RADIO TANIA Audio Documentaries Bio Links Writings Contact

AUDIO

If you would like a copy of any interview listed below, please contact me.

1. STUDIO 360

Current issues, events and trends in art are a jumping off point for an exploration of ideas that aren't necessarily "news," yet are provocative and offer a lens on experience that only art can provide. Studio 360 presents richly textured and emotionally resonant stories that look at art's creative influence and transformative power in everyday life. Studio 360 is a weekly show that airs nationally through Public Radio International. For times on your local NPR station, visit Studio 360 for station listings.

PIRKLE JONES

In 1956 Pirkle Jones got a call from Life Magazine for a photo assignment like no other. The farm town of Monticello California would soon be submerged under Lake Berryessa and vanish from the face of the earth. Jones joined his hero, the photojournalist Dorothea Lange, to document Monticello's final year in a series of photographs called Death of a Valley. To hear this piece, click here.

LOS CARPINTEROS

The artists in the Cuba-based collective Los Carpinteros connect with their country through their abstract multi media art. They work together as one unit yet they each have their individual roles and tasks. And most importantly, they embody many of the traits that are inherent in Cuban art, namely the innovativeness and the sense of use and re-use. To hear this piece, click here.

NATURAL CAR ALARMS

The artist Nina Katchadourian explains how she decided to transform the car alarm, and install her new version that plays tape loops of raucous bird calls in cars on city streets. To hear this piece, click here.

2. WPS1 ART RADIO

WPS1 is the world's first internet art radio station. The station's programs combine talk and music shows hosted by contemporary writers, artists and musicians with rare historic material that includes the entire audio archive of the Museum of Modern Art. WPS1 has become a live audio museum in cyberspace, extending the visual art, book, music, film, video and performance programs that P.S.1 and MoMA are known for in ways previously unforeseen. Here, at www.wps1.org, is the first all-art, all-the-time radio station, where expression of all kinds remains truly free. Shows air for one week, twice a day. San Francisco: Our Correspondent airs approximately every 2-4 weeks.

EDITION #1: Aaron Ximm & Ralph Rugoff

Bay Area correspondent Tania Ketenjian opens her debut show on WPS1 with a visit to the quiet storm of sound artist Aaron Ximm, host of San Francisco's weekly "Field Effects" concert series - flush with his field recordings - and Ralph Rugoff, curator of "Baja to Vancouver: The West Coast and Contemporary Art" at the California College of the Arts, which not only dares to reopen the East Coast/West Coast divide but attempts to redefine "regional" contemporary art in a global culture. To hear this piece, click here.

EDITION #2: Soy y Que: New Chicano/Latino Representations

Tania Ketenjian spotlights "Soy y Que: New Chicano/Latino Representations," one of three new exhibitions on view at San Francisco's Yerba Buena Arts Center (through January 9, 2005) featuring work by artists and collectives from California and Tijuana who treat portraiture as metaphor. Tania speaks to the Bay Area's Faviana Rodriguez, L.A.'s Shizu Saldamando, and exhibition co-curator Berin Golonu. To hear this piece, click here.

3. SIGHT UNSEEN

Sight Unseen speaks with artists and creators of all mediums seeking to understand what drives them to make and develop the ideas that they have and how those ideas can affect the ways in which we as listeners view the world and ourselves. Sight Unseen airs weekly on Sundays from 9-10 a.m. PST on KALX in Berkeley at 90.7 FM.

JOHN KILLACKY

John Killacky is the creator of several films including Love is a Hemmhorage, Necessary Action and Stolen Shadows. We spoke about his most recent piece entitled Dreaming Awake which tells the story of a disabled man's desires and fantasies of returning to dance. It headlined at this year's Superfest 24, the longest running disability film festival in United States. For more information on Dreaming Awake and Superfest 24, click here.

LARRY SULTAN

Larry Sultan has been taking photographs of California for several years, his photographs shown in museums all over the world. This particular exhibition offers a window into a less seen but all pervasive existence in California, that of the pornographic film indistry. My interview with Larry Sultan was based on an exhibition of his work at the SF MoMA entitled Larry Sultan: The Valley in which he photographed pornographic film stars in San Fernando Valley Homes. These homes happened to be in the neighborhood where he grew up which raised an interesting relationship he had to the neighborhoods, the homes, and the memories therein. Some of the places he was shooting were just around the corner from where he grew up. To view images from Larry Sultan: The Valley, click here.

RUSSELL BANKS

Russell Banks is the author of several books including The Sweet Hereafter and Rule of the Bone. He also is president of an organization called the International Parliament of Writers (IPW) which offers refuge to writers who have been exiled from their native countries, and helps them publish their works all over the world. Autodafe is a publication developed by the IPW of a selection of works by exiled writers. We discussed the fourth and most recent edition of AUTODAFE, and discussed the lives and futures of exiled writers here and beyond. To read an interview with Russell Banks, click here.

LEE STRINGER

Lee Stringer was an advertising executive when difficult times befell him and he was forced to become homeless. He lived on the streets from the early eighties until the mid-nineties. He is a former editor and columnist of Street News, a publication consisting of writings by homeless people. His essays and articles have appeared in a variety of other publications, including The Nation, The New York Times, and Newsday. He lives in Mamaroneck, New York. Lee is touring for his second book, Sleepaway School, and he had a stop in San Francisco. I had the pleasure of speaking with him for several days while he was here. To explore a site that Lee's fans in New Orleans created for him, click here.

DEE HIBBERT JONES & NOMI TALISMAN

Letters to an Unknown Friend is a collaborative artwork by Dee Hibbert-Jones and Nomi Talisman, a couple who work in somewhat different mediums but have found a common ground in this exhibition, a group show called Sacred Spaces. The project explores the concept of letter writing as a sacred act and incorporates a digitally modified typewriter and mixed media. For more information on Sacred Spaces, visit the Berkeley Art Center.

GLYN BUSH

These days the name Bush makes many of us cringe. Thankfully not all the Bushes in the world have that same adverse affect. There is a Bush who happens to bring great joy to people's lives, a Bush who knows how to inspire bodies to move, heads to spin, and maybe even souls to shake. His name is Glyn Bush, also known as Bigga Bush, an English musician come DJ who is touring the world and had a brief stay here in the Bay Area. To listen to some Bigga Bush tunes, **click here**.

WHAT THE BLEEP DO WE KNOW

Director Mark Vincente and scientist Fred Alan Wolf are two of the many people that made the film WHAT THE BLEEP DO WE KNOW possible. Through an unusual mix of documentary, narrative and graphics, What the Bleep Do We Know looks at the structure of our psychology and perception of reality through the study of quantum physics. One point amongst many that comes through is the

notion that emotions are in fact chemical reactions within our brain that we are addicted to. For more information on What the Bleep Do We Know and to see where it is traveling, click here.

RENÉ GUZMAN

René de Guzman, Visual Arts Curator and Director, has been with the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts since August of 1992. One of the founding program staff members, de Guzman has been instrumental in establishing the artistic goals and vision for the Center. Beautiful Losers (2004) is a show he curated and looks at street and skate culture, from photographers to zine publishers, skaters to graffiti artists. At what point does street art cross over into the mainstream art world, and should it are some of the issues we explored in this interview. To see the work recently exhibited at the Center, **click here**.

WILLIAM EGGLESTON

William Eggleston described his early inspiration for making color photographs as watching "a continuous ribbon of small, oblong images" emerge from developing machines in photographic laboratories. "Who knows [who] took them, and who knows where, and for what reason. That became probably one of the most useful things...slowly watching these things emerge...It was one of the most exciting and unforgettable experiences as a whole...and educational for me." The Museum of Modern Art's groundbreaking one-man show of 1976, William Eggleston's Guide, established his reputation as the pioneer of modern color photography. It was also called the "most hated show of the year". Los Alamos was his most recent show at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. I spoke with Corey Keller who co-curated the show. To take a look at a selection of photographs by Eggleston, click here.

JOHN BALDESSARI

I first learned of John Baldessari when I was studying video art at Bard College. I saw one of his most famous videos entitled I am Making Art which continues to be screened, most recently at Pacific Film Archives in Berkeley. This interview is based on a show he curated with artist and colleague Meg Cranston. The show is titled 100 Artists See God and it was shown at the Jewish Museum in San Francisco. The curators asked a selection of 100 artists to depict their idea of God in their work. They were thus categorized into several different groups and here the curators explain how. For more information on John Baldessari, click here.

THOM ANDERSON

Before coming to Cal Arts, Thom Andersen taught film history and filmmaking at SUNY Buffalo and Ohio State University. His films include Melting, Olivia's Place and Eadweard Muybridge, Zoopraxographer. His work with Noel Burch on the history of the Hollywood blacklist and the filmic writing of its victims has produced the book Les Communists de Hollywood: Autre chose que des martyrs (1994) and the videotape Red Hollywood (1995). His most recent epic film, Los Angeles Plays Itself, is a look at Los Angeles as character and place in films. For more information about Los Angeles Plays Itself, **click here**.

ROYA HAKAKIAN

Roya Hakakian is a reporter and documentarian. She is also the author of two highly acclaimed collections of poetry, the first of which, For the Sake of Water, received honorable mention in the Oxford Encyclopedia of the Modern Islamic World and was nominated as the poetry book of the year by Iran News in 1993. Her memoir of growing up a Jewish teenager in post-revolutionary Iran, Journey from the Land of No, was published by Crown in 2004. To learn more about Roya Hakakian and her work, click here.

CAT POWER

Chan Marshall, aka Cat Power has been playing music for over 15 years, travelling for over ten. She rarely stays in one place, often on the road, playing in small towns and big cities, driving across the states and through other countries. In that time, she has formed a following that continues to grow. According to her bio, her giant fan base has tripled with each new record released. Cat Power has recorded six albums over the last 8 years. They include Dear Sir (Runt [Italy], 1995), Myra Lee (Smells Like, 1996), What Would The Community Think (Matador, 1996), Moon Pix (Matador, 1998) The Covers Record (Matador, 2000), and her most recent album You Are Free (Matador, 2003). I spoke with her in New York about You Are Free. For a full listing of Cat Power's music, visit Matador Records.

GRAPHIC ARTIST LEV

A quick guide to benign conversation, 4 stages of male inebriation, why I bought the food in the fridge, how i feel when i go to parties, my successful friends....these are some of the titles of films and strips by Lev, a self effacing, brutally honest and affably crude illustrator who has garnered fame as a local filmmaker and creator of the books Tales of Mere Existence. The title aptly reflects the subject matter, existence, Lev's existence describing the complex anxieties and inner dialogues that go on within him. What is most appealing about this is simply that what Lev seems to experience, we do too. We just happen to not have the guts to share those experiences with the outside world. Lev has been working as an illustrator and filmmaker in the Bay Area for several years. Now Comedy Central has gotten sight of the his existence so to speak and will be presenting his work in their show called "Jump Cuts". Produced in his bedroom, Lev creates these humorously self obsessed films and distributes his work himself. What inspires a shy east coast artist to create these seemingly uninhibited tales. To take a look at a selection of Lev's graphics and films, **click here**.

JONATHAN CAOUETTE & TARNATION

A fever dream, whirlwind journey, a personal work smeared with lipstick traces of David Lynch, a deathless swan dive into fractured memories. These are some of the ways Jonathan Caouette's film Tarnation have been described. It tells the story of Jonathan, his life documented from films he has been creating since he was 11 years old. Not only do the films tell a story of complete dysfunctionality, they also present us with a unique character, an actor of sorts, Jonathan himself, who used film as a means to depersonalize and understand his life and environment. To create Tarnation, Jonathan collected the tapes that he had made over the last 20 years and began to edit. Tarnation was born through Jonathan's iMac, in fact iMovie, for \$214. It was discovered by Gus Van Sant and garnered numerous accolades including winner of Best Documentary at the Los Angeles Film Festival. To see a trailer and learn more about Tarnation, click here.

BLONDE REDHEAD

Blonde Redhead have been making music since the mid 90's when they came out with their first album Blonde Redhead on Sonic Youth drummer Steve Shelley's label Smells Like Records. Their most recent album Misery is a Butterfly comes after a four year hiatus, one marked by extensive touring and a censor inducing accident. The lead singer, Kyoto native Kazu Makino had her jaw crushed by a horse and now every time she walks through security at the airport, the sensors go off. Valiant and talented, she rises again with a voice stronger than ever. The band, most known for their dissonant guitar riffs, have moved in a new direction, a more keyboard oriented one, with clarinets to boot. They are also known for, according to one journalist, their bee sting art punk style although they hold true to not being music for intellectuals, they're not that pretentious. Blonde Redhead is now made up of two Italian twins, Amadeo and Simone Pace and singer Kazu Makino. For a playlist of Misery is a Butterfly, **click here**.

SHORTCUT TO NIRVANA

The Kumbh Mela is the largest gathering of people in the world. It happens every twelve years in India and over 25 million people attend, sometimes as many as 70 million. The spiritual festival finds its home in Allahabad and many of Indias greatest gurus and leaders set up camp to give discourses to their devotees. The festival culminates towards a bathing day where millions bathe in the spot where the Ganges and Yamuna rivers meet. The bathers believe that they are cleansing the sins of a thousand lifetimes thus securing a release from the endless cycle of rebirth and shortcuting their way to Nirvana. Maurizzo Bennazzo and Nick Day went to the festival in the hopes of creating a documentary and Shortcut to Nirvana was born. In the film we see Saddhus and Swami's. monks and devotees, and we take a journey through this festival with the filmakers. To learn more about the film or view a trailer, **click here**.

4. CITY IN EXILE

City in Exile was produced at WBAI in New York. Primarily produced by Matthew Finch, City in Exile became the first art show I contributed to and was the foundation for the kind of radio I want to do. Matthew Finch strove to create a show that was rich in sound, engaging in its content and revelatory in its choice of guests. We rarely tapped into the mainstream but we spoke with artists that were breaking boundaries, exploring the limits of their mediums, and offering a message that gave light to experience. City in Exile aired on WBAI Pacifica Radio on Friday afternoons from 2-3 p.m. EST.

T COOPER

T Cooper is the author of Some of the Parts. From Los Angeles, she transplanted to the East Village of New York and her book continues to garner attention. She went on an extensive book tour, visiting over 30 cities, travelling across the backgrounds of the country in a Van. Her book illustrates the lives of several families and attempts to redefine or expand the definition of family unit. To read excerpts of Some of the Parts and learn more about T Cooper's tour, **click here**.

ALICE SEBOLD

Alice Sebold is the author of The Lovely Bones and Lucky, a harrowing memoir. Shewas chosen by the Village Voice as a Writer on the Verge and has written for the New York Times and the Chicago Tribune. She lives in California with her husband, Glen David Gold. The Lovely Bones was on the New York Times bestseller list for several months. It tells the story of 14-year-old Susie Salmon ("like the fish") who is lured into a makeshift underground den in a cornfield and brutally raped and murdered, the latest victim of a serial killer ó the man she knew as her neighbor, Mr. Harvey. Alice Sebold's haunting and heartbreaking debut novel, The Lovely Bones, unfolds from heaven, where "life is a perpetual yesterday" and where Susie narrates and keeps watch over her grieving family and friends, as well as her brazen killer and the sad detective working on her case. As Sebold fashions it, everyone has his or her own version of heaven. To read a review about The Lovely Bones, click here.

BRANDON BALLENGÉE

The work of Brandon Ballengée bridges the gap between research biology and art. He expresses a fascination with fish and amphibians, mostly with deformations, through the techniques of art photography and drawing. In 1996, Ballengée began collaborating with scientists to create hybrid environmental art / ecological research projects. Since then he has had numerous exhibitions

nationally and internationally in which he presents photographs and biological samples of the creatures he collects. He is involved directly with field research and uses the visual impact of science to engage the public in a discussion of broader environmental issues, ones that impact the lives and development of the amphibians he observes. To take a look at Brandon Ballengée's images, click here.

REGINA NEJMAN

Regina Nejman is a dancer / teacher and choreographer from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and is based in New York City. Since 1993, she has been creating her own choreography and in 1997 formed Regina Nejman & Company. Her work has been presented at Symphony Space Dance Sampler, Joyce Soho, the 2002 New York International Fringe Festival, New York Film Academy, Dance Theater Workshop, Dixon Place, Queens Museum of Art, the Merce Cunningham Studio, and Context Studios. For more information on Regina Nejman's work, click here.

JAMES LONGLEY

James Longley was born in the Oregon in 1972 and received a film education at the University of Rochester and Wesleyan University in the United States, and the Russian Institute of Cinematography (VGIK) in Moscow. His film Gaza Strip pushes the viewer headlong into the tumult of the Israeli-occupied Gaza, examining the lives and views of ordinary Palestinians living extra ordinary lives. For more information and to see a trailer of Gaza Strip, click here.

JOHN WALTER

John Walter is the creator of the film How to Draw a Bunny. How to Draw a Bunny looks at the life and mysterious numerological death of artist Ray Johnson. In the film we hear accounts from colleagues such as Roy Lichtenstein, Christo, and Chuck Close. John Walter is working on a new documentary about, amongst other political debates, the first amendment. To read a review of John Walter's How To Draw a Bunny, click here.

RAM DASS

Ram Dass, formerly known as Richard Alpert, was once a Harvard professor along side Aldous Huxley and Timothy Leary. One night, when trying a pure former of LSD with his colleagues, he visualized himself disappearing, his identity and body both slipping away, and found that without a body, something more profound remained. In a quest to find out what that might be, he went to India and studied under Neem Karoli Baba, affectionately known as Maharaji who gave him the name Ram Dass, which means Serve God. After his return, he became a guru to many, offering lectures and writing books, one of them being the groundbreaking "Be Here Now". In 1997, Ram Dass fell victim to a powerful stroke that forced him to realize that accepting the possibility of death was far more difficult than he had initially assumed. A film by Mickey Lemle called Fierce Grace follows his journey through rehabilitation and the path to freedom from the fear of death. For a listing of lectures and events lead by Ram Dass, click here.

LEONE ROSS

Leone Ross was born in Coventry, England, on June 26 1969. She grew up in Jamaica, and studied at the University of the West Indies and at the City University in London, where she now lives. She has worked as a journalist for The Voice newspaper in London and as a researcher for LWT as well as contributing to a wide range of magazines and newspapers in Britain and America, including The Guardian and The Sunday Times. In 2000, she received a London Arts Board Writers' Award. Leone Ross teaches creative writing and was a Fellow at Trinity College in Dublin in 2001. Presently she works as an Associate Lecturer at Cardiff University, Birkbeck College and the City Literary Institute. She is the author of two novels, All the Blood is Red (1996) and Orange Laughter (1999). For more information on Leone Ross' work, click here.

ANNIE WANG

Annie Wang was born in 1972 and grew up in Beijing. She came to the United States in 1993 and graduated from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1996. She worked in TheWashington Post's Beijing bureau before becoming a contract interpreter for the U.S. State Department. She has published several books in China; Lili is her first book written in English. Kirkus Reviews says that, "[Lili is a] compelling account of the emotional and political awakening of a tormented young Chinese woman who grew up during the Cultural Revolution." To learn more about Annie Wang and her more recent work, click here.

ANIKA NAILAH

Anika Nailah is the director of Books of Hope, a program that encourages young people to write and self-publish their own books. Her stories have appeared in several African American newspapers, including Reunion and Flare. I interviewed her about her book Free and Other Stories. This book and Nailah's experience of people's reactions inspired her to create forums for various ethnic groups to meet and discuss the ways to open the avenues of communication about race and creativity. Anika Nailah lives in Massachusetts. To learn more about Free, click here.

ALEX GREY

The New York Times says about Alex Grey's work, "Mr. Grey's paintings, as detailed and anatomically accurate as medical illustrations, present man as an archetypal being struggling toward cosmic

unity...Grey's vision of a flawed but perfectible mankind stands as an antidote to the cynicism and spiritual malaise prevalent in much contemporary art." Artforum says that "...it is only Grey's inquisitiveness, his desire to understand the cosmic metastructure of humanity, that drives him to such a rigorously detailed account of the typically unseen." Alex Grey is a painter, illustrator, poet and visionary. He has also built a temple of sorts called the Chapel of Sacred Mirrors in New York. For more information and events, **click here**.

ERIC DROOKER

Eric Drooker's paintings are seen on covers of The New Yorker, The Progressive, The Village Voice and numerous other magazines, as well as books and music albums (Rage Against the Machine). They have also covered the streets of New York and the Bay Area. He is the author of Flood! A Novel in Pictures, Illuminated Poems (with Allen Ginsberg), Street Posters & Ballads, and Blood Song: A Silent Ballad. He gives slide lectures at schools and cultural centers worldwide. Eric is a third generation New Yorker, born and raised on Manhattan Island. But he has now succomb to the beauty of the west and lives in Berkeley, California. Blood Song tells the story, through image, of a young girls travails as she is forced out of her pristine homeland and moves to the city where she makes another kind of home for herself. To take a look at the posters and images by Eric Drooker, click here.

ROXY PAINE

Roxy Paine was born in 1966 in New York, where he currently lives and works. He attended the Pratt Institute, Brooklyn and College of Sante Fe, New Mexico. When he moved to Williamsburg, NY he and several other artists created a community, doing work together and having collaborative exhibitions. This was a wild time in Williamsburg, before the influx of artists which now make it the place with highest number of artists per capita in the world. As Roxy Paine's art developed, he became interested in fungus, funky fungus, and began making these highly intricate installations of various species of fungi. He also created a machine that holds a heavy canvas and dips it into paint several times, creating a textured relief like painting in the end. For more information and images on Roxy Paine's work, click here.

AMY BLOOM

Amy Bloom is the author of a novel, Love Invents Us, and two collections of stories: Come to Me, nominated for a National Book Award, and A Blind Man Can See How Much I Love You, nominated for the National Book Critics Circle Award. Her stories have appeared in Best American Short Stories, Prize Stories: The O. Henry Awards, and numerous anthologies here and abroad. She has written for the New Yorker, the New York Times Magazine, the Atlantic Monthly, Vogue, Slate, and Salon, among many other publications, and has won a National Magazine Award. Her first book of nonfiction, Normal: Transsexual CEOs, Crossdressing Cops, and Hermaphrodites with Attitude, tells the stories of crossdressers, transexuals, and hermaphrodites and the myriad of issues they face and the amazing similarities they have to eachother. A practicing psychotherapist, Bloom lives in Connecticut and teaches at Yale University. For a deeper look at what is Normal, **click here**.

BOBBY WHITLOCK

"Though he's best known as a member of the short-lived but groundbreaking group Derek and the Dominoes with Eric Clapton, Whitlock has had a very impressive musical career apart from the band. Raised in Arkansas and Memphis, by the time he was a teenager he was playing on many of the sessions at the legendary Stax Studios and was in fact the first white artist signed to Stax Records. With a soulful voice soaked in gospel, R&B, and blues and accomplished keyboard skills, it was only a matter of time before the limelight found him." (Rob Caldwell, All Music Guide) Here he is performing and is in conversation with his partner Kim Carmel. To listen to Bobby Whitlock and Kim Carmel's music, visit here.

ALLEN COHEN

Allen Cohen was born in 1940 in Brooklyn, New York. He has written two groundbreaking books of Poetry Childbirth is Ecstasy and the Reagan Poems. In 1990 he produced a compilation of the Oracles as The San Francisco Oracle Facsimile Edition. In 2002 he edited an anthology of poems on 9/11, An Eye For An Eye Makes The Whole World Blind, with his friend and collaborator Clive Matson. Sadly, he passed away in April 2004. To learn more about An Eye For An Eye Makes The Whole World Blind and read a poem from it, click here.

FREDERICK WISEMAN

Frederick Wiseman was a lawyer and professor when he took his students to see the hospital for the criminally insane called Bridgewater in Massachusettes. Shocked at the conditions, he decided to bring a camera into the facility. He was allowed to film what he saw without censorship and the result was the highly acclaimed Titicut Follies. Titicut Follies caused such a stir that it was banned in Massachusettes for over two decades. It inspired Wiseman to go on and make films about other institutions including Highschool, Welfare, and Hospital. I spoke with Frederick Wiseman about his most recent documentary, Domestic Violence. For a full listing of films by Frederick Wiseman, click here.

GABE HUDSON

Gabe Hudson received his MFA from Brown University, where he was awarded the John Hawkes Prize in Fiction. His fiction has been published in The New Yorker and McSweeney's. He has received the Sue Kaufman Prize for First Fiction from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, and was a

PEN/Hemingway Finalist. His book Dear Mr. President has been called "surreal" and "disturbingly funny" and is a darkly comic fictitious look at the Gulf War and its repercussions. He started a huge letter campaign to the President and several of these letters have been published here. He lives in New York City. To learn more about Dear Mr. President, click here.

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