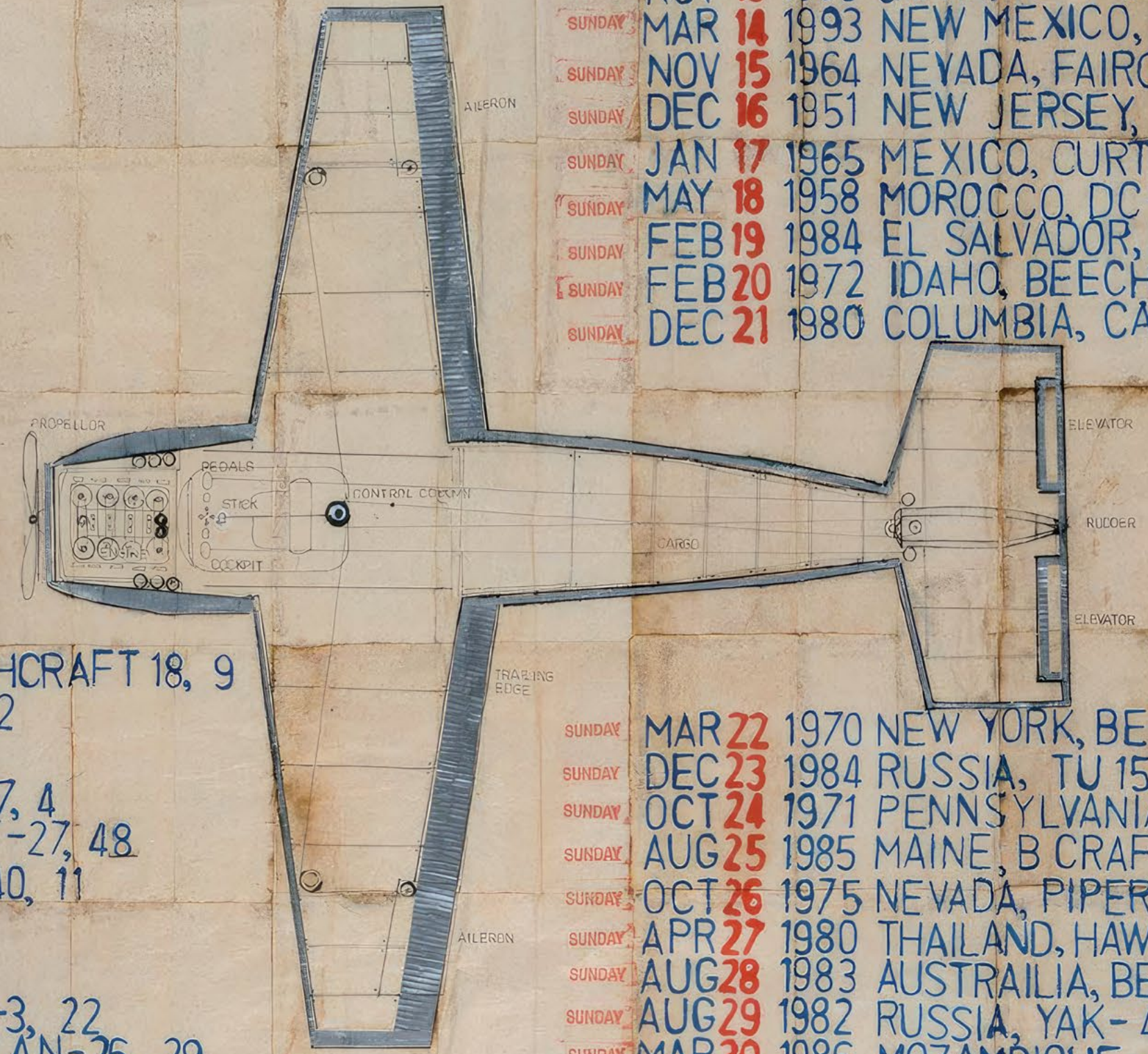
ART BRUT / donation Bruno Decharme au MNAM-CP / 2021

SUNDAY

SU	SU	SU	SU	SU	SU	SU
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

31 SUNDAYS, 894+ CASUALTIES

SOME PEOPLE GO TO CHURCH ON SUNDAY AND SOME GET IN AN AIRPLANE. SOMETIMES BOTH OF THEM END UP PRAYING AT THE EXACT SAME SECOND BECAUSE THE PLANE IS GOING TO CRASH.



- SUNDAY NOV 13 1966 JAPAN, YS-111, 50
- SUNDAY MAR 14 1993 NEW MEXICO, BEECHCRAFT 58, 4
- SUNDAY NOV 15 1964 NEVADA, FAIRCHILD F-27A, 29
- SUNDAY DEC 16 1951 NEW JERSEY, WRIGHT C-46, 56
- SUNDAY JAN 17 1965 MEXICO, CURTIS C-46, 10
- SUNDAY MAY 18 1958 MOROCCO, DC-7C, 61
- SUNDAY FEB 19 1984 EL SALVADOR, BELL UH-1H, 28
- SUNDAY FEB 20 1972 IDAHO, BEECHCRAFT 65, 4
- SUNDAY DEC 21 1980 COLUMBIA, CARAVELLE 6R, 70

- SUNDAY JUL 1 1984 BRITISH COLUMBIA, BEECHCRAFT 18, 9
- SUNDAY SEP 2 1990 BRAZIL, EMBRAER 110P1, 12
- SUNDAY FEB 3 1980 CUBA, YAK-40, 1
- SUNDAY OCT 4 1992 AMSTERDAM, BOEING 747, 4
- SUNDAY AUG 5 1984 BANGLADESH, FOKKER F-27, 48
- SUNDAY MAR 6 1988 ECUADOR, SABRELINER 40, 11
- SUNDAY FEB 7 1982 INDIA, C-123, 53
- SUNDAY JUN 8 1980 ANGOLA, YAK-40, 29
- SUNDAY JUL 9 1950 MOROCCO, DOUGLAS DC-3, 22
- SUNDAY APR 10 1988 AFGHANISTAN, ANTONOV AN-26, 29
- SUNDAY JUL 11 1965 MASSACHUSETTS, SUPER CONSTELLATION, 16
- SUNDAY MAR 12 1950 WALES, TUDOR 5, 80

- SUNDAY MAR 22 1970 NEW YORK, BEECHCRAFT C-45H, 3
- SUNDAY DEC 23 1984 RUSSIA, TU 154B, 110
- SUNDAY OCT 24 1971 PENNSYLVANIA, B CRAFT 99, 4
- SUNDAY AUG 25 1985 MAINE, B CRAFT 99, 8
- SUNDAY OCT 26 1975 NEVADA, PIPER PA-34, 2
- SUNDAY APR 27 1980 THAILAND, HAWKER 748, 44
- SUNDAY AUG 28 1983 AUSTRALIA, BEECHKING 200, 12
- SUNDAY AUG 29 1982 RUSSIA, YAK-40, 3
- SUNDAY MAR 30 1986 MOZAMBIQUE, ANTONOV AN-26, 49
- SUNDAY DEC 31 1972 PUERTO RICO, DOUGLAS DC-7, 5

All Sundays  
All Crashes

17	24	21	12
19	14	15	26
16	25	20	13
22	11	18	23

Sundays Again in 100 Years And 1 Day

AVOID FLYING ON:  
 JAN 18, 2065 - DEC 17, 2061  
 OCT 25, 2071 - JAN 26, 2065  
 MAR 13, 2080 - FEB 21, 2072  
 FEB 20, 2084 - MAR 8, 2070  
 MAR 28, 2095 - JUL 18, 2086  
 NOV 28, 2095 - MAY 19, 2088  
 OCT 27, 2076 - DEC 24, 2082

# SUNDAY'S CRASH

GEORGE WIDENER

George Widener  
*Sunday's Crash*, vers 2000, encre  
 et gouache sur nappe de papier  
 85 x 136,7 cm

ART BRUT / donation Bruno Decharme au MNAM-CP / 2021