

Studio Studio's Magazine

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SECRETS

you can't hide





Studio Studio

Fall, 2023

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Studio Studio's first office

Unceded traditional territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations.

Toronto

Global headquarters

Traditional territory of many nations, including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, The Haudenosaunee, and the Wendat peoples and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit, and Metis peoples.

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**STUDIO
STUDIO**

**Est. 2020
Vancouver**



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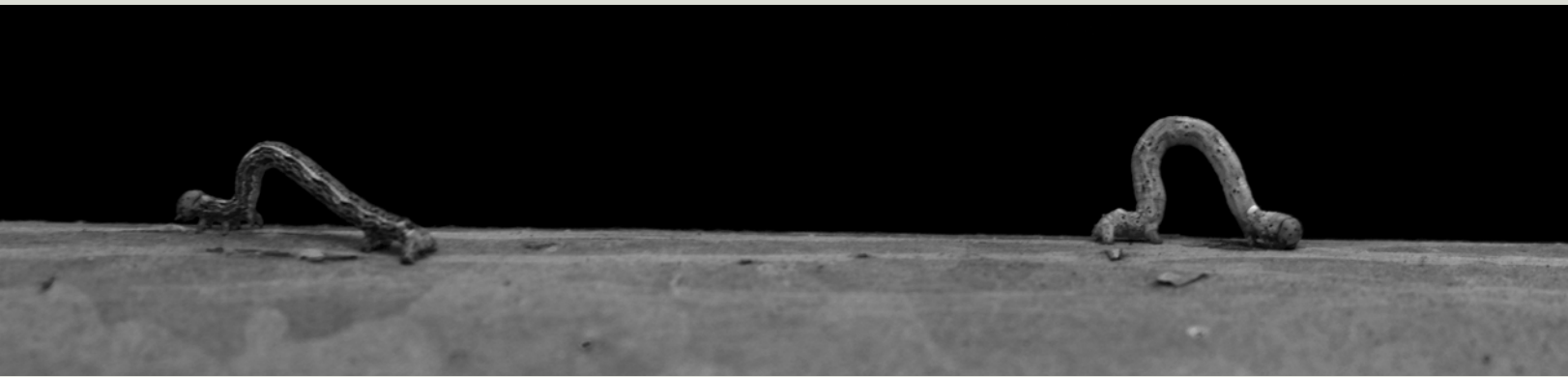
We are a collective of artists, founded in 2020 in Vancouver. We now exist in many cities around the world, especially in Toronto.

WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU BOUGHT A PLANE TICKET?



Would You Still Love Me if I Was a Worm

Morgan Abele

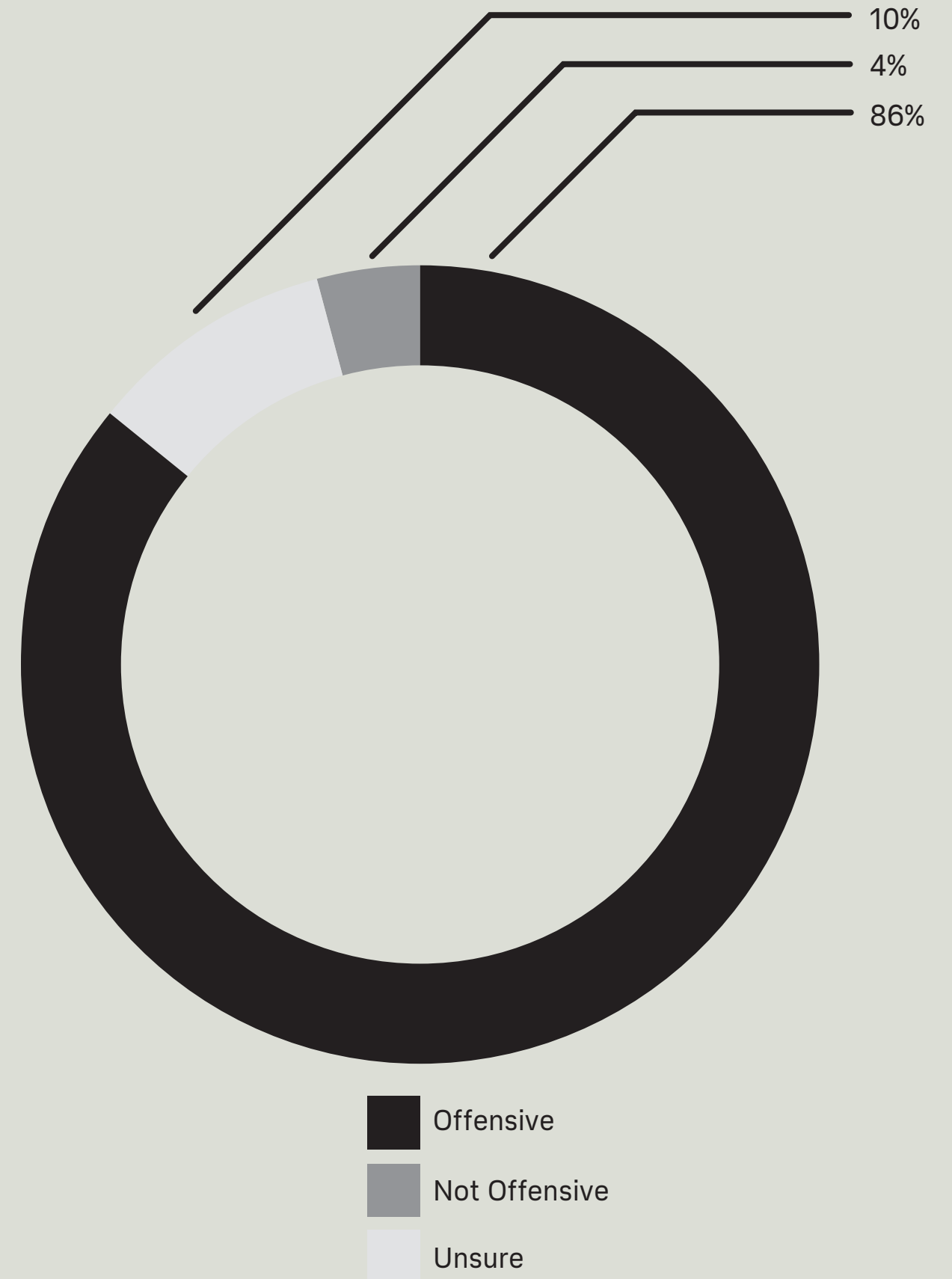


With the current “would you still love me if I was a worm” trend on TikTok, partners are uncovering their true feelings in sharing how they feel about one another in different forms. This article aims to share a different perspective: the perspective of the worm.

We’ve contacted local worms to hear their take on this recently popularized saying. When polled, over 86% of worms found this saying offensive. For obvious reasons, this popular statement implies that worms are innately less, or even more un-loveable creatures than humans. One anonymous worm claimed that this saying “destroyed [their] self esteem” promoting that “I am just as loveable as any human, and my body is beautiful and not made for humans to imagine in a romantic way.” Another worm source said they found it “frankly disgusting”.

Interspecies relationships are usually frowned upon in human culture, so why is the relationship between worm and man encouraged? Praised and suggested by even the clingy TikTok girlfriends of the world. The answer is simple: this issue is massively under researched and represented in the media. So next time you ask yourself “would my partner still love me if I was a worm?” Stop a minute and think, what would the worms of the world say to hearing you use that sentence? Normalize the beauty of worm bodies and respect worm rights. Peace.

Worm Feeling Survey



“Not every work of architecture can be a flea market”

Katie Desourdie

Not every work of architecture can be a flea market

Repurposed building

Objects that once had no relationship are grouped together

Cluttered but quiet

Every object has a story

The door was old and the white paint was chipping off

The doorknob was a dirty brass and was stiff

The building was a weird layout with shelves and bins of things like records, baseball cards, a piggy bank from the 50s, a crystal vase, old pins, a porcelain pig, chipped plates

The floors were made of thin wooden panels, worn in the centre of the aisles, dark in between the panels, in the darkest spots of the floor, the creaks were the most pronounced

Time seems to stand still

You pick up the objects that catch your eye and wonder who held them before you

While you walk you feel uneven as if everything around you is imbalanced

The people around you seem to disappear and you forget why you were feeling down because the presence of the objects and the history they carry take up too much space for your worries to enter the room with you

The originality is inspiring and the textures and grooves of the old frames and tools and tins are unlike anything in a modern store

Nothing is the same yet everything belongs

This building has character, it has a story

The furniture is a familiar thing, the lunch boxes and salt and pepper shakers on the shelves are familiar things yet their placement stuns you

While observing an object it soaks up your attention and the object seems almost lonely

Trying not to make a noise, avoid loud and heavy footsteps because you're focusing on the touch of the floor beneath your feet

Stale air, the scents of all the homes these things used to live in mixing in the air



WHAT
IS HE
LOOKING
FOR?

SECRETAS

FALL HOROSCOPIES

by Danae Biln



Aries

eager, dynamic, quick, competitive

This month you are feeling the pressures of family, responsibility, and a personal passion for dance. Try it on a pole! You may be surprised. Focus on living this week like it may be your last. As a competitive and volatile personality, YOLO is something that would make your balanced school and work lifestyle way better. Self sabotage isn't real.



Taurus

strong, dependable, sensual, creative

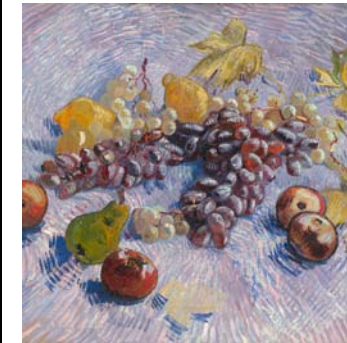
Although others may perceive you as a rock, this month you are a puddle of art and love. Bottle that shit up. Repression is something the strongest individuals practice. Next time you practice intimacy, think: what would Arnold Schwarzenegger do? Find guidance through others instead of relying on your own intuition because it's probably incorrect.



Gemini

versatile, expressive, curious, kind

You need to accept that you are not better than everyone and apply yourself to be. You are very adventurous individual this month, practicing risky acts like filming a sex tape. Good job! You need to focus on your financial skill issues and focus on paying rent before buying another stupid Starbucks drink.



Cancer

intuitive, sentimental, compassionate, protective

This month, your self-sabotaging tendencies are feral. Act on all of it. Think YOLO vibes and take the plunge into that thing you've been wanting lately. If you spend all your time sitting in a pond, you can never enjoy the sea. Think about it.



Leo

dramatic, outgoing, fiery, self-assured

Are you REALLY sure of your sexuality? You might benefit from fluidity over rigid and strong expectations. You're being dramatic. Live life away from the extremes because this month you will be rawdogging life. Try not to get pregnant. You need to stop relying on yourself for all your affirmation. Practice excessive codependency.



Virgo

practical, loyal, gentle, analytical

You're slutting yourself out because you are obsessed with the act of flirtation. Sometimes it can just stay light and romantic. Your focus this month is to associate passion with health instead of toxicity. You're a good person though. You just need to chill.



Libra

social, fair-minded, diplomatic, gracious

You think you're above human temptation because you are highly analytical and observant. You would benefit from tasting your own medicine to observe and analyze yourself. Did you realize you're imperfect? Own it and want everything in sight. Give in to temptation.



Scorpio

passionate, stubborn, resourceful, brave

Unlike the Libra, you are overly indulgent in your interests. It's important to accept change and growth because you're too focused on your ultimate plan. Plans change, baby. You'll find new interests once you are bold enough to go with the flow.



Sagittarius

extroverted, optimistic, funny, generous

You're a social whore and you live it. We all do. Stick to your wavelength but be aware of people who don't deserve your generosity and entertainment. Optimism is only positive when it's realistic. Your rose colored glasses can stay on but get a prescription.



Capricorn

serious, independent, disciplined, tenacious

If you're in school, chill out. If you're too involved in your worklife, step back because you have a tendency to get overly attached and driven by pressure. Practice these traits with life experience. Avoid tunnel vision because you can fall down the rabbit hole. Get a piercing and rebel against yourself.



Aquarius

deep, imaginative, original, uncompromising

Just because people think you're weird, you need to understand that you are just cooler than average. You're real and creative and most people don't like it. You can either play the game or stand unwavering with your true self. That being said, don't think you're too special.



Pisces

affectionate, empathetic, wise, artistic

Stop crying and moping over minimal things. Focus on self-betterment because you're in a state of hyperawareness and acceptance. Practice your hobbies and discover yourself through normal activities instead of staring at walls.



ASK A JEWISH MOTHER

Jessica Gutteridge is Studio Studio's Jewish-Mother-In-Residence. Retired intellectual property lawyer, current dramaturge, and performing arts festival artistic director, Jessica has over two decades of experience in Jewish-mothering.



My best friend since elementary school is finally getting married, and she's asked me to be her maid of honor. I'd been waiting for her to ask me to be her maid of honor since before she even got engaged, so obviously I said yes! The problem is I've never liked her soon-to-be husband. When they started dating she seemed so excited that I didn't have the heart to say that he was boring and unintelligent and that I thought she could do better. The excitement never seemed to fade so I never said anything. How am I supposed to manage my duties as a loyal maid of honor when I really don't think the marriage should go ahead?

Darling, are you the bride? Will you be waking up every morning next to this boor? Do you need to worry that his lack of intelligence will contribute to your future children's failure to get into a good university? Or, do you simply need to show up in a gown that everyone swears you will wear again but you will cart around from apartment to apartment for years before finally donating it to the local clothing drive, make a toast in which you tell a slightly embarrassing story about that time that you and your friend got caught making out with Tiger Beat centerfolds, and dance with a great-uncle with halitosis? Consider yourself lucky.

As a private investigator I often get asked to watch some pretty interesting people. This time, I might have gotten myself in over my head. The mayor's wife came to me asking me to find out who he was cheating on her with, but it turns out he wasn't cheating, he was in contact with aliens! After listening in on some of their meetings, I learned that the mayor is planning to sell city assets to the aliens so they can build a fast food franchise. This would totally destroy the small-town character of the city and is clearly a violation of the by-laws governing property sales. What am I supposed to do?

Civic involvement is a mitzvah and a virtue. Start attending city council meetings and let your voice be heard. Perhaps some day you can even run for office! Getting involved with local planning issues is an important obligation of good governance and is a privilege of citizenship. Good luck!

My children are finally old enough to need smartphones, and as a fellow mother, I'm sure you can sympathize with how frustrating it is to have kids who are absorbed in their screens. Normally, this would just be a simple annoyance about raising teenagers, but lately it seems like something more is going on. I caught my eldest using her smartphone as a remote detonator for an IED, which would normally be fine, except for the fact that she blew up my nice hydrangeas. I understand the need for armed struggle in the face of insurmountable oppression but I've spent a lot of time and hard work on that garden! What are your tips for finding an appropriate place for a child's bomb range?

Hydrangeas are so very lovely at this time of year, and so temperamental. Children need to learn to respect their home and garden and all the work that goes into creating a lovely home. I suggest that you encourage your daughter to find a nice vacant lot that has only weeds to destroy and practice her munitions detonation there.

I've just graduated from college and my mother is already on my case about the next chapter of my life: marriage. She wants me to settle down with a nice lawyer or doctor from a respectable family (and a little money wouldn't hurt), preferably Jewish too. But all those guys are too boring for me! I just want to go on Grindr and find myself a perfectly nice man who has a humanities degree and knows how to have fun. In fact, I already have. I'm about to introduce him to my mother, but I'm worried the lack of a medical degree, Jewish family, or inherited wealth is going to be an issue. What kind of cake should I bring to help distract from the shortcomings?

Babka, preferably chocolate.



hot girls have toe strength



hot girls love trash



hot girls are in need of a shower

HOT

GIRLS

Photographs and Captions by Alex Forsyth

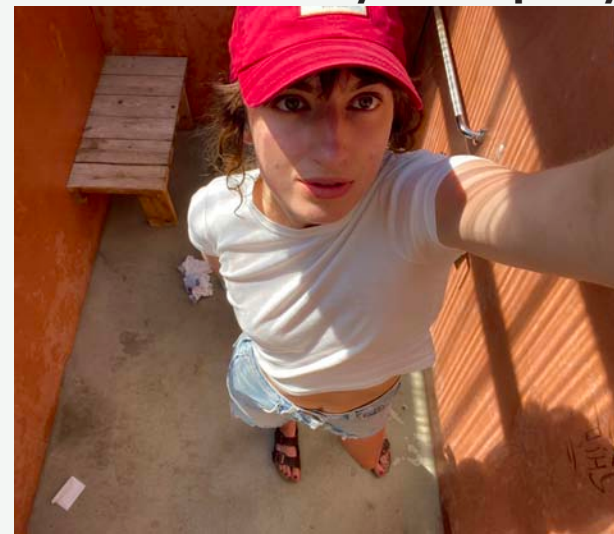


hot girls can't drive but love a nice ride

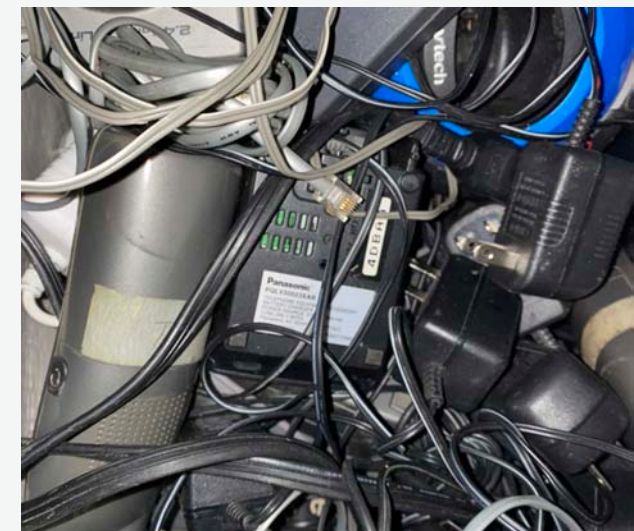


hot girls share the guac

hot girls take pics before they potty



hot girls take pics before they potty P2



hot girls zoom in



RUN



The Necessity of Eye Contact

Studio Studio Knows You



YIKES!



A Walk on Line Two

Raphael Gutteridge

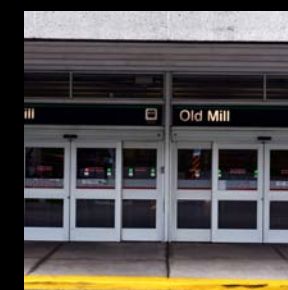
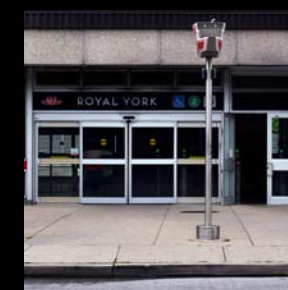
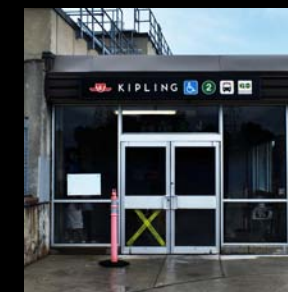
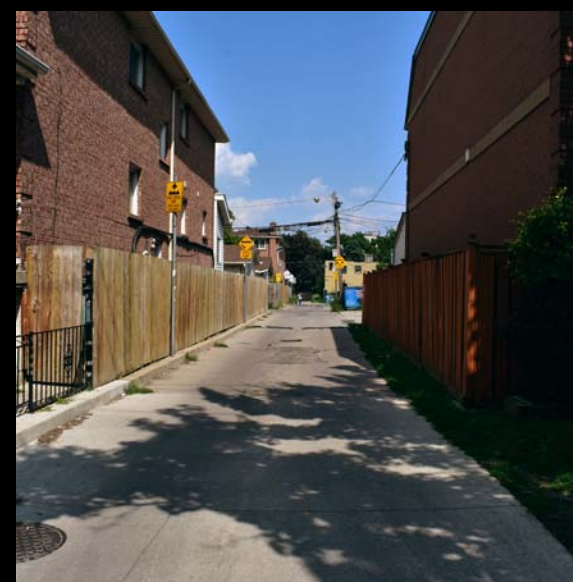


A chain of municipal parking lots and linear parks runs for a kilometer from Jane Street to Kennedy Park Road on the north side of Bloor Street. Another line runs from Jackman Avenue to Dew Lang Lane on the north side of Danforth Avenue. Ventilation grates line sidewalks on Strathmore Boulevard. Beneath them all, Toronto Subway Line 2 Bloor-Danforth.

At the end of the Second World War, Toronto faced a massive problem: its roads had reached critical capacity. On Yonge Street commuters faced streetcar traffic jams on a road that couldn't accommodate for any population growth, which the city was experiencing. In 1954, with the opening of the Yonge Subway (now Line 1), the TTC focused their attention on the other streetcar routes that were reaching capacity. Two potential routes were identified, Queen and Bloor/Danforth. Eventually, after years of bickering between the cities of Metro Toronto, the Bloor route was chosen.

Originally, the distance between the original endpoints of Keele and Woodbine was going to be built in three phases, but the provincial government put up the money to build the project all at once. This was a calculated move by the Ontario government, which was acutely aware of a growing reality. The cost of construction was increasing year over year, and the year when that cost would grow too high was approaching fast. To everyone involved in transit decision-making in Metropolitan Toronto, the goal was to build as much mileage of subway tunnel as possible before then.

In fact, the culture around public transit was strong enough that extensions to the Bloor/Danforth Subway started construction before the main segment opened in 1966, and was enough of a concern that it was completed in only three years, inaugurated in 1968. At similar times, plans developed to extend the Yonge Subway to York Mills and Finch, which opened in 1973 and 1974 respectively. Metro Chairman William Allen told the CBC in 1966 that he believed that for the next several years, the city should commit twenty million





dollars per year to the construction of rapid transit, until a network reached every part of Toronto. When asked to choose between two subway lines to prioritize, he refused on the grounds that the two lines would complement, rather than compete with each other.

Public transit had become such an integral part of the way Torontonians experience the city, that in 1971, Premier William Davis cancelled the incredibly controversial Spadina Expressway by saying “We must make a decision as to whether we are trying to build a transportation system to serve the automobile or one which will best serve people. If we are building a transportation system to serve the automobile, the Spadina Expressway would be a good way to start, If we are building a transportation system to serve the people, the Spadina Expressway would be a good place to stop.” Chairman Allen, when asked by the CBC if there was such a thing as too much space for the private

automobile in Toronto, said yes, “...there is if you want any room left for people to have homes or space for homes. If you cover up everything for roadways then there’s no space for people...”

Fifty years later, the Toronto of the Bloor Danforth Subway is almost completely unrecognizable to the Toronto of the Ontario Line. The TTC has faced constant threats to its operating budget, much less commitments for expansion. Meddling from the province started quickly, with even the pro-transit William Davis overriding Toronto to attempt to build a never-realized experimental light metro system, which wasted valuable years that could have been spent building conventional transit. Governments in the 1990s, notably the conservatives under Mike Harris, gutted transit funding and cancelled a subway project that had already started construction. Alongside the neoliberal privatization that proliferated during the end of the twentieth century, transit planning

for Toronto diminished into half-baked plans that changed with each new mayor or premier. The few projects that have gone forward have been marred by corporate interests inherent to the practice of the Public-Private-Partnership model and have come to represent poor organization by disinterested parties. It now takes twelve or more years to build a rapid transit line across the city, compared to the nine it took to build the entire Bloor/Danforth Line between Islington and Warden. NIMBY-ists now protest the removal of five trees for the construction of a subway station.

The current provincial government under Doug Ford has shown little interest in transit beyond rebranding existing plans to boost their own ego. Land usage policies by this government have focused primarily on the expansion of car-centric urban sprawl. Major scandals surround the hypothetical Highway 413 and approval of lands in the Toronto Greenbelt for suburban housing. While flashy subway projects look good in press releases, the actual planning policy of the government seems to defy the warnings of William Davis and William Allen fifty years before.

North of Bloor and Danforth, the string of public parks and parking lots traces a success story. A massively important method of mobility for the city also provides space for playgrounds and community gardens. Optimistic investment in public transit has proved, for over fifty years now, that the effects of building more transit are far reaching and beneficial. Tracing the path of the Bloor/Danforth Subway takes a person through the city's most diverse, vibrant, and iconic neighborhoods, neighborhoods which have been better connected and improved by the existence of the subway. While auto-centric exurban sprawl, in the words of William Allen, leaves no room for housing, having rapid transit has enabled greater density along the corridors of Bloor and Danforth. With the concerns of contemporary Toronto so pressing, a subway is a pressure valve.





THE GUEST LIST



Toast & TOASTS

**Brandi and Victoria invite
you to celebrate the
summer with a night of
bread and champagne.**



**August 32nd, 2023
at 5:00PM
628 Pine Street**



THE SECRET TO THROWING A GOOD DINNER PARTY.

If life is like a box of chocolates, then dinner parties are akin to a pint of strawberries in August: some sweet, some large, some disappointingly sour, and - of course - you never know what you're going to get.

1. the people

The core of every dinner party is, first and foremost, the attendees. Even a party with extravagance that parallels that of *Gatsby's* would fall apart without the right care and attentiveness to the people in it. To host any gathering is both a privilege and a delight--and thus, the key to a good dinner party begins with inviting good company.

2. the dinner

What makes a dinner party so wonderful is that it needs not flaunt numbers nor loudness. Dinner parties are based in intimacy, conversation, and slowness. It invites the night to drag on--a sultry dance between sweet desserts and sweet conversation. So, naturally, every good dinner party must have a good dinner.

3. the party

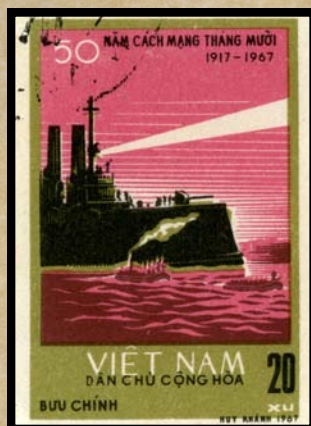
The beauty of hosting a dinner in your own space is that you can make it whatever you want--a simple round of bites that end with sunset, a celebratory event so elaborate that dessert follows a full 4 hours after appetizers, or a casual night where conversation pours out with the same speed as the wine. For every occasion (if there even is one), there is a dinner party. Which brings us back to the beginning: for before a dinner party may even begin, we must determine how to convey the evening to the guests. Most importantly, we must make sure that they feel invited.



STAMP COLLECTING CONSPIRACIES

THE LEGEND OF THE FIRST STAMP

BY MAURICE LARSON



What was the first stamp?

Was it carved into bone? Etched into clay? A mere footprint on a muddy shore?

This mystery has occupied the imaginations of stamp collectors for generations.

If ever identified, the very first stamp would be the prized possession of any collection. It would be worth hundreds of millions and stir envy throughout the stamp-collecting community. Some say that such a discovery would bring the whole trade to a standstill.



Several reports of the first stamp have emerged throughout history.

In 1721, Charles E. Trodat reported finding the first stamp deep in a cave system that runs beneath the rainforests of Uganda. He set out on the treacherous journey to England with the stamp in tow. But his ship vanished off the coast of the Azores. Rumors that he had gotten in over his head proliferated amongst traders, shared in back rooms and dark places.

Another sighting was documented a near century later. Jenny I. N. Verted made a splash in the headlines with big claims about a new discovery. The stamp in question had been found covered in dust in the attic of an old fisherman in Bermuda. Although never outright stated by Madam Verted, the potential of this being the oldest and most valuable of stamps was heavily implied. However, before an official announcement could be made, Madam Verted committed suicide, and the stamp was never recovered.

CHANGING THE NARRATIVE

The Impact of Home Renovations

Helen Atkinson

Picture this: a beautiful Victorian home. From the sidewalk you see warm bricks, steep gables, black trimmings, a deep porch, a crooked step. Each crack in the pavement tells stories of the weather and the journeys before your arrival. This beautiful home is your oasis to return to at the end of a long day. You twist the tarnished knob on the front door, a brass knob that reflected so clearly many years before, but has since been worn by many hands and many long days. The door opens and you take a step inside. You're home. Although you have seen this very sight countless times, you breathe it in once more. You walk over to the small dining nook and admire the gilded wainscoting and decorative trim. You spin around to view your living room and a sigh of relief escapes you when you see the ornamentation on the fireplace mantel. You thank yourself for every moment you have spent in this stunning preserved home.

Unfortunately, none of that is real because in 2021 you discovered that Pantone's colour of the year was 'Ultimate Grey' and spent hours of your time gathering minimalist decor advice from blogs online. You decided that the intimate dining nook needed to go because 'open concept' is far more practical; smooth walls meeting at crisp edges is superior to the carved details. You decided that a modern home makeover looked appealing on your phone screen and decided to replicate it. Now you are surrounded by grey walls and are reading this article on a sofa that is just a tad too firm, but you refuse to replace it because it fits the new aesthetic of your space. I will leave you with one question and that question is this: If you strip your home of its character, what does it say about yours?



Nowadays, the first stamp is intertwined with myth and inseparable from legend. Some believe that this is by design. Powerful people stand to gain a lot from the first stamps' exclusion from the stamp trade. All other stamps would be devalued to such an extent that fortunes could be lost in one headline. Is it any coincidence that those closest to the stamps' history have met unfortunate demises?



FIELD GUIDE TO DECODING ALIEN MESSAGES

The following is the only existing page of Edward Harris's fabled "Field Guide to Decoding Alien Messages," discovered only last year after the great fire in a charred secret compartment of his desk:

Clouds as we know them have existed since at least the year 1802 AD, for it was then that Jean-Baptist Lamarck classified a series of celestial apparitions in the French sky into five groups: hazy, massed, dappled, broom-like, and grouped "nuages" — or more familiarly, clouds. Jean however, foolishly focused only upon the nomenclature, and failed to ask the key questions. Who put them there? And how?

Today, with the water cycle propaganda that infects our early education institutions right the way up through the highest levels of academia, we are still getting it all wrong— but not for much longer. In this chapter of your field guide to decoding alien messages, we will move forward from the well-explored territory of alien messages in "dreams" in the last chapter to study "clouds" and elevate you into the knowledgeable few of this subject.

THE UNANSWERED BRUNCH INVITATION:

Don't believe me? Look no further than the lenticularis "cloud." Although suspended over the mountains like cosmic pancakes, meteorologists claim their shape has to do with moisture over the summits. This hypothesis defies science and this shape is no coincidence. Does the water over your pasta pot make white fluff on your kitchen ceiling? No! These "clouds" are obvious constructions of intergalactic visitors with extraterrestrial technologies. These "clouds" keep "forming" because we have yet to answer this interstellar brunch invitation.



SOCIAL COMMENTARY:

The sage aliens tasked with cloud-spinning would be the first to tell you that distance and perspective are the key to enlightenment. So with the distance they have from our earth, they offer insight into our wrongdoings. Stormy cumulonimbus "clouds" for example are actually an important warning we must heed! Camera flashes coming from sky paparazzi? This is a warning we must heed about the potential doom of our civilization in an age where privacy has ceased to exist.



What are you Eating? How Ghost Kitchens Destroyed Dining

AllisonMurphy

Once upon a time, dining on a meal not prepared in one's own home was a luxury. Even the rich used personal chefs, who would operate in a separate kitchen within their own home. Popular culture acknowledges the childhood phenomenon of being told that "there's food at home" after setting sights on a fast food chain. Meals from external kitchens represented a form of decadence and consumption for only the most privileged.

This is no longer so. In 2021, restaurant delivery revenues reached seven billion dollars, a record high. Coming on the heels of the pandemic this is no surprise, after all, consumers have been traumatized against leaving their homes in search of products like groceries. Easily downloadable apps and friendly user interfaces have promoted the mass-adoption of Silicon Valley's most insidious invention: the food delivery service. Corporations like Uber, Doordash, and SkiptheDishes capitalize on human hunger and instant gratification to transition dining away from being an occasion to a filthy mess of athleisure and dirty couches in front of a television. While restaurateurs used to craft personalized experiences, they've been left helpless, watching their food be thrown into cardboard boxes and disappear into foil-lined backpacks.

Except restaurateur is barely a vocation anymore. A restaurant has become another entry on the list of institutions killed by Silicon Valley. Instead, chefs go to work in so-called "ghost kitchens" which exist only as industrial kitchens making food for the delivery economy. Existing restaurants of all cuisines have surrendered to UberEats and have begun contracting out their recipes to

these jack-of-all trade kitchens that seek to do only one thing: profit. That's right, the uniquely human experience of mastication has been commodified.

Expertly crafting a sensation of taste and texture is no longer the goal of those working in the culinary arts. They've all sold out for industrial appliances in the backrooms of industrial parks. Your dinner no longer comes from a charming storefront on a neighborhood street, but from a distribution centre at the edge of driving range.

A restaurant you once thought of as integral to your community has been keeping a dark secret, they serve the whims of a tech billionaire thousands of miles away, working to pay back the investments of the Saudi sovereign wealth fund. Their storefront in your local shopping district is just a ruse to build brand loyalty so the next time you're too tired to cook, you order from a name you recognize on a map. Fooled into thinking it's coming from down the street, it's really coming from across town, from a neighborhood you wouldn't otherwise want to visit.

Dining on a meal not prepared in one's own home was once a pillar of middle-class life, a measure of the success of the American Dream, to be able to treat the whole family to special experience. Now, a system of secret kitchens in nondescript warehouses funnel food into soulless condos for lonely, single people to consume while waiting to log into a video conference.

Landscaping Tips for a Secret Garden



One of the more daunting questions in landscaping is how to have a secret garden you can be proud of? It's a problem that stretches back to the start of the very concept of gardening and has only recently been addressed in the circles of landscape architecture, which too have been stumped. As a practitioner in the art of secret gardening, I've developed my own methods for cultivating such a space.

The elephant in the room is Frances Hodgson Burnett's *The Secret Garden* which offers a popular image for what a secret garden should look like. Without properly deconstructing your notion of what a secret garden can be, you end up falling back on tired clichés of blockstone

walls and uncomfortable little benches. The first step, and the most helpful one too, is to see your secret garden as an opportunity for pure creativity.

Next, it's time to tackle seasons. Even at the equator there are dry and wet seasons, so no matter where you are, you're going to have to adapt your garden for the whole year. What's the point of keeping your garden a secret if it becomes completely exposed when the leaves fall off trees? Or what happens when you carefully select flowers, but they only bloom for the month of April and the rest of the year the garden lacks color of any kind? Plan your garden to be responsive to the changing seasons, because after all, even a bare winter tree can be gardened.

One of the worst things *The Secret Garden* did to the concept of secret gardening is the focus on rose bushes, and while roses can be used skillfully, it places too much of an emphasis on plant material in gardens. A classic rock garden can be an exquisite thing and it's a shame that they're so overlooked. While rock might not be your preferred landscaping material, consider all of the different ways to build a trellis. Wood, metal, or even plastic can be used, each of them offering different architectural qualities. Don't shy away from the inorganic, especially when it can be used to blend in with surrounding buildings depending on your environment. I've seen brick walls so well done that they felt just organic as the ivy that covered them.

While you consider inorganic materials, make sure to avoid the greenhouse trap. A problem first theorized by Waldorf Hutchinson in his 1893 book *Wrought Iron in the Contemporary American Garden*, he foresaw that some gardeners would become so covetous of rare and tropical plants that they would build secluded greenhouses that functioned more as vaults than gardens. Unfortunately, this came to pass when, in 1957, the journal *Canadian Horticulture Design* covered the estate of Horace Ogilvie of Guelph, Ontario and his series of half-basement greenhouses that were protected by an intricate hedge maze and barbed wire, all in order to protect his rare collection of crocuses. Learn from the mistakes Horace made and decouple floral paranoia from the art of gardening. A greenhouse can be an entirely separate project from a secret garden, even if hedge mazes are still involved. Good gardeners never resort to anti-aircraft systems.

Something else to consider in our modern age is satellite surveillance. No longer are we being watched by the benevolent gazes of the NSA and KGB like we were at the dawn of the

orbital surveillance age. In the twenty-first century, tech companies make high altitude photos of our backyards available, letting our gardening secrets be shared to voyeuristic style writers. While I'm personally proud to say that I've never written a column about a garden that I haven't personally been invited to see, I can't say the same for other people in the profession. If you want to keep your secret garden as closely guarded as possible (without resorting to anti-aircraft canons), consider a creative use of tree canopy. Mimicking natural forests can disguise your secret garden as just another stand of trees from above. Or, consider camouflage-like flowerbeds patterned to be AI-resistant. On the other hand, some people keep secrets for the thrill of having them revealed, and it may be slightly intriguing to know that your garden isn't really a secret from above. Exhibitionism can be fun.

And finally, as we round out the list, consider the theoretical. Aforementioned satellites, snooping house guests, concerned spouses, landlords, and more all risk exposing your secret garden to the world. The existence of a physical garden is a very easy secret to lose track of, and perhaps not one you're willing to chance. Instead, try a completely theoretical secret garden. Move beyond the physical world into one of imagination and scheming. The best secret is one that's never been written down, so sometimes the best secret gardening tip, is to imagine instead.

by Christopher Wan



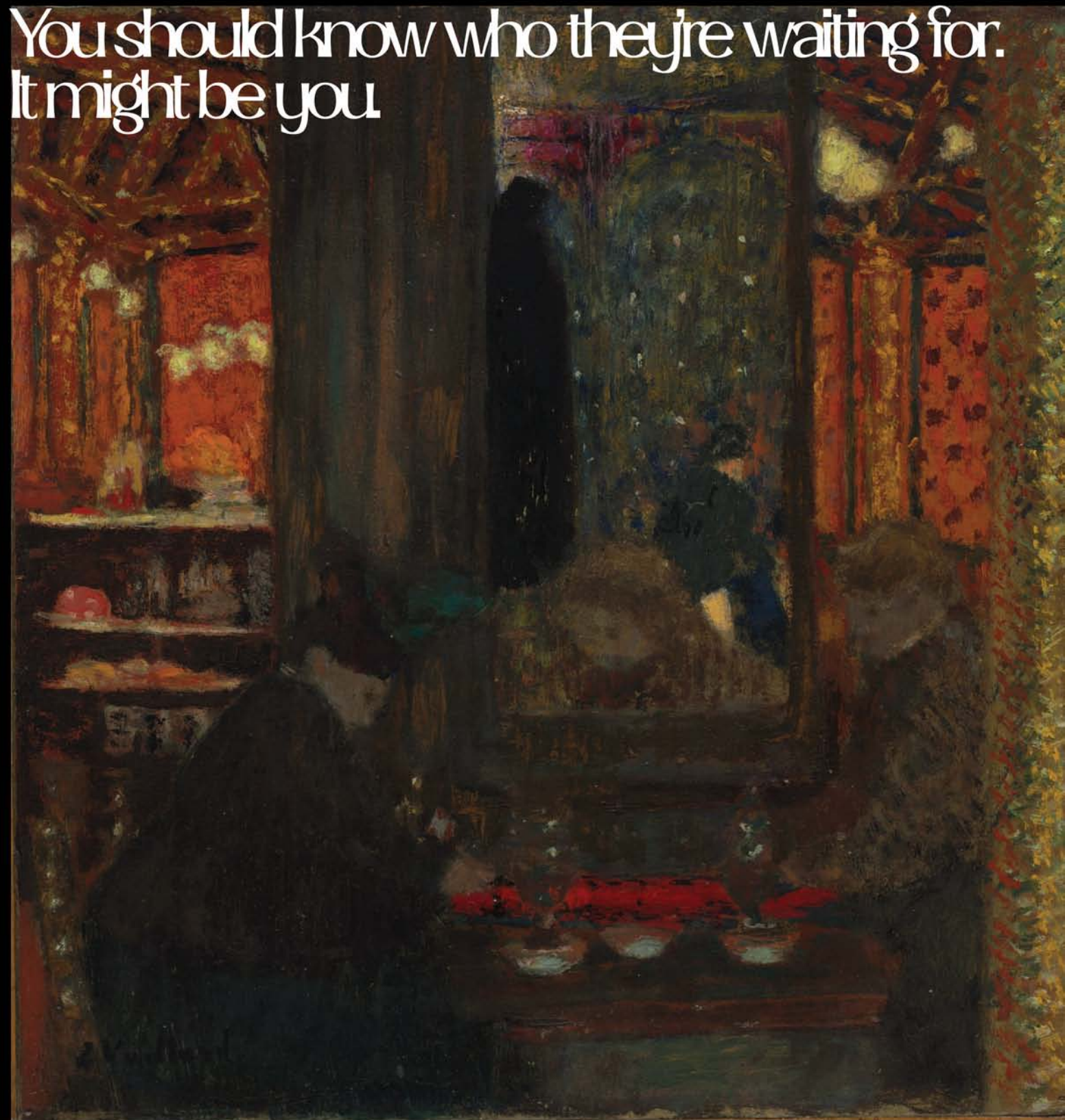
STUDIO STUDIO



TORONTO, VANCOUVER, ETC.

STUDIO
STUDIO

You should know who they're waiting for.
It might be you.



OH NO!



YOU'VE BEEN DISCOVERED

What is about to be revealed?

