## Simon Griffee Design Portfolio

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body (background:#000; oolor:#066; text-align:center; font-family:\*times new roman\*, times, serif;]
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A typography template using an excerpt from Olaf Stapledon's Star Maker. The image is linked to an HTML & CSS Earth and Moon in a field of stars (source code at left).

## The Earth The Starting Point



One night when I had tasted bitterness I went out on to the hill. Dark heather checked my feet. Below marched the suburban lamps.

Windows, their curtains drawn, were shut eyes, inwardly watching the lives of dreams. Beyond the sea's level darkness a lighthouse pulsed. Overhead, obscurity I, distinguished our own house, our lake in the tumultuous and bitter currents of the world. There, for a decade and a half, we two, so different in quality, had grown in and in too one another, for mutual support and nourishment, in intricate symbiosis. There daily we planned our sevent undertakings, and reconstite the day's oddiffere and exaction. There letters pilled up to be answered, tooks to be darmed. There the children were born, those saudden mee lives. There, under that roof, our own two lives, recalcitrant sometimes to one another, were all the while thankfully one, one larger, more conscious life than either alone.

## All This, Surely, Was Good

Yet there was bitterness. And bitterness not only invaded us from the world; it welled up also within our own magic circle. For horror at our futility, at our own unreality, and not only at the world's delirium, had driven me out on to the hill.

driven me out on to the hill.

We were always hurrying from one little urgent task to another, but the upshot was insubstantial. Had we, perhaps, misconcrived our whole existence? Were we, as it were, living from false premises? And in particular, this partmenship of ours, this seemingly so well-based fulcrum for activity in the world, was it after all nothing but a little eddy of complacent and ingrown domesticity, ineffectively whilting on the surface of the great flux, having in itself no depth of being, and no significance? Had we perhaps after all deceived ourselves? Behind those rapt windows Had we perhaps after all deceived ourselves? Behind those rapt windows did we, like so may others, indeed live only a dream? In a side world even the hale are side. And we two, spinning our little life mostly by rote, seldom with clear conginance, seldom with firm intent, were products of a sick world.

Yet this life of ours was not all shore and harren fantasy. Was it not spun from the actual filtres of reality, which we gathered in with all the comings and goings through our door, all our traffic with the suburb and the city and with remoter cities, and with the ends of the earth? And were we not

spinning together an authentic expression of our own nature? Did not our life issue daily as more or less firm threads of active living, and mesh itself into the growing web, the intricate, ever-proliferating pattern of mankind:

## I CONSIDERED "US" WITH QUIET INTEREST

And a kind of amused awe. How could I describe our relationship even to And a kind of amused ave. How could I describe our relationship even to myself without ethic edisparaging it or ususling it with the tawdry decoration of sentimentality? For this our delicate balance of dependence and independence, this coulty critical, shreevolly riducining, but loving mutual contact, was surely a microcosm of true community, was after all in its simple style an actual and living caumple of that high goal which the world seeks.

Treflected that not one of the visible features of this celestial and living gem revealed the presence of man. Diplayed before me, though invisible, were same of the most congested centers of human population. There below me by huge inhabitat eignose, blackening the air with mode. Yet all this through gift is and humanly momentous enterprise had made on mark whatever on the features of the planet. From this high book out the Earth would have appeared no different before the dawn of man. No visiting magle or epilorer from another planet, ould have guessed that this bland orb teemed with vermin, with world mastering, self-torturing, incipiently angelie beats.

— Glef Stapleho, Sher Maker

The whole world? The whole universe? Overhead, obscurity unveiled a star One tremulous arrow of light, projected how many thousands of years ago, now stung my nerves with vision, and my beart with fear. For in such a universe as this what significance could there be in our fortuitous, our frail, our evanescent community?

## But Now Irrationally I Was Seized

With a strange worship, not, surely of the star, that mere furnace which mere distance falsely sanctified, but of something other, which the dire contrast of the star and us signified to the heart. Yet what, what could thus be signified? Intellect, peering beyond the star, discovered no Star Maker, but only darkness, no Love, no Power even, but only Nothing.

## And Yet the Heart Praised

Impatiently I shook off this folly, and reverted from the inscrutable to the familiar and the concrete. Thrusting aside worship, and fear also and bitterness, I determined to examine more coldly this remarkable "us," this surprisingly impressive datum, which to ourselves remained basic to the universe, though in relation to the stars it appeared so slight a thing.

## Considered Even Without Reference to Our Belittling Cosmical Background

We were after all insignificant, perhaps ridiculous. We were such a commonplace occurrence, so trite, so respectable. We were just a married couple, making shift to live together without undue strain. Marriage in our time was suspect. And ours, with its trivial romantic origin, was doubly

- We had first met when she was a child

- I, at any rate, recognized in that look
   So I persuaded myself in my fever of adolescence

Yes! How predestinate had seemed our union! Yet now, in retrospect, how accidental. True, of course, that as a long-married couple we itsest rather neatly. like no close tress who transhabare grown upwards together as a single shaft, mutually distorting, but mutually supporting, ABC

- The Diversity of Worlds
   Strange Mankinds
   Nautiloids
   The Earth

- The Starting Point
  Earth Among the Stars
  More Worlds

Coldly
I now assessed her as merely a useful, but often infuriating adjunct to

n Was our relationship.

I couldn't find an international symbol for an observer that was mentioned in an astronomy lecture, so I made one, dedicated it to the public domain and submitted it to the Unicode Consortium, which accepted U+23FF Observer Eye Symbol at UTC-142 — yay!



Author and submitter: Simon Griffee - simon@hypertexthero.com Author and submitter: Simon Griffee - Simon@hypertexthero.com
Subject: International symbol for an observer
Suggested codepoint: U+23FF OBSERVER EYE SYMBOL
URL for more info: http://hypertexthero.com/logbook/2015/01/international-symbol-observer/
Date of initial submission: 28 January 2015
Date of this updated submission: 26 February 2015

While there are many symbols for astronomical bodies and atmospheric phenomena in the Unicode Standard, there is none for an observer of these. A symbol for an observer can be useful in illustrating scientific discussions.

An international symbol for an observer was mentioned and drawn (see above) by Professor Charles Bailyn in Yale University course ASTR-160: Prontiers and Controversies in Astrophysics Lecture 2 - Planetary Orbits'. I went looking for it on codepoints, et, a site dedicated to all the characters defined in the Unicode Standard, and in Unicode's own Miscellaneous Symbols and Pictographs chart at <a href="http://www.unicode.org/charts/PDF/U1590.pdf">http://www.unicode.org/charts/PDF/U1590.pdf</a>
My search has been unsuccessful as it seems there is currently no unicode symbol for an observer.

While a symbol for an eye, also known as sight, does exist (U+1F441 EYE - I do not have a font in my system that displays it), I believe it is still worthwhile to have a specific symbol for an observer because the existing eye depicted in a frontal view is more representative of the organ's anatomy rather than the act of observation, which is better represented by a profile view of an eye indicating a direction.

## Examples of Existing Glyphs an Observer Symbol Would Complement

Sun ⇔ First Quarter Moon 

Comet 

White Four Pointed Star ♦

## Proposed Observer Symbol & File Downloads



Above is a symbol for an observer I made and dedicated to the Public Domain with the following license: https://creativecommons.org/publicdomain/zero/1.0/
Files in AI, EPS, PDF, PNG, PSD, SVG and TrueType formats in a ZIP archive are available for download at:

 $\label{thm:continuous} Type\ a\ lowercase\ o'for\ version\ looking\ to\ tight, and\ an\ uppercase\ o'for\ version\ looking\ to\ the\ left.$  An observer and a star, an observer and a cat:



## Suggested Character Properties

PROPERTY SUGGESTED VALUE Code Point U+23FF Name OBSERVER EYE SYMBOL General Category So Canonical Combining Class L Bidi Mirrored Y

 $Please \ consider \ my \ submission \ so \ the \ community \ at \ large \ can \ have \ a \ representation \ of \ an \ observer \ to \ use \ in \ publications \ worldwide. \ I \ am \ happy \ to \ make \ changes \ necessary \ for \ final \ approval \ should \ this \ proposal \ be \ accepted.$ 

Simon Griffee

<sup>1.</sup> The lecture is available for viewing at http://oyc.yale.edu/astronomy/astr-160/lecture-2 with PDF class notes at http://oyc.yale.edu/sites/default/files/astr160\_lec2.pdf and transcript at http://oyc.yale.edu/transcript/36/astr-160.

## After reading The One Minute Case for a Basic Income I made this flyer to help spread the idea.

Fairness \$ Property is a social construct legally enforced by the government. For all people to be considered equal, each person should have an equal amount of property. Material equality should be the default. In a free-market economy with a basic income at or below the highest sustainable rate, those who choose to live off basic income would not be living off of the work of others. Rather, they would be living off less than their "fair share" of property and allowing the extra to be used by those who choose to work.

Market Utility \$ The free market is the greatest generator of wealth ever devised. Money is the most effective means of socially producing utility, as it allows each individual to purchase whatever they need and want. One dollar in the hands of an impoverished person produces greater utility than a dollar in the hands of a rich one: with a dollar a rich person cannot purchase what he needs and wants as a poor person can. The transfer of money from rich to poor would increase overall utility. The government regulates the economy incompetently, but the one thing it can do well is mail out checks. A basic income is the most effective means of transferring money from rich to poor with the least government interference and the least work disincentive. The natural limit on the amount of basic income is the point where the work disincentive from the required taxes reduces wealth to where basic income would have to be reduced.

Keynesian \$ Keynesian economics works when implemented correctly. But properly implementing Keynesian economics is politically difficult. It requires politicians who are willing to spend a lot of money on stimulus when the government appears broke, and then become deficit hawks when the government is rolling in cash and everyone wants a piece of the pie. A basic income funded primarily by income tax would become an institutionalized entitlement expected by the population, and its cost would automatically increase or decrease directly in opposition to the economy. As unemployment rises, the amount of net receivers would go up, and as unemployment falls, so would net receivers. Keynes once said that the government should pay people to dig holes and fill them back up again. But anyone who sits on the couch and watches TV while living off basic income would contribute the same to society as those digging holes. And anyone who works more productively will create a net good for society.

Human Rights \$ Poverty is not a natural tragedy like cancer or earthquakes. Poverty is a human caused tragedy more comparable to slavery or government oppression. Slavery is the societal recognition of humans as property. Government oppression is when governments punish people for their beliefs or characteristics without due process of law. Poverty is when property laws deny people access to necessities. Human caused tragedies can be ended by recognizing that humans have the right not to be subjected by others. Humans have a right not to live in slavery and be free of government oppression. And humans have a right not to live in poverty. A basic income is not a strategy for dealing with poverty; it is the elimination of poverty. The campaign for a basic income is a campaign for the abolition of poverty—the abolitionist movement of the 21st century.

**Georgist** \$ Property is a product of creation, not of use. "I made this," confers property rights. "It's mine!" does not. Products of your labor are yours, and when someone appropriates them you become his slave. Land and natural resources, however, are not made but are of nature or God. They are gifts to humanity. Individual property of land and natural resources may be practical or useful, but it is still theft. Utility might justify this theft, but compensation is still required. Compensation should be in the form that offers the greatest choice of use to the victims as appropriation happened without consent. That form is cash. The most efficient arrangement would be that land takers pay the full rental or use value to a single entity that would divide the proceeds equally among the population. Taxes are the tribute paid for displacing you from land; basic income is your dividend.

## 1-Minute Arguments For A Basic Income For All Human Beings

## Transhumanist \$ 200,000

years ago humans lived in hunter-gather societies. About 10,000 years ago, humans began to live in agricultural societies, and about 300 years ago, human society became industrial. Starting 30 to 50 years ago, we have lived in a service society. Theoretically, the last economic stage of society is a leisure society, where most people either work in the artistic or scientific fields, or do not work at all. So far, each phase has lasted only a small fraction of the time of the previous phase. If that pattern holds, service societies should last less than two generations, a time period nearing its end. Right now, worker productivity is advancing faster than the need for workers, and robots are inhabiting labs in research hospitals. We should prepare for a society where everyone would not work. A basic income can provide a living for people and customers for businesses.

Conservative S The welfare state may not be the society we would have created, but it has been around for four generations. People expect and rely on it, and it would be extremely disruptive to get rid of it. But while we may not be able to get rid of the welfare state, we can reform it. The current welfare state necessitates an immense and expensive bureaucracy, is prohibitively complicated for some intended beneficiaries, puts bureaucrats in charge of the lives of the poor, creates perverse incentives for people to avoid work and remain poor, and arbitrarily allows some people to fall through the cracks. Basic income would correct these problems. It would be simpler to administer, treat all people equally, retain rewards for hard work, savings, and entrepreneurship, and trust the poor to make decisions about how to use their money by taking them out of the hands of politicians.

**Feminist** \$ Patriarchy has put the world's wealth into the hands of men. It has prevented women from being professionals and entrepreneurs, forced poor women into dead-end second-class labor jobs, and forced all women to become unpaid domestic workers and caretakers of the young, elderly, and disabled. Throughout history women have been forced to be financially dependent on fathers or husbands. Basic income would change this. Women would be free of financial dependence, and the young, elderly, and disabled would be fully supported. Women could afford to leave abusive husbands. Those who chose to be caretakers would be compensated, and no woman would be forced into a dead-end job, instead pursuing her own financial goals as she saw fit.

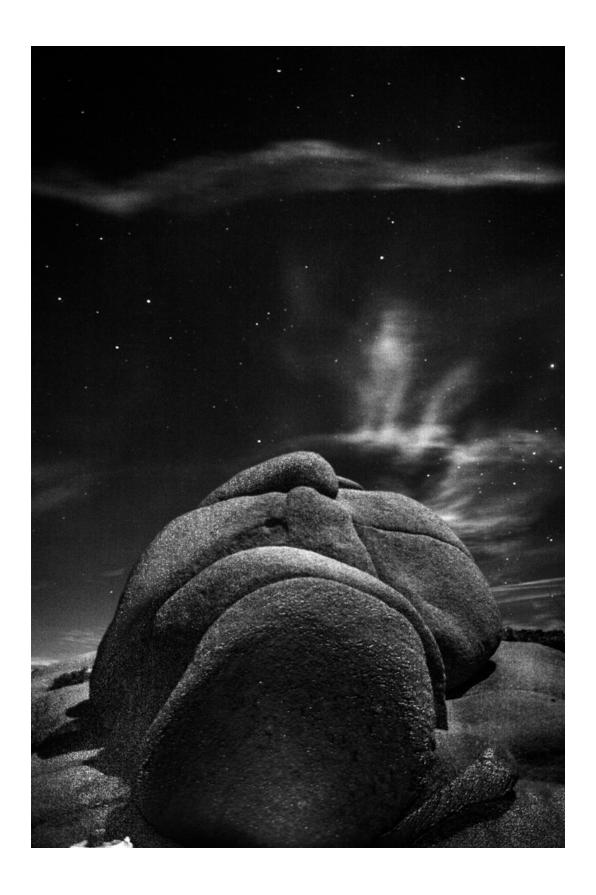
**Libertarian** \$ While it may have been theoretically possible to acquire property in a just manner, that is not what happened. Almost every tract of inhabited land can trace its title back to someone who acquired it by force. And not just land titles. Thanks to past government spending, targeted tax breaks, intellectual property, corporate charters, slavery, and meddling regulations, no property or wealth has been justly acquired. If we assume that those who have the least are the greatest victims, a basic income would provide the best possible rectification with the least government control, while producing the most just system of property distribution possible.

**Liberal** \$ A basic income would correct or ameliorate many inequities and inefficiencies inherent in market capitalism. The wages of unskilled and semi-skilled workers would rise as those who enjoy and are good at such work would not have to compete with those who are forced into it by financial necessity. The wages of highly skilled workers would fall as more people are able to take time to gain skills to compete for those jobs, lowering the cost of legal, financial, and health care services. A guaranteed income would soften the blow to workers displaced by advancing technology and the creative destruction of the market. Job seekers would be able to take time to find work that is the best fit for them, increasing efficiency in the distribution of labor. And entrepreneurship would flourish as those wanting to start their own businesses would have an income to survive on while starting a new enterprise.

## Independetarian

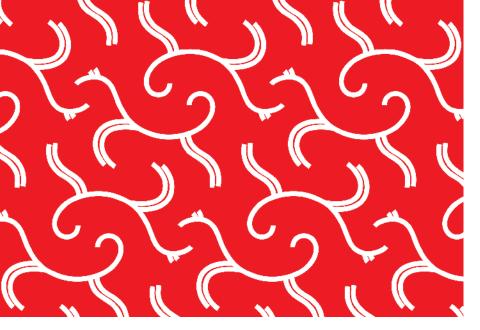
\$ Property rights are not natural but are a social convention. They give individuals freedom in that the essence of property is the right to exclude others, to have a place where no one else has dominion over you. Each individual should have inalienable ownership over her own body and mind. But carving up nature leaves some people without the means to obtain the necessities to maintain their body and mind. Each person must have an inalienable property right to these necessities. Society owes you a living because society is preventing you from foraging the land to obtain the necessities of life on your own. Society could rectify this problem by letting individuals forage for necessities wherever they wish, by giving them the land they need to survive on their own, or by providing these necessities directly. But in modern societies, the most efficient way to provide for these necessities is with direct cash payments, a basic income.

www.basicincome.org

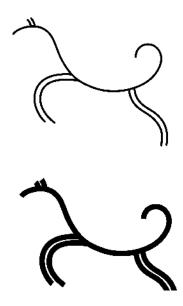


High Desert, Joshua Tree, California, January 2007





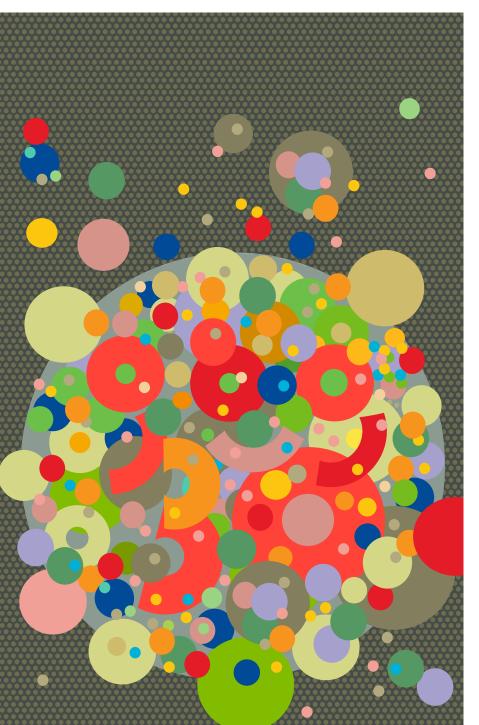








It was after reading Milton Glaser's book *Graphic Design* that I decided to become a designer. The chance to work with Milton was a transformative experience that inspired me to begin drawing again as I had done in my childhood.



Examples of drawings and illustrations from my notebooks. I have also published a photography blog for many years.









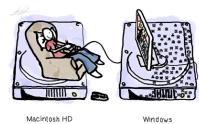










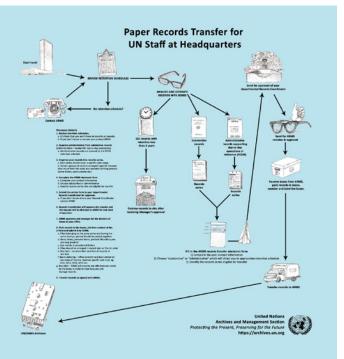


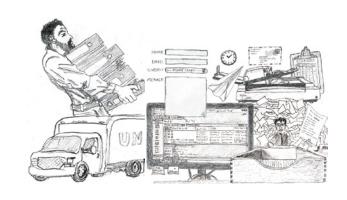


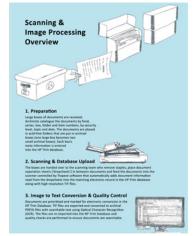




Examples of drawings made in the development of iconography for the United Nations Archives.











Calling card and logotype designs.



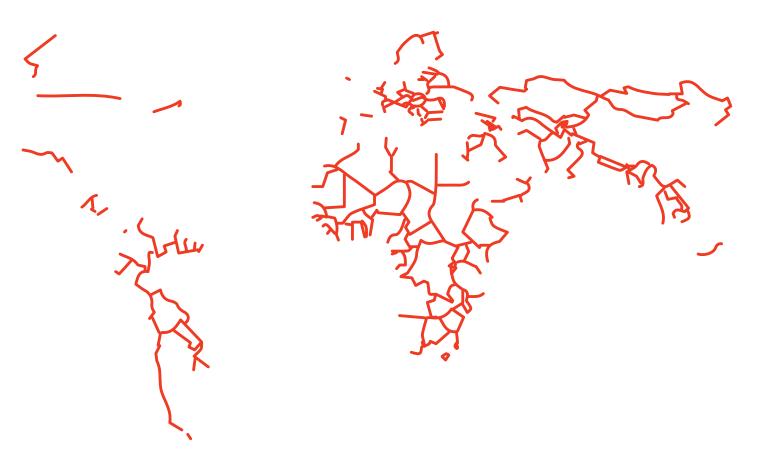




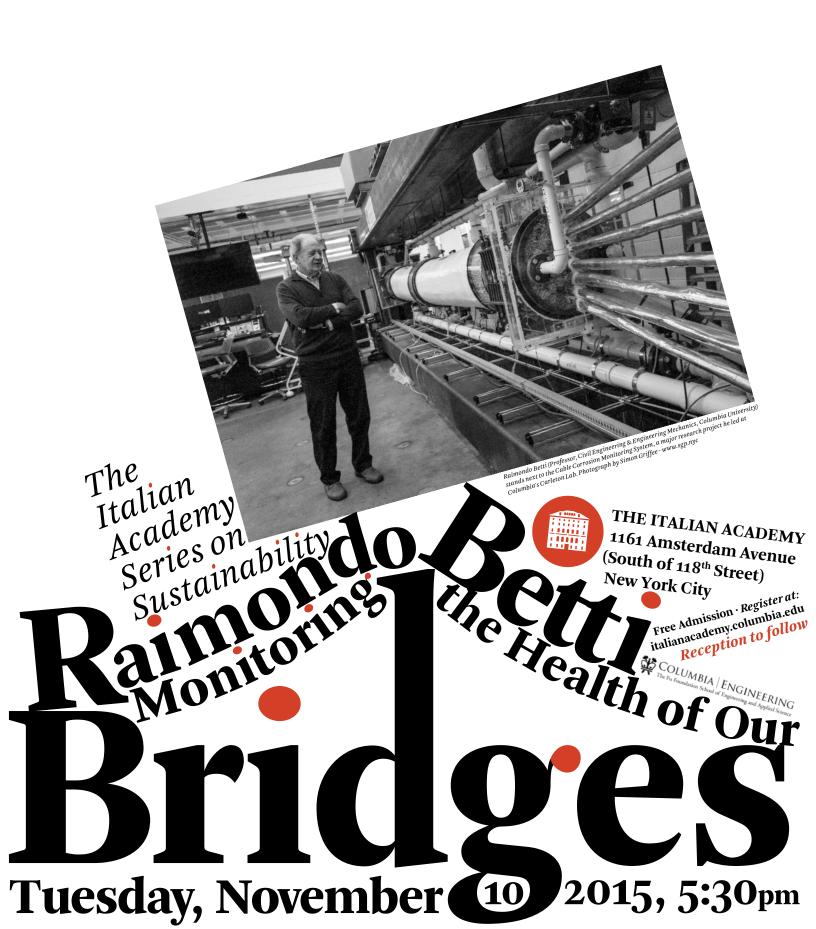
## graplite







I photographed Professor Raimondo Betti (*Civil Engineering and Engineering Mechanics*, *Columbia University*) next to the Cable Corrosion Monitoring System, a major research project he led at Columbia's Carleton Lab, and made this poster for a lecture open to the public.



For this poster design I was thinking about the refugee crisis in the Mediterranean and looking at maps of the region when I tried turning one on its side.

Italy at Columbia Lecture
Pier Mattia Tommasino

## The Stomach of the World: Petrarch, Muhammad & Mediterranean Studies

Monday, October 26, 2015, 4pm

The *Italy at Columbia* lecture series invites prominent

Columbia University professors to open one of
their regularly scheduled classes to the public,
bringing students and the community
together in the Academy building.

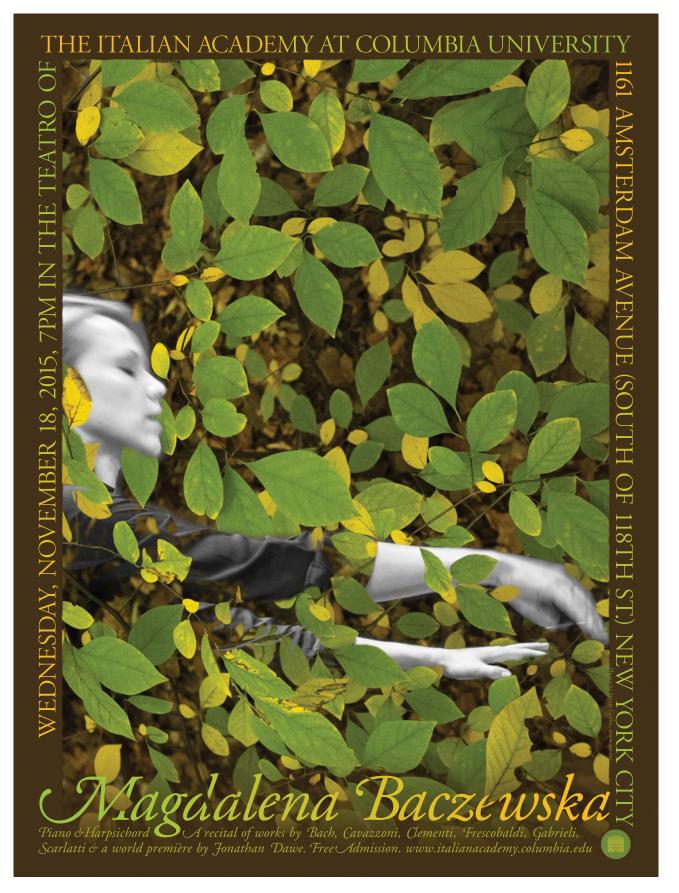
## Free Admission 2



The Italian Academy 1161 Amsterdam Avenue (South of 118<sup>th</sup> Street) New York City

Register at: italianacademy.columbia.edu





After photographing piano virtuoso Magdalena Baczewska and leaves in Inwood Hill Park two days later I thought to combine the two for this poster design. The next three pages show other posters made for the Italian Academy for Advanced Studies in America.

## The Italian Academy presents EMANUELE ARCIULI, piano EMANUELE ARCIULI, piano Five Versions of Darkness Wednesday, October 7, 2015 at 7pm Rednesday, Erscheinung (Notturno) & Berceuse Frencheinung (Notturno) & Berceuse

Busoni: All'Italia, Erscheinung (Notturno) & Berceuse Elegiaque Schumann: Gesänge der Erut Schumann: Gesänge der Fruhe, Op.133

Crumb: Eine kleine Mitternachtmusik Liszt: Après une lecture de Dante

Fauré: Nocturne No. 4

## Free Admission

In the Teatro of the Italian Academy 1161 Amsterdam Avenue (south of West 118th St.) New York City www.italianacademy.columbia.edu







A Fresh View:

Primo Levi's Complete Works



The Italian Academy

Columbia University

1161 Amsterdam Av.

(south of 118th St.) NYC

Free & open to the public.

Registration requested:

italianacademy.columbia.edu

"Monsters exist, but they are too few in number to be truly dangerous. More dangerous are the common men, the functionaries ready to believe and to act without asking questions."

—Primo Levi

A dialogue between Ann Goldstein & Marco Belpoliti, editors of Levi in 2015-2016

Tuesday, November 1,2016 5:30pm







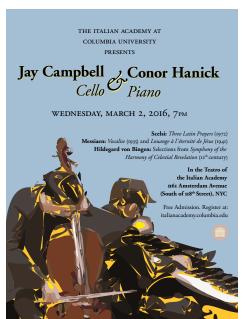


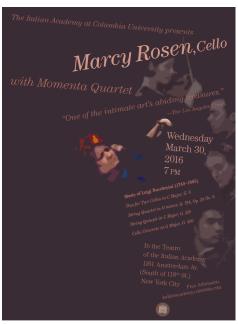


Paolo Galluzzi Director, Museo Galileo, Florence Presenting the innovative Genew website built in cooperation with the Library of Congress, Galluzzi will the name "America" (honoring navigator Amerigo Vespucci).

## Monday, October 10th 5:30 pm

Columbia University Italian Academy for Advanced Studies in America 1161 Amsterdam Avenue (just south of 118th Street) New York (ity Free and open to the public. Register: italianacademy.columbia.edu











Lewis Nielson ...in terra all 2015, World Premiere

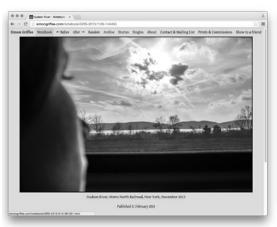
Free Admission. Reservations not required. www.italianacademy.columbia.edu



# THE TALIAN ACADEMY FOR ADVANCED STUDIES IN AMERICA

An attempt to make signage that complements architectural details of the Academy's building.





Light Crafts Overview



The Earth The Starting Point





















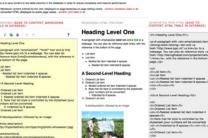








Text Editing System for www.ippc.int

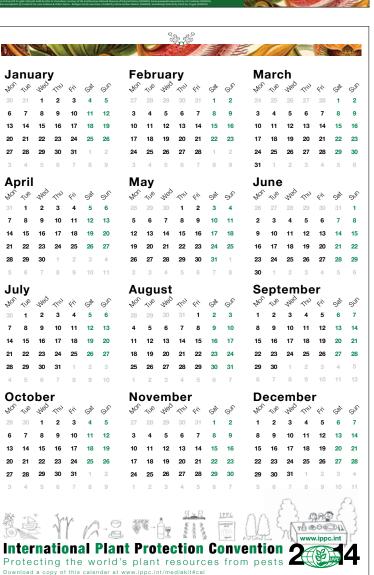


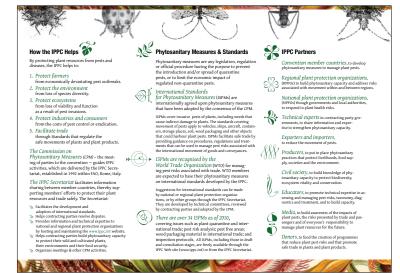


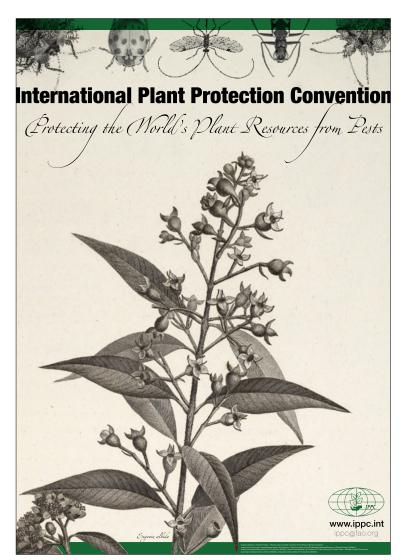
Some screenshots of websites I have worked on. I prefer fast, simple interfaces and good writing over excessive style and animation, except where appropriate.

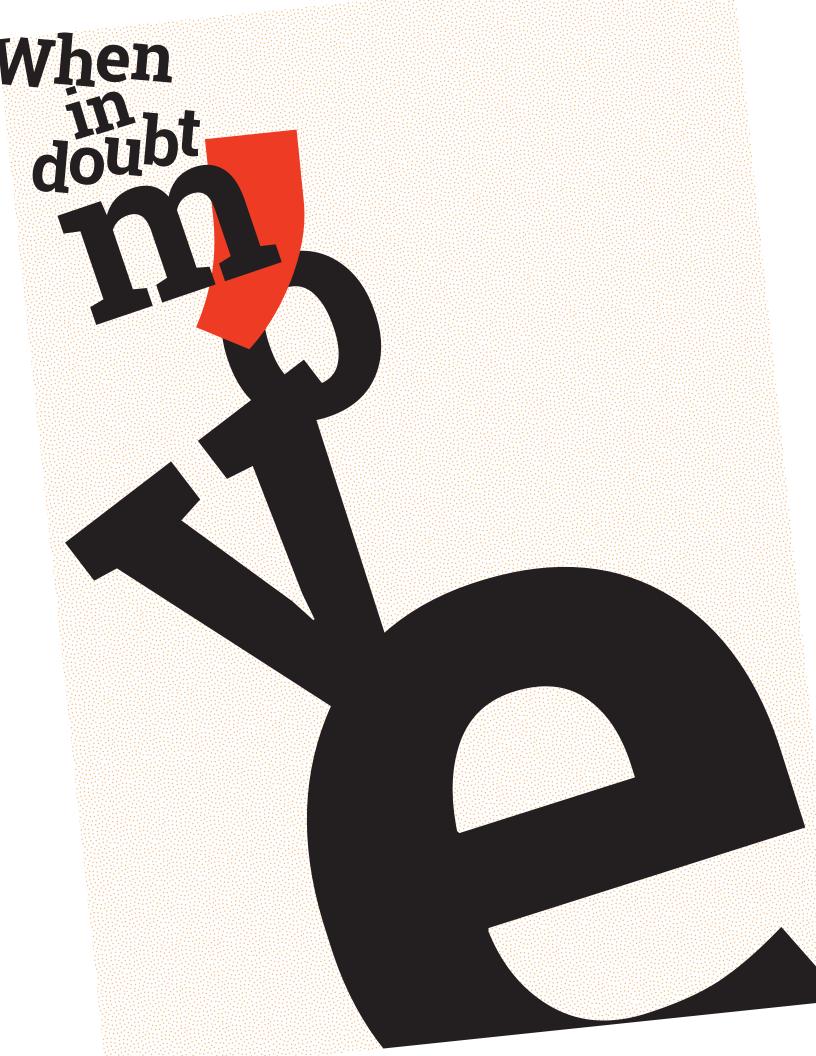
A wall calendar, poster and brochure for FAO/UN International Plant Protection Convention. See a video of the brochure in action at https://vimeo.com/101713599











The following pages are an extract from my first book, *Rome and New York Volume I.* 

## SIMON GRIFFEE ROMEAND NEWYORK VOLUMEI



## SIMON GRIFFEE

## ROME AND NEW YORK

VOLUME ]

















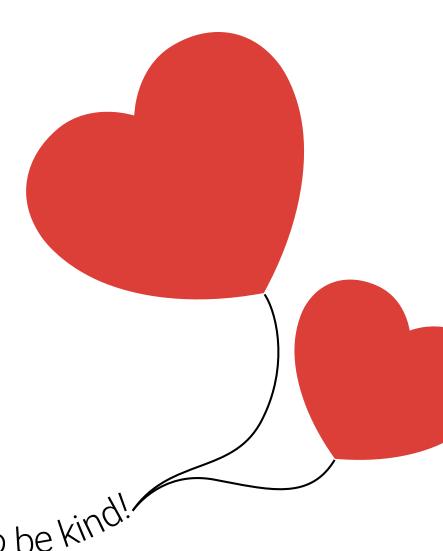
Calligraphy is a peaceful and noble art, done by well educated human beings who do their work with full commitment, with intense, concentration.) to put into our letters a little of our own feelings, of our personality and mood. Letters should have grace. and beauty in themselves. Nocalligrapher pollutes rivers with his ink, or poisons the air we breathe.)

Calligraphy makes no noise. (We don't fight—with arms nor with our pens, but we want—

to convince sometimes with a hand-lettered message of special importance in which we believed.

Alermann Zapf S

For typography and calligraphy legend Hermann Zapf, who died in 2015.



-God dannix, you've got to be kind!

of a transfer to the state of t icome to sortin the summary of the s Welcome to Earth Hello, *babi<sub>es.</sub>* 

There's only one rule that I know of, babies-

A poster inspired by God Bless You, Mr. Rosewater by Kurt Vonnegut.