Clint Enns

Conspiracies in Isolation

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Pictures and Stories

for Kathryn

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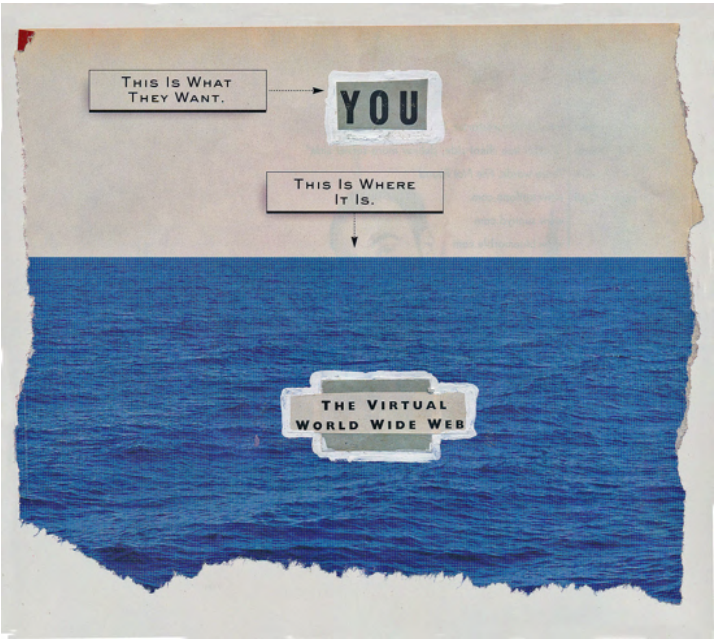
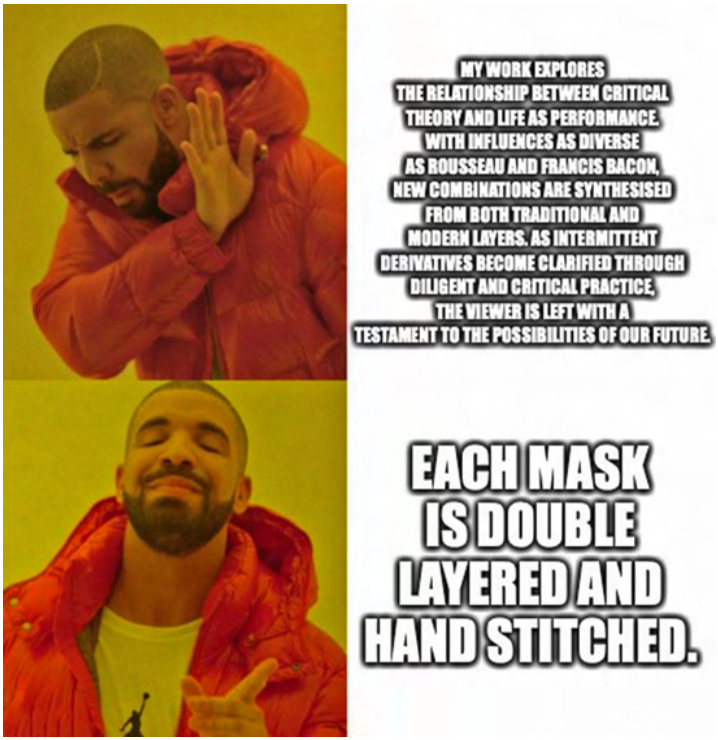
Introduction

This short artist book is compiled from a series of fragmented ideas and thoughts that were developed under lockdown while patiently awaiting Q drops. For the uninitiated, Q drops are cryptic posts left on 8chan by a person or a group of people using the handle "Q." It is commonly believed that Q is military intelligence with direct access to President Donald J. Trump. These breadcrumbs are left for us to decrypt using tweets by POTUS in conjunction with news and real world events. Ultimately, they predict the Great Awakening – a moment in which the truth will be revealed and the global elites will be rounded up and punished for their crimes against humanity. This book contains personal reflections, observations, snapshots and a few images found on the Internet while attempting to decipher the secrets behind the secrets.



Virtual World Wide Web



Artist Statements During COVID-19

Future Proves Past

It is difficult to predict the future, but, as the saying goes, hindsight is 20/20. This expression is usually a way of pointing out the painfully obvious: one can only evaluate a course of events once they have already unfolded. QAnon's followers have taken this lesson to its logical conclusion. Whenever possible, they force a narrative, any narrative, to coincide with Q's ambiguous prophecies. They depend on collective hindsight bias to justify ad hoc explanations. Q's word is truth, hence the interpretation must be true even if there is no empirical evidence to justify it.

Q's trustworthiness was cemented when an anonymous 8chan user asked Q to work the phrase "tip-top" into a presidential speech. Like clockwork, three months later, the president famously said he wanted to thank Melania for getting "this incredible house or building, or whatever you want to call it [the White House] – because there really is no name for it; it is special – and we keep it in tip-top shape. We call it sometimes tippy-top shape."

Through meticulous research, one discovers that this was not the first time that Trump had used this idiosyncratic phrase. In an earlier meeting with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Trump claimed he wanted US nuclear weapons in "tip-top shape." Coincidence? I don't believe in these types of coincidences.

The wisdom of Q:

198 Nov 22, 2017 4:52:24 PM EST ID: YzNom6b4 No. 150515835
3 sides form what shape? Expand your thinking. RE-READ CRUMBS. Q

533 Jan 14, 2018 12:17:29 AM EST ID: 000000 No. 20
WE, THE PEOPLE! WE, THE PEOPLE! WE, THE PEOPLE! WE, THE PEOPLE! WHERE WE GO ONE, WE GO ALL. NO ONE PERSON IS ABOVE ANOTHER. WE, THE PEOPLE, ARE MAKING THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE. WE, THE PEOPLE, ARE TAKING BACK OUR COUNTRY (& WORLD) FROM THE EVIL LOSERS WHO WOULD DO US HARM (ALL FOR A BUCK). NO MORE. STAND UP PATRIOTS. STAND UP AND DEFEND WHAT YOU KNOW IS RIGHT. GOD BLESS YOU AND GOD BLESS THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. 4, 10, 20

995 Apr 03, 2018 8:42:09 PM EDT ID: 463ae0 No. 884736
FUTURE PROVES PAST. Several today. [1 day] RR. Military. Border. Keep watching the news. [A]pril. MOAB. Q

1170 Apr 17, 2018 6:53:02 AM EDT ID: 551e62 No. 1074782
BOOM. BOOM. BOOM. BOOM!!!!! Q

2189 Sep 17, 2018 5:55:09 PM EDT ID: cd97e7 No. 3061670
Attention on deck. Memes at the ready. Lock on target. Fire at will. Q

3662 Dec 07, 2019 1:05:46 PM EST ID: 000000 No. 103
Knowledge is power. Think for yourself. Trust yourself. Do due diligence. You awake, and thinking for yourself, is their greatest fear. Sheep no more. THE GREAT AWAKENING. Q

4832 Oct 07, 2020 10:31:07 PM EDT ID: 3b43aa No. 10975689
SHADOW PRESIDENT. SHADOW GOVERNMENT. INFORMATION WARFARE. IRREGULAR WARFARE. COLOR REVOLUTION. INSURGENCY. Q

Resist the Truth

As a thought experiment, let us imagine that John F. Kennedy had been assassinated, under similar circumstances, in 2020 as opposed to in 1963. One can speculate that, even if there weren't a media outlet covering the assassination in real-time, there would be many cameras pointed at the motorcade and these cameras would ultimately reveal what really happened that day.

Cinema scholar and Game Five Truther[1] Cameron Moneo suggests that this is playing into the "myth of total coverage." While technology gets closer and closer to mimicking reality, it will never be able to provide the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. Every new camera angle will come with its own set of narratives and interpretations, and the "crucial angle" will always be missing. There will always be a Babushka lady.

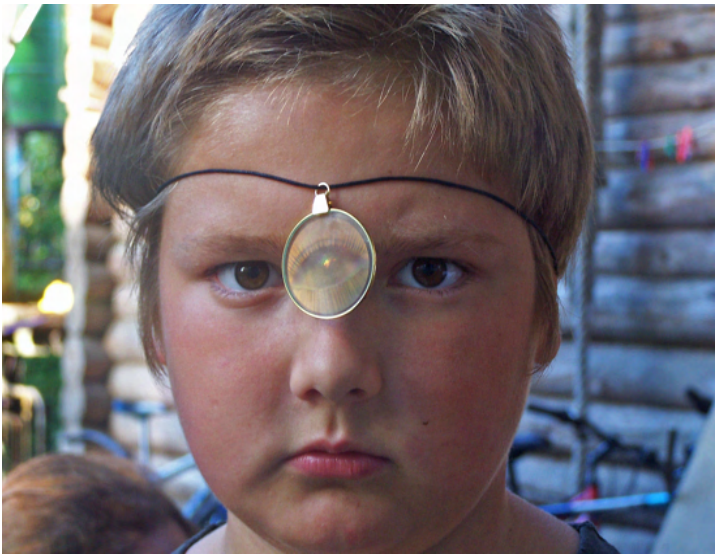
The 24-hour news cycle also perpetuates this myth by promising second-by-second breaking news and analysis. Yet, we live in an era of misinformation. Currently, deciphering factual information is extremely difficult since the media ecosystem is saturated with alternative facts. In the

1 Were the 2006 NBA Finals (Mavericks vs. Heat) rigged? Granted, in the 2011 NBA Finals the Mavericks beat the Heat, perhaps confirming Dr. Martin Luther King's precept that "the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice."

past, propaganda was used as a system of control. Now, massive amounts of misinformation are spread in order to disorient the masses and convince them that the "truth" is ultimately unobtainable.

The media cycle is easily dominated by misinformation given its crusade to debunk false claims. But ultimately, there are just too many alternative facts and the "evidence" the media presents is obviously biased. Experts, what do they know? Moneo argues, when "the big composite picture can only be tolerated as a corrupt set of *untruths*, the conspiracist steps in to make of total coverage its evil twin: the myth of total cover-up."

While browsing Facebook the other day, I saw a quote by Augustine of Hippo. It read: "The truth is like a lion; you don't have to defend it. Let it loose; it will defend itself." It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in social media. Granted, well over a century ago, Nietzsche argued that it would be the death of God, not the rise of social media, that would eventually destroy all our moral and metaphysical convictions, provoking the greatest crisis in human history.

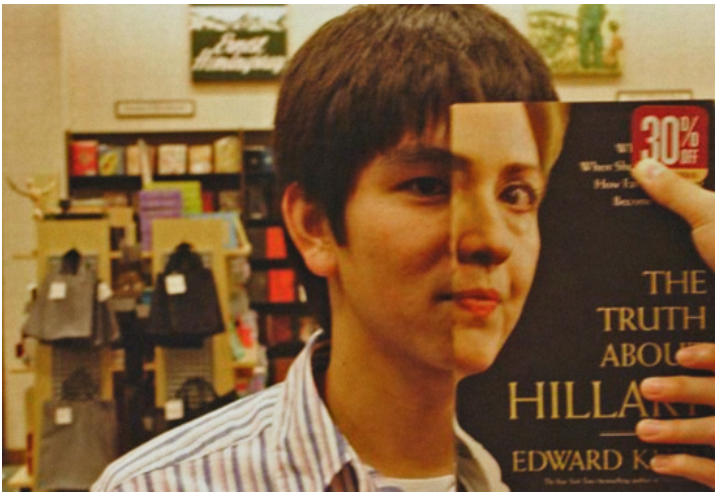


Third Eye

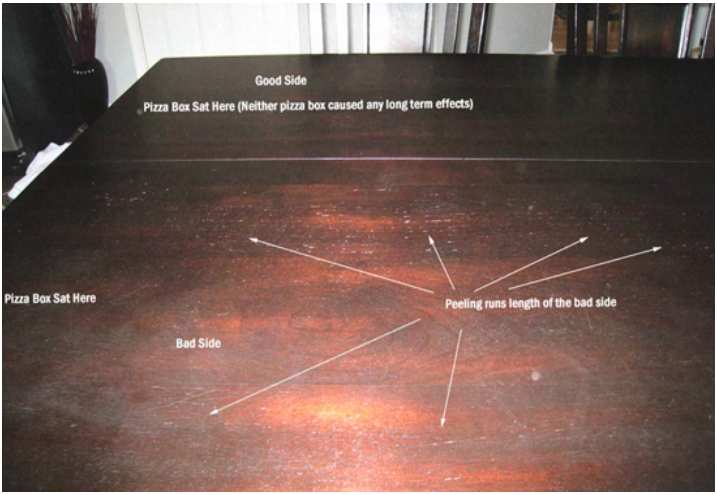
Welcome, My Name is Deth

Make America Great Again

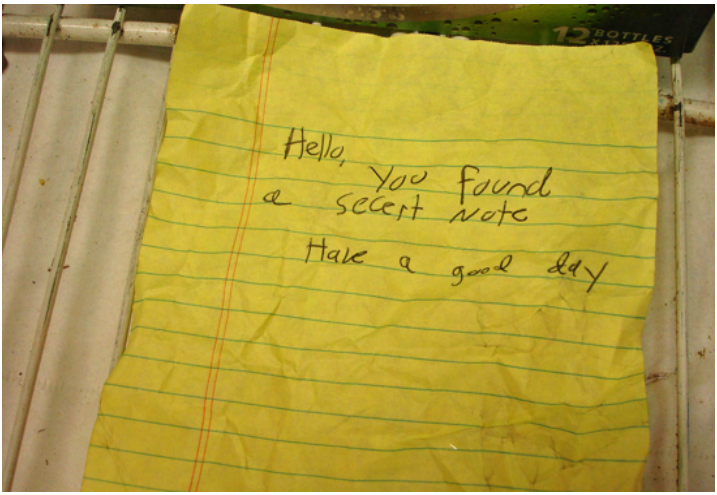
The 2004 Republican National Convention Cover-Up



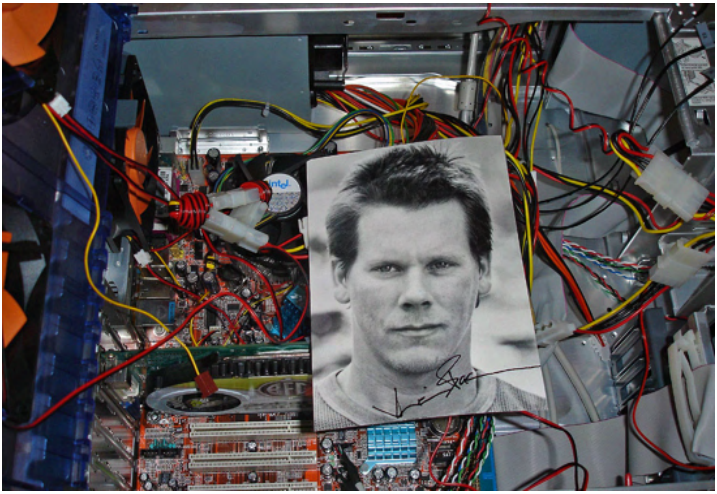
The Truth About Hillary



Craigslist Pizzagate



You Found a Secert Note



Six Degrees of Kevin Bacon

Tin Foil Mask

Trapped in a Bubble

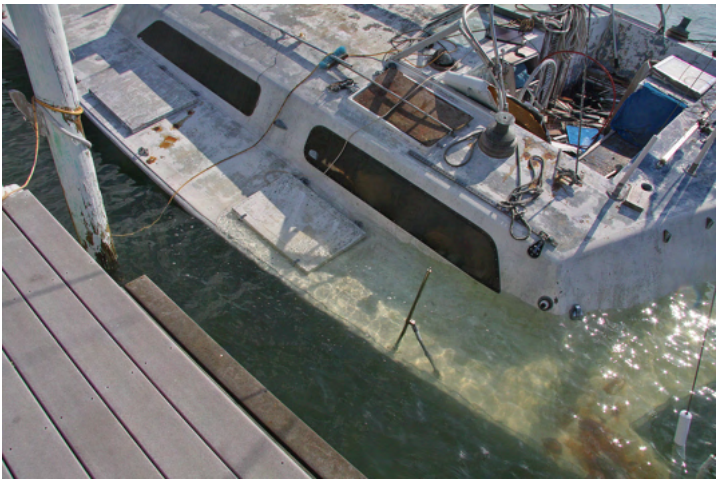
Fox News

Den of Rats

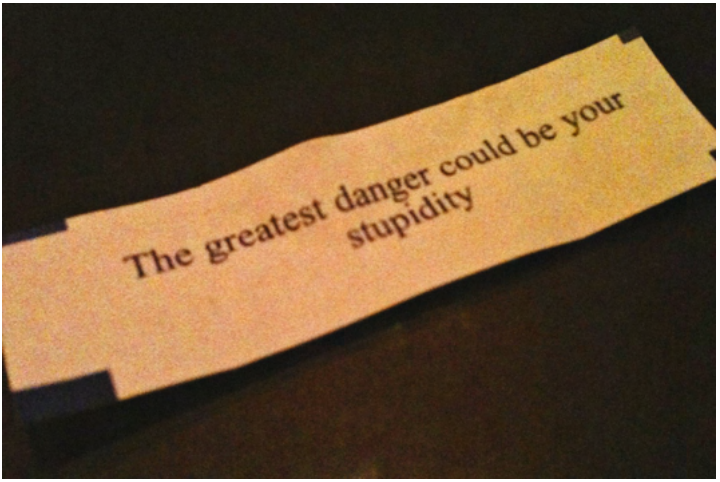
Sleight of Hand

Tunnel Vision

Plug and Play



Sinking Ship



Fortune Cookie "Fortune"

Where We Go One, We Go All

In *La grande chirurgie* (*The Great Surgery*, 1363), French physician and surgeon Guy de Chauliac provided an eyewitness description of the Plague. The following is a 1931 translation of his writing by Anna M. Campbell, who condensed some of his verbosity while preserving his phraseology.

The great mortality appeared at Avignon in January, 1348, when I was in the service of Pope Clement VI. It was of two kinds. The first lasted two months, with continued fever and spitting of blood, and people died of it in three days. The second was all the rest of the time, also with continuous fever, and with tumours in the external parts, chiefly the armpits and groin; and people died in five days. It was so contagious, especially that accompanied by spitting of blood, that not only by staying together, but even by looking at one another, people caught it, with the result that men died without attendants and were buried without priests. The father did not visit his son, nor the son his father. Charity was dead and hope crushed.

I call it great, because it covered the whole world, or lacked little of doing so. For it began in the East, and thus casting its darts against the world, passed through our region toward the West. It was so great that it left scarcely a fourth part of the people. And I say that it was such that its like has never been heard tell of before; of the pestilences in the past that we read of, none was so great as this. For those covered only one region, this the whole world; those could be treated in some way, this in none.

For this reason it was useless and shameful for the doctors, the more so as they dared not visit the sick, for fear of being infected. And when they did visit them, they did hardly anything for them, and were paid nothing; for all the sick died, except some few at the last who escaped, the buboes being ripened.

Many were in doubt about the cause of this great mortality. In some places, they thought that the Jews had poisoned the world: and so they killed them. In others, that it was the poor deformed: and they drove them out. In others, that it was the nobles: and they feared to go abroad. Finally they reached the point where they kept guards in the cities and villages, and permitted the entry of no one who was not well known. And if powders or unguents were found on anyone the owners, for fear that they were poisons, were forced to swallow them. [Here follow a discussion of what the author considers the true causes, and a resume of methods of prevention and cure that were employed.]

And I, to avoid infamy, dared not absent myself, but with continual fear preserved myself as best I could by means of the above-mentioned remedies. Notwithstanding this, toward the end of the mortality I fell into a continuous fever, with a tumour in the groin. I was ill for nearly six weeks, and was in such great danger that all my associates thought that I would die; but the tumour being ripened, and treated as I have said, I escaped by the will of God.

The Future is Coming!

At this time of relative stasis, nothing has felt more urgent. Everyone is frantically waiting for the future to arrive. According to the wisdom of Q: "Nothing can stop what is coming. Nothing!" Like sand through the hourglass, time relentlessly marches on. These are the days of our lives.

Feeling as though everything is spinning out of control, I find myself suffering from the "curse of the capable." I have been coping with the stress of the pandemic by overworking, despite feeling burnt out. As a bona fide amateur, my work genuinely brings me pleasure; however, the line between leisure and work is often blurred when your bedroom is also your office.

The pandemic has further exacerbated many of the socioeconomic problems associated with late capitalism. It has also provided the time for going down Internet rabbit holes to search for answers to problems too complex to comprehend in their totality. A world of information at our fingertips – the misinformation superhighway – with every recommendation selected by artificial intelligence to further fortify our biases. We have ultimately entered an advanced stage of capitalist realism, one where it is easier to imagine the "global elite" as a satanic cabal of human-trafficking pedophiles than to imagine the end of capitalism.

Computer Virus Hoax by cDc [Cult of the Dead Cow]

ATTN: <your_email>

SUBJECT: GOOD TIMES!!

FYI, a file, going under the name “Good Times” is being sent to some Internet users who subscribe to on-line services (Compuserve, Prodigy and America On Line). If you should receive this file, do not download it! Delete it immediately. I understand that there is a virus included in that file, which if downloaded to your personal computer, will ruin all of your files.

“Hoax Warnings” from F-Secure Corporation:

Do not forward hoax messages. Hoax warnings are typically scare alerts started by malicious people – and passed on by innocent individuals that think they are helping the community by spreading the warning. Corporate users can get rid of the hoax problem by simply setting a strict company guideline: **End users must not forward virus alarms.** Ever. It's not the job of an end user anyway. If such message is received, end users could forward it to the IT department but not to anyone else.

Alone Together

Due to a surge of COVID-19 cases, the Québec provincial government ordered all non-essential businesses to temporarily close on March 23, 2020. In the weeks prior, the general population stood in long lines to stock up on alcohol and toilet paper. However, both the SAQ (Société des alcools du Québec) and grocery stores remained open during the month-and-a-half-long lockdown.

During the early days of the quarantine, I began to read the slew of pandemic literature that was concurrently being produced. I started by reading *Pandemic!*, a book, quickly churned out by *the most dangerous philosopher in the West*, proposing that we are on the verge of a new form of communism. The basis of Slavoj Žižek's claim: corporeal distancing has the power to, paradoxically, strengthen the intensity of our bond with others.

Other writers asked for the non-essentials, a group of people I identified with even before the pandemic, to re-examine their privilege. For instance, Judith Bulter released "Human Traces on the Surfaces of the World," which suggested that the virus made us hyper-aware of who had previously handled an object, forcing us to reflect upon every human trace left on it, from production and delivery to consumption. It is through these objects that we are

connected to each other, and in thinking through these objects we are confronted by a wide array of social inequalities.

For me, the virus provided a break from the daily grind, allowing time for reflection, introspection and self-care. In the beginning, I was excited by the ways in which the virus asked us to reconsider how we are all inextricably linked. I believed that this might lead to radical social change. We are all in this together, we are all vulnerable. Unfortunately, some of us are more vulnerable than others.

The following images were made while riding out the first wave in isolation.

Quarantine Griz

Alleyway Studio Portrait

The Universe in My Apartment

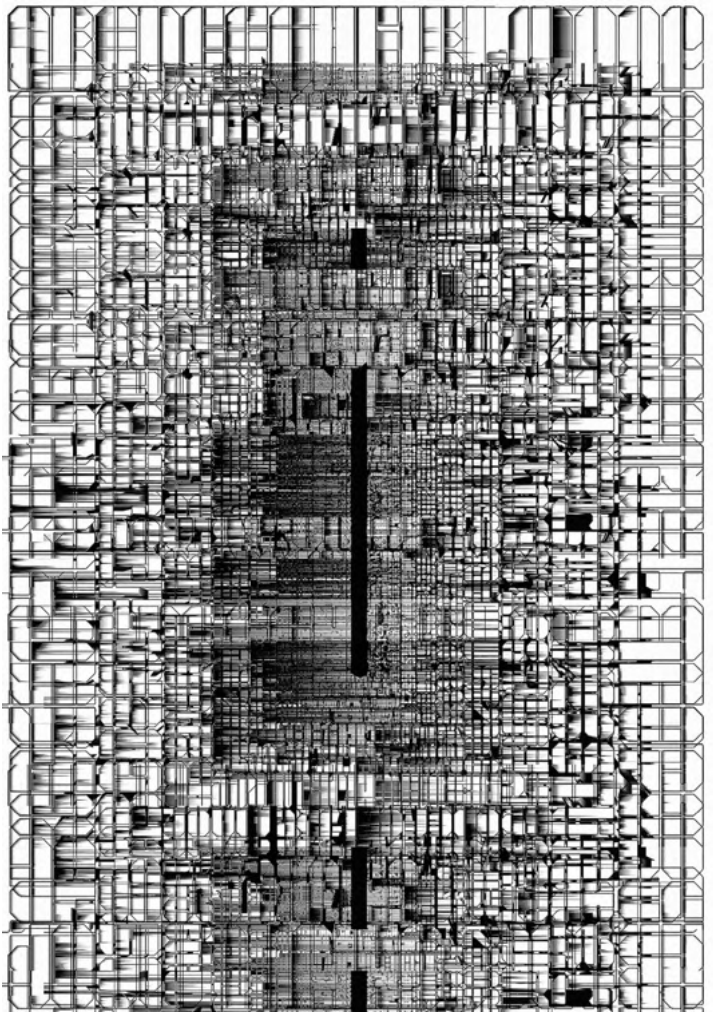
Elvis Lives

Through the Trees

Morning Dew

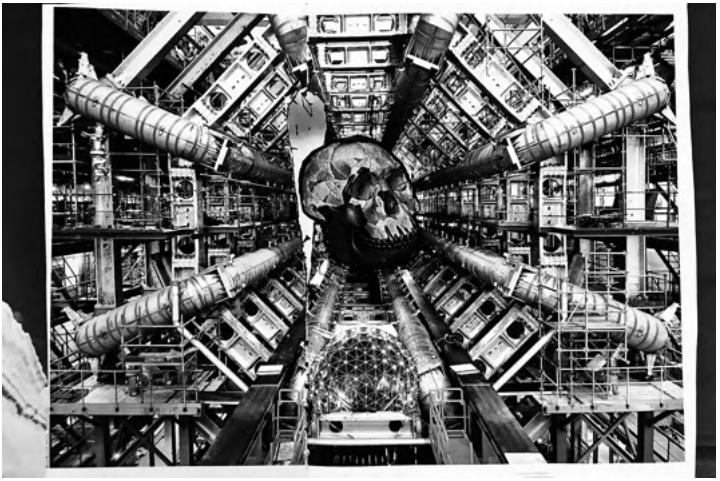
Thinking Through Tadanori Yokoo

Big Business



Code Unknown

Skull in Mirror



Large Hadron Collider

Inside Looking Out

QAnon Griz

Screen Fatigue

In the midst of the pandemic, the world witnessed the brutal murder of George Floyd at the hands of the police, igniting global protests. While some were chanting "Black Lives Matter" and "Defund the Police" in the streets, others took to social media with declarations of #BLM and #defundthepolice. Others still began to self-righteously police the actions – or, more accurately, the perceived inactions – of those in their social circles.

While some people were protesting racial injustice, others began to protest for their right not to wear a mask, transforming a piece of cloth, used to protect others by blocking – potentially harmful – exhaled respiratory particles, into a symbol of oppression. The anti-masker campaign was embraced by the QAnon movement, which shouldn't be surprising given their mantra is "where we go one, we go all," which could serve as the catchphrase for "herd mentality/immunity." This is somewhat ironic for a group that prides itself on its non-conformist attitudes.

Due to efforts to remain fairly physically isolated throughout the pandemic, I began to suffer from different forms of quarantine fatigue. One form of fatigue developed from the amount of time I began spending in front of screens. Despite leaving my apartment at least once a day to take a walk, most

of my day was spent living in a mediated reality. The world beyond my apartment became, for the most part, relegated to mere representation.

In 2016, when Trump became president, I stopped watching my favourite not-for-profit news source, *Democracy Now!*, as I found it too anxiety-inducing. As such, most of my international news came through CNN and *Last Week Tonight*. I became fascinated by Trump's erratic behaviour, which often generated a wide range of emotions, from terror and disgust to laughter and disbelief. The White House became the setting of a reality television show, and all the mainstream American news stations became purveyors of palace intrigue while either defending or critiquing his actions.

There is the myth of Trump: the successful businessman who vows to drain the swamp, wage war on the global elite and put America first. And then there is the reality: a bullying grifter who acts purely on his impulses and who puts himself first. How does one who believes the myth justify their position in relation to what they observe – a morally indefensible person? To QAnon the answer is simple: "find the reflection inside the castle."