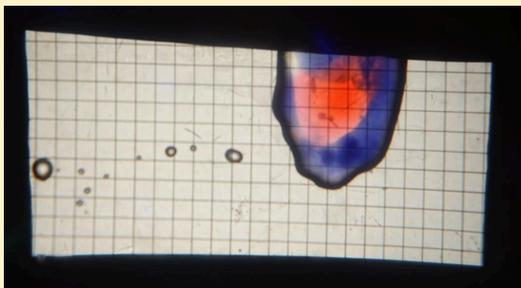
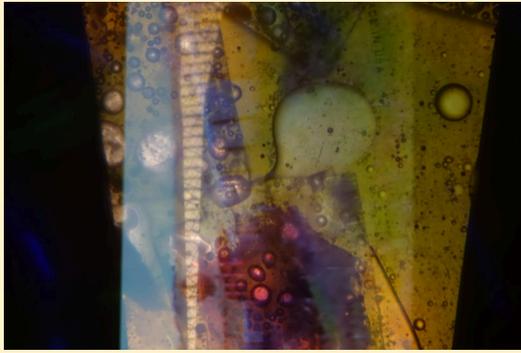


PICTURES OF THE WEEK

Stills from a collaboration with K.B. on a work-in-progress multi-projector multimedia light show



I Love A Parade

Or, a few thoughts on parading and how to have fun being in one.

I was talking to a I.Z. and mentioned that I was part of two parades ([Michael Ryan Garcia's aka Admiral Fiesta's](#) - [SF Decentralized Dance Party](#) as well as the [Brides of March](#) ([pics](#) / [video](#)) (thanks for organizing J.S. !) this past weekend, for a total of three parades this week (There was also a Picycle Ride S.H. and H.S. organized as part of [Pi Day](#)). I.Z. responded saying, "Well, parading is sort of your thing." I hadn't really realized it, but, they're right! I do LOVE a parade. 🐱

I think my parade bug had origins in a few things: [Chunk and Chenguin street takeovers](#); the early New York SantaCon's that were very pranky; leading out-of-town marching bands through the East Village during [Honkfest](#); and going to New Orleans and seeing [the massive floats](#) and going to some of the smaller parades ([St Anne's](#), [Red Beans](#), [Chewbaccus](#)).

I've also instigated quite a few recently - The [Cardboard Animal Parade](#), for my [talk at the Adventure Design Group](#) we did a parade, and for the [Night Owl Ceremony](#) it was sort of a slow motion night of parading.

If you've never been in a parade, here are some tips (sorry if they're obvious):

- **Smile** - Put on a silly grin! It's surprising how fast it turns into an actual smile!
- **Make Eye Contact** - Acknowledge onlookers by making eye-contact. Since you are already smiling, they will likely beam a smile back!
- **Wave** - Being in a parade makes you a "star", and people love being waved to. I love the "thaw" - when people go from standing looking at you to waving back!
- **Have a Snappy One Liner** - when someone asks you what is going on, have a concise, positive one line description of what is going on.
- **Ask People If They Want to Join** - A great follow up to the above one-liners is "and you are invited to come along." Really, the more, the merrier!
- **Make Noise** - music or noise making is essential to parading. Do your part!
- **Dance** - moving to whatever sound you are making is also fun!
- **Dress Up (fun)** - wear a costume, or at least wear the parade's colors.
- **Dress Up (practical)** - Ok, don't be practical. Strange advice from me, but a parade is supposed to be a off the rails party. Don't carry a bag, wear great shoes (as long as you can get through your route), and buy water along the way.
- **Carry Something** - flags, banners, floats, noisemakers are all great to have!
- **Ask People If They Want to Take A Photo** - an advanced move, but when in costume and I see someone who is really into documenting, I walk up them and say "should we take a selfie together"? 90% of the time they are really into it!

(I love this clip as an example: [youtube.com/watch?v=tKQ9etX5qLM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tKQ9etX5qLM))

Want to throw a parade? I'd love consult, and likely come to it. It's pretty simple - figure out what your parade is about, figure out a route (make sure it goes past other people) , figure out band, some sort of music or noise making, consider the logistics, and then have fun! Like I said, I'm happy to talk you through it!

CALENDAR

**April 12-13 - Audio Garden -**

Interactive sound art installations by Bay Area artists, focusing on active listening and interaction, with minimal screens present. (I'm going Friday!)

[eventbrite.com/e/audio-garden-tickets-57065811378](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/audio-garden-tickets-57065811378)

DISCOUNT CODE FOR READERS:

MarkKrawczuk

Apr 20 - EARWORM - details soon!**Apr 21 - Bring Your Own Big Wheel**

<http://bringyourownbigwheel.com/> (Easter Sunday!)

Apr 26 -28 - Oaklash - oaklash.com

Drag & queer performance festival

Jun 8 - Lost Horizon Night Market - NYC

<https://shadowtrafficproductions.com>

RENTAL CAR RALLY - rentalcarrally.com

Los Angeles - July 12th 2019

San Francisco - September 20th, 2019

Nov 1 - 3 - CODAME - [SPACE] - call for

artists and tickets - codame.com

China's 'Useless Edison'

With inventions like a meat cleaver that doubles as a mobile telephone case, a sword you can use to scrub your back, and a toilet built into a scooter that flushes when you pull a lever on the handlebar, it gives me great joy to know that China is also creating weirdo makers!

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-china-craftsman/from-backscrubber-sword-to-scooter-toilet-chinas-useless-edison-goes-viral-idUSKCN1PQ3BR>

**Yankee Doodle, Macaroni, name calling, and changing meanings**

Yankee Doodle seemed like a nonsense song to me, but the rabbit hole yielded some gems:

- The song was a pre-Revolutionary War song originally sung by British military officers to mock the disheveled, disorganized colonial "Yankees". It became popular among the Americans as a song of defiance, and they added additional verses to it that mocked the British troops and hailed George Washington as the Commander of the Continental army. By 1781, Yankee Doodle had turned from being an insult to being a song of national pride.

- A doodle was another word for "a simpleton", which was eventually shortened to "dood", and then eventually spelled out as "dude".

- Calling a feather in his cap Macaroni, actually refers to a sort of proto-Hipster movement based off of English nobility, who after coming back from a European tour, had a taste for skinny pants, particular mustaches, and pasta.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yankee_Doodle

atlasobscura.com/articles/the-macaroni-in-yankee-doodle-is-not-what-you-think

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Macaroni_\(fashion\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Macaroni_(fashion))

<http://costumesociety.org.uk/blog/post/the-macaroni-a-brief-history>

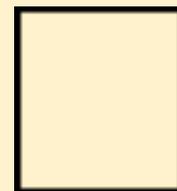
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