

osage art foundation

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Press Release

Attention Arts and Features Editors

6 March 2012

For immediate release

Regional Perspectives: Thailand

17 March – 19 April 2012

Reception: 16 March 2012, 6-8pm

Osage Kwun Tong

The Osage Art Foundation recognizes that more needs to be done to develop the cultural conversations happening in Asia. The OAF has developed a platform “Regional Perspectives” with the aim to foster deeper regional consciousness of the arts within Asia.

The exhibition and forums will make the case that certain key and emergent artists from the region have a larger and international significance. The exhibitions are developed from substantial research and will provide regional platforms for innovative curatorial perspectives.

Regional Perspectives: Thailand encompasses two exhibitions: ***Nuova (Arte) Povera*** (contemporary visual art exhibition of seven artists from Thailand), and ***Not Reconciled: Video Art from Thailand***, as well as a public programme named ***Ideas Incubator***. Please refer to the programme breakdown on the following pages.

Nuova (Arte) Povera

Artists:	Krit Ngamsom, Kentaro Hiroki, Dusadee Huntrakul, Boonsri Tangtongsin, Prateep Suthathongthai, Pisitakun Kuantalaeng, Lek Kiatsirikajorn
Curator:	Ark Fongsmut
Curatorial team:	Monvilai Rojanatanti, Tamsit Tiacharoen
Exhibition period:	17 March 2012 to 19 April 2012
Exhibition opening:	16 March 2012 6-8pm
Exhibition venue:	Osage Kwun Tong
Address:	5/F Kian Dai Industrial Bldg, 73-75 Hung To Road, Kwun Tong
Exhibition description:	<p>The exhibition 'Nuova (Arte) Povera', curated by Ark Fongsmut, will reflect upon themes of globalisation, cultural flattening and the rise of the "New Poor".</p> <p>During the past few years, much information has been generated from the influence of globalisation. Though this information can be considered appropriately beneficial for us, they have in reality become overwhelming when compared to our ability and efficiency in processing and analysing reality. Too much information has ironically reduced one's ability to directly reach facts and reality, or simply put, pulled one away from the truth. The issue will be acknowledged by the participating artists who form points of view based on their diverse background, skill and proficiency in various aspects and dimensions in relation to the central theme of the exhibition.</p> <p>Apart from the effect on the amount and the ability to perceive the information, globalisation also has a great influential presence in the economical sector; precisely it affects the economical structure by consuming and wasting an enormous amount of natural resources that we concern for the 'New Poor'.</p> <p>For Thailand, an example of poverty and its related poor ability to perceive information can be seen in particular from laborers, who are willing to be in debt in order to own high technology mobile phones, as clearly shown in many capital cities.</p> <p>At the same moment, policies issued by the government through borrowing money and resources from the future might be on the surface be considered as a resolution, yet deep within, the attempts proved to be futile in clearing their poverty of knowledge, mind and soul.</p>

Images:



Lek Kiatsirikajorn

Lost in Paradise: Korn Bangkhuntod From Nakhon Ratchasima Province,
Toopoon, Bangkok

Digital print

96 x 120 cm

2011



Kentaro Hiroki

Untitled

Hand drawn sculptures

Dimensions variable

2010

Public Programmes:
Ideas Incubator

Speakers:	Mr. Ark Fongsmut, Mr. Thomas Lollar, Mr. Charles Merewether, Ms. Eileen Lagaspi-Ramirez, Ms. Isabel Ching, and Ms. Arianna Gellini
Moderator:	Mr. Lewis Biggs
Date and time:	17 March 2012 10am-1pm
Venue:	Osage Kwun Tong
Address:	5/F Kian Dai Industrial Bldg, 73-75 Hung To Road, Kwun Tong
Program description:	<p>The curator Ark Fongsmut will speak about the Arte (Nuova) Povera exhibition and its place in the history of art in Thailand, while Charles Merewether and Thomas Lollar (artist and former Director of Visual Arts at the Lincoln Centre) will comment on contemporary art in the Region from the perspective of Singapore and New York respectively.</p> <p>Exploring contemporary art from a Regional perspective is also the aim of the major forthcoming exhibition 'United States of Asia – Combustible Chemistries'. Initiated by Osage Art Foundation, this project will be introduced by curators: Isabel Ching (Singapore), Arianna Gellini (Hong Kong) and Eileen Legaspi-Ramirez (Manila).</p>
RSVP:	Sybil Kot T 2793 4817 E sybilkot@osageartideas.com

Our Built Culture: Can it be Saved?

Speakers:	Prof. Desmond Hui, Mr. Stephen Byrns, Mr. Charles Merewether, Mr. Kenneth SW Tam and Mr. Alexander Hui
Moderator:	Mr. Lewis Biggs
Date and time:	17 March 2012 2:30-5:30 pm
Venue:	Osage Kwun Tong
Address:	5/F Kian Dai Industrial Bldg, 73-75 Hung To Road, Kwun Tong
Program description:	<p>These presentations and discussion will be of great interest to anyone with an interest in the cultural expressiveness of our buildings and urban environment.</p> <p>The quality of any urban environment is a unique expression of geography and history. Where a city is developed with a lack of respect for these factors, the result is a poor environment for its citizens, leading to social alienation and breakdown of civic values. How does Hong Kong compare to other Asian cities in this respect? How critical a problem for our future wellbeing is the the destruction of historic buildings and environments?</p> <p>The event will include a Keynote Speech by Professor Desmond Hui (Professor of Cultural Studies in the Department of Cultural and Religious Studies, Chinese University of Hong Kong, and advisor to UNESCO on cultural industries in Asia and the Pacific), and some case studies from the Region and from the USA. Contributors include Stephen Byrns (lead design partner for BSKS architects and former Commissioner, New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission, 2004-2010); Alexander Hui, Board member of the Heritage Hong Kong Foundation; Professor Charles Merewether, Head of the ICAS at Lasalle College of Arts, Singapore and Mr. Kenneth SW Tam, Chief Heritage Manager of Antiquities and Monuments Office, Leisure and Cultural Services Department, Hong Kong.</p>
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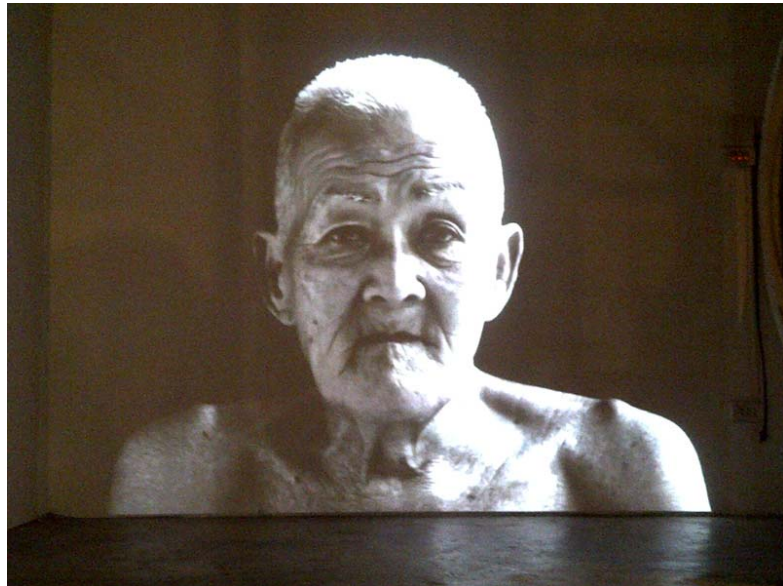
Not Reconciled: Video Art from Thailand

Artists:	Arin Rungjang, Chatchai Suban, Taiki Sakpisit
Curator:	Narawan Pathomvat
Exhibition period:	17 March 2012 to 19 April 2012
Exhibition opening:	16 March 2012 6-8pm
Curator talk:	18 March 2012 2-3pm
Exhibition venue:	Osage Kwun Tong
Address:	5/F Kian Dai Industrial Bldg, 73-75 Hung To Road, Kwun Tong
Exhibition description:	<p><i>Not Reconciled</i> is a title of a 1965 film by Jean-Marie Straub and Daniele Huillet, which is a loose adaptation of Heinrich Boll's novel, <i>Billiards at Half Past Nine</i>. Both film and novel focus on a German family's struggle in coming to terms with the history of themselves, their family, and their nation.</p> <p>Similar spirit, as well as act of resistance is central to this eponymous group exhibition of recent video art from Thailand.</p> <p>The four selected works by three artists embody the 'not reconciled' essence - with memory, history, and time.</p> <p>Arin Rungjang's piece <i>Never Congregate, Never Disregard</i> (2007) is the artist's personal attempt to hold on to his intimate memory through his mother's fading yet lucid recollection; Chatchai Suban's <i>Grandfather</i> (2011) is a subtly defiant statement on society and its constructed history and fabricated truth; while Taiki Sakpisit's works <i>I Did Not Dream Last Night</i> (2009) and <i>Looking Into God's Eye</i> (2010) convey an enduring metaphysical message that transcends the kaleidoscope of time.</p>

Images:



Taiki Sakpisit
Looking into God's Eye
Video
Dimension variable
2010



Chatchai Suban
Grandfather
single channel video
Dimension Variable
2011

APPENDIX A: ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Kentaro Hiroki is a Japanese artist who works as an art lecturer at the School of Architecture and Design (SoAD), KMUTT, Bangkok. Kentaro graduated MA Fine Art from Malmö Art Academy, Sweden, Foundation Course from Central Saints Martin School of Design, London Institute and PGD Fine Art from Goldsmiths College, University of London, and also BA Fine Art from Osaka Art University, Japan. Since 2001, Kentaro started to exhibit his artworks in several places, included UK, Norway and Sweden. Kentaro's latest project was exhibit at nospace gallery in December 2007.

Krit Ngamsom is a graduate of the School of Art at Bangkok University and graduated with a MA in Visual Art at the Faculty of Architecture of King Mongkut's Institute of Technology Ladkrabang. Ngamsom creates interactive works influenced by childhood memories, often incorporating domestic objects such as electric fans and kitchen utensils. Ngamsom was one of the artists selected for Thailand's Brand New exhibition in 2008. He has earlier participated in the group exhibitions *Bangkok Bananas* at Central World (2009), *Imagine Peace, Bangkok 226*, *Traces of Siamese Smile and Lets Panic* at the Bangkok Art & Culture Centre (both 2008-2011)

Lek Kiatsirikajorn was born in 1977. He completed a BA in fine arts at Bangkok's Silpakorn university in 2000, and was one of the up and coming Thai young artists at that time. Lek went to England in 2001. He studied professional photography at The Arts Institute at Bournemouth in the UK. Soon after he finished the course, he won a photography prize called "fashion meets art" organised by ArtReview magazine (UK). The judges include; *Kate Bush*; head of galleries at the Barbican, *Steven Klein*; fashion photographer, Alexandra Shulman; editor of UK Vogue, *Matthew Williamson*; fashion designer, *Rebecca Wilson*; editor of ArtReview and *Barney Pickard*; art director of ArtReview. In the same year, Lek also had his photo displayed in National Portrait Gallery (London) in a portrait photography exhibition organised by Schweppes.

Boonsri Tangtrongsin is an artist, animator and director, who managed to express her artistic concepts through animation and cartoons. Graduated with a BFA(Visual Arts) at Bangkok University in 1999, Tangtrongsin continue her career by producing various short films and animations, and is currently a MFA candidate of Malmö Art Academy, Sweden. She will be presenting her latest work, a short video "Superbarbara Saving the World" in the exhibition.

Born and raised in Thailand, **Dusadee Huntrakul** graduated in fine arts from UCLA (University of California Los Angeles) in 2007 and is now studying his graduate degree at UC Berkeley (the University of California Berkeley), which he has received a scholarship. Huntrakul is keen on working conceptually with found objects, drawings and also installation.

Born and based in Bangkok, **Pisitakun Kuntalaeng** is a young artist who works on different materials. Graduated with a BFA in sculpture from KingMongkut's Institute of Technology Ladkrabang, Bangkok, the young artist has participated in various solo and group exhibitions in Thailand and also in Asia during the past few years. Pisitakun expresses his idea by using technique of wooden craft, to compare human life and termite.

Born in Bangkok, **Prateep Suthathongthai** graduated with BFA from Rajamangara Institute of Technology, Bangkok, Thailand in 2001 and MFA from Silpakorn University, Bangkok, Thailand in 2006. Prateep mainly the form of photography and started to explore the use of video medium in 2006. The artist has held two solos and was invited to participate in various group shows. He received Grand Prize of Asian New Media Art Competition in Jakarta, Indonesia in 2007.

Arin Rungjang is one of the most upcoming Thai emerging artists. His video works and installation has been shown widely in Group Exhibitions and Biennales. Some of his most recent solo exhibitions

include: "Russamee Rungjang", Gallery Ver, Bangkok, Thailand, 2009 and "Let's make sense", Gallerie West, Den Haag, Netherland. Among his most recent group exhibitions include: "Intineraries", Valentine Willw, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia 2011, "Bangkok Density", Gallery Biagiotti. Florence. Italy, "Open House", Singapore Biennale, Singapore 2011 and "Power to The People", ACCA, Melbourne, Australia. This year he will present his work at the 18th Sydney Biennale.

Over the past years, **Taiki Sakpisit** has created series of short films that have established him as one of the most distinctive experimental filmmakers working in Thailand today. His films are praised for the powerful visual and sound and the extraordinary transformation of narrative structure. He recently won the R.D. Pestonji Award at The 15th Thai Short Film & Video Festival for his film "A Ripe Volcano"

Chatchai Suban was born in 1978, a short filmmaker and video artist. He is a lecturer at Chiang Mai University and now lives and works in Chiang Mai. His short film "Undo Redo" was awarded R.D. Pertonji Award (Runner-up) for Best Thai Short Film at Thai Film Foundation's Thai Short Film and Video Festival in 2005. He recently participated in a 3-person exhibition at Gallery Seescape (Chiang Mai) in 2011.

APPENDIX B: ABOUT THE CURATORS

Ark Fongsmut received his MA in Fine Art Administration and Curatorship from Goldsmiths College, London, and his MA and BA in Political Science from Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok. He is a curator in Bangkok University Gallery since 2000 and has produced many important exhibitions and launched initiatives including the annual Brand New Project and Artist Residency Programme. He was also appointed chief curator of the 2004 and 2006 Month of Photography - Bangkok and co-curator of the International Singapore Photography Festival 2008 and 2010.

Ark has published in many exhibition catalogues and books, including *Art Now*, his latest collections of art writings. He also contributed to many publications, namely *Esquire (Thai Edition)*, *MARS* and *East Bridge*, an online Korean art magazine.

He is a recipient of BIZ Art Residency (Shanghai); Association Française d' Action Artistique Fellowship (Paris); The Alliance Française Residency (Bangkok); and The Japan Foundation Fellowship (Bangkok and Tokyo).

Narawan Pathomvat is the founder and director of a contemporary art library/non-profit platform, The Reading Room (Bangkok & Chiang Mai).

She is a lecturer at Department of Art History, Faculty of Archaeology, Silpakorn University; and an independent curator, writer, and translator.

APPENDIX C: ABOUT THE SPEAKERS

Lewis Biggs stepped down as the Chief Executive and Artistic Director of Liverpool Biennial in July 2011 after ten years in the role, during which time the ten week Biennial Festival became one of the most exciting and best attended arts events in the country. Internationally recognised as 'the UK's Biennial', the 2010 Festival attracted nearly one million visits by over 500,000 visitors.

Lewis Biggs was Director of Tate Liverpool 1990-2000, and has been commissioning art for public spaces in a regeneration context since co-curating 'Artranspennine' with Robert Hopper in 1998. For Liverpool Biennial, he brought Anthony Gormley's *Another Place* to Crosby Beach in 2005, and in 2007 commissioned *Turning the Place Over*, from Folkestone Triennial 2008 artist Richard Wilson. These and other initiatives contributed to Liverpool's programme as European Capital of Culture 2008.

Lewis Biggs is currently a Visiting Professor in Contemporary Art at Liverpool John Moores and Shanghai Universities, and an Honorary Professor at Glasgow University. He the Chair, Organising Committee, International Award for Public Art, curator for Folkestone Triennial 2014 and the co-curator for 2013 Aichi Triennale (Nagoya, Japan).

Stephen Byrns is a lead design partner for private residential, multi-family and institutional projects, with an emphasis on traditional architecture and interiors. His work is informed by a deep knowledge of architectural history and craftsmanship. An active member of the New York City architectural community, Stephen served as a New York City Landmarks Preservation Commissioner from 2004 to 2010, for which he was responsible for identifying and designating the City's landmarks and historic districts, and regulating changes to designated buildings. He is also the founding chairman of the Untermyer Gardens Conservancy, an organization that will work with the City of Yonkers to restore one of America's great gardens. Stephen holds a Master of Architecture, 1981, from Columbia University and a Bachelor of Arts in History, 1977, from Princeton University.

Isabel Ching is a Singaporean independent curator and art writer. She holds an M.A. in Art History and Theory from the University of Sydney, Australia, and also lectures part-time in the Masters of Arts (Asian Art Histories programme) at the LASALLE College of the Arts. Her research interests include contemporary art in Myanmar, the Philippines, and Singapore. She is the co-curator of the Roberto Chabet solo and group exhibitions 'To Be Continued', and 'Complete & Unabridged' parts 1 and 2, in Singapore and Hong Kong earlier this year, both of which are part of the year-long events celebrating 50 years of Chabet's art practice.

Arianna Gellini, an Italian Hong Kong based curator. She held a BA degree in Chinese Language and Culture from Venice Ca' Foscari University in Venice, Italy and later on acquired an MA degree in Contemporary Art at The Sotheby's Institute of Art Singapore. Since 2007 she has worked with numerous art organizations in China including Galleria dell'Arco Shanghai and Para/Site Art Space and has written for magazines such as Arteri Magazine. She joined Osage Gallery in November 2010 and has since curated the well received exhibition *Points of Ellipsis...* featuring artists from Hong Kong and the Philippines including Roberto Chabet, Lani Maestro, Tozer Pak, among others and *Slipping Transmission* with works by Shirley Tse, Felix Bacolor, and Yan Shan Chun. Her latest curated exhibition features the solo works by the Singaporean artist Jane Lee entitled *PRELUDE A L'APRES MIDI D'UN FAUNE*

Alexander Hui, an architect with an interest in conservation and currently board member of the Heritage Hong Kong Foundation.

Desmond Hui is Associate Dean of Arts (External and General Affairs), Professor of Cultural Studies in the Department of Cultural and Religious Studies, Programme Director of BA in Cultural Management, Director of the Centre for Culture and Development, Fellow and Warden of SH Ho College, Associate Director of the Research Institute of Humanities at the Chinese University of Hong Kong; Honorary Chair Professor at the China University of Technology, Taiwan. He obtained Bachelor of Architecture from Cornell University; Master and Doctor of Philosophy from University of Cambridge and was Director of the Centre for Cultural Policy Research at the University of Hong Kong.

Professor Hui is Non-executive Director of the Urban Renewal Authority, member of the Old Wan Chai Revitalisation Initiatives Special Committee, Museum Expert Advisor of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department, and assessor for CreateSmart Initiative under the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau. He was formerly a member of the Antiquities Advisory Board and the Commission on Strategic Development, co-opted member of the Advisory Committee on Revitalization of Historic Buildings and advisor for the HK Arts Development Council.

He is Chief Author and Editor of several government studies related to cultural policy and creative industries including the *Baseline Study on HK's Creative Industries* (2003) and *A Study on Creativity Index* (2005). He was selected as Lead Curator for the 11th International Architecture Exhibition of Venice Biennale Hong Kong Exhibition in 2008.

Thomas Lollar is an internationally renowned ceramist and professor of fine arts whose work is represented in a number of public, corporate and private collections. He grew up in Detroit, and was educated at Western Michigan University, where he earned his bachelors and masters degrees in sculpture, ceramics and art history.

Having taught ceramics and sculpture since 1975 at prestigious institutions such as Parsons School of Design in New York, he is currently on the faculty of Teachers College, Columbia University. He has received several top-tier honors in the field, including the post of visiting scholar at the American Academy in Rome, a fellowship at the Salzburg Seminar, a fellowship at Jugendstil Design in Austria and the prestigious Waldo-Sangren Award for Contemporary Ceramics in England.

His work has been featured in gallery exhibitions at Tiffany & Co. NY, Columbia University as well as in the collections of The Smithsonian/Cooper Hewitt Museum, The Museum of Art and Design, and The Karlin Collection in Boston. Mr. Lollar has been widely covered in the international arts press, including interviews in *Art & Auction* magazine, and *The New York Sun*.

Charles Merewether is an art historian, writer and curator who has worked in Australia, Europe and the Americas. He worked as collections curator at the Getty Center in Los Angeles from 1994-2004. Between 2004 and 2006, he was artistic director and curator of the 2006 Biennale of Sydney and senior research fellow at the Centre for Cross Cultural Research, Australian National University. In October 2007, he was appointed deputy director of the Cultural District for the Tourist Development and Investment Company, Abu Dhabi. Since March 2010 he is Director at Institute of Contemporary Arts Singapore.

Dr. Charles Merewether has taught at the University of Sydney, Universitat Autònoma in Barcelona, the Ibero-Americana in Mexico City and the University of Southern California, and has lectured at the Beijing Academy of Art, Lingnan University in Hong Kong and the Asia Research Center at the National University of Singapore.

Recent edited and co-edited publications include: *Beijing-Venice-London: Ai Weiwei-Herzog & de Meuron* (London/Basel, 2008), *Art, Anti-Art, Non-Art: Experimentations in the Public Sphere in Postwar Japan 1950-1970* (Los Angeles, 2007) and *The Archive* (London/Mass., 2006)

Eileen Legaspi-Ramirez is a faculty member of the Department of Art Studies, University of the Philippines and curatorial consultant at the Lopez Memorial Museum. Her writing has appeared in *Transit: A Quarterly of Art Discussion*, *Pananaw: Philippine Journal of Visual Arts*, *Fine Art Forum*, *Forum on Contemporary Art and Society*, *n.paradoxa: international feminist art journal*, *RealTime+Onscreen*, *Visual Arts Magazine*, *Indonesia*, *Metropolis M*, *C-Arts*, and the *Sunday Inquirer Magazine*.

Kenneth Tam is the Chief Heritage Manager of the Technical Advisory Unit in the Antiquities and Monuments Office. He has obtained his training at the Architectural Association School of Architecture in London and a Master Degree in Architectural Conservation at the University of Hong Kong. He has worked for different successful and award winning heritage projects in Hong Kong including the Museum of Coastal Defence and the Dr. Sun Yat-sen Museum.

ABOUT OSAGE ART FOUNDATION

The Osage Art Foundation (OAF), established in 2004, works in the areas of cultural exchange, educational outreach and the building of knowledge. And since 2005, OAF has been promoting cross cultural understanding through art exhibitions between Hong Kong, China, Japan, Singapore, the Philippines, Myanmar and Thailand. OAF exhibitions develop from substantial research, aim to make strong statements about significant as well as emerging artists, and to provide regional platforms for innovative curatorial perspectives. While the arts from Asia have become increasingly visible both within this part of the world, and globally, OAF recognises that more needs to be done to develop the cultural conversations happening within Asia. Even today, the exchanges between artists in Asia are too often mediated by global centres in Europe and North America. Osage Gallery is part of the Osage Group encompassing the Osage Gallery, Osage Art Consultancy and Osage Design.

Please visit www.oaf.cc for more information.

ABOUT OSAGE GALLERY

Osage Gallery is devoted to the exhibition and promotion of international and Asian contemporary visual arts, exploring the diverse and complex artistic relationships between the different regions of Asia, and beyond that, of the artistic relationships between Asia and other parts of the world. Osage Gallery represents some of the most exciting and significant artists in the region. The gallery also works closely with international critics and curators to present exhibitions and projects that address themes and issues relevant to our times.

In addition to organising major group and thematic exhibitions, Osage Gallery has represented some of the most significant artists in Asia, such as Sun Yuan and Peng Yu, Shen Shaomin and Jiang Zhi from China, as well as other Asian artists such as Lee Kit (Hong Kong), Wilson Shieh (Hong Kong), Nipan Oranniwesna (Thailand), Tintin Wulia (Indonesia), Donna Ong (Singapore) and Louie Cordero (Phillippines).

Osage Gallery is part of the Osage Group encompassing the Osage Art Foundation, Osage Art Consultancy and Osage Design.

Please visit www.osagegallery.com for more information.

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