

Ode to E Pluribus Unum for Sunday February 12 2023

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Johannes Vermeer in the Spotlight



A stunning Tour of his works

https://www.rijksmuseum.nl/en/johannes-vermeer?utm_source=join1440&utm_medium=email&utm_placement=newsletter

Carve out the time to watch and absorb this wonderful view of a master at work.

The Rijksmuseum's Hotly Anticipated Blockbuster Vermeer Show Is Finally Here—and It's Unmissable



An art critic photographing Johannes Vermeer's famed Girl with a Pearl Earring during a press preview of exhibition "Vermeer" at Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam (February 7, 2023).

Photo: Vivienne Chow.

<https://news.artnet.com/art-world/rijksmuseums-vermeer-exhibition-2252482>

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What DALL-E Reveals About Human Creativity



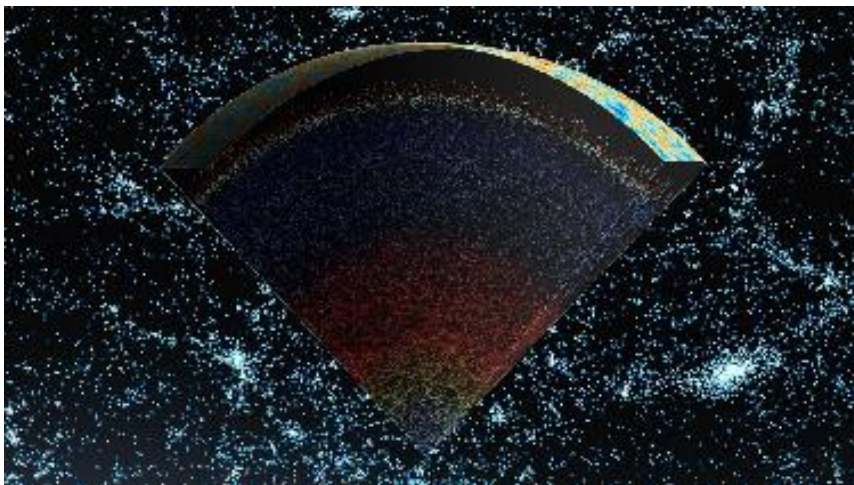
DALL-E generated image of "A robot painting a picture of a brain in an artist's studio, Rembrandt style"

<http://bit.ly/3JR9F9M>

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Map of the Universe Clear Back to the Big Bang

The Milky Way is just one pixel.



<https://bit.ly/3BplBKM>

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- "When you are courting a nice girl an hour seems like a second. When you sit on a red-hot cinder a second seems like an hour. That's relativity."
- "A clever person solves a problem. A wise person avoids it."
- "Any fool can know. The point is to understand."
- "Try not to become a man of success. Rather become a man of value."

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Special Delivery – an mRNA Explained



<http://bit.ly/3XjJYSi>

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Clever Use of Words

A sign in a shoe repair store:

We will heel you,
We will save your sole,
We will even dye for you.

Sign over a Gynecologist's Office:

Dr. Jones, at your cervix.

In a Podiatrist's office:

Time wounds all heels.

At an Optometrist's Office:

If you don't see what you're looking for, you've come to the right place.

On a Plumber's truck :

We repair what your husband fixed.

On another Plumber's truck:

Don't sleep with a drip. Call your plumber.

At a Tyre Shop in Milwaukee :

Invite us to your next blowout.

On an Electrician's truck:

Let us remove your shorts.

In a Non-smoking Area:

If we see smoke, we will assume you are on fire and will take appropriate action.

On a Maternity Room door:

Push. Push. Push.

At a Car Dealership:

The best way to get back on your feet - miss a car payment.

In a Veterinarian's waiting room:

Be back in 5 minutes. Sit! Stay!

At the Electric Company:

We would be delighted if you send in your payment on time. However, if you don't, You will be de-lighted.

In a Restaurant window:

Don't stand there and be hungry; come on in and get fed up.

In the front yard of a Funeral Home:

Drive carefully. We'll wait.

At a Propane Filling Station:

Thank heaven for little grills

In a Chicago Radiator Shop:

Best place in town to take a leak.

Sign on the back of a Septic Tank Truck:
Caution - This Truck is full of Political Promises

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Gustavo Dudamel Heading to New York Philharmonic



Conductor Gustavo Dudamel, posing during a photo session at Paris' Opera Bastille in Sept. 2022.

Joel Saget/AFP via Getty Images

A hotly anticipated game of musical chairs is underway: the charismatic conductor [Gustavo Dudamel](#) is leaving Los Angeles to become the new music and artistic director of the [New York Philharmonic](#).

The 42-year-old Dudamel will officially step into the role of leading the Philharmonic at the beginning of the 2026-27 season. As of the 2025-26 season, he will serve as the New York orchestra's music director designate, and his full contract as music and artistic director will last for five years.

Dudamel has served as music director of the [Los Angeles Philharmonic](#) — and, more broadly, as one of that city's most hailed high-culture heroes — [since 2009](#). He concurrently serves as music director of the Paris Opera, a post he has held since 2021, and as music director of the Simón Bolívar Symphony Orchestra of Venezuela, which he has led since 1999.

In a press release sent to NPR Tuesday afternoon by the New York Philharmonic, the Venezuelan-born Dudamel said: "Today, above all, I am grateful. I am grateful to the musicians and leadership of the New York Philharmonic as we embark upon this new and beautiful journey together; to my beloved family at the Los Angeles Philharmonic and YOLA [the Youth Orchestra of Los Angeles] for helping me to learn and grow through countless challenges and triumphs; and to my Maestro Abreu [the conductor José Antonio Abreu, his early mentor in Caracas] and the musicians of Venezuela who

have been there with me since the beginning. As the great poet Federico García Lorca said: 'Every step we take on earth brings us to a new world.'"

Although there was high speculation that Dudamel might earn this podium in New York, his appointment is already being hailed as something of an East Coast coup. His predecessor at the New York Philharmonic, the Dutch conductor Jaap van Zweden, abruptly announced in Sept. 2021 that he would be departing, citing a pandemic-era revisiting of his [personal priorities](#).

The New York Philharmonic's outgoing chief executive officer, Deborah Borda, has worked closely with Dudamel in the past; before her arrival in New York, she served in the same role at the Los Angeles Philharmonic for 17 years — and brought in Dudamel there. Borda also led the recent [massive renovation](#) of David Geffen Hall, the New York Philharmonic's home venue, which just reopened this past October.

Dudamel's hire in New York means that the Los Angeles Philharmonic is now officially on the hunt for a new music director of its own.

By Anastasia Tsioulcas

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Fungi And Bacteria Are Binging on Burned Soil

Can microbes revive megafire dead zones?



*Certain fungi thrive in a post-fire environment.
(Sydney Glassman/UCR)*

<http://bit.ly/40VuKpI>

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I Rescued a Human Today



Her eyes met mine as she walked down the corridor peering apprehensively into the kennels. I felt her need instantly and knew I had to help her. I wagged my tail, not too exuberantly, so she wouldn't be afraid.

As she stopped at my kennel I blocked her view from a little accident I had in the back of my cage. I didn't want her to know that I hadn't been walked today. Sometimes the shelter keepers get too busy and I didn't want her to think poorly of them.

As she read my kennel card I hoped that she wouldn't feel sad about my past. I only have the future to look forward to and want to make a difference in someone's life.

She got down on her knees and made little kissy sounds at me. I shoved my shoulder and side of my head up against the bars to comfort her. Gentle fingertips caressed my neck; she was desperate for companionship.

A tear fell down her cheek and I raised my paw to assure her that all would be well. Soon my kennel door opened and her smile was so bright that I instantly jumped into her arms. I would promise to keep her safe. I would promise to always be by her side. I would promise to do everything I could to see that radiant smile and sparkle in her eyes. I was so fortunate that she came down my corridor. So many more are out there who haven't walked the corridors. So many more to be saved. At least I could save one.

I rescued a human today.

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Ach du Lieber Himmel! It's the German Spy Machine



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How Cryptocurrency Works...a Short Primer



Not long ago a merchant found a lot of monkeys that lived near a certain Village.

One day he came to the Village saying he wanted to buy these monkeys! He announced that he would buy the monkeys at \$100 each.

The villagers thought that this man must be crazy - How can somebody buy stray monkeys at \$100 each? Still some people caught some monkeys and gave it to this merchant and he gave \$100 for each monkey.

This news spread like wildfire and people caught more monkeys and sold them to the merchant.

After a few days, the merchant announced that he will buy monkeys at \$200 each.

The villagers scrambled to catch more monkeys! They sold the remaining monkeys at \$200 each.

The merchant then announced that he will buy monkeys for \$500 each!

The villagers were frantic!.....They caught six or seven monkeys, which was all that were left and got \$500 each. The villagers were waiting anxiously for the next announcement.

Then the merchant announced that he is going on Holiday for a week, but when he returns, he will buy monkeys at \$1000 each! He also said that his employee will be in charge and would take care of the monkeys he bought pending his return.

The Merchant went on holiday!

The Villagers were frantic and very sad as there were no more monkeys left for them to sell it at \$1000 each as was promised by the Merchant. Then the Merchant's Employee contacted them and told them that he would secretly sell them some monkeys at \$700 each. The news spread like wildfire. As the Merchant promised on his return that he would buy monkeys at \$1000 each, they would achieve a \$300 profit for each monkey.

The next day The Villagers queued up near the Monkey Cage. The Employee sold all the monkeys at \$700 each. The Rich bought monkeys in large lots. The poor borrowed money from money lenders and bought the rest of the monkeys!

The Villagers took care of their monkeys & waited for the Merchant to return! However, nobody came! Then they ran to Find the Employee....however, he was not to be found!

The Villagers then realized that they have been duped buying the useless Stray monkeys at \$700 each, and were now unable to sell them!

This Monkey Business is now known as Bitcoin!

It will make a-lot of People bankrupt and a very few People filthy rich in this kind of Monkey Business.

To help you visualise this, watch the Flim-Flam Man movie.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7go4HI0SjJ4>

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Are You Ready for a 3D Printed Rocket?

3D printed rockets save on up front tooling, enable rapid iteration, decrease part count, and facilitate radically new designs.



<https://youtu.be/kz165f1g8-E>

Relativity Space is stacking its initial launch system right now and is looking to make its first launch shortly...perhaps in the next month.

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Meet the Dog Who Learned to Walk Like a Human



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ry2QA4nu5a4>

Thanks to Holly Clayson for sending this

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Fallen on Hard Time, a Famed Country Singer Plays for Weddings



<https://youtu.be/rAmmvj-7g6o>

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Fox Dives Headfirst Into Snow



A red fox pinpoints field mice buried deep beneath the snow, using his sensitive hearing and the magnetic field of the North Pole to plot his trajectory.

<https://youtu.be/D2SoGHFM18I>

Thanks to Gary Smith

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"The Great North Dakota Blizzard, 1966"



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Do Elephants Really 'Never Forget'?

Elephants are known for their extraordinary memories, but is it true that they never forget?



Elephant herds that are led by older matriarchs, who often have more remembered life experiences, tend to fare better in droughts.

(Image credit: Pieter Ras via Getty Images)

<http://bit.ly/3JVvHni>

By Joshua A. Krisch for Live Science

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Filmdom's Passing Parade



<https://bit.ly/3Yi1is4>

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Autism, From Every Angle

From identifying the markers of neurodivergence to treating and supporting autistic people, Sargent researchers are helping us better understand one of the most complex brain mysteries of our time



<http://bit.ly/3RNhwqG>

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Boeing 747, the "Queen of the Skies," Flying off into History

The four-engine, hump-shaped 747 is the world's first twin-aisle airplane. It was first manufactured in 1968 and entered service with now-defunct Pan American World Airways Jan. 22, 1970, enabling people to fly faster and longer distances than before. More than 1,570 models of the aircraft have been created for both passengers and cargo. There are about 358 Boeing 747's still in existence, including two modified military versions of the 747 airliner, which serve the US president.



<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/boeing-747-queen-of-the-skies-flying-off-history/>

Gone...Gone...Gone

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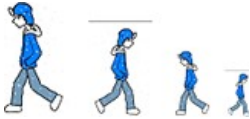
The Journey of Building the Golden Gate Bridge in the 1930s



<https://youtu.be/OC5C9a2udjo?t=2>

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My Walking Thoughts



For Sunday February 12 2023

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What I Missed on My First Walk-Through

Reflecting on the "Vermeer" extravaganza that opened at the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam two days ago, I realized with an uneasy jolt how much I've let slide by in the rush to 'get to the next thing' in my journey.

Maybe it's because in my dotage I've stepped back from life's passing parade, I've allowed myself to make some sense out of what is here--has always been but have managed to salt away in an all-but-forgotten storehouse so as not intrude on a 1,000-frame-per-second attempt to stay abreast of matters of no real consequence to my heart or soul.

Would I like to go back and live my life some other way? It's tempting to imagine it, but no. No despite all I've missed, or misunderstood, or destroyed. No, because for all the short-changing I've done to myself and others, life is what it is, and I have been granted the great gift of memories and a few moments to reflect on some of them...put them in some semblance of perspective.

The depth of Vermeer's quiet vision has served to unlock some of a horde of memories, suggesting that in this visit from Vermeer's 17th century dreams, our journeys are linked in an infinite approach to...to what? Perhaps to what lies beneath...to what lies beyond.