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THRU THE EYES OF JO LEE

LE REGARD DE JO LEE | A TRAVÉS DE LOS OJOS DE JO LEE | DURCH DIE AUGEN VON JO LEE |
透過眼睛的 JO LEE

My Evening Party For Four

BY JO LEE FOR JO LEE MAGAZINE
NEW YORK/SAN FRANCISCO/HONG KONG/LONDON/TOKYO/ROME/TORONTO

Hello dear friends! So many of you have asked that I begin sharing with you some of the incredible things in my life. Where do I begin! Why not with beauty.

I grew up in a diplomatic milieu amongst a family of intellectuals, music, lots of love, and whether during the highs or lows, always joy.

My mother and father were the epitome of everything beautiful to me, and from this, “beauty” became my “magnificent obsession”. From life – right down to celery greens and white sand – beauty to me has portrayed the segment of goodness in everyone’s souls. Beauty is magical. It’s like shooting stars. It’s like a crystal that mirrors and replicates multitudes of ideas into dreams coming true.

And so, within my life in San Francisco, New York, London and my wondrous suite in Toronto, I

revel within the beauty of the old and the new. Now, won’t you come with me as I entice you to dine in sumptuous elegance and delicious simplicity with a marvelous colleague, friend, family member and myself – for four. The most wonderful setting for a conversation filled with convivial chatter. What better way to grow in mind and in the richness of beauty within your guests than to be surrounded in coziness that you never want to get up from.

It can be said that when we set the table, we set the stage for a social performance by bringing to the art of table setting all the talents of making the performance a smash hit.

In this evening setting, a graceful table of pinks defines the limits of an intimate dining spot. Ornate nineteenth-century pieces of china are placed as supporting actors in the evening’s drama. The tablecloth with

its miniature bouquets of flowers is designed by Gloria Vanderbilt and very simply titled “Gloria”. It gives a fresh foundation to Coeur Fleurs, Swag Goblets and a fanciful collection of Vermeil Crystal dishes filled with the most demure stuffed olives.

The title of my evening is unmistakably “Conversation and Hearts” ... but how it turns out is anyone’s guess until the end of the fourth course.

To create an atmosphere that captures and titillates all our senses is like creating a painting. By taking the beauty of those around my table and having it reflect in everyone’s faces.

E Saluti e buon appetito – from my very Italian home to yours. Why not recreate this in your very own inimitable way.

Do remember, loveliness increases. It will never pass into nothingness. JL

On The Cover: Jo Lee in front of Ottawa Canada's Magnificent Parliament Buildings.
Original cover photography and Digital imaging by Julia Sera Viola, Toronto – Canada.

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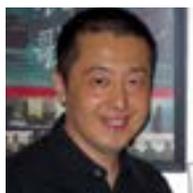
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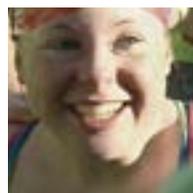
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A blurred cityscape with tall buildings and a concrete ledge in the foreground. The buildings are out of focus, showing a mix of grey and blue tones. The concrete ledge is in the lower third of the frame, with a dark shadow cast on it.

ALEXANDRA EGAN
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THE POET'S CORNER

Sally Anne Reisner grew up in San Francisco's Bay Area and then taught in an urban-suburban high school in New Jersey for eighteen years. At the age of fifty she left her job, re-married and focused on her writing.



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THE POET'S CORNER

Born in Prague, Czechoslovakia, Vera Resnik lost most of her family in the Holocaust. Her volunteer work in the New Jersey court system – as a conflict resolution resource and advocate for children's rights – led to a court appointment to the child review committee. Today, Vera's writings are widely read.



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THE MARVELOUS MAVERICK

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MARVELOUS 的心跳撩撥到連

U.S. Politics Are Like My Family Business

BY H. GAIL REGAN
TORONTO – CANADA

The original family business counselors were patriarchal. Then along came a new approach, “Bowenism”, and the emphasis changed to “self-differentiation”. Rather than learn the patriarch’s role and duplicate it, the succeeding generation was to develop as a set of individualized persons and then work as a team.

My siblings and I took the new idea to heart. So off we went in different activities, locations and educational courses, establishing our own small businesses, while touching base with our Bowenian family counselor and expecting moral support, and sometimes financial support, from the main business.

My father and two of his colleagues objected. They complained of too much rivalry between the siblings. I believed that I had worked well and creatively with my sibs when I did work with them, for I hardly ever saw them. How could this be rivalry, let alone excessive rivalry? I assured my

father and his friends that we were just being modern and that everything was fine. They were not assured and they were correct that something was wrong. (It wasn’t rivalry though.) We accessed the courts before we settled.

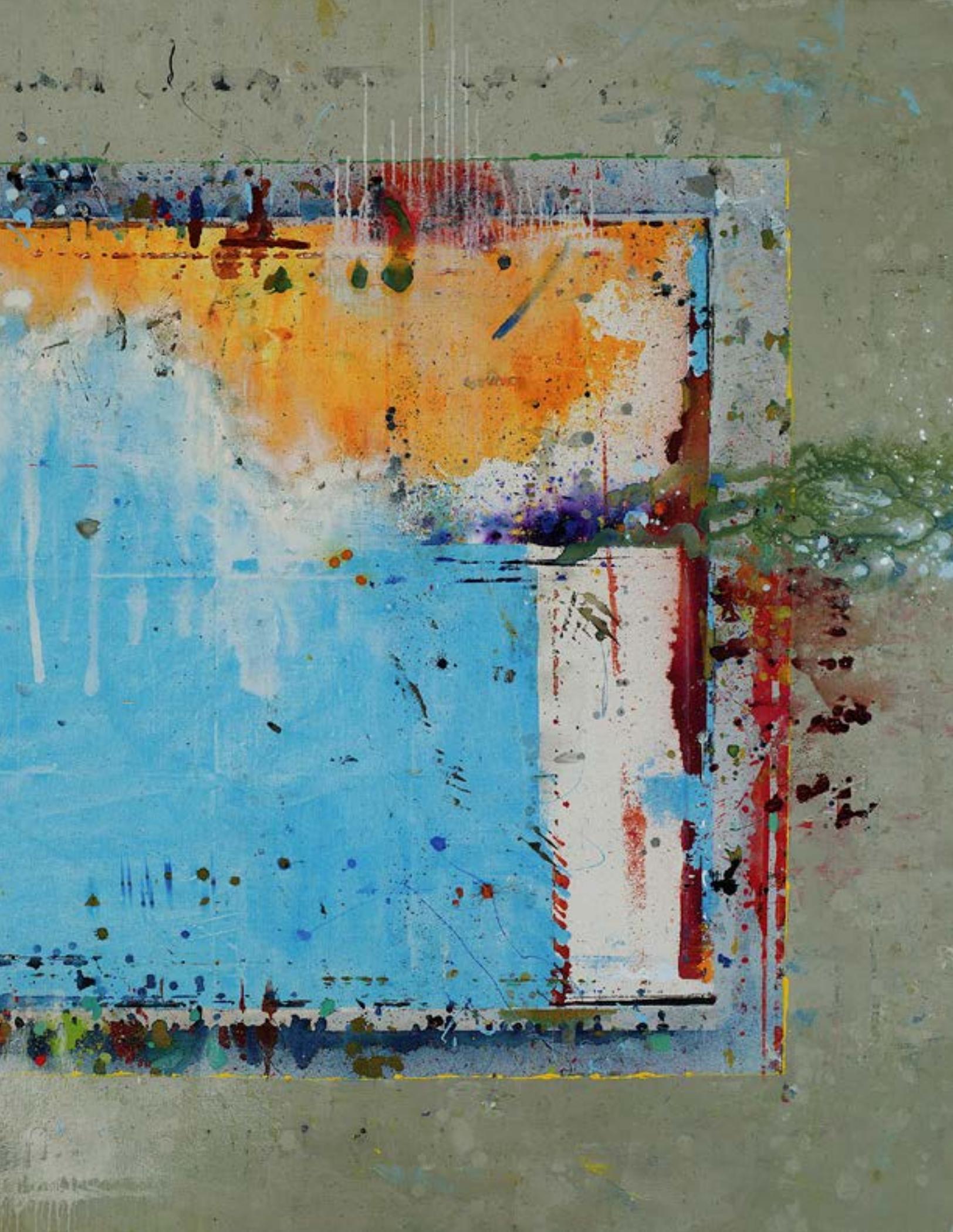
When Canadians look at U.S. politics we see too much rivalry, too much conflict, too much divisiveness. The U.S. constitution prescribes a division of power, so some of the Canadian perception may just be ethnocentrism. But what are we really seeing? Is there a problem?

All but two U.S. states have more per capita income than Alberta, Canada’s wealthiest province. So from a Canadian perspective the U.S. is doing really well. Although the wealth is spread out, some concentrates, especially in the tech sector of Silicon Valley. But the country is not evolving towards universal tech. Its economies are differentiated and government policies that are good for one sector may hurt another. The U.S. is not one

patriarchal system moving as a whole. It is Bowenian.

This is the same problem that I had in family business. We developed a modern, self-differentiated family system but we flunked patriarchy. We did not have the skills or temperament to replicate my father’s personality and we chafed under the patriarchal disciplines – estate freezes, marriage contracts, life insurance and voting trusts – that enable family business succession. We were too self-absorbed to submit, and this made us look like rivals. Then, when we stumbled, there was no force to support us as a team, so the road to bitter litigation was all too easy.

The U.S. is following its constitution and prospering, but orderliness and teamwork are a different story. As in my family business, this arrangement amplifies mistakes rather than contains them. On the plus side, this method of organization makes money and provides an exciting life. JL



Politics

BY STANLEY J. DORST
SAN FRANCISCO – CALIFORNIA

There is not much new to say about “politics”, but I cannot agree with my daughters that we should not talk about it. I suppose (perhaps wrongly) that the reason for this is that they are reading “the lies” and misleading innuendoes rather than the truth.

Outside of that there is the unfortunate fact that the Democrats and Republicans have decidedly different platforms or beliefs. So if everyone holds out for what they believe is right, and we do not elect a majority of one party, nothing is going to get done. Actually we even have a split Republican Party, which gives us a three party system.

Really unfortunate.

Would you agree that the main problem is how far to go into debt and for what?

Choices:

Medical care for everyone

Grants to the poor

National defense

More, or fewer, government employees

Lower taxes

Etc.

All are defensible in the abstract, but not in comparison.

My own theory is that in the USA, we are developing a dependant class in the ghettos or very poor neighborhoods. That is, people who find it convenient to not work a 40-hour week. These, when combined with the truly unemployable, make an increasingly large public cost. As long as we deny there are special educational needs for these persons, it will only get worse.

The other questionable public cost is the number of government employees at various levels of government, and the high benefits they receive. I hear estimates and they are staggering. The role of government is to control people and companies, not replace them.

How much do you think we should tax ourselves?

JL



The Poet's Corner

BY DR. MARGARET R. O'KEEFFE UMANZIO,
VERA RESNIK & TIMOTHY WINSTON SNELGROVE

PHOTOGRAPH BY PETER SOLMSEN
SAN FRANCISCO – CALIFORNIA

Life

Wake up, do not hibernate
nor keep on slumbering
lift those eyelids from dull awareness
enjoy your heartbeats
life is now, life is here, there,
everywhere.

A sachet of wonderment
a museum of memories
life is a tragedy, a mystery, a comedy
a vitality play with you the main star.

Life is spring when windows open
letting in the blue of the sky
scenting the wind as weeds bow to
flowers
one treasured moment after another.

Life, staying childlike, playing,
jumping into puddles
walking in the rain, turning frowns
into smiles
having no regrets, seeing magic
dreaming of tomorrow's adventures.

Life, a precious jewel, to admire,
appreciate,
share, enjoy. So,
love, love, LOVE LIFE

© Vera Resnik

The Immigrant Named Guillermo

Reaching out to grasp the hand of
connection to others

Whaling out the sounds of separateness

Feeling the breath of strangers on his
smooth and wet skin

Seeing a field of countless
opportunities

Exploding with unbridled passion

Anticipating crisis while mastering
change

In a country founded by immigrants

Guillermo is making America great
once again.

© Margaret Umanzio

A Beautiful Awakening

I taste summer turn to autumn.
The breeze of morning time.
A subtle yet distinct flavor of air.
an overpowering nostalgia as I recall
the first time it traversed my palette.

A wooden frame.
Sustaining two rusty chains
attached to a single bright matte blue
Rubber seat.

It is here that I am completely at peace.
The feeling of becoming weightless.
Not just from the motion of the swing,
but from being such a young pure soul.

A small boy with the world placed
under his blue swing.
A world that has yet to disappoint him,
Yet to show him behind the curtains of
imagination.

Still full of wonder and of awe, left
with the only assumption
that this is how things play out
everywhere.
Singing of joy, asking the sky questions
and hearing answers.
When there was still so much ahead,
and no past behind me to regret.
This taste, a smell, a feeling, an aura.

When the warm turns cold and the
leaves shiver and shrink,
I will always love this potent reminder
of possibility.

© Timothy Winston Snelgrove

SENSING THE UNSEEN

LA DÉTECTION DE L'INVISIBLE | LA DETECCIÓN DE LA UNSEE | DIE UNSICHTBARE | 偵測到不可見

On Power And Self-Actualization

TEXT & PHOTOGRAPHY BY ALAN BRISKIN
SAN FRANCISCO – CALIFORNIA



We often think of power as a type of force; one has the ability to impose one's opinions, ideas, or even one's self onto others. In my training as a business consultant, it was not uncommon to define leadership as the power to make people do what they would normally not do on their own.

Power is also associated with hierarchy, a position one has over something or someone. In a social context, power typically refers to the person highest in the pecking order or literally on the highest floor of the building. Power is associated with both height and breadth, an all-encompassing capacity to have one's way. And this of course leads to all kinds of mischief, corruption, and evil. Over two hundred years ago the British statesman, Edmund Burke, captured the fear succinctly when he declared, "The greater the power, the more dangerous the abuse". And this understanding of power as a type of unholy force has not changed much in the intervening years.



One consequence is the wish to contain power, sterilize it of its potency, or undermine it. Social justice initiatives invariably attempt to “speak truth to power”, a phrase capturing the perceived sense of polarity that exists between power and desired social values such as truth, as well as justice and love. At a personal level, this negative view of power makes it difficult, if not wrong, to seek power, and is used to diminish others by projecting onto them a damning critique of their wishing to have power.

What if we have this all backward? What if we have distorted the true meaning of power in such a way that it has limited our ability for personal growth as well as social change? What if power is not something we have but a quality of being-ness that has us? What if we go to the very root of being human and find power waiting there for us, asking “what will you do with me?” And the answer from the wisest among us, from Socrates to Buddha, from Thoreau to Gandhi, from Martin Luther King to Mandela is this: Power is the instinct for dynamic self-affirmation. Power is an elemental force which, when joined with love and justice, creates a constellation of spiritual energy; an energy which neither demeans a person nor oppresses another group.

Power as an archetypal force obligates us to fulfill our destiny as a species that knows it knows – to realize our highest potential for self-realization and self-actualization. Power is the drive to affirm life and oppose the psychological and social forces that condemn us to be less than we are. So seek power, but do so in a way that honors the depth of our humanity – to affirm life and oppose oppression wherever we find it.

Further reading –

Love, Power and Justice by Paul Tillich

Power and Love: A Theory and Practice of Social Change by Adam Kahane

The Power of Collective Wisdom by Alan Briskin, Sheryl Erickson, John Ott, Tom Callanan

JL

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Tsodilo

BOTSWANA

BY SUSAN BERGER
NEW YORK / SAN FRANCISCO / HONG KONG /
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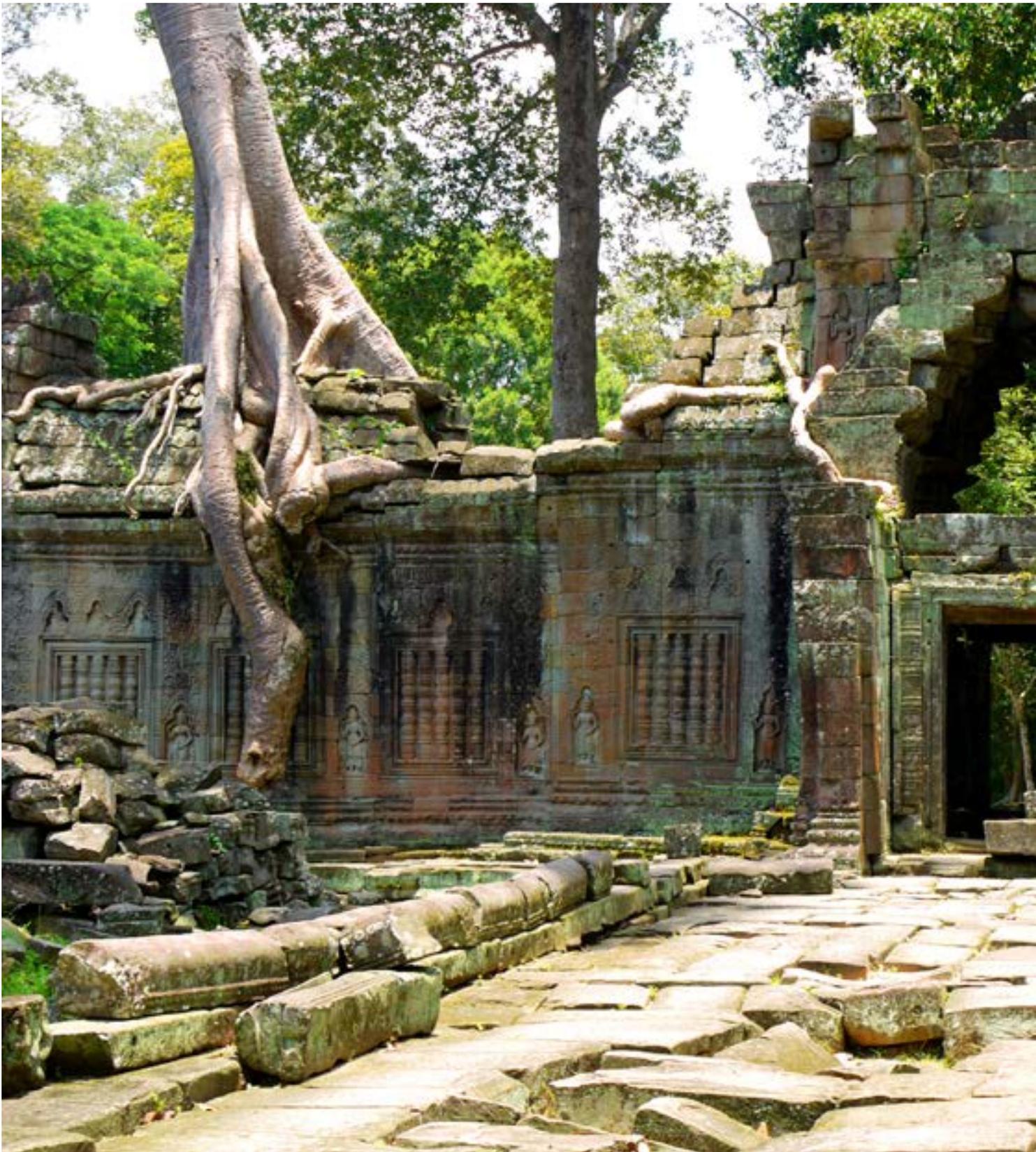
Called the “Louvre of the Desert”, the Tsodilo Hills are home to one of the highest collections of rock art in the world. The almost 500 sites containing 4,500 paintings are found in a small area of only 10 km² in four quartzite rock formations rising out of the sand dunes of the Kalahari Desert.

Preservation of the area, which provides a chronological account of human activities and environmental developments over the past 100,000 years, is attributed to its remoteness, the low population density, and a lack of erosion of the rock.

The original inhabitants of the area were the San people, who were most likely responsible for the red finger paintings in the first millennium. Many depict isolated figures and more than half show wild and domestic animals. Often they are outlined by geometric patterns. In addition to the art, pottery, iron, glass beads, shell beads and carved bone and stone tools have been found, and over 20 mines have been excavated that extracted specularite, which was used as a cosmetic.

Local inhabitants consider Tsodilo a sacred, mystical place of worship containing ancestral spirits. The largest rock is referred to as the “Male”, the smaller one the “Female”, and the smallest one the “Child”. The fourth hill is known as the Male hill’s first wife. The hills are believed to be a resting place for the spirits of the deceased, and their gods are thought to live in and rule the world from the Female hill. Preservation of the site is aided by the belief that the gods will cause bad luck if anyone hunts or causes death near the hills.

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Angkor

CAMBODIA

BY SUSAN BERGER
NEW YORK / SAN FRANCISCO / HONG KONG /
LONDON / TOKYO / ROME / TORONTO

Considered one of the largest archeological sites in the world, the Angkor complex is home to the remains of the capital of the Khmer Empire, which existed from the 9th to the 15th centuries. The massive territory covered much of what we call now Southeast Asia, from the tip of the Indochinese Peninsula to Yunnan province in China and from Vietnam westward to the Bay of Bengal. The Angkor archeological site is found in northwestern Cambodia near the town of Siem Reap, where some of the villages in the region have been in existence since the Angkor period.

A dynasty of Khmer kings ruled the Empire from the city of Angkor, tapping into the riches and labor of the region to build substantial construction projects designed to glorify themselves, their capital city and their gods. They built a system of reservoirs, canals and moats for the purpose of water control and rice irrigation as well as an abundance of temples, communications routes, palaces, public buildings and houses. Although hundreds of temples and other structures survive today, the most impressive is the Temple of Angkor Wat, which is on the Cambodian flag. The magnificent temple, built as a spiritual home for the Hindu god Vishnu, is a colossal structure filled with artistic treasures such as the bas-relief galleries lining many walls that tell tales of Cambodian history and legend.

By the 16th century, the city was abandoned, leaving only the jungle-covered remains of the ancient temples and the ruins of the system of canals and reservoirs.

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Qhapaq Nan

CHILE

BY SUSAN BERGER
NEW YORK / SAN FRANCISCO / HONG KONG /
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Built over many centuries, Qhapaq Nan was a system of roads covering in excess of 30,000 kilometers linking the Pacific Coast to the Amazon Basin. Forming the backbone of the Inca Empire's political and cultural power, the roads wound their way through mountains, tropical rainforests, valleys and deserts, running through what are now Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Columbia, Ecuador and Peru. While parts of it are still preserved, a large part is covered in vegetation. Much of route was located at an altitude of between 3500 and 5000 meters, connecting populated areas, administrative centers, agricultural and mining zones and ceremonial centers. The Qhapaq Nan system united the multi-cultural Inca empire into a well-organized political system of power with the roads used for communication, trade and defense.

The trails varied in size, being eight meters across on the coast, while only one meter wide in the ferociously steep Andes mountains. In order to facilitate the difficult travel on the mountains, the Incas travelled the route with their llamas, which were able to carry heavy loads and provide them with food, fuel and wool.

In its designation of the site, UNESCO called it an engineering wonder that must be restored and preserved, naming 291 archeological sites throughout the system. "The cultural landscapes of Qhapaq Nan form an exceptional backdrop on which living Andean cultures continue to convey a universal message: the human ability to turn one of the harshest geographical contexts of the American continent into an environment for life."

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Temple of Heaven

CHINA

BY SUSAN BERGER

NEW YORK / SAN FRANCISCO / HONG KONG / LONDON / TOKYO / ROME / TORONTO

The magnificent Temple of Heaven, located south of the Forbidden City in Beijing, was built during the Ming dynasty in 1420. It was the site where the emperors came to worship the God of Heaven and to sacrifice animals and pray for a good harvest.

The architectural design of the Temple as well as the ceremony and associated music were based on ancient beliefs relating numbers and spatial organization to the Chinese philosophies regarding Heaven and its relationship to people on Earth. The location of the spectacular Hall of Prayer for Good Harvests was set by the emperor's Fengshui masters as the point where Heaven and Earth meet.

The compound consists of 92 buildings with 600 rooms, and is the world's largest existing building complex for offering sacrifice to Heaven. It is divided by two walls into the inner and outer alters. The northern part is circular while the southern part is square, based on the ancient Chinese belief that Heaven is round and the Earth is square. When standing at the Zhaoheng Gate in the south, people on the alter are so high that they appear to be walking in Heaven. The upper tier of the Circular Alter is ornamented with 9 stone rings, representing their belief that there are nine layers to Heaven. To the west of the alters is the Hall of Abstinence where the emperor fasted after making a sacrifice.

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Historic Center of Prague

CZECHIA

BY SUSAN BERGER
NEW YORK / SAN FRANCISCO / HONG KONG /
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et on both sides of the Vltava River, Prague is widely considered one of the most magnificent cities in Europe. Its development began in the 11th century and continued through the 18th century, with a burst of development in the 1300's when Charles IV, king of Bohemia and Holy Roman Emperor, commenced a building program to turn the city into his imperial capital. This led to the development of the New Town as well as Charles University and the construction of the famous Charles Bridge.

Linking the two sides of Prague, the Old Town and the Lesser Town, the Charles Bridge is a pedestrian route with phenomenal views of the monuments, Gothic, Baroque and modern architecture, burgher houses, towers and palaces of the city. Multitudes of people wander the bridge, lined with 75 statues and filled with artists and musicians, looking in wonder at the city. Gazing down over the city is Prague Castle, founded in the 9th century and now the largest ancient castle in the world. The seat of Czech rulers and presidents, additions to the castle were made over the centuries, and today it is comprised of historical palaces, churches, fortification buildings, and gardens.

As early as the Middle Ages, Prague became one of the leading cultural centers of Europe, and has always been associated with giants of art, science and politics. It came through World War II relatively unscathed, and survived decades of negligence under Communist rule. Today the center of the city has resumed its position as one of the most interesting and beautiful cities in the world.

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Borobudur Temple

INDONESIA

BY SUSAN BERGER

NEW YORK / SAN FRANCISCO / HONG KONG /
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The greatest Buddhist monument in the world, the Borobudur Temple complex located in central Java is a destination of Buddhist pilgrimage. Although there is no written record of who built it, or its purpose, it is estimated to have been constructed in the 8th and 9th centuries by the Syailendra Dynasty. Used as a Buddhist temple until sometime between the 10th and 15th centuries, it was abandoned for reasons unknown and was buried under volcanic ash and covered with vegetation. Discovered by the English Lieutenant-Governor Thomas Stamford Raffles in 1814, it was restored in the 20th century.

The temple, which was constructed from 2 million stone blocks, was built in three levels, each representing a stage on the way to the bodhisattva ideal of enlightenment. Pilgrims walk clockwise around each of the nine levels before reaching the top, a distance of three miles.

The base is pyramidal in shape with five concentric square terraces, and is covered in hundreds of reliefs of earthly desires. The next level is the trunk of a cone with three circular platforms, and contains reliefs of events in the life of the Gautama Buddha and scenes from the “Jatakas”, the stories of his previous lives. Surrounding the circular platforms are 72 stupas, each containing a statue of the Buddha. The upper level, an enormous stupa, represents the “realm of formlessness” or separation from the physical world, and contains no decoration. The circular shape represents eternity without beginning and end.

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Masada

ISRAEL

BY SUSAN BERGER

NEW YORK / SAN FRANCISCO / HONG KONG / LONDON / TOKYO / ROME / TORONTO

Hebrew for “fortress”, Masada sits on top of an isolated cliff in the Judean Desert overlooking the Dead Sea. A walled complex built by Herod the Great, King of Judea between 37 BCE and 4 CE, it included palaces, storehouses, barracks, an armory and a sophisticated water system which collected enough run-off water from a single day’s rain to support a thousand people for two to three years.

Shortly after Herod’s death, with Judea now part of the Roman Empire, the Jews revolted against the Romans and overcame the Roman garrison of Masada. After the fall of Jerusalem and the destruction of the Temple, families fled Jerusalem and joined the Jews at Masada, where they stayed for three years, fighting the Romans. Roman governor Flavius Silva finally marched against Masada, and when it became clear that they would succeed in breaching Masada’s walls, all the Jewish inhabitants committed suicide so that they would not be forced into slavery.

Due to the harshness of the environment and the remote location, which discouraged urban settlement, the Masada site remained untouched for more than 13 centuries until it was rediscovered in 1828. The buildings had been covered over and were not excavated until the 1960’s; there have been no additions or reconstruction. The military camps, siegeworks, an attack ramp and a series of legionary fortresses are the most comprehensive anywhere in the Roman world.

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Matera

ITALY

BY SUSAN BERGER
NEW YORK / SAN FRANCISCO / HONG KONG /
LONDON / TOKYO / ROME / TORONTO

The oldest continually inhabited cave city in the world, Matera has been populated for some 9,000 years ago. Carved into the rock of a massive gorge formed by a river, it is filled with fissures, ravines, rocks and caves. Known as the Sassi, the caves became people's homes and churches, with structures layered on top of other caves, alleys and stone stairways.

Over the years, new caves were carved out of the rock, however the people lived in desperate poverty. The dark caves had no natural light, ventilation, running water or electricity, and diseases such as malaria, cholera and typhoid were widespread. Families lived together with their animals in small caves, eating once a day. Conditions in the Sassi became internationally known in 1935, when the writer Carlo Levi, exiled by Mussolini to a town close to Matera, published a book in which he wrote, "I have never seen in all my life such a picture of poverty". In 1950 Italian Prime Minister Gasperi said the area was a national disgrace, and, using money from the Marshall Plan, evacuated the inhabitants to newly built homes outside the caves.

In 1986, a competition was held to determine what to do with the vacant Sassi. The winning idea was to bring the caves back to life, and the government agreed to subsidize restoration, encouraging people to return. Artisans moved in and set up workshops, and the caves now house shops, bars, restaurants and boutique hotels. The fascinating and beautiful town of Matera has been designated as the European Capital of Culture for 2019.

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Himeji-jo

JAPAN

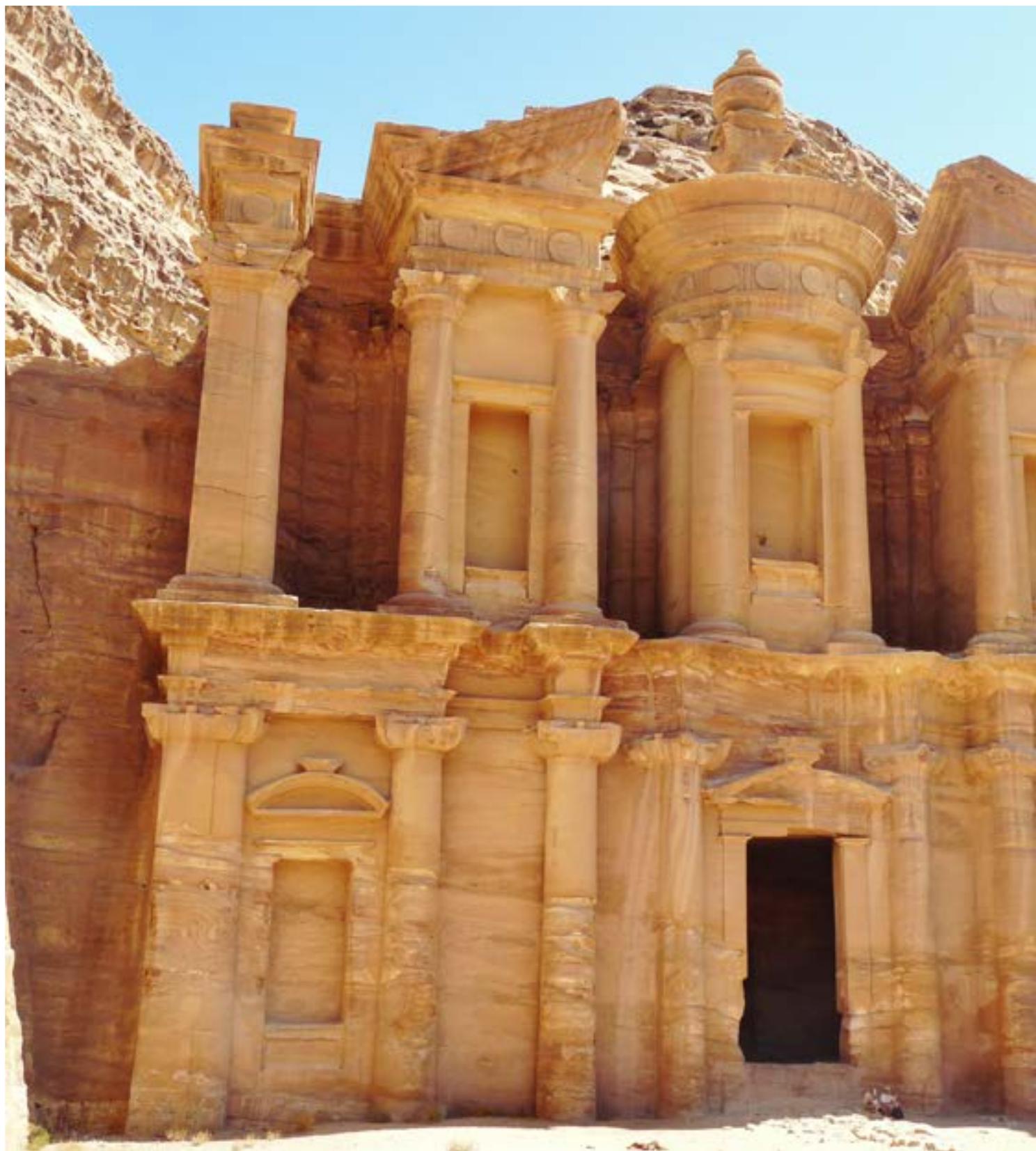
BY SUSAN BERGER
NEW YORK / SAN FRANCISCO / HONG KONG /
LONDON / TOKYO / ROME / TORONTO

Towering over its surroundings, the castle of Himeji-jo is the best-preserved example of Medieval castle architecture in Japan. Comprised of 82 buildings, it was originally built in 1346 as a fortification against local shoguns, but was converted into a castle in its current form in the early 1600's. Built from wood and set on a hill, the main complex consists of 3 towers. Additional buildings functioned as residences and storehouses. Its design is that of a spiral with the main complex in the center, which the remaining buildings surround and protect.

Himeji was designed to thwart an enemy attack by creating a physical and psychological barrier intended to confuse and fatigue the enemy. The 15-meter sloping stone walls ensure that an approaching enemy could not see the castle from the base of its walls. Three moats provided three lines of defense. The confusing paths of the internal passages were intended to confuse an enemy unfamiliar with the layout, and the 84 entrance gates were made to be very small so that a large number of men could not enter at any one time. The walls of the main complex contain openings from which the occupants could throw stones and scalding water as well as holes from which arrows could be shot and rifles used.

Himeji-jo was never attacked, and consequently remains unchanged from its completion in the 17th century. Looking like a bird ready for flight and covered in white, it is called the "White Heron Castle". Designated a national treasure in 1931, it is a testament to the skill of its builders as well as to the Japanese concept of harmony between man and nature.

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Petra

JORDAN

BY SUSAN BERGER
NEW YORK / SAN FRANCISCO / HONG KONG /
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Known as the “Rose City”, the prehistoric city of Petra was carved into the red, white pink and sandstone cliff faces in an area between the Red Sea and the Dead Sea. Petra was the capital of the Nabataeans, a nomadic desert people who accumulated great wealth through the trade of incense, gold, silver, brass, iron, saffron, sculpture, paintings and garments. The city linked camel caravans between the Mediterranean and Arabian Seas, from Egypt to Syria and on to Greece. The riches eventually caught the attention of the Roman Empire, which annexed Nabataea in 106 B.C. Petra’s significance in international trade began to decline in subsequent centuries and its deterioration began, assisted by earthquakes and the development of the sea trade. It lay in ruins for centuries, until a Swiss explorer visited the area in 1812 disguised as a Bedouin, it being too dangerous to be a foreign Christian inside the Ottoman Empire.

Petra, half-built and half-carved into the rocks, is a maze of caves, temples, churches, tombs and copper mines. The Nabataeans developed a complex water management system, carving channels, tunnels and diversion dams through the rock to collect winter rain in massive cisterns for use in the dry summer, and enabling the city to support 30,000 people. Used to living in tents, the Nabataeans had no building traditions, and so they constructed in styles obtained from Greece, Egypt, Mesopotamia and India.

Archeologists claim that only 15% of Petra has been uncovered; 85% is underground and untouched. Its beauty and significance was recognized in 2007, when it was named one of the new seven wonders of the world.

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Medina of Fez

MOROCCO

BY SUSAN BERGER
NEW YORK / SAN FRANCISCO / HONG KONG /
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A walled area within the city of Fez in north-central Morocco, the Medina is considered the most complete and best preserved medieval city in the Arab world. It began when the King of Morocco established it as his capital in the eighth century and permitted refugees from the Islamic states of Cordoba and Tunisia to settle there. Their superb craftsmanship and entrepreneurial skills led to a thriving commercial center. In 1248, the Maranids invaded and took possession of the city, subsequently building a new Royal City.

Within the walls of the Medina, motorized traffic is prohibited, and the Medina is known to be one of the largest car-free urban areas in the world. Life has changed little over the centuries. Donkeys and mules are still used for transportation on the maze of unpaved roads, and getting lost is a certainty. Amongst the narrow buildings are alleyways, passages and small squares where people bake bread, dye leather, weave cloth and hammer metals. Many of its water fountains, hammams (public bath houses), mosques, palaces, madrasas and fondouks (traditional inns) date from the era of the Maranids.

At his height, Fez was a scholarly center of North African and Muslim life, and is home of the University of Al-Karaouine, the oldest university in the world, founded in 859. The Medina, whose construction techniques and decoration developed over ten centuries, is a fascinating example of a city that preserves its lifestyle and culture in the face of growing modernity.

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Namib Sand Sea

NAMIBIA

BY SUSAN BERGER
NEW YORK / SAN FRANCISCO / HONG KONG /
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Found along the South Atlantic coast of Namibia in Africa, the majestic dunes of the Namib Sand Sea comprise an area of over 3 million hectares. It is composed of two dune systems, one 21 million years old and the other dating back five million years. Found in one of the world's only coastal deserts, the Namib Sand Sea is unusual in that it runs right into the ocean.

While most sand dunes elsewhere in the world occur due to the erosion of bedrock, the dune field in Namibia has resulted from the transportation of material from thousands of kilometers away in the interior of the African continent via river erosion and wind. Rising to a height of 250 meters in some places, the dunes are constantly shifting forms. The sand changes color across the sand sea, moving from white close to the ocean to pink farther inland, creating a breathtaking landscape.

Being a desert, the area is extremely arid, however water is present in the form of fog, caused by the cold Benguela current in the nearby Atlantic Ocean. This has resulted in the existence of about 300 species of life forms, invertebrates, reptiles and mammals, of which 50% are found only in this area. The unique conditions have resulted in these life forms taking on rare behavior in order to live on little water in a sandy landscape that is both very hot and very cold, and their existence is an important example of evolution and the adaptation of life in an extreme environment.

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Kathmandu Valley

NEPAL

BY SUSAN BERGER
NEW YORK / SAN FRANCISCO / HONG KONG /
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Wedged between India, Pakistan, Tibet and China, the Kathmandu Valley has been a crossroads of civilizations for the past 2,000 years. Originally settled by the Newars, the Himalayan Kingdom of Nepal is a mix of Buddhism, Hinduism, animist rituals and Tantrism, making it unique in the world. The Newars have the longest continuous history in the valley, and were responsible for the creation of the religious architecture. The tiered temples constructed by the Newars, found nowhere else, are made of fired brick with mud mortar and timber, with roofs covered in small terracotta tiles. The windows and doorways are filled with lavish carvings.

In their World Heritage designation, UNESCO inscribed seven zones. The three urban zones are Durbar Squares (open centers containing palaces, temples and public spaces) in the cities of Kathmandu, Bhaktapur and Patan. The additional four zones are religious sites: the Buddhist stupas with their all-seeing eyes at Swayambhunath and Boudhanath, and the Hindu temple complexes at Pashupatinath and Changu Narayan. In total, there are at least 130 monuments at the site.

In 2015, a magnitude 7.8 earthquake struck central Nepal, with its epicenter 80 km from Kathmandu. Extensive damage occurred in Kathmandu, especially to the buildings in its historic center. 9,000 people died, and 16,800 were injured. Over 750 historical buildings were damaged. Reconstruction is underway, made all the more difficult by the irregular architecture of the Newars, but it is expected to be a long and laborious process.

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Wieliczka and Bochnia Royal Salt Mines

POLAND

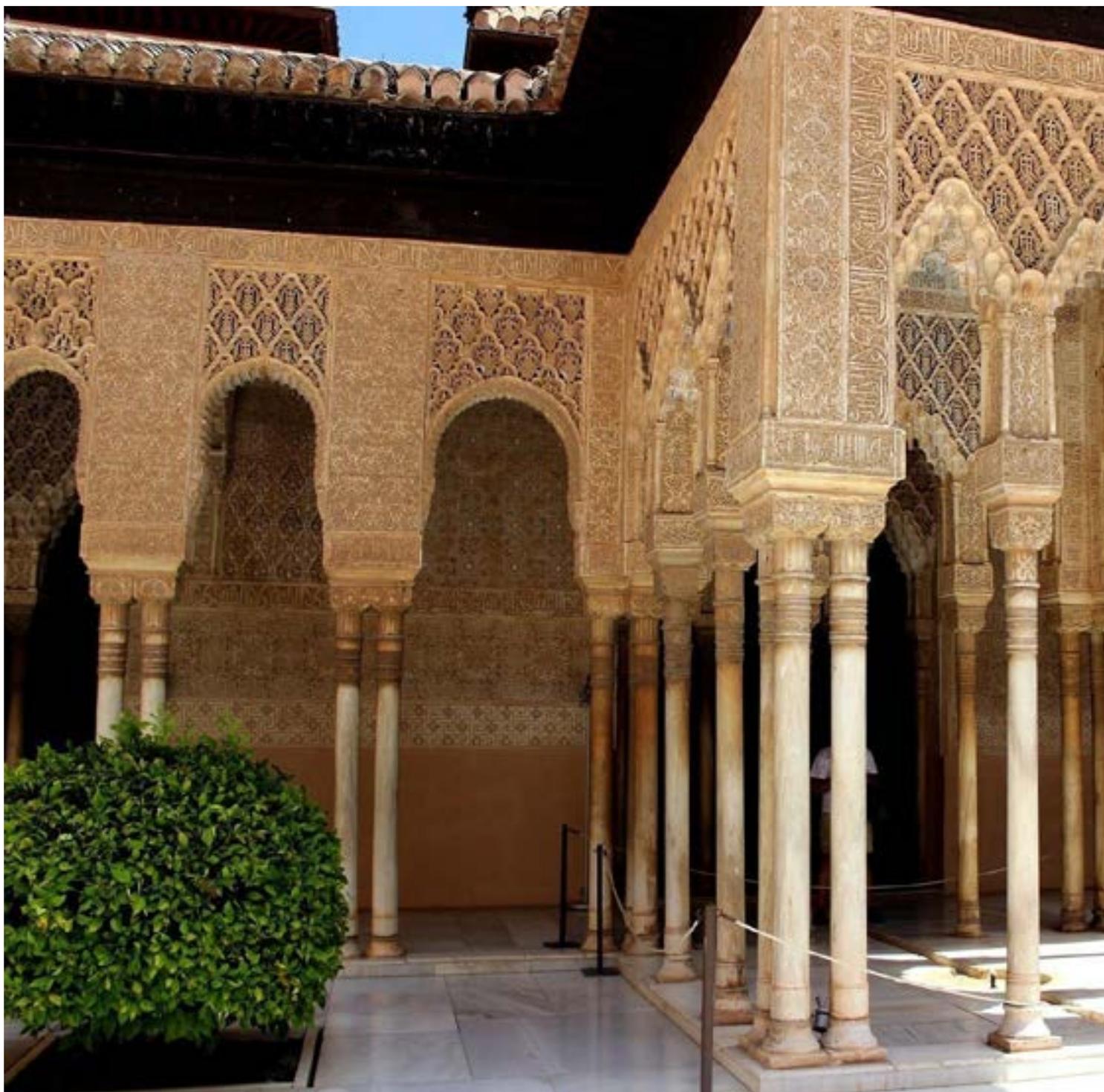
BY SUSAN BERGER
NEW YORK / SAN FRANCISCO / HONG KONG /
LONDON / TOKYO / ROME / TORONTO

Situated on a rock salt deposit in the outskirts of Krakow, the two salt mines of Wieliczka and Bochnia were opened in the 13th century and operated continuously producing table salt until 2007, although mining ceased in 1996 due to low salt prices and mine flooding. Proclaimed a Historical Monument by the President of Poland in 1994, the mines had been granted royal status, being the pride of the kings and the source of the country's wealth.

During its nine centuries of operation, 2,000 kilometers of passages and 2,040 caverns were constructed containing dozens of statues, three chapels and a cathedral, all carved out of the rock salt by the miners. Visitors start at a depth of 64 meters and descent to 135 meters below the surface, where the world's largest mining museum exhibits tools and machinery used in the mines. The subterranean galleries along the route show the miners' social and religious traditions.

The remarkable chapels carved out of rock salt were a way for the miners, who worked under dangerous conditions in the dark, to pray. The shrines were carved near the miners' places of work and at the shafts where tragic accidents had taken place. The largest and most important chapel is the St. Kinga Chapel, situated 100 meters underground. 11 meters tall, it is decorated with bas-relief carvings carved from the rock salt showing important moments in the life of Jesus such as the Nativity, the Last Supper and the Crucifixion. Two massive chandeliers, made out of salt, hang from the ceiling.

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Alhambra, Generalife and Albayzin

SPAIN

BY SUSAN BERGER
NEW YORK / SAN FRANCISCO / HONG KONG /
LONDON / TOKYO / ROME / TORONTO

Situated above the modern town of Granada in southern Spain, the palaces and fortress of the Alhambra and the residential area of the Albayzin were constructed in the 13th and 14th centuries and remain relatively intact today, allowing a view into life in the ancient Islamic quarter.

The Alhambra, named for its reddish walls from an Arabic root meaning “red castle”, was a city built by the Nasrid rulers of Granada. The outside walls enclosed a fortress from the 9th century, baths, mosques, palaces and gardens. Covered with magnificent ceramics tiles and carvings, the walls of the structures were designed with the intent of filling every space with decoration, no matter its size. While its architecture is reminiscent of other Islamic structures, it is unique in the way it brings together interior and exterior areas, with covered walkways extending from well-lit interior spaces onto shaded courtyards and sun-filled gardens.

One of the most magnificent Nasrid estates, located just past the walls of the Alhambra, is the Generalife, with its gardens, courtyards, fountains, canals and vegetable farms, which were dependent on hydraulic systems considered unique for their time.

The residential district of the Albayzin, the original city of Granada, is filled with a maze of steep and winding cobblestone streets lined with whitewashed houses of Moorish and Andalusian design, walled gardens and small squares filled with bars and restaurants.

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Complex of Hue Monuments

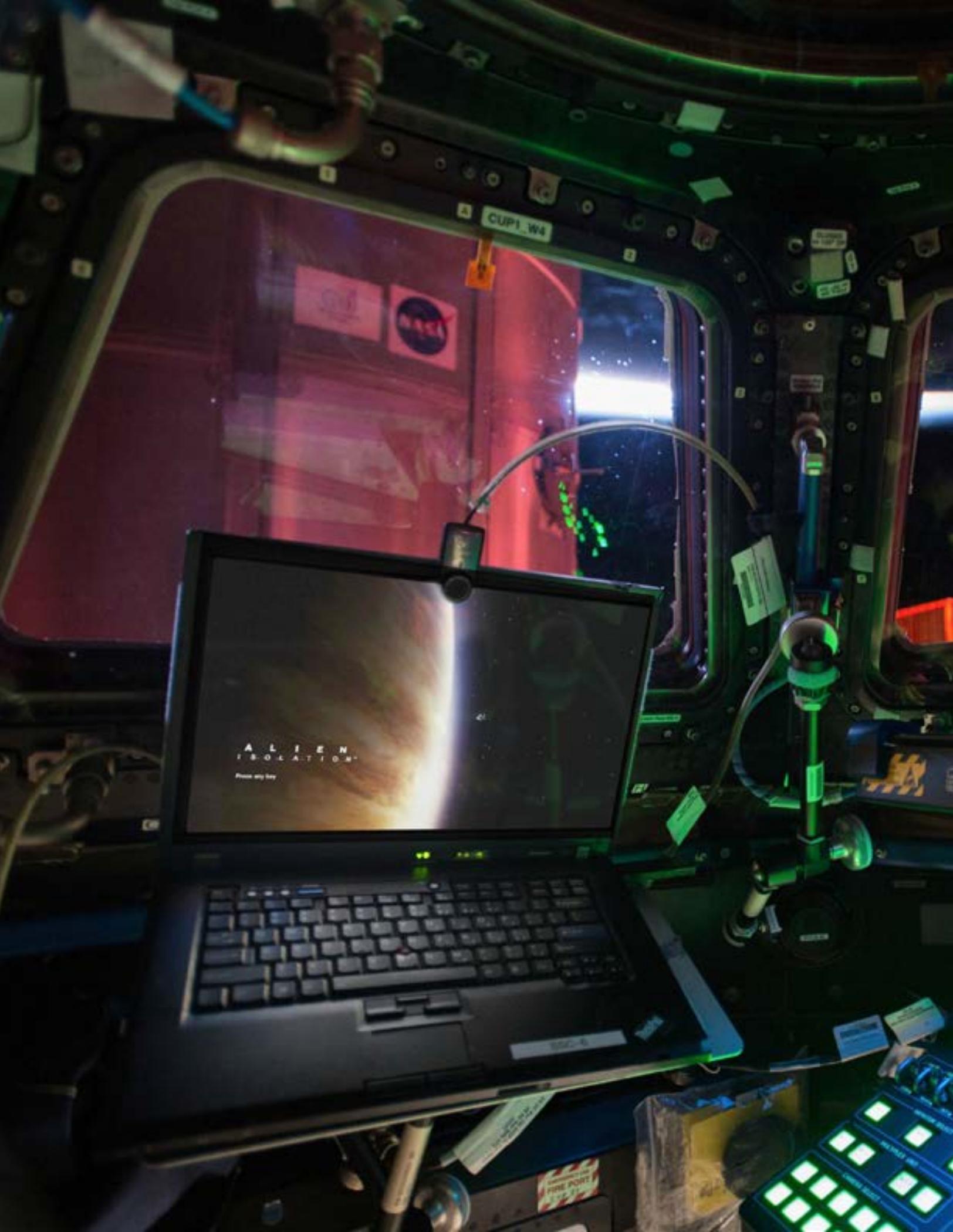
VIETNAM

BY SUSAN BERGER
NEW YORK / SAN FRANCISCO / HONG KONG /
LONDON / TOKYO / ROME / TORONTO

The administrative center of southern Vietnam in the 17th and 18th centuries, Hue was made the national capital of a united Vietnam in 1802 by the Nguyen Dynasty, the last royal dynasty in Vietnamese history, a designation it held until 1945. In its role as the capital, it was not only the political center but also the cultural and religious heart of the country.

Hue was selected as the location for the capital by the Emperor due to its location in the geographic center of the country and its proximity to the sea. The capital was designed in accordance with ancient oriental philosophy and Vietnamese tradition. The surrounding hills were considered to be a “blue dragon” to the left and a “white tiger” to the right, thereby protecting the main entrance from evil spirits. The monuments are aligned cosmologically with the Five Cardinal Points (center, west, east, north and south), the Five Elements (earth, metal, wood, water and fire) and the Five Colors (yellow, white blue, black and red).

Within the city there were four citadels, or defended enclosures, with the Forbidden Purple City at its center. With the goal of creating a replica of the Forbidden City in Beijing, the Emperor commanded thousands of laborers to build palaces, gates and courtyards to function as his home and the administrative center of the Empire. By 1968, Hue had been taken over by the Communists and American bombs bombarded the city, leaving only a few buildings intact. These have been restored, allowing the world to see how the Vietnamese interpreted Chinese imperial architecture and modified it for their own culture.



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FIRE PORT

Bizarre Economic Investment

BY DR. ROSE A. DYSON
TORONTO – CANADA

Few rational thinking policy wonks would knowingly advise western governments to invest in fueling terrorism. Yet that is what is happening in Canada. On September 6, 2017, Nicolas Van Praet wrote in “The Globe and Mail” that the Governments of Canada, Québec and Ontario have collectively given Ubisoft, the Paris-based maker of the “Assassin’s Creed” series of video games, approximately \$803 million in subsidies over the past 11 years. It was described as “economically absurd”, not because such video games are known to assist ISIS in recruitment practices, but because investment should be made in businesses that create wealth in Canada rather than France. Foreign companies are being paid to drain scarce IT labor which is desperately needed by local companies creating the real wealth in the economy.

Therein lies the conundrum. What is “real economic wealth”? Surely electronic entertainment which glorifies violence is not part of it.

Decades of research on the subject points toward harmful effects from popular culture products that normalize violence. In a world where there is growing emphasis on clean energy for future sustainability, more attention must be paid to what pollutes the cultural as well as the natural environment. Otherwise we can expect more bellicose, hard-line rhetoric, laced with climate change denial, to dominate the world stage from bully pulpits of authoritarian regimes.

One would think that, given the hand-wringing over home-grown terrorism and how the internet contributes to the problem, by now cybersecurity experts and public safety policy advocates in Canada and elsewhere would be familiar with these findings. They were documented again by Mark Bourrie, an award-winning military historian who teaches at the University of Ottawa in his book, “The Killing Game: Martyrdom, Murder and the Lure of ISIS”, published in 2016. Like psychologist and retired U.S. military officer David Grossman, he

outlines the ways in which video games mirror the desensitization techniques used in military training. Grossman has argued that indiscriminately marketing these games as entertainment to young people leads to dangerous and dysfunctional play. He warns us of the potential impact on the civilian population, and refers to acquired violence immune deficiency syndrome (AVIDS) as a consequence of steady, heavy diets of violent video gaming. The synergy between the military and the gaming industry is featured in the film “Drones”, released in 2015. Skills honed in the video game arcade are identified and selectively applied to the levers of war, often resulting in the same PTSD symptoms exhibited by foot soldiers returning from battle. Indeed in a world increasingly polarized with political debate mired in racism, misogyny and bigotry, violence creep from entertainment media must be seen as a contributing factor. To ignore the obvious is willful blindness.

JL



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The Year Was 1610 Santa Fe, New Mexico

BY LOIS M. GORDON
SILICON VALLEY – CALIFORNIA

The sunrise is spectacular, the sunset more so. Santa Fe set in the desert has a wonderful history and a haunting story.

It was in the year 1610 that the Spanish founded a town known as Santa Fe. It was occupied by Indians, Mexicans and Spanish. Later, ceded to the United States, Santa Fe had a multiplicity of cultures. Native American Indian, Spanish, Mexican and Anglo cultures provide a rich, varied and very colorful heritage.

At the end of the Old Santa Fe Trail stands The Loretto Chapel. Inside the gothic structure is the staircase referred to as miraculous, inexplicable and marvelous, and it is sometimes called St. Joseph's Staircase. The stairway confounds architects, engineers and master craftsmen. It makes over two complete 360-degree turns, stands 20 ft. tall, and has no center support. It rests solely on its base and against the choir loft. The risers of the 33 steps are all of the same height. Made of an

apparently extinct wood species, it was constructed with only square wooden pegs without glue or nails.

The history of the Loretto Chapel began in 1850. Bishop Lamy, seeking to spread the faith and bring an educational system to this new territory, began a letter-writing plea. The first acceptance was from the Sisters of Loretto.

The Sisters arrived in Santa Fe in 1852 and opened the Academy (Loretto) in 1853. The school began and grew from very small to around 300 students, despite challenges (smallpox, tuberculosis, leaky mud roofs and even a brush with the rowdy Confederate Texans during the Civil War).

Through tuitions, donations, and the Sisters' own inheritances, they built their school and chapel.

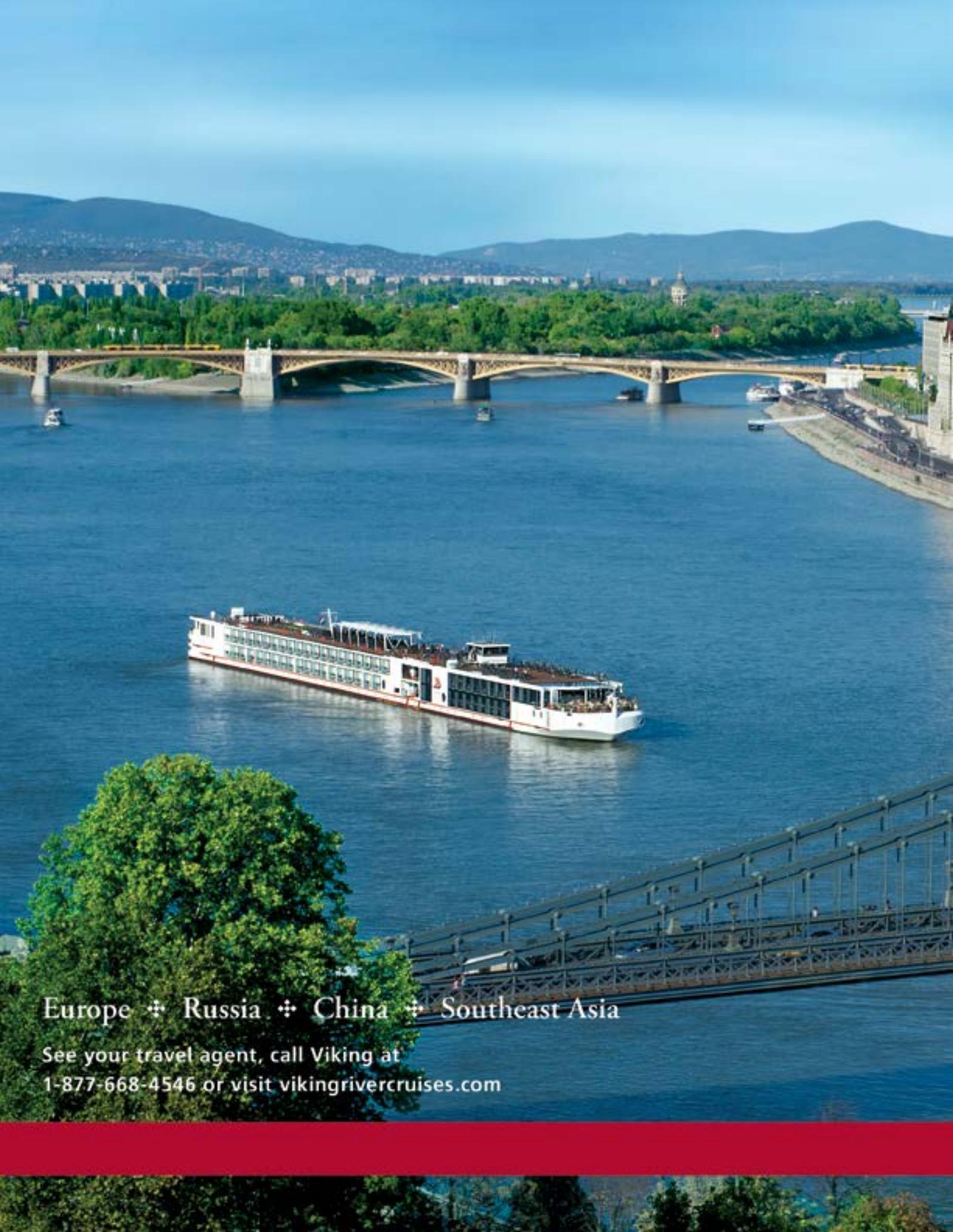
Architect Projectus Mouly and his son came from Paris, France to Santa Fe to be architects/builders for St. Francis

Cathedral. It required 10 years to build. It was decided that the school needed a chapel.

The ornate stained glass, purchased from the DuBois Studio in Paris, was sent from Paris to New Orleans by sailing ship and then by paddleboat to St. Louis, Missouri, and then taken by covered wagon over the Old Santa Fe Trail to the Chapel.

The Chapel was completed in 1878. It became a striking contrast to the adobe churches already in the area. Besides the Chapel, the food is fabulous, the people friendly, and the scenery spectacular.

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Small framed picture on the wall.

HERRERA

HERRADURA

Protecting The Family Jewels

BY WARREN PORTER
TORONTO – CANADA

Allow me to walk you through an actual scenario which should strike fear into the hearts of wine collectors everywhere.

A family (okay, mostly the husband.... okay, only the husband) spends 20 years slowly building a wine collection. They develop a lovely mix of investment grade wines but also wines that they have brought back from the far-reaching corners of the globe. Mementos from wineries visited on their travels, they can be enjoyed with friends as they reminisce on subtle nuances of their trips without having to pull out an iPad and bore the table with their unedited thousands of poor shot snaps...but I digress.

Winter arrives and they head to their home in Sarasota, only to return to the Northeast as the weather warms. The husband descends to the cellar, opens the door, and is hit with a waft of heat. The cooling system

pushes out hot air from a motor that has continued to run while the rest of the unit died. Bottles are leaking through corks that are now protruding all over the cellar. The excessive heat has caused all of the bottles to prematurely age but, to what extent, one never knows. A first growth destined to be consumed in the next 10-20 years might only have 2 more years of sub-standard life in it. Such is the result of sudden heat damage.

We come across this scenario (maybe a little less dramatic) a number of times a year. What makes it particularly unfortunate is that it's preventable for a pittance. Technology today allows for an inexpensive temperature monitor, connected to the internet, that would sound an alarm if the temperature rises above a predetermined figure like 60F. A cellar targeted at 55F, sealed and working properly, should never experience this unless

something is very wrong. The system then sends email and text alerts to the owner, the security company and maybe even a neighbor who doesn't travel over the winter. The short-term remedy is simply to cut power and allow time to have the system replaced. The wines will be fine and unaffected in a basement cellar, or even a room temperature cellar, for up to a month.

The cost for this ounce of prevention...about \$25 a month. The cheapest insurance you'll ever buy.

It seems odd to dedicate an entire column on wine to the prevention of a single incident, but mark my words. Cooling systems will break at some point. Then try retracing your steps to replace wines that are no longer for sale. Your memories are now relegated to iPad albums. Don't get me started.

JL



Gratitude

BY KATHLEEN MAILLIARD SOLMSEN
SAN FRANCISCO – CALIFORNIA

PHOTOGRAPH BY PETER SOLMSEN
SAN FRANCISCO – CALIFORNIA

They had never EVER seen the ocean. As her van ascended the final hill from the interior of Mexico, they nearly FLEW out of the van and into the waves! Laughing and crying simultaneously while exploding with pure innocent joy, my friend's "house helpers" danced and twirled through the salt water – forgetting they were wearing their maid's dresses and shoes. This magical event brought my pal into total tears.

Because we grew up with a summer house at the shore, I guess I've always taken the ocean for granted. I guess I've taken a lot of sensual awarenesses for granted. The complex perfection of a single leaf, a single leaf that only you may ever see. Imagine the extreme beauty of a sweet tiny bird. Brings to mind the splendid taste and unique texture of one single tiny raisin. An egg, yes! In-and-out of its shell. A simple, yet extraordinary egg.

In recent years, a shameful number of nature's divine gifts have been sequestered to the back burners of

our lives. Without thanks or even respect necessary, their exquisite beauty always has and always will be there for our enjoyment and pleasure, gratis. No cost. Free for all to enjoy.

Perhaps, with so many time-saving devices within reach, we never seem to have the time for simple pleasures. Experiencing shortness of breath, over-booked calendars and living at marathon paces. We can't even consider slowing down as an option. Quieting the mind? Out of the question. Meditation? You've got to be kidding me. Tree hugging? Now that's a joke...or is it? Perhaps, on a daily basis, the intentional act of slowing down, looking – really looking around at mother-earth's-nature surrounding us – can be a life-altering gift.

For me, when it's "lights out" and my head hits the pillow, my whirlwind of a merry-go-round mind WON'T slow down.

A few nights ago, just as my head hit the pillow, I said to myself, "I am

in charge of my mind!" Next, I felt a golden ball in my head, traveling down to my toes & back up to my quiet brain. After two or less rounds of quick "golden brain ball", I was deliciously fast asleep. Each morning I repeat with a gentle force, "I am in charge of my thoughts". Ten deep "empty-minded" breaths before the challenges of the day start "braiding my brain".

My pace is perfect as is the day!

On to tipping head while saying "hello" with a grateful smile on my face to the world!

Now that's PIZZAZZ!

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The Yayoi Kusuma Museum

BY JULIE REKAI RICKERD
TORONTO – CANADA



It is almost unheard of for an artist to establish a private museum of his or her works during his or her lifetime but the 88-year-old avant-garde icon, also known as the Queen of pumpkins, polka dots, and mirrored infinity rooms, Yayoi Kusuma, has done exactly that in the capital of her native Japan, the city of Tokyo. Designed by the renowned Japanese architectural firm of Kume Sekkei, the five-storey, stacked cube-like Kusuma Museum is located in the residential neighborhood of Shinjuku, near the artist's studio and the psychiatric hospital in which she has voluntarily lived for four decades.

The world-wide following Kusuma has garnered is evidenced by hours-long line-ups at her exhibitions in New York, London, Los Angeles, Washington, DC and Toronto, Canada. One of her works sold at auction in 2014 for \$7.1 million. Because so many of her fans have ventured to Japan to see her works and her advancing age, Kusuma “decided to establish a place for them to see my work”.



The museum's high ceilings, white walls and curved corners are perfect places on and in which to showcase her creations. White polka dots cover the glass panels that line the front of the building, red polka dots and mirrors decorate the elevators and even the washrooms.

The fourth floor of the museum features Kusama's signature mirror-lined rooms in which row upon row of yellow and black pumpkins filled with polka dots are reflected into infinity. On the top floor resides an enormous gold and pink mosaic pumpkin. Kusama has been painting every day since the age of 10. "Even now, there is not a day that I do not paint. I still see polka dots everywhere" she says. At present the artist is working on a series of large, electric-colored acrylic paintings called "My Eternal Soul", producing a new painting every day or so.

At the opening of her museum, Kusama appeared in a yellow and black polka-dot caftan wearing a bright scarlet wig; a streak of red paint covered her right shoe. She explained that her goal was to keep on painting and that she wanted her art to contribute to "happiness for human beings and a world without war".

For a unique visual and existential experience, the Kusama Museum is not to be missed.

Address: 107 Bentencho Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 162-0851, Japan

Tel: +813-5273-1778 HYPERLINK "<http://www.yayoikusamamuseum.jp>" www.yayoikusamamuseum.jp

Hours: Thursday-Sunday:

Appointed dates and times: 11:00AM – 17:00PM (90-minute time slots)

Tickets go on sale at 10:00AM (Japanese Time)

on the first day of each month for entry two months later.

Admission: Adults: \$10. Children: 6-18 years: \$5. Children under 6: Free

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Opposite: Badia a Coltibuono is an historic agriturismo located in the heart of Chianti region, with selective wine tastings and gourmet cooking lessons with chef Benedetta Vitali.

The Dream That Is Badia a Coltibuono: One Of Italy's Finest Chianti Classico Winemakers

PHOTOGRAPHY AND TEXT BY MARK RAYNES ROBERTS
LONDON/TORONTO

As one approaches Badia a Coltibuono, one is taken in by the spectacular hillside landscape surrounding the 11th century abbey, which has been making Chianti Classico wine since 1050 AD. Owned and operated as a winery and luxury resort by Emanuela Stucchi Prenetti and her family since 1846, the historical property has been painstakingly restored for guests to enjoy staying at and to experience the fine wines and gourmet foods.

The ever-present bouquet of fresh lavender provides the perfect sensory experience for relaxation in what is considered one of the finest formal Italian gardens in the country. The freshly grown vegetables produce the ingredients for guests to use in the gourmet cooking school or experience in the exclusive restaurant overlooking the valley below.

Within the main abbey refectory are stunningly beautiful 14th and 15th century frescos painted on the ceiling, which depict the many Friars of Badia a Coltibuono since 1050. A surprising discovery that had been painted over with whitewash prior to the Napoleonic War for fear of their destruction by the French army, they were revealed many years later only after archives mentioned their existence.

The morning sunrise provides the dreamscape reminder your memory won't forget, as the sun bathes the abbey in its golden light before you have to leave.

www.badia-a-coltibuono.com

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The peace and serenity of the formal Italian gardens located in the grounds of Badia a Coltibuono, is broken only by the striking of the historical bell in the clock tower.

Opposite: The lush gardens and vines provide a cornucopia of fruit and vegetables for the cuisine prepared each day by the cooking class guests and gourmet chef.







For the early riser, the magical sunrise across the valley from Badia a Coltibuono bathes the Abbey in its golden light providing an unforgettable memory.



B. BENEDICTVS ABBIS RIVLEN

S. FELIX DE MONTEUSANO



The beautiful 14th and 15th century frescoes which adorn the Refectory walls make it the perfect room to escape the sun and enjoy a concert pianist's sublime sonata.



The catacombs below Badia a Coltibuono, once the burial chambers from a bygone era, today are used as the wine cellars for the winery's finest vintages.

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Opposite: Rows of vaulted arches set upon a Basilica design in the piazza. Again, we see the reference to medieval design in the second and third stories of a European dream setting. Unapologetically lavish and unmistakably taking our attention to the domed observatory.

The Villa Casa Casuarina: A Luxurious Masterpiece In The World of Gianni Versace

BY VICTORIA FRANCIOSA
TORONTO – CANADA

Some of the world's most iconic graphic prints unmistakably belong to Gianni Versace. His homes reflect the same unmistakable resonance. Throughout his home in Miami, Florida, one will find the same graphic qualities within the intricately laid marble, utter jaw-dropping interiors of dramatic décor, and castle-worthy frescoes.

The Villa Casa Casuarina that Gianni Versace created was purchased in 1992, although constructed in 1930. It was reputedly renovated in the style of Alcazar de Colon, which was built in 1510 by the son of Christopher Columbus in Santo Domingo... and incidentally, is the oldest standing building in the Western hemisphere.

Nestled in the balmy landscape of Miami Florida on Ocean Drive, the home was formerly two independent properties when individually purchased by Versace and combined into one property.

Acres of luxurious landscapes surround this impressive 23,000 square ft. estate which boasts 12 bedrooms, 13 bathrooms, five incredible libraries,

an observatory, and surfaces of marble transplanted directly from the mountains of Italy. The villa has seen its share of famous faces, from Donatella, who is not only Gianni's famous sister, but also the captain of the ship who has continued at the helm of the Versace empire, to Madonna, whose favorite room when staying overnight was the Aviary Suite.

The price tag of just over \$6.5 million was a mere drop in the bucket compared to the noted \$33 million that Versace spent upgrading this immaculate home, adding an additional 6,000 square feet.

The massive, statuesque double doors at the entrance to the villa, while majestic, are dwarfed by the splendor that awaits behind the portal to this creative haven. With the front entrance created in detailed effort, Gianni literally left no tile unturned. Exceptional certainty was executed in the placement of each imported sliver of marble.

The unforgettable mosaic-pebbled medusa wrapped in the company's iconic Greek key welcomes visitors.

Adorned with traditional urns, symbolic of his Italian roots, Gianni Versace engorged himself in an ambience of luxury that his label is so famous for.

Dogwood topiaries and 16th century French statues strategically placed throughout the property bathes the observer in living art. With an opulent 54-foot swimming pool of 24 karat gold, a disconcerting eye would be hard pressed to find any detail lacking. In fact, Versace imported 100 million Italian mosaic tiles for this estate, and placed them throughout the halls, baths, and even the pool.

Gianni Versace had the life many dream of and only few know. That certainly doesn't stop one from wondering what it must have been like behind the walls of the posh, sprawling mansion that he ultimately created in Miami Florida.

JL





The aviary was reputedly designed by Gianni's sister, Donatella. With, such famous visitors as Lady Diana, Sir Elton John, and Madonna, this room is, without a doubt, perfectly fitting of the company it kept.



Here we see Versace's strong use of period design with exposed vaulted ceilings, seemingly resting on a hint of grand buttresses, above arched, stained-glass windowed doors of the Renaissance period seamlessly blending with medieval chandeliers and fireplace. We come to understand that a purity lies in the heart of Versace's design execution.





To an undiscerning eye this room may appear simple, but the trompe l'oeil with medieval moldings reminds us of the consistency of design throughout this immaculate home. We find the ancient ritual of a carpeted base anchors the room's decor among the cushioned inlets dotting throughout.







The framework does not resonate a contemporary construction, but rather, that of the centuries-old antiquity we find in castles of Europe, with walls and ceilings that bespeak of those of Versailles or the Vatican.





Grandeur awaits us as our eyes greedily take in the splendor and strong influences of Greek design, columns holding up entablature of the earliest Doric temple order dating as far back as 460 BC, as seen in the Temple of Poseidon in Italy with a slight modification on the curved cornice. This most impressive fountain of the iconic Versace Medusa wrapped in it's equally iconic Greek key, announces to guess that they have arrived in a design legend's home. Painstakingly and deliberately, each stone is placed exactly where it was designed to be.

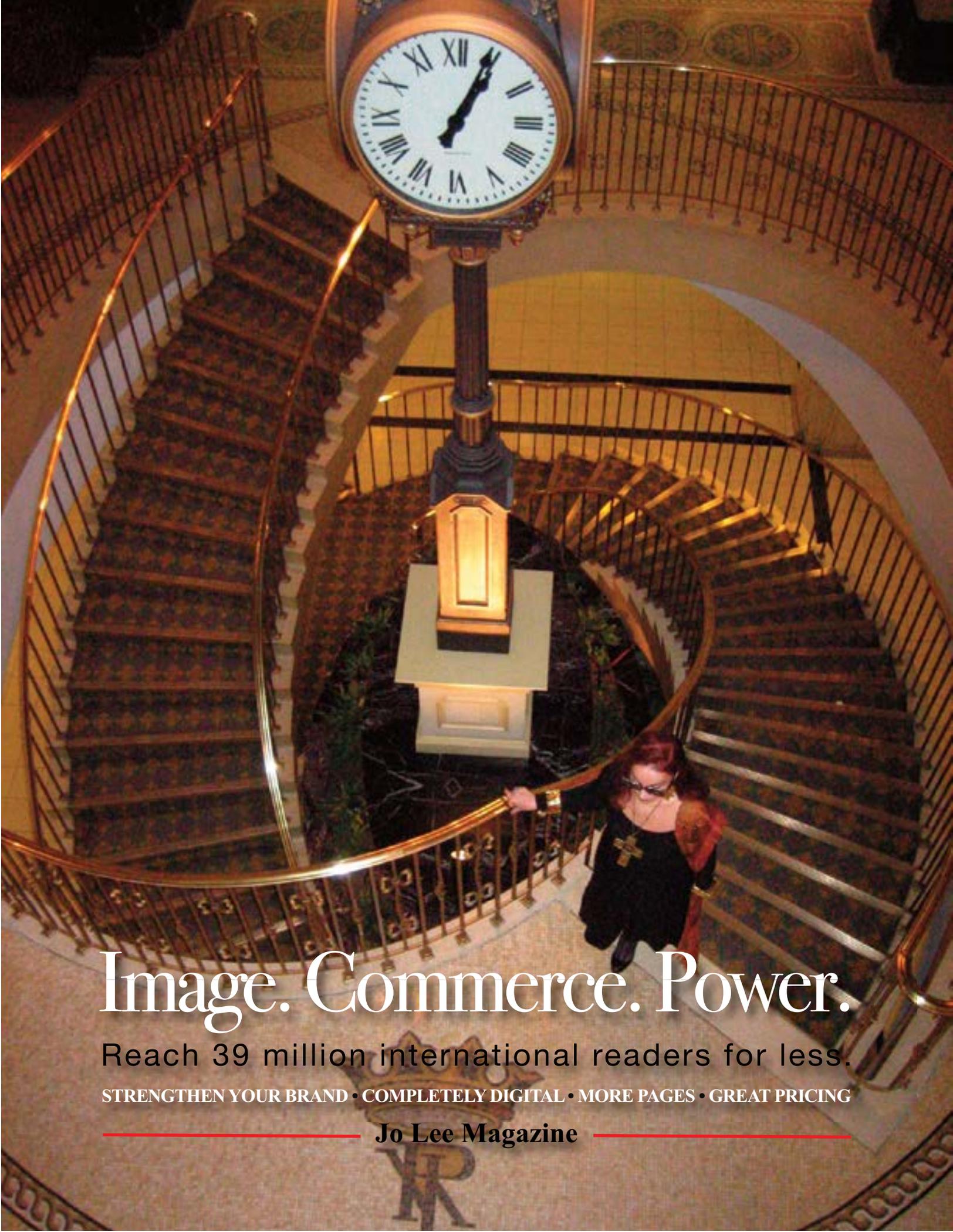


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WHEN ANGELS CRY

QUAND LES ANGES PLEURENT | CUANDO LOS ÁNGELES LLORAN | WENN ENGEL WEINEN |
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THE NEXT 100 YEARS: ONE CHILD'S JOURNEY.
HOW SHE/HE WILL LIVE, LOVE AND NEVER REALLY DIE.

Restoring Forests Today For Tomorrow's Benefits: Easy Route To Care For The Child

BY KELECHI ELEANYA
UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
THE NIGER DELTA – NIGERIA

Sustaining the world's ecosystem and natural endowment is a huge task for all on the road to global prosperity. Forest resources play vital roles in the sustenance of the world's populations. By providing a wide range of fruit, nuts and food items they also provide energy in terms of fuel, wood, and other plant-based resources for cooking and heating.

Forests and the trees they house are vital in purifying the air by acting as a sink for carbon, thereby releasing oxygen for human survival. Millions of households depend on forests as a source of income across the world; the World Bank estimates that over 1.2 billion people depend on forests for their livelihood.

However, over the last five decades the world has continued to experience an alarming loss of global forest resources. On an annual basis, this is estimated to be about the size of Portugal.

Forest and landscape restoration (FLR) has emerged to address these

challenges. FLR is defined as a planned process that aims to regain ecological integrity and enhance human well-being in deforested or degraded forest landscapes (ISSD, 2002). (Integrated Seed Sector Development). The multiple forest and tree-related goods and services are key benefits that need to be recovered for human survival and ecological stability.

Global efforts and commitments to restore forests were revamped at the Petropolis challenge in 2005 "to restore forest landscapes to benefit people and nature and contribute to recovering the trends of forest loss and degradation".

In 2011, the Bonn Challenge with a target to restore about 150 million hectares of degraded lands by 2020 was launched as part of arrangements to make restoration happen on the ground.

These and many other initiatives on forest restoration are all aimed at making the world a better, safer and richer place for all to live and

enjoy. Children represent a huge percentage of the world's poor living in degraded areas of the world; successful restoration of the world's degraded lands means more and more children are rescued from poverty and lack of access to water, nutrition, health and other benefits such as increased income for households that forests provide.

The devastating impacts of land degradation and resultant famine in the Horn of Africa in the early 1980s can be prevented in the future. A good example of land restoration is happening in Ethiopia today, where degraded lands are restored.

Real care begins with attention to needs of people, one at a time. This is why our attention must be paid to forest landscape restoration because of the vast benefits to man.

JL



Dr. Xavier Duportet

BY JO LEE MAGAZINE

NEW YORK / SAN FRANCISCO / HONG KONG / LONDON / TOKYO / ROME / TORONTO

When we look at the world through the eyes of Unsung Heroes we see undreamed of possibilities. More and more we appreciate the incredible number of nominations submitted from around the world in the five ADESTE categories: Humanities, Social Justice, Arts, Technology and Medicine. The nominees of The ADESTE Gold Medal remind us of how many wonderful people are doing amazing things from corner to corner in this chaotic world. Also, we are reminded that the most important aspect, the heart, of ADESTE, is to discover “the 40 and under” Unsung Heroes who “outperform” in a globe of billions.

Jo Lee Magazine And Its 21 World Voting Members Of Adeste Present With Pride 2018’s 14th Annual Adeste Gold Medal Laureate

Dr. Xavier Duportet
Lyon — France
28 Years
Medicine

Meet the 28-Year-Old Geneticist Fighting the Future of Superbugs.

The World Health Organization says by 2050, infections caused by ultra-resistant bacteria will be the leading cause of death, but this

French scientist may have found the solution.

Young Frenchman Xavier Duportet has decided to substitute the “weapons of mass destruction” that can be current antibiotics, for “snipers” that work more precisely. The PhD in Synthetic Biology from INRIA (France) and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (USA), is designing a new type of medicine able to eliminate specific bacteria and leave the other intact.

Duportet cofounded in 2014 the company Eligo Bioscience (formerly PhageX), a spin-off from MIT and the Rockefeller University (USA), where, together with his partner David Bikard, he has developed a system that involves genetic edition techniques and nanotechnology.

On one hand, they use nanoscopic to take a fragment of synthetic DNA to a specific type of bacteria. On the other hand, they apply CRISPR technique of DNA edition, selected as one of the 10 Emerging Technologies.

Thanks to this, they are able to cut part of the genetic material of

these bacteria killing or deactivating them, while leaving intact the rest of microorganisms that make up the flora.

The gene splicing technology is one of the great scientific advances of our day and, it has a tremendous potential in eliminating mistakes in babies.

“I played lots of construction games with my pet ants. I’d build mountains out of food and watch them collect it all. I built them roads and labyrinths with Legos.”

Xavier grew up in Lyon, France, where he began playing the piano at three, read a lot of Jules Verne novels—which made him dream about incredible machines—practiced sports, and played for hours in his garden. It was during those long hours outside that he started getting interested in ants.

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In this time of transformation, how can we come together to tap into collective wisdom and avoid collective folly?

Activating Collective Wisdom

~ ONLINE ~

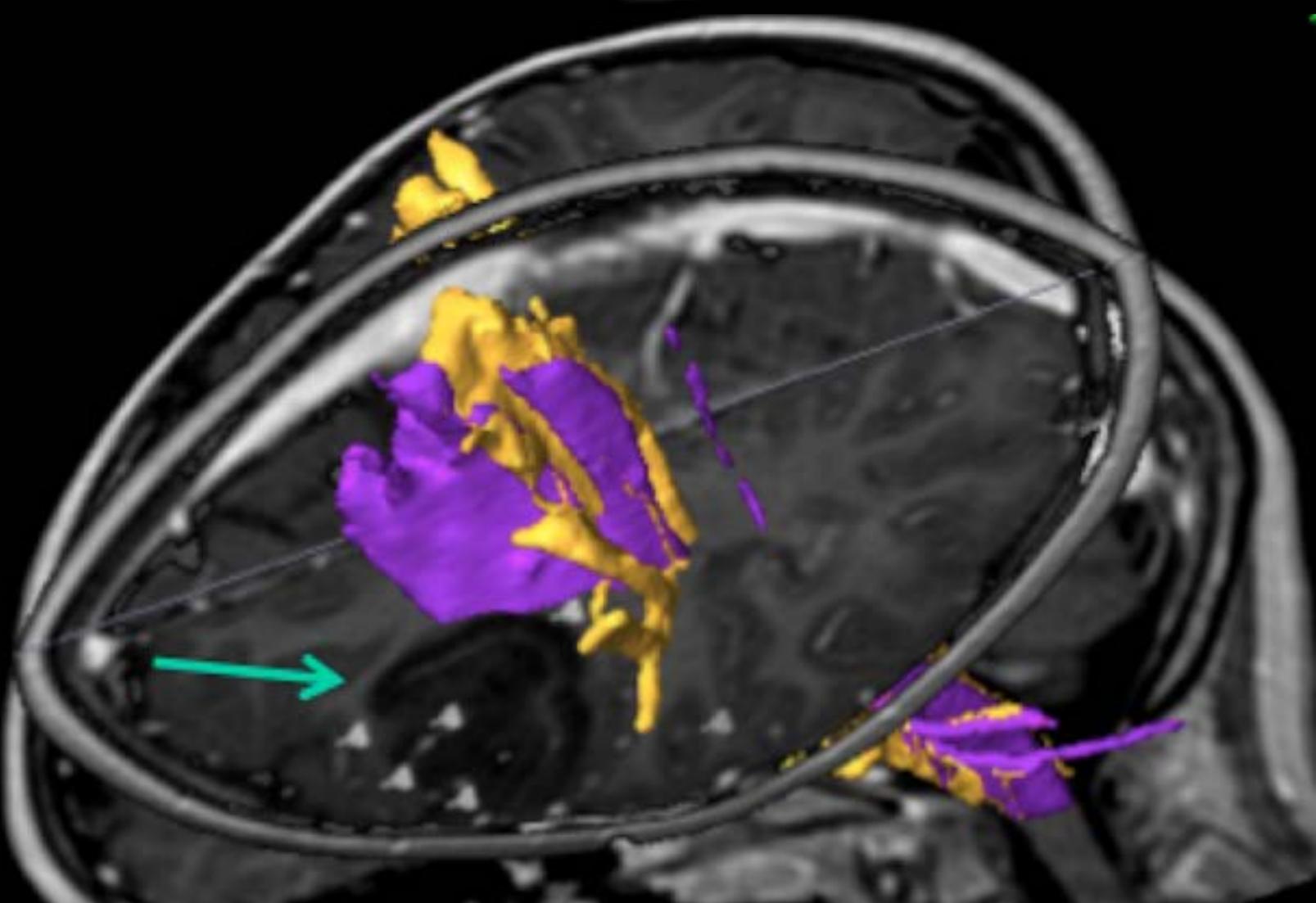
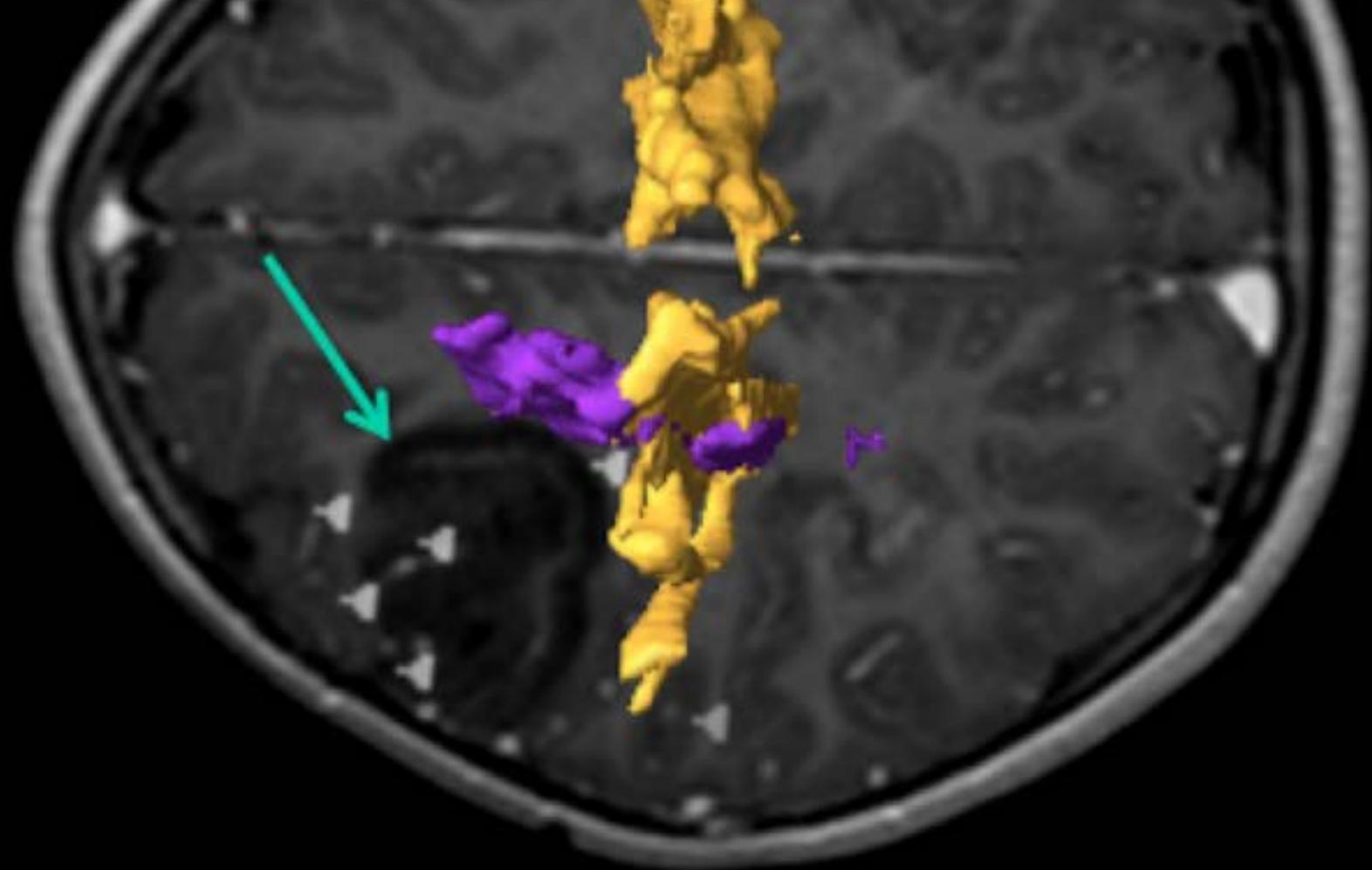
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Brain Invasion: Clues From The Leading Edge

BY JAMES T. RUTKA, MD
TORONTO – CANADA

In the wake of the passing of Canadian rock icon from the Tragically Hip, Gord Downie, of the malignant brain tumor, glioblastoma, it is timely to reflect on this aggressive and universally fatal cancer that afflicts an ever-increasing number of North Americans each year. Some of you may remember that glioblastoma is the cancer that claimed the life of U.S. Senator Ted Kennedy. U.S. Senator John McCain was also recently diagnosed with this tumor. Interestingly, famed musician George Gershwin died from this cancer at the young age of 38, just shortly after he had written the music for his famed opera, “Porgy and Bess”.

Glioblastoma arises from deranged precursor cells of the glial, oligodendroglial, or neuronal lineages. The inciting factors leading to the development of glioblastoma are not completely understood, but recent molecular genetic studies have identified alterations in a number of important candidate genes, including the epidermal growth factor receptor, p53, NF1, and IDH1, to name a few.

Glioblastoma is characterized by a highly proliferative central core

of cancer cells, and perhaps more importantly, a wave of highly infiltrative cells which invade into normal regions of the brain. In fact, it is the extensive brain invasion of glioblastoma that makes it such a difficult tumor to treat.

As with most brain tumors, glioblastoma causes neurological symptoms and signs by virtue of continuous tumor growth and mass effect. The common symptoms and signs of glioblastoma include seizures, personality change, headaches, and weakness of one extremity or sensory disturbance. These days, the diagnosis is confirmed by brain magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scanning.

Treatment of glioblastoma is multi-modal and includes neurosurgical resection of the tumor where feasible, followed by radiation therapy and chemotherapy. The discovery of the benefit of the drug temozolomide has led to some improvement in overall survival. A number of other novel therapies are being explored at this time in clinical trials.

My research laboratory has been dedicated to increasing our

understanding of the mechanisms by which glioblastoma cells grow and invade the brain. While our experimental studies are still preliminary, we have identified important signaling pathways which lead to brain invasion. If these pathways are blocked, we can turn a highly invasive cancer like glioblastoma into a focal tumor which can then be treated more effectively with focal therapy. New techniques such as MRI-guided focused ultrasound appear quite promising to help us reach the invading glioblastoma cells in the normal brain with improved concentration of targeted chemotherapeutics.

Kenneth Blanchard wrote, “None of us is as smart as all of us”, and so my hope is that collective efforts to study glioblastoma around the globe will lead in time to more effective therapies for this devastating tumor.



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Teaching Empowerment To Children

BY CARLA DRAGNEA
BUCHAREST – ROMANIA

As parents it's our job to love our children, keep them well fed and taken care of, but there comes a point where we have to let go and let them start trying things on their own. How does one prepare for such a day? How do we empower kids and send them out into the big wide world with a sense of self-worth and confidence that gives them an upper hand in both their personal and professional relationships? Here are a few things my husband and I learned in getting our own babies to the ages of seventeen and ten.

Teach them responsibility

Chores every day, do them or deal with the consequences – it's how both my husband and I were raised and it's how we raised our kids. Making their beds, packing their lunches, helping with cleaning, with laundry, with cooking, were all things they learned from a young age. Certainly chores need to evolve as kids grow up.

Teach them respect

When children respect themselves and those around them it gives them an upper hand in almost everything they do. They can't be as easily persuaded

into bad decisions, they stand out in a professional crowd when they are capable of looking someone in the eye and shaking their hand like they mean it. They begin to care about how their actions affect those around them and take their relationships, both personally and professionally, more seriously.

Teach them risk-taking and self-nurturing

We also empowered our children simply for trying, for taking risks. Taking action is a primary component of personal power. And the fear of making mistakes is its chief disabler.

It's important to comment on the attempts children make – not just the successes.

Children also benefit from being validated for being true to themselves and for nurturing themselves (knowing when it's okay to choose not to take a risk). Knowing your limits is critical. We set ourselves up for failure when we don't take notice of the small voice that says, "I've had enough for right now."

Teach them to be all-rounded people

It's nice when kids show interest in a particular activity. Whether it's

playing sports, being in a creative club or playing an instrument, they'll absolutely love their choice of activity and their lives evolve around it. However as parents, it is our responsibility to expose them to other facets of this beautiful world we live in. Together, listen to old music, opera, visit famous virtual-museums, read books, watch documentaries, raise money or volunteer for a good cause.

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1.the quality of being amusing or comic, especially as expressed in literature or speech.

2.a mood or state of mind.

When Insults Had Class

BY JO LEE MAGAZINE

NEW YORK / SAN FRANCISCO / HONG KONG / LONDON / TOKYO / ROME / TORONTO

“Sir, you will either die on the gallows or of some unspeakable disease.”

“That depends, Sir,” said Disraeli, “Whether I embrace your policies or your mistress.” — A member of Parliament to Disraeli

“He has all the virtues I dislike and none of the vices I admire.” — Winston Churchill

“I have never killed a man, but I have read many obituaries with great pleasure.” — Clarence Darrow

“He has no enemies, but is intensely disliked by his friends.” — Oscar Wilde

“I am enclosing two tickets to the first night of my new play; bring a friend, if you have one.” — George Bernard Shaw to Winston Churchill

“I feel so miserable without you; it’s almost like having you here.” — Stephen Bishop

“I’ve just learned about his illness. Let’s hope it’s nothing trivial.” — Irvin S. Cobb

“He is not only dull himself; he is the cause of dullness in others.” — Samuel Johnson

“In order to avoid being called a flirt, she always yielded easily.” — Charles, Count Talleyrand

“Why do you sit there looking like an envelope without any address on it?” — Mark Twain

“His mother should have thrown him away and kept the stork.” — Mae West

“Some cause happiness wherever they go; others, whenever they go.” — Oscar Wilde

“I’ve had a perfectly wonderful evening. But I’m afraid this wasn’t it.” — Groucho Marx

JL



THE RICH AND THE FAMOUS

LES RICHES ET LES CÉLÈBRES | LOS RICOS Y FAMOSOS | DIE REICHEN UND BERÜHMTEN | 多元與著名

Opposite: WAR Flowers | Fleur D'Armes

RESOLVE TO WIN – Percival Molson (Columbine) Optical Crystal Sculpture Dimensions: 10 1/2” x 14”w x 2”d. I believe war is inherent in human nature, as is the desire for victory. Canadians met the call to war because of their love for King and country. Every battle required massive quantities of munitions and cost many lives. The silhouetted soldier stands as a symbol of resolve, courage and honor, while the tug of war of battle over the vast labyrinth of trenches and tunnels represents the long struggle for victory. For WAR Flowers touring art exhibition details visit: www.warflowers.ca

Two Artists Make “WAR Flowers” Bloom Vignette One Of Two Mark Raynes Roberts: Crystal Artist

BY JEREMY KATZ, TORONTO – CANADA
PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARK RAYNES ROBERTS, LONDON/TORONTO

When considering how best to create the different elements for her First World War-themed touring art exhibition WAR Flowers, curator Viveka Melki immediately thought of renowned Toronto crystal artist Mark Raynes Roberts.

Roberts, an English-born artist and photographer who immigrated to Canada in the 1980s, has, over the past three decades, built a remarkable international reputation, with numerous solo exhibitions and also commissioned work presented to royalty, heads of state, sports superstars and industrial leaders.

Melki asked Roberts if he would create ten original crystal sculptures

portraying scenes illustrating the different aspects of human nature reflected in her exhibition's ten thematically-integrated “stations”.

Roberts was excited by the challenge. But before embarking on the design process, Roberts researched Canada's role during the First World War, to help him develop a visual library of hand-drawn sketches and inform his final designs for the crystals.







Opposite: WAR Flowers|Fleur D'Armes ETERNAL SLEEP – John McCrae (Flower: Poppies) Optical Crystal Sculpture
Dimensions: 12”h x71/2”w X11/2”d I believe grieving is internal while mourning is public. In the aftermath of battle two medics retrieve a fallen soldier, while above poppies float like clouds fading away into the distance of the night sky. For WAR Flowers touring art exhibitions details visit: www.warflowers.ca

WAR Flowers' poignant true story of a soldier's wartime letters and flowers sent to his baby daughter back home in Canada provided Roberts with a unique opportunity to incorporate engravings of the flowers into ten sculptures reflecting the ten human themes of the art exhibition. In each piece, Roberts hoped to artistically capture the fragility and human emotions of war.

In his Toronto studio, he gathered the finest optical crystal with which he would design and then hand-engage the ten sculptures.

As the WAR Flowers exhibition would be touring, it was important for him to consider the scale of the sculptures, their safety in transit, and how they would also be displayed and illuminated. Working with Melki and exhibition designer Normand Dumont, Roberts was able to design ten uniquely-shaped crystal sculptures which surpassed the necessary specifications.

As a crystal engraver, Mark Roberts employed two ancient techniques: intaglio (three-dimensional carving) and stipple engraving (using a diamond point to create dark and

light). To create an ethereal element to his work, he engraved the different crystal surfaces to maximize the refractive properties of the crystal, or make images appear and disappear.

The combination of strong and delicate engraved imagery is illuminated in the exhibition from underneath, and set against a black background.

“Designing and creating these sculptures for this emotionally powerful exhibition was just a terrific experience,” says Roberts. “My hope and intention for all of the imagery I created for the sculptures was to create works of art which symbolized the courage, honour and humanity of those who fought and died in WW1.”

Video.. goo.gl/1KdPXW

WAR Flowers, produced by Reford Gardens/Jardins de Métis, is currently being exhibited at the Visitor Education Center, Canadian National Memorial in Vimy, France through September, and then can be seen at the Château Ramezay Museum in Montreal from October through March 2019.

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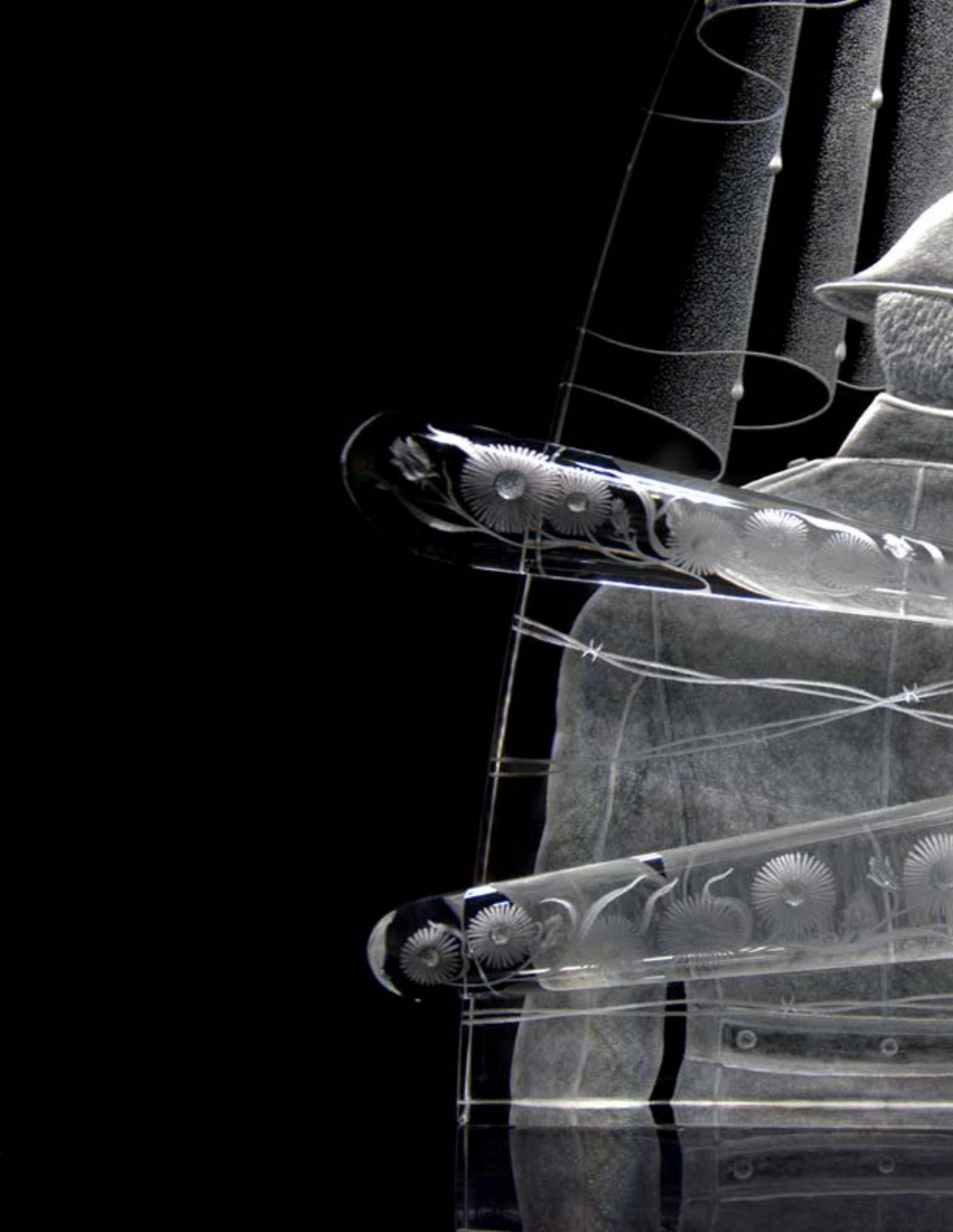
WAR Flowers | Fleur D'Armes

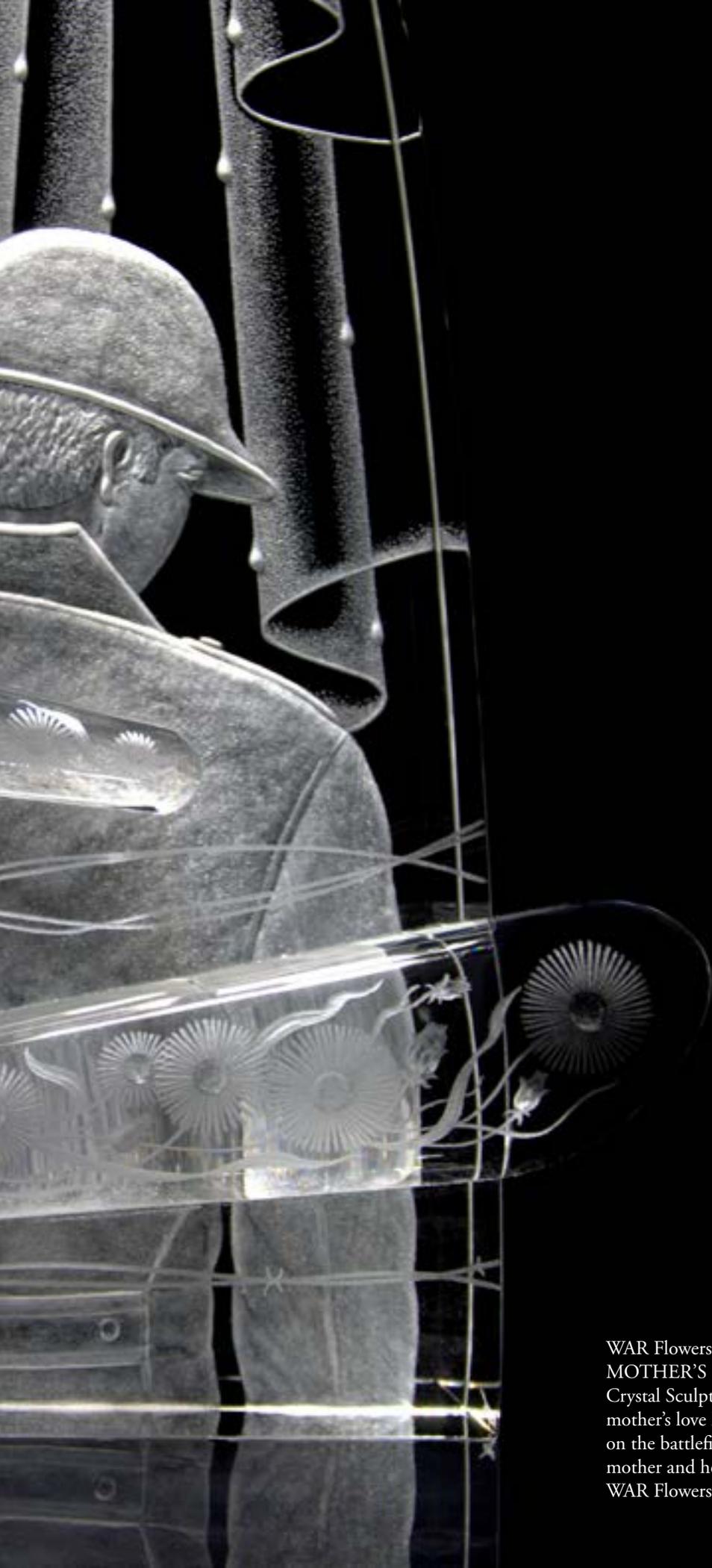
GRACE – Talbot Papineau {Pink Rose} Optical Crystal Dimensions: 14 1/2”h x 7 1/2”w x 1 1/2”d. I believe grace is to honor and give credit by one’s presence. Men in their thousands marched to war, a world war no one could have imagined; the rose is a reminder that life and beauty do prevail. While the sun is rising in the sky, a proud and enchanting rose leaves a strong sense of patriotism. For WAR Flowers touring art exhibition details visit: www.warflowers.ca





WAR Flowers | Fleur D'Armes
INNOCENCE {Daisy} Jean Brilliant. Optical Crystal
Sculpture Dimensions: 16" h x 7 1/2" w x 1 1/2" d. I believe
innocence is the first victim of war. When soldiers crossed
the Atlantic in WW1, they carried innocence with them.
More than 66,000 Canadian soldiers died, including some
from wounds suffered in combat or from disease. Their
lives were cut short, often in the flower of their youth. The
faceless unknown soldier depicted is just one of the many
young men who gave their lives for our freedom. For WAR
Flowers touring art exhibition details visit: www.warflowers.ca



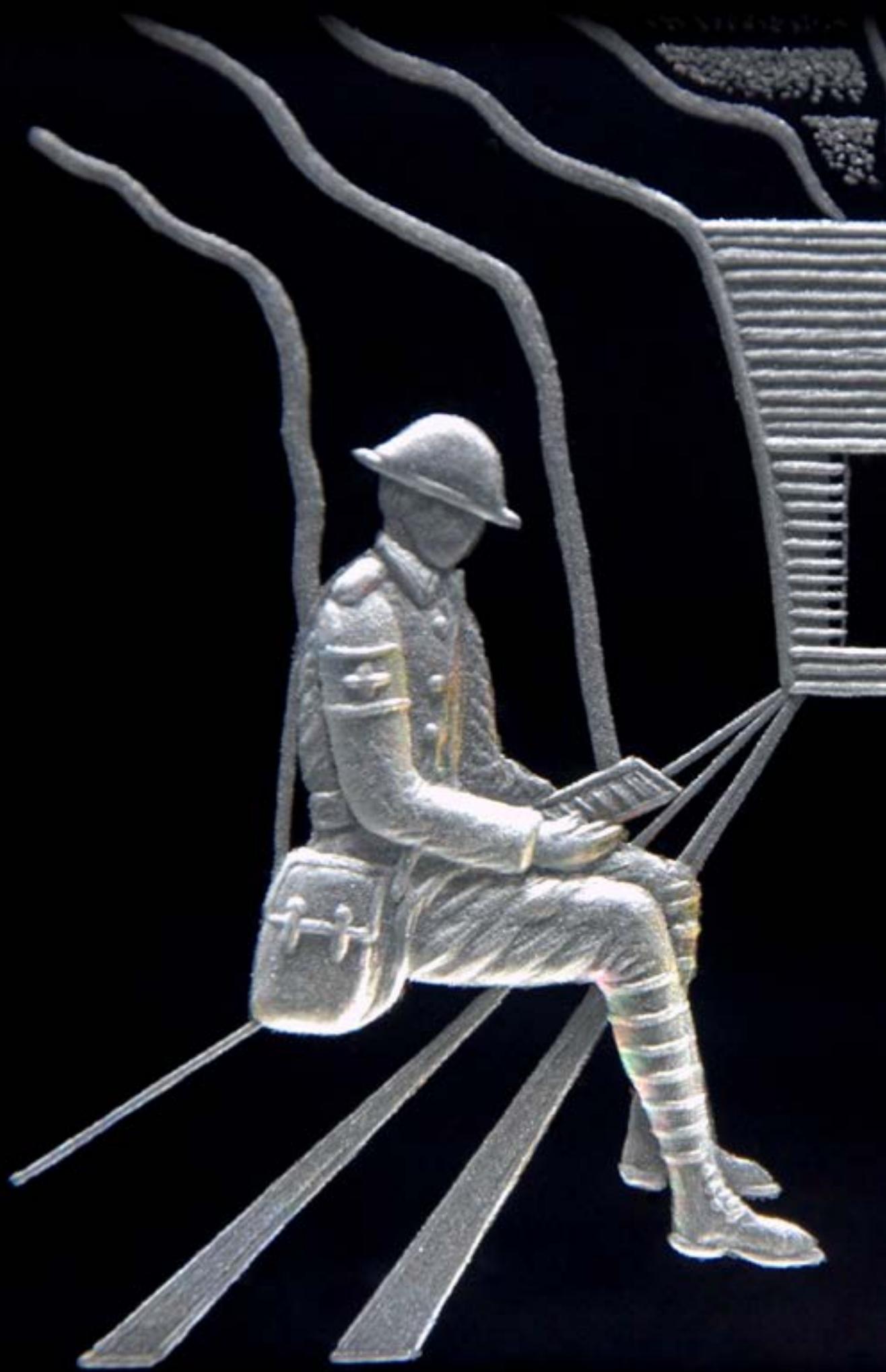


WAR Flowers | Fleur D'Armes
MOTHER'S LOVE – Julia Drummond {English Daisy} Optical
Crystal Sculpture Dimensions: 143/4”h x 9”w x 21/4”d. I believe a
mother's love has no limits, even against the backdrop of barbed wire
on the battlefield. Every soldier is a son, veiled by the tears of his
mother and held in her arms of English daisies and eternal love. For
WAR Flowers touring art exhibition details visit: www.warflowers.ca





WAR Flowers | Fleur D'Armes
HEALING – George Vanier (Flower:
Stitchwort) Optical Crystal Sculpture
Dimensions: 43/4" x 103/4" w x 3" d.
I believe to heal we must accept our
wounds. The shattered soldier breaks
apar, his mind and body tormented in the
aftermath of war. The crouched figure
represents his soul, appearing to unravel
like his shoelaces before our eyes. The
broken ends of the crystal symbolize the
steep trench walls and where the ghostlike
spirits of his comrades lie forever buried.
For WAR Flowers touring art exhibitions
details visit: www.warflowers.ca





WAR Flowers | Fleur D'Armes

SOLITUDE – A. Y. Jackson (Flower: Heather) Optical Crystal Sculpture Dimensions: 9 1/2”h x 12”w x 1 1/2”d. I believe that although war is a collective effort, we remain alone within our own private thoughts. The two soldiers sitting in the trench are part of a shattered landscape, one imagining the beauty of their Canadian homeland: the other, the horrors of war and their battlefield reality. For WAR Flowers touring art exhibition details please visit: www.warflowers.ca



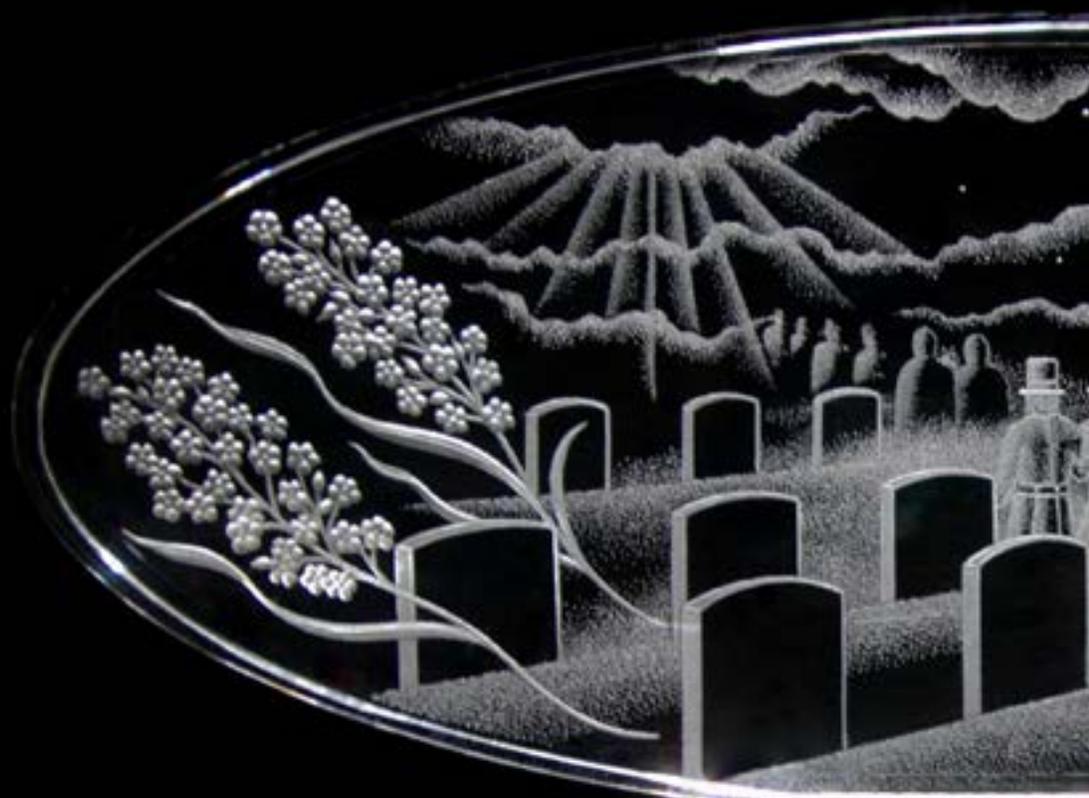


WAR Flowers | Fleur D'Armes
FAMILIAL LOVE – Lt. Col. George S. Cantlie {Yellow Rose} Optical Crystal Sculpture Dimensions: 16 $\frac{3}{4}$ "h x 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ "w x 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ "d. I believe that family is integral to the experience of war. The sculpture depicts two roses intertwined to represent family, and the two crystal pieces, worlds apart, symbolic of the contrast between war and home, night and day; and set against an ethereal dreamscape of his daughter Celia floating among her father's handwritten letters. Note the single teardrop about to weep from the stem of the rose onto the page of his letter: www.warflowers.ca





WAR Flowers | Fleur D'Armes
DEVOTION – Edward Savage
{Lavender} Optical Crystal Sculpture
Dimensions: 133/4”h x 71//”w x 11/2”d.
I believe love inspires loyalty and the pursuit of a common cause. Though many lives were lost, that unwavering spirit was one of the cornerstones for the Allies victory. Maple leaves float to the ground, symbolic of the 68,000 lives Canada lost in the Great War, while the solitary lark sings once again upon its post; and the other birds fly with freedom and hope once again. For WAR Flowers touring art exhibitions details visit: www.warflowers.ca





WAR Flowers | Fleur D'Armes
MEMORY – Elsie Reford {Forget-Me-Knot}
Optical Crystal Sculpture. Dimensions: 14”w
x 7³/₄”h x 3”d. With the passage of time and
without care, I believe we are destined to forget.
An Edwardian couple visits their son’s grave after
the war, and as each generation passes, so the
memory fades like an ethereal mist: the forget-
me-knot flowers a binding reminder of those
brave soldiers who gave their lives. For WAR
Flowers touring art exhibitions details visit:
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THE RICH AND THE FAMOUS

LES RICHES ET LES CÉLÈBRES | LOS RICOS Y FAMOSOS | DIE REICHEN UND BERÜHMTEN | 多元與著名

Two Artists Make “WAR Flowers” Bloom Vignette Two Of Two Alexandra Bachand: Perfumer

BY JEREMY KATZ, TORONTO – CANADA

PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARK RAYNES ROBERTS, LONDON/TORONTO

In Quebec’s scenic Eastern Townships, perfumer Alexandra Bachand lovingly plies her trade. Alexandra is the founder-perfumer of the Quebec perfume brand alexandrabach and of The Perfumer’s Barn, an enchanting countryside location she and her husband Eric run, an hour or so south-east of Montreal.

There, Alexandra formulates and manufactures, by hand, all her original scent creations for both women and men. She typically incorporates, in each, 30-40 ingredients or “notes” that, balanced and in combination, form “chords” (to use the perfumer’s lexicon)! Her ingredients, which she sources from Canada, the US, Europe and Asia, include frankincense, oak moss, myrrh, pine resin, tonka bean, pink and black pepper, citruses, agarwood, and sandalwood, to name just a few. She only sells on site and welcomes guests to her workshop, where she offers tours and a true artisanal perfume-making experience. Visitors have come from all over the world; from across North America as well as from Europe, Asia, South America and the Middle East. Alexandra trained seven years to

be a perfumer, graduating from the Perfumery Art School in England, and also studying under Nicolas De Barry, a French master perfumer and pioneer of natural perfumery.

Since starting her own perfume brand in 2015 and opening The Perfumer’s Barn in 2017, she has been focused on perfecting the combination of French perfume know-how with native Quebec spontaneity, enthusiasm and creativity. Her desire is to deliver quality, attention, and innovation in the brand-new industry of niche perfumery in Quebec.

Alexandra’s creative approach also led her to collaborate in art curator Viveka Melki’s multi-sensorial, touring art exhibition “WAR Flowers”, an exhibition inspired by the preserved, hundred-year-old pressed flowers Canadian soldier George Cantlie plucked from the gardens, fields and hedges of First World War Europe.

For “WAR Flowers”, Alexandra created ten original plant-based scents to communicate the meaning and emotions of attributes such as

“devotion”, “solitude”, “familial love”, “grace”, “innocence”, “memory” and others.

Although her own perfume line draws on dozens of ingredients for each formula, for the “WAR Flowers” art exhibition she used only 10-12 “notes”, and created more simple scents, emphasizing “the top notes” to elicit a more immediate and visceral reaction from visitors to the exhibition.

“I love creating for my own perfume line,” Alexandra says, “but creating scents for the multi-sensorial “WAR Flowers” exhibition was a new and exciting challenge, and a direction I’d like to explore further in future”.

Video.. [goo.gl/SMG6cV](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SMG6cV)

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The six unisex
colognes
Alexandra makes,
in her Perfumer's
Barn.

Opposite:
Perfumer's Organ
in the Museum
part of the Barn,
with display of
raw materials she
uses.







Alexandra at her "formula table" in the Barn, with 5 year-old daughter Lelia.





Alexandra tests a scent at the Welcome Centre in her Barn.







Opposite: Sales area of Perfumer's Barn. Giant bottle is a formula Alexandra created that reminds her of her childhood.

"Perfume Library" display in the Barn, with examples of the colognes and eau de toilettes Alexandra has created.



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Alexandra in her lab, filling bottles of cologne.





Exterior view of Alexandra's workshop/store/museum called 'The Perfumer's Barn', outside Magog, Quebec.



LA GRANGE DU PAYSAN

Love is a language
that every heart speaks.



Friends have
all things in common.

Family is the link to our past
and a bridge to our future.





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