



IMPRESSION OF SINGAPORE

OPERA GALLERY



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Paul ALEXIS
Louis BOUDREAULT
Romero BRITTO
Stelio DIAMANTOPOULOS
Jean-Paul DONADINI
Laurence JENKELL
Mark KAPLAN

Linda LE KINFF
Jean-François LARRIEU
Anton MOLNAR
André MONET
Jean-Pierre ROC-ROUSSEY
Vitaly RUSAKOV
Yeo CHEE KIONG

Foreword

Continuing with our 20th anniversary celebrations, it is with great pride and immense joy that we present *Impression of Singapore*, a show that honours not only twenty years of Opera Gallery, but twenty years of relations with collectors, our friends, our artists and twenty years of the growth within Singapore.

For the past twenty years, we have been working hard to make our mark within the art market not only in Asia, but also on a global scale. Throughout the years we have been keeping a keen eye out for emerging artists across the globe, and we have had the pleasure of working closely with some of these artists, as they grow and diversify themselves, their ideas and their art. We have also had the pleasure of opening our doors to many of the artists we represent as we exhibit and celebrate their life's work within our Singapore Gallery.

Growth and development has not been limited to the art world, even the landscape of Singapore has evolved and changed during this time. The city-state has been in a constant phase of evolution; this constantly changing landscape has ensured that each artist has had a unique impression of Singapore during their visit. It is with this in mind that we will be showcasing local artists such as Yeo Chee Kiong juxtapositioned with a small selection of international artists, that we have invited to create works specifically for this exhibition. With the request for them to depict their Impressions of Singapore; a unique view from an artist's perspective and their personal experience of Singapore.

We are not only celebrating our 20th anniversary but also Singapore's National day as we present this very personal exhibition to the Singapore public; celebrating everything and everyone that has made our last twenty years possible; the collectors and friends we have made along the way, and honouring the artists that have helped us get to where we are today.

Gilles Dyan
Founder and Chairman
Opera Gallery Group

Stephane Le Pelletier
Director Asia Pacific
Opera Gallery Group

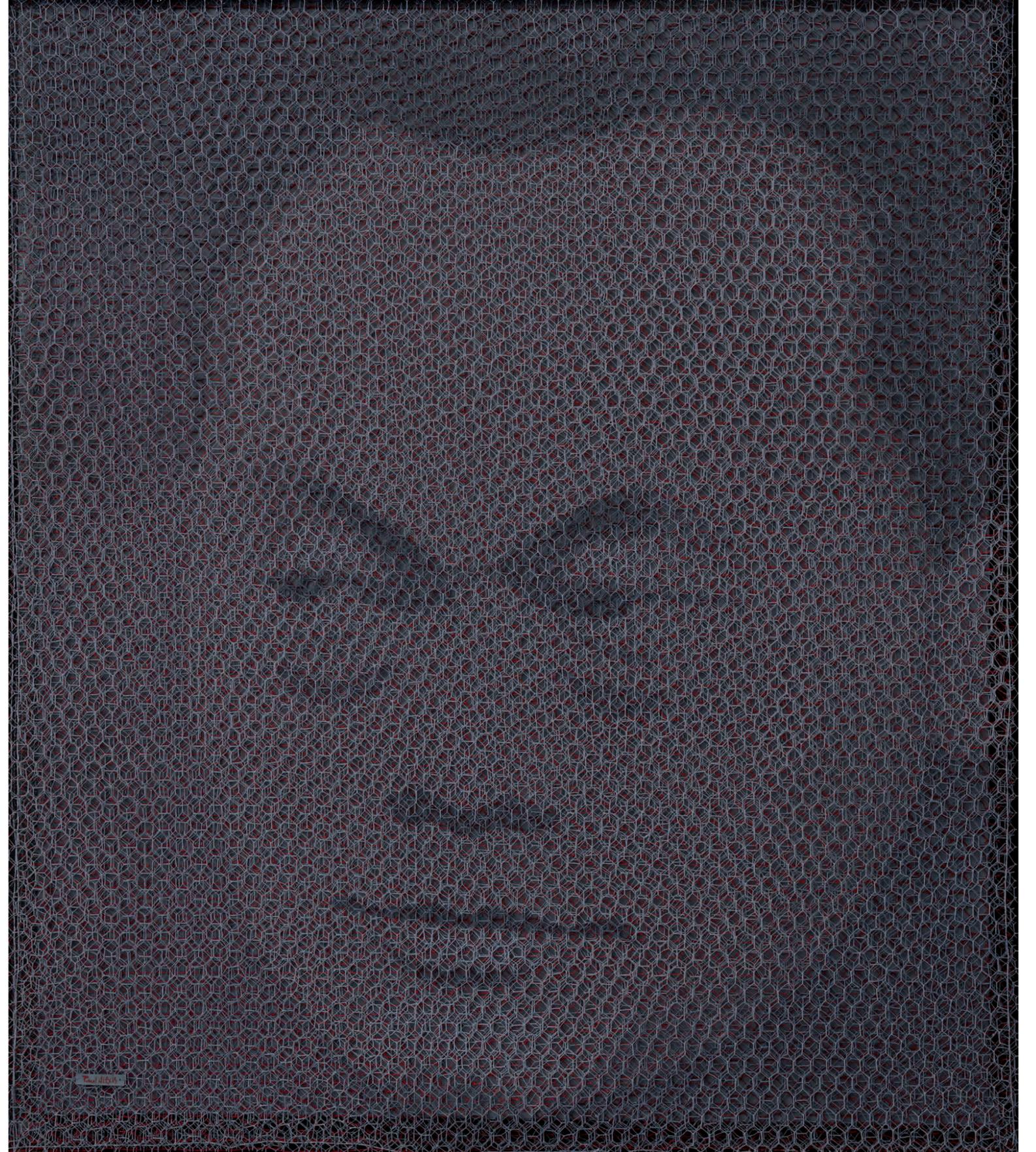
Paul ALEXIS (B. 1947)

Having spent most of his life travelling, if not to find spiritual harmony at least to understand his art and technique more fervently, Paul Alexis's art is a superimposition of multiple painted sheets of mesh.

Sometimes, it is Gandhi who lurks in the painterly shadows, sometimes Marilyn Monroe. Viewers passing his works of art stop, look again, stand back and are finally drawn into the intriguing piece. Is there a figure there? Or is it an optical illusion of the paint? With a preference for large formats, Alexis lets his works of pure colour and ghostly forms engulf the viewers with the joy of recognition within a few blissful moments of the interrogation. Another aspect that makes his art so intriguing is his toying with *camera obscura* to exceedingly clever ends. Paul Alexis is not only a talented artist himself but also the president of the Salon Comparaisons of Paris, i.e. the institution that showcased the greatest artists in recent centuries, from Yves Klein and Arman to Niki de Saint Phalle and Serge Poliakoff.

Lee Kuan Yew, 2012

Canvas and steel
150 x 135 cm - 59.1 x 53.1 in.



Louis BOUDREAULT (B. 1956)

Louis Boudreault was born in 1956 in Havre-Aubert, Ile de la Madeleine, Canada. He first studied Literature and Drama, before coming to France and entering the prestigious Ecole du Louvre. After graduating, he was an Art advisor for six years. In 1991, he decided to dedicate his life to his passion: painting. In 1998, he went back to Montreal, Quebec, where he settled his studio. Louis Boudreault uses mixed media and techniques, as graphite, charcoal, pastel, acrylic, paper, collage to represent faces of celebrities who have marked the 20th century, such as Marcel Proust, Maria Callas, Simone de Beauvoir, Serge Gainsbourg or Gandhi, when they were children. A work of portraiture that aims at reflecting their candour, poetry, but also the mischief in their eyes, announcing their outstanding destiny.

Young Lee Kwan Yew, 2014

Mixed media on canvas
187 x 134 x 8 cm - 73.6 x 57.8 x 3.1 in.



Romero BRITTO (B. 1963)

Born in 1963, in Brazil, Romero Britto is a self-taught artist who combines influences from cubism, pop art and graffiti into his vibrant artworks. In 1983, Britto travelled to Europe to examine first-hand the art of the masters. He decided to move to Miami in 1988 and emerged as an international artist. The following year, he was selected alongside Andy Warhol and Keith Haring for Absolut Vodka's *Absolut Art* campaign. Britto's pop sensibility has since driven him to take part in many collaborative works with international brands such as Audi or Disney. The *New York Times* describes its iconic style as combination of Matisse and Picasso's works into "warmth, optimism and love". Britto's works have been exhibited in galleries and museums in over 100 countries, including the Carrousel du Louvre in Paris in 2008 and 2010.

Merlion, 2009

Enamel on aluminium
33 x 23 12 cm - 13 x 9 x 4.7 in.



Singapore Lion, 2009

Acrylic on canvas
152,5 x 91,5 cm - 60 x 36 in.



Stelio DIAMANTOPOLOUS (B. 1967)

Born in 1967 in Basel, with a degree from the Basel School of Fine Arts, Stelio Diamantopoulos began his career as a graphic artist in advertising before devoting himself exclusively to his art. First inspired by surrealistic art, he slowly turned towards political Pop Art. His strong views on the power behind standardised ad campaigns and the way portraits void of any trace of humanity have become commonplace, underlines the disintegration of our relationship with symbolic figures. His characters only reveal silhouettes cut-out like so many urban stencils. Starting with the most improbable juxtaposition of elements taken from everyday life, the series Enjoy Liberty, Consume and Made In claim our individual responsibility as consumers confronting subliminal advertising. The works of Diamantopoulos have been seen in Paris, London, Geneva, Monaco, Munich, Cologne, Basel, Zurich, Singapore, Dubai, Hong Kong, Seoul, New York and Miami. They are part of several collections, exhibited mainly in Germany, Switzerland, Italy, Great Britain, Morocco, Lebanon, the United Arab Emirates and the USA.

Lee Kwan Yew 4, 2014

Acrylic on canvas
150 x 150 cm - 59.1 x 59.1 in.



Jean-Paul DONADINI (B. 1951)

Jean Paul Donadini is a French painter who was born in Troyes, France, in 1951. He graduated from the Beaux-Arts of Troyes in 1971, then the Beaux-Arts of Nancy in 1973 and the Beaux-Arts of Paris in 1976. Since then, he has worked and lived in Paris, and has had many solo exhibitions in France and abroad: Germany, Japan, USA, Canada, and The Netherlands.

He consolidated his style in numerous artistic collaborations, for instance with prestigious artist Salvador Dali. He offers a painting in motion marked by its diversity: painted earthenware jars, blow-up paintings, itineraries, transport boxes, stationary brushes or lipstick on canvas. His academic career, technical qualities, creativity and a huge sense of humour are what make him a gifted and internationally renowned artist.



Singapour, 2014

Mixed media on canvas
93 x 135 cm - 36.6 x 61 in.

Laurence JENKELL (B. 1965)

Born in Bourges, France, in 1965, Laurence Jenkell is renowned internationally for her candy sculptures. She studied at the École des Beaux-Arts in Cannes, painting composites, landscapes and portraits. Later, freed from the academic life, Jenkell found inspiration in fashion and industrial design, successfully integrating contemporary consumerism and industrial images and patterns into her work. Her candy sculptures, named *Bonbons wrapping*, remind us of the work of American pop artist Claes Oldenburg (1929-). As a result of her studying of colour for so many years, Jenkell now masters a large range of bright, splendid and acidulous shades. Her work is twisted, lined and smoothly trimmed: transforming into new textures and forms. Her *Bonbons* been purchased by private collectors in France and across Europe and is on display at the Coca-Cola Museum, Atlanta, USA and the Beijing Sunshine Museum in China. Additionally, her works have been presented in public and private exhibitions over the world. In 2011, she displayed a collection of candy sculptures representing country flags in Cannes on the occasion of the G20 Summit.

Bonbon Singapour, 2009

Plexiglass, Edition of 8 + 4 EA

200 x 75 x 75 cm - 78.7 x 29.5 x 29.5 in.



Mark KAPLAN (B. 1950)

Born in St-Petersburg in 1950, Mark Kaplan is a modern neo-impressionist artist. Before dedicating himself to painting, he worked for many years as a chief set designer for plays and films; he studied drawing at the Academy of Fine Arts of St-Petersburg and followed courses at the Faculty of Set Design at the Institute of Theatre and Cinema. From 1974, he has been a member of the Painter's Union. His interest for the ungraspable that breathes life into his artistic expression creates a dynamic between a kaleidoscope of coloured light and the aim it half-conceals. From his time working in theatre, he has retained a trademark for stylisation and dramatic compositions. His landscapes are real places where sensations and memories meet. In his quest for more light, he settled his studio in Provence in 1988, a region that never ceased to amaze him. His ebullient style and fauvist palette owed him the nickname of "sun painter".

Les écoliers après l'orage, 2014

Oil on canvas
146 x 114 cm - 57.5 x 44.8 in.



Kaplan

Linda LE KINFF (B. 1949)

Linda Le Kinff was born in Paris in 1949 from French and Brazilian parents. She started her career as a painter at the age of 20. In the 1970s she traveled to India, Tibet, Mexico, Italy, Morocco where she learnt numerous techniques, as the ancient techniques of tempera, egg painting and the gold leaf method. Each place has its own unique set of colours and Linda tries to carry this throughout her work. She lived in Italy for 12 years, place where she truly found herself as a painter as well as a rare passion in painting on wood paneling and it became one of her favorite media.

Le Kinff also expresses herself through watercolours or, more precisely, a mixing of greasy pastels, ink and watercolour. Recently, she began to use collage. She works without a model and her inspiration comes from travel, her reading, dreams and imagination. Her subjects are extremely diverse and include musical scenes, poetic interpretations of people caught in an intimate moment of their lives, and couples elegantly dressed, out for a night on the town. She has fallen deeply in love with attending the circus, especially Cirque du Soleil, inspired by the amazing flexibility and movement of the performers. She also often includes an image of a black cat in her works, sitting near the edge of the composition.

Singapour, 2009

Oil on wood

100 x 100 cm - 39.4 x 39.4 in.



Jean-François LARRIEU (B. 1960)

Jean-François Larrieu was born on 28th February 1960 in Tarbes (high Pyrénées). He is a self-taught artist who is living and working in Paris. Larrieu is President of the Salon d'Automne de Paris and Vice President of the Government affiliated Federation of Graphic and Plastic Arts Associations.

The artist elaborates through his oil paintings ramifications which starts from a basic point and then progresses like a semi-conscious exploration; his hand, likens to an *antennae* drawing from the creative cosmos and delivers the genius. The result is exotic cities filled with wonderfully rich architecture steadily rising up and then spreads itself across the land of canvas with amazing constructions of onion-shaped domes, minarets and cupolas.

For Larrieu, imagination is the rule of the game. Furthermore the combinations are all the more variable according to the angle from which the master's painting is observed.

Through his paintings, Larrieu invites us to join him on a fabulous journey into his magical cities where Roman and Gothic porches; Baroque palaces, the China of Marco Polo as well as the Venice of Casanova are strongly reminiscent. When the painted cities on canvas is near completion, the artist ingeniously conjures into being an emblematic figure, which oft most is an animal. The beauty and elegance of Larrieu's paintings will bring forth from the audience certain appreciation; where the meanders are different, the cities enchanting and the journey is never the same every time.

Singapore by night, 2014

Acrylic on canvas
130 x 162 cm - 51.2 x 69.8 in.



Singapore by night, 2014

Acrylic on canvas

114 x 146 cm - 44.9 x 57.5 in.



André MONNET (B. 1965)

Born in Montreal in 1965, André Monet studied graphic design at Laval University while exploring other mediums in fine arts. He worked in fashion and advertising before dedicating himself to being a full-time artist. André Monet explored various mediums such as mosaic, collage and acrylics. More recently, he turned to portrait. But not just any kind of portrait: blending collage of old newspapers and books, painting and varnishing, the features of his subjects are recreated with such precision that one might see a realistic photography arising from a distance. This new production reveals the strengths and weaknesses of individuals appearing on the canvases. With much success in recent years, André Monet's work has been exhibited in Paris, London, New York, Seoul, Singapore, Miami, Toronto, Montreal, Dubai and Hong Kong.

Lee Kuan Yew, 2014

Oil on canvas
75,5 x 96,5 cm - 19.7 x 38 in.



Jean-Pierre ROC ROUSSEY (B. 1950)

Jean-Pierre Roc-Roussey was born in 1950 near Paris. The painter handles the contemporary art and the figurative art of painting with a lot of talent. Roc-Roussey lives in his own world of imagination, filled with enigmatic people. He uses beautiful fabric patterns in his paintings to stylize the costumes of the subjects in a baroque style. According to the artist, most of his painting work depicts the human race that has been fighting and struggling since the very dawn of time. One can witness this struggle in Roc-Roussey's paintings. They show us the fragility of the world that is invisible yet apparent. There is no backdrop in his paintings, yet the background exudes a sense of tumult.

Danseuse chinoise en rouge, 2014

Oil on canvas
195 x 130 cm - 76.8 x 51.2 in.



Vitaly RUSAKOV (B. 1985)

Born in 1985, Vitaly Rusakov is a young artist of the underground Russian scene, known for his street art works that appear on many walls in Russia, especially in Yekaterinburg, the Urals city on the border of Europe and Asia. In 1998-1999, he first began graffitiing on the walls of the city with blocks of raw coal. Vitaly Rusakov has participated in many competitions and shows of Street Art in the Russian Federation and abroad. He is still part of the group Arterror, of which he is a founding member. Appointed in 2007 by the Foundation Montresso, he has been painting on other media about issues at the heart of the history of Russia. For a year, free of any commitment, he has worked on improving his style and subjects, and presented his first series, including *Lenin Story*, *Good Bye Lenin*, *Lenin* and *I love Papa KPSS*, which found real success. Noticed by Opera Gallery, a selection of his paintings was featured in various international exhibitions. Vitaly Rusakov now works in Yekaterinburg and Marrakech as one of the hosts of the *Red Garden* workshops opened by the Foundation Montresso made available to a group of young artists he is one of the facilitators.

Lee Kuan Yew - Tiger of Asia 1, 2014

Oil on canvas

120 x 120 cm - 47.2 x 47.2 in.



Lee Kuan Yew - Tiger of Asia 2, 2014

Oil on canvas

120 x 120 cm - 47.2 x 47.2 in.



YEO CHEE KIONG (B. 1970)

Yeo Chee Kiong is an award-winning professional sculptor known for his uniquely playful and unexpected juxtapositions. An alumnus of the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA) and the Glasgow School of Art, U.K., Chee Kiong has garnered critical attention for his practice -winning awards such as First Prize, LTA DTL Art Competition 2012, Expo Station, the regional Grand Prize for Asia-Pacific Breweries Foundation Signature Art Prize (2008), the National Art Council's Young Artist Award 2006 and the Grand Prize of the 2nd CDL Singapore Sculpture Award in 2005. In 2010, his work, *The Wind & Wings* has been awarded the Legacy Sculpture for Singapore 2010 Youth Olympic Game (Youth Olympic Village).

Shopping, 2014

Stainless steel
170 x 230 x 100 cm - 59.1 x 90.6 x 39.4 in.



Perfect Duo, 2014

Stainless steel
270 x 150 x 100 cm - 106.3 x 59.1 x 39.4 in.



CELEBRATING A MILESTONE

20TH

ANNIVERSARY

André Brasilier Auguste Rodin

19 June was the opening of the exhibition *André Brasilier - Auguste Rodin* at Opera Gallery Singapore. The show featured a superb collection of works by renowned artists Auguste Rodin and André Brasilier, that allowed a unique view into the realms of two of France's finest artists of the last two centuries, celebrating past and present in a shared aesthetic, straddling reality and fantasy. It was with great pleasure that we welcomed our visitors, as we raised a glass in celebration of 20 years of Opera Gallery Group.



OPERA GALLERY

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