

GRAPHIC ARCHIVES

THE MAGAZINE • JULY 2020

PREMIERE ISSUE!

Nature remembered from the
Galapagos Islands
and other exotic travels in
Ecuador.





A Marine Iguana poses for a photograph in the Galapagos Islands.
“The Ambassador I” cruise ship anchored in the distance as tourists
discover nature’s wonders.

GRAPHIC ARCHIVES

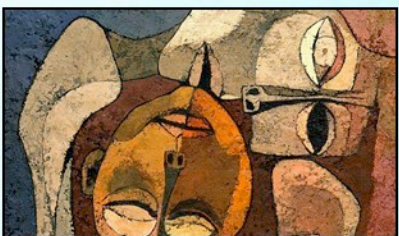
THE MAGAZINE • JULY 2020

The Rundown



Isla de la Plata

A small island just off the coast of Ecuador that also features exotic creatures such as Blue-Footed Boobies, Frigate Birds, and others. The ocean waters around it are



Arts & Culture

Guayasamin Retrospective



Galapagos

Nature's paradise revealed from an amazing vacation years ago. Discover the magic and explore the wonders that only exist in this remote island chain.



A Brown Pelican sits atop gathered branches on the shores of the Galapagos Islands. Unafraid nor shy of humans, these birds will perch themselves close as possible, especially if there is food to swipe.

Cover: A Giant Tortoise taken from the Charles Darwin Research Center, August 1999. Due to a history of lucrative piracy in stealing the tortoises from their natural habitats, most of these are now held in captivity under close supervision.

2: Introduction

A Welcome from me to you and hope you enjoy the mag!

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Are we evolving or simply changing our own nature?

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Letters and cards from the Galapagos Islands.

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Ralph Steadman's "America"

Back Cover: A Blue-Footed Boobie watches from a cliff on land while a cruise ship passes in the distance.



Nature

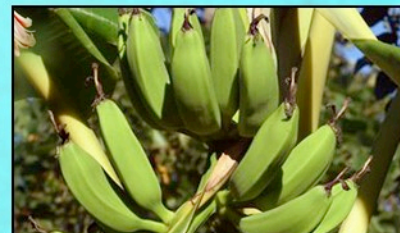
The Brown Thrasher is much more than the state bird of Georgia. A closer look reveals an inspired history.



the Fine Art of Cooking

Grilling

A Gourmet Gallery take on how our country fought for the Freedom to Grill Out! No, really! It's true history!



Going Bananas!

Soon to become a monthly tip on Gardening - but this premiere issue warranted a memory from my travel through Ecuador's banana forest.



Welcome to my "Graphic Archives Magazine." Another artistic endeavor I hope inspires you with stories to share from collected memories as well as current projects and ambitions. The mission is to showcase a variety of artistic explorations from illustration, photography, graphic design, and other aspects that encourages creative ideas as much as entertains soul desires.

Graphic Archives began as an autobiographic novel that continues to add new chapters through a lifelong voyage of creative exploration, but it has taken new directions as something that grows within potential and unlimited possibilities.

I hope you enjoy this premiere issue as each month will take on other topics that seem relevant and worthy of the time and energy required. It's a small sacrifice to help inspire others and that is my true passion as life becomes rewarding to know there may be an audience for something of this nature.

Speaking of nature, this issue takes you on a voyage from the Galapagos Islands and other places that fit within the format. As you turn the pages or click on the links, I will turn new corners of development and your feedback will be something I look to help with the growth of this idea.

Love and Wishes!

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to the author of the text.



Isla de la Plata



Blue-Footed Boobies about to make an exchange in which they take turns laying on a new-born egg to hatch while each share parenting duties

http://graphicasyllumweb.com/graphicasyllumweb.com/Current_Projects.html

Just off the coast of Ecuador, there is a small island that is home to many of the birds that exist in the Galapagos. It is a much more inexpensive trip with just as much to see in nature another one of the countries exotic opportunities. From the nearby resorts, local dining, and everything to experience, my adventure will forever be something to remember. I was fortunate to have a camcorder handy to document much which I turned into a series of vacation videos. Isla de la Plata was memorable and the video can be downloaded from the site listed above when clicking on the icon.

The translation of “Isla de la Plata” is literally “Island of Wealth (or Silver)” which is an ironic twist to the fact that many locals use the terminology as the “Poor Man’s Galapagos.” Not one to dispute the opinions of others, I was just living life to it’s full potential, whether rich or poor. Experience is the most valuable commodity the world can offer and I wanted my highlight reel posted at every turn. I should have been forewarned about the dangers of such an incredible journey, but I was still at an age when nothing could stop me!

I climbed atop the platform of the cruising ship to capture what I could holding my camcorder while Blue Whales surfaced to the water’s edge. They struck the ocean with a thunderous force with their tails to create a splash that would attract any mate. Yes, it was mating season for the whales in mid July as they return each year to demonstrate their strength. It’s the whale that splashes the highest and loudest that attracts his mate.

The ship rocked uncontrollably as the ocean waves beat against the hull. No motion-altering device could adjust to such turbulent conditions...unless you were a dolphin swimming just in front of the large boat encouraging the pilot to speed up if it could to catch him. So much wonder in nature and dolphins enjoy showcasing their swimming superiority against the most powerful machines man can create.

Frigate Birds, a variety of gulls, and even Blue-Footed boobies also had an impressive aerial view of all the action below. Once we arrived upon the island, the guide took us through the nature trails to see the incredible wonders of nature. It was magnificent to capture with now outdated Hi-8 tape cassettes as the digital world had not yet become so sophisticated.

Truly a Bird Paradise, but the one amazing scene that I captured was the Blue-Footed Boobies exchanging parental duties. I wasn’t educated until afterwards as both the male and female take turns resting upon the eggs laid to keep them warm for hatching. It was explained to me that each would sit for up to a week at a time while the other mate would be free to indulge itself with all the resources available to gain enough provisions and strength to return and share in the process of new birth to continue the line.

For those unfamiliar with the Blue-Footed Boobie, they are exclusive to the Galapagos Islands, yet a few have either been relocated or possibly found their way to Isla de la Plata, which is not far from the South American coast. Their most dominant characteristic is their undeniable stepping pattern, which is more of a promotional advertisement so there is absolutely no confusion about the “color” of their feet!



Blue-Footed Boobies suspicious, yet not afraid of humans walking along the nature trail.

Indeed! How strange and peculiar as you may not be aware that there is also a “Red-Footed Boobie!” Each species makes clear the color of their feet. One has to laugh in a world of racial tension that even birds want distinction based on their color. It just sounds like a clever children’s book in the making to find a clever solution to resolve the differences we have and how to bring compassion to a world that wants distinction.

Nature provides many setbacks as much as it contains so many qualities that human nature studies to gain a sense of understanding. I captured two frigate birds pecking away at each other to remove the filth, bugs, or whatever was of concern as they groomed each other to improve their own quality of life.

We finally made our way back to our resort and took a shower underneath indigenous statues that appeared to pee on our existence as if to suggest we were beneath them. Another promotion that has more to the story, but after so much excitement, I couldn’t wait to eat dinner. I ordered the same as I had on previous nights, because “Ceviche de Pulpo” was the most excellent meal I had tasted! (A popular Octopus recipe.)



An artist that dedicated his life to show the pain, suffering and human emotions through his paintings and sculptures soon became a visual weapon for society to explore the political ambitions as well. Considered an indigenous-folk artist on the surface, Oswaldo Guayasamin was a gifted talent that created images reflecting an inner truth to the distortion of the human condition.



“Abrazo” by Oswaldo Guayasamin
Oil Painting on Canvas, 1987


Guayasamin

An impressive retrospective collection of works by Guayasamin filled the Museum of Art in Quito, Ecuador when I had the opportunity to visit in 1999. Unfamiliar with his work and the nature of the climate that surrounded his ambitions, it was a monumental inspiration for me to see how an artist could so inspire the inner soul. The paintings and sculptures were compelling with a strong sense of design, color, and a focal interest that brought an energy to more than eye-candy of visual senses as it delved deeper into the heart of the soul.

As I discovered more about the artist’s history through the vast collection of work, I realized just how impressive art can both inspire and promote the issues pertaining to the human condition. Crafts and skills are just one aspect of visual communication, but when an artist puts his own vision upon a canvas that resonates beyond the boundaries of the framework surrounding the image...that’s when you begin to understand art. To learn more about the artist and see more of his work, look him up on the internet and discover more!

<https://www.wikiart.org/en/oswaldo-guayasamin>



 A closeup of a female Sea Lion resting on the beach in the Galapagos Islands.

Galapagos August 1999

For the love of nature and all the magic that pushes life towards a greater adaptation of measures, the Galapagos Islands is that one place upon Earth with so many fascinating discoveries in a world of realistic compromises. It's an island chain unlike any other where nature, history, and mankind's beliefs have been forced to accept the differences that life continues to carry lines of evolution through adaptive changes. The wonders of the world are all around surviving nature's blessings and often unforgiving soul. I had the opportunity to visit the island paradise in August 1999 to discover much more than those exotic inhabitants that call such a majestic place home. It is truly unique and a well-preserved destination for those that find nature fascinating because there was not a moment that passed in which something special would capture the heart overflowing with inspiration.

Upon boarding the “*Ambassador I*” ship for a five day cruise through the Island chain on Bartomole Island, the first event on the itinerary was a snorkeling adventure in a small cove. The most vibrant colors of fish imaginable would pass by in schools against a clear aquatic sea of untainted water. Even the coral reef structures just below the surface was an impressive landscape for it’s inhabitants. Truly an image in nature that aquariums can only try to replicate.



Blue-Footed Boobies peering upon the ocean waters upon a cliff of dripping waste.

Breathtaking to witness until I actually ran out of breath and had to swim back to the surface. That was when I finally gathered my senses and realized this wasn’t just a dream and felt blessed to be in such a glorious place. I then looked around and noticed a commotion near the shore. Something was happening as people cried out, yet I wasn’t quite sure if it was from excitement or fear. I lifted my head as high above the surface to get an estimate on the alarming development. The next thing I saw was something swimming straight towards me as fast as a torpedo about to strike me head on! No time to react and only a fraction to consider diving back down into water, move to the left or to the right as I apparently was in the seal’s way! Instead, I remained still as the playful mammal dodged with a slight brush to my left and continued to defend it’s territory from more unwelcomed visitors. The incident was not on the list of expectations, but I felt honored to participate with the seal for such a dramatic scene.

Dinner aboard the ship was festive as chefs prepared amazing courses of abundance. The ambiance was a luxurious contrast surrounded by the ocean waters and wildlife of exotic species that competed for survival. Paradise nonetheless as I would stand on deck to watch the setting sun as it disappeared behind one of those fantastic islands.



Marine Iguanas sunbathing together. Many often pile together upon one another.

“Gaviotas” are white birds in the gull family with gold beaks and was the spanish name given to our group of explorers. We crossed from small dingy boats from the cruise ship to Tagus Cove on Isabella Island to walk amongst Sea Lions, Marine Iguanas, and so many other species. We discovered a cave which had been a pirate storage supply where looted goods such as coins, rum, and other valuables were kept until they could be retrieved later. Aa creepy experience to walk through history and imagine what it was like to be a pirate during an age long ago before the islands were discovered by others. It was also disappointing that no rum was left behind. I looked everywhere, LOL!

There were many more places to visit throughout as nature was inescapable. Many of the birds and mammals are exclusive to the Galapagos Islands such as the Blue-Footed Boobies, Marine Iguanas and Galapagos Penguins. The variety of species are what makes the Islands such an exotic place on Earth. Unafraid of mankind, most creatures are tolerant and respect those who are not a threat. The male Sea Lions, however are highly territorial and will defend it's space should you get to near. Our group was warned not to get too close or provoke them in any way.



Male Sea Lions are highly territorial and dangerous if provoked. This photograph was as close as I could get before

I guess that was a lesson I needed to learn the hard way as I found one in a picturesque scenic shot I wanted to capture. I slowly moved closer to him...and closer...and, OK! That's Far Enough as he darted towards me with his fins pushing a ton of weight faster than I expected. I thought I was on the verge of extinction as I stumbled and fell, but got back up and ran three miles before looking back to see if I was safe. That was both scary and impressive that a mammal could move with such strength and agility for it's size!



The Giant Tortoises are kept in reserved areas where they are protected from nature and from theft by humanity.

Such a memorable event on so many levels as I experienced an abundance of nature while helping to support family and friends. I came away with a few photographs that always reminds me of how important it is to take those opportunities in life to explore and discover the world beyond your own inner boundaries.

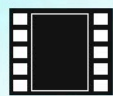
For more photos, visit my Shutterfly account to see the entire slideshow!

<https://graphicasylumweb.shutterfly.com/pictures/5131>





Ruby-Throated Hummingbirds



<https://graphicasylumweb.shutterfly.com/pictures/725>

Eastern North America becomes blessed by the Nectar of the Gods during Spring each year as Ruby-Throated Hummingbirds invade from Central and South America to migrate their blessings of exotic and even erotic nature for many to witness. I am fascinated by all birds, but hummingbirds are unique in so many ways because they exhibit so much passion for living and have become symbolic in many cultures and advertising promotions for hope and prosperity. Despite their small size in nature (less than an eighth of an ounce for adults,) the hummingbird's heart rate is as fast as it's wings that carry them across ocean waters to new territories to explore. Oftentimes, it's more than a discovery of distant lands as much as finding a mate that is willing to go the distance. The honeymoon lasts only a few days as they begin to chase one another for available resources.

Hummingbirds are fascinating birds to watch and are attracted to brilliant-colored flowers, especially salvia, canas, and even banana trees when pods form that generate the flowering blooms that provide a source for bananas to grow from the stalk. It's something familiar to hummingbirds from warmer climates and one of the reasons I've been able to sustain a steady vacation resort for them each year.



It's worth the effort to put out the powdered nectar mixed with water and watch them chase each other through the Summer as they are highly territorial and defend their resources.

Their name is derivative of their throat which contains scales that turn brilliant red at angles in which light reflects against a chemical compound that appears to flicker on and off. Another amazing feature of nature that seems incredible in how a small bird contains so much magic quality to become deceptive with its ability to use light as a source to attract its mate!

Just days ago, I watched one flying through my water-spitting crane statue in my pond as if it were taking a bath and cleaning the debris gathered as well as soaking through the relaxation of Summer vacation. To facilitate such unexpected amenities is a joy and surprise that further exemplifies my passion for nature with birds that provide so much entertainment throughout the year.

Their digital-sounding voice is a rapid squeak that is quite distinctive. Even when they cannot be seen, I know they are around as my ears pick up their frequency. Seasons come and go and they suddenly disappear at Summer's end back to warmer climates during Fall and Winter, but Ruby-Throated Hummingbirds are always welcome and given plenty of provisions while on vacation at my residence in Georgia.

Gourmet GALLERY

the Fine Art of Cooking

Before we go into some outlandish commentary about American Independence, it's important to know the truth, the only truth, and nothing BUTT the truth! LOL!

"American Independence should never be taxation without representation by the government and for the people with one nation's colonial rights to grill out whenever desired!"

- George Washington never said, but could've!



OK, you got me...but I hear rumors that come from reliable sources that indicate something about "Freedom" back in the day. Honestly, I wasn't around then, but I would have been rebellious enough to suggest the Forth of July become a day for all true Americans to take part in grilling out for no other reason than to enjoy the taste of a monumental moment that serves the flavor of the true American Spirit. There's a Fine Line between Art and Cooking and no government can stop me from my true passion! Whether it's Barbecued Baby Back Ribs, Burgers, Chicken, or Hot Dogs...I'm making the most of celebrating those freedoms handed down to me through so many generations of sacrifice!

All-American Burgers

Here are secret documents that were hidden from the American public by the Sons of Liberty and locked away until Nicholas Cage stole them from a bank vault buried within Thomas Jefferson's "Monticello" estate... Scenes that were edited out from "National Treasure" for fear a new revolution of cooking would ensue! (Geez! Why doesn't FAKE NEWS work for me...you got me again!) But, here's the truth to grillin' All-American Burgers!



Begin with ground beef chuck, sizes relative as I typically use about 2-3 lbs that I pull apart in a large mixing bowl. I then add about 1/2 cup Dale's Seasoning Sauce, about 3 tbsp Worcestershire Sauce, and 2 tbsp Liquid Smoke along with Garlic Salt and Pepper to taste. I sprinkle some Italian Seasoning as well, but you can customize the seasonings with your own taste palate by adding Hot Sauce or even Steak Sauce that often adds to the flavor. Mix well by hand and pad each burger to desired size as I can fit four to a large ziploc bag and freeze until needed for grilling. Place the burgers on the grill until cooked through on both sides. I often butter and toast the buns just a few minutes for crispiness and load up the burger with horseradish sauce, spicy mustard, pickles, lettuce, sliced red onion and Jalapeno Pepper slices for a Spicy Kick! Take another minute to melt some cheese on the burger in the heated oven. Serve with True American Spirit and God Bless America!



Oh, Baby Back Ribs!

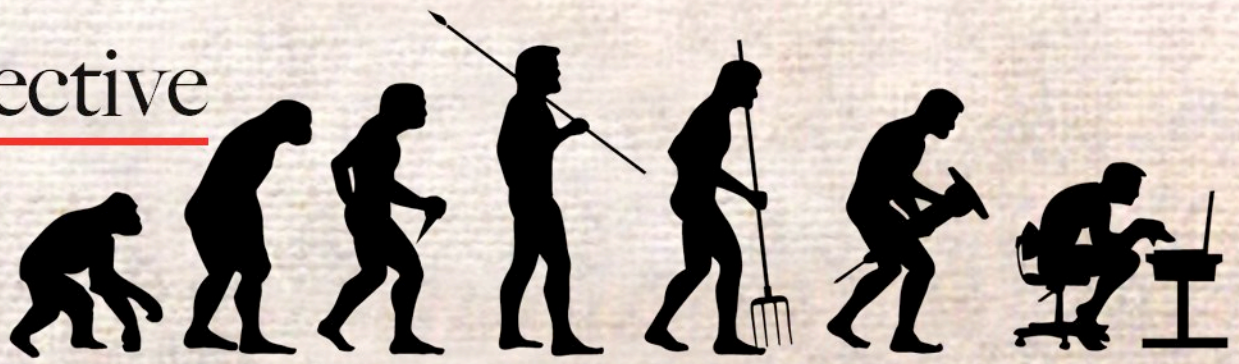
Four Baby Back Ribs (Each cut in half for boiling) • 4 Cups Beef Broth • 2 Cups BBQ Sauce • One Cup Honey

1. Boil the Ribs in a large pot with enough water to cover. Ribs may need to be cut to fit.
Add the Beef Broth and let boil. Reduce the heat and simmer about an hour or until tender.
Remove the Ribs and set aside on a large platter.
2. Mix the Barbecue Sauce with Honey and Baste or coat each Rib lavishly.
Begin grilling accordingly (depending on your choice, as I prefer to smoke ribs, but they are equally tasty over charcoal grills or otherwise)
3. Turn ribs as needed to cook through as you continue to coat additional layers of Barbecue Sause until the Ribs are cooked through.

Add some Baked Pork and Beans to the menu by coating a Black Iron Skillet with Bacon Grease and warm on the stove to medium-low heat. Cut up one Onion and a Green Bell Pepper to add to the Beans to saute in the Iron Skillet for a couple of minutes. Then add Worcestershire Sauce and Hot Sauce, if desired and let cook on low heat for 15 minutes. Be sure to cover with a lid to help contain the moisture.

<https://www.graphicasylumweb.com/graphicasylumweb.com/Gourmet-Gallery.html>

Perspective



Evolution is no longer just a theory about natural selection insofar as it is a process that continues to develop an ever-changing world. Charles Darwin's research with his studies from the Galapagos Islands was enough evidence to suggest that species change over time to adapt to new environments. Are we not changing our own behaviors during a time when our survival is at risk? It's not that different in nature as anything that takes life adapts with new skills, creative solutions, and anything that becomes a benefit to continue the line as a means for survival. Nature teaches us much about life's existence and those unwilling to adapt become extinct.

Technology has dramatically changed humanity during my lifetime. I did not grow up with a computer or a smart phone that I was dependent on, but those are elements that have become necessary in today's modern world of information overload. Personal experience has driven any idealism that once seemed essential to a current state of relative values in which there are so many differences of opinions.

I believe that is what the world is experiencing at this time as a result of becoming too dependent on technology. For everything good, there is a back-handed weakness. It is wonderful to have so much information at our fingertips simply by pushing a few buttons and running an app on a smart phone, but it has become a new expectation of our socially-wired system and has magnified the stress of keeping up with the latest "version" of a program that becomes "incompatible" with an older "operating system" - and who can honestly memorize over a hundred user names and passwords? You may be like me and have multiple email accounts and by the time I've deleted half the junk mail, the day is almost over!

We each have a viewpoint and I encourage you to share with me a story, concern, or observation of how things have "evolved" in your life. Individually, there is a diversity of differences that may be resolved through collective understanding.

My travels in Ecuador opened my mind to a level of "culture shock" in that there were so many differences, yet humanity was the common denominator that provided such a memorable experience. Human compassion for one another will always be at the heart and soul of our existence and I'm hoping future generations will "discover" that value for a world that becomes more glorious.



Going Bananas

July 29, 2001

My second visit to Ecuador was a greater culture shock than the previous experience as the Galapagos cruise consisted of mostly Americans. We landed in the port city of Guayaquil late and had reservations overnight to spend the evening. There were a few plastic trinkets prominently placed upon tables and night stands that I thought would serve as a souvenir. I took the statue of liberty as a memento. As we left and the bill had been settled, it was discovered there was a charge for alcohol. There must've been some mistake because none of the group had been drinking. As it turns out, the small statue of liberty I took was a clever device that contained alcohol! Who knew?

The following morning, we packed our luggage into a cab for a trip down south along the coast to Arenillas. It was a trip through Banana Heaven on Earth. Forests of Bananas on the left and to the right...nothing but bananas as far as the eyes could see for hundreds of miles. It captured my interest as I grow my own banana trees more for a hobby interest, but when armed guards with machine guns become involved... it's serious business!!!

As a crop the country markets worldwide, there is nothing left to chance for profit. Securing bananas from theft must have been a guarded issue because it was more impressive and threatening to me than containing all the gold in Fort Knox! Furthermore, there were plastic nets that were placed around each bunched cluster. I'm not quite sure as to the reason, but I'm guessing it had something more to do with nature than human theft.

Cultural differences continued to become a realization as a man from the market place where people gathered for goods wanted to buy the pants I was wearing. I thought he was in some way perverted, but the truth was he simply needed my new fashionable shorts to replicate and use as inspiration for his own clothing business. As an American in such a foreign place, they had not yet seen such a design, but I wasn't comfortable with the idea at the time as I did not understand the true intentions. LOL!

Postcards from Heaven

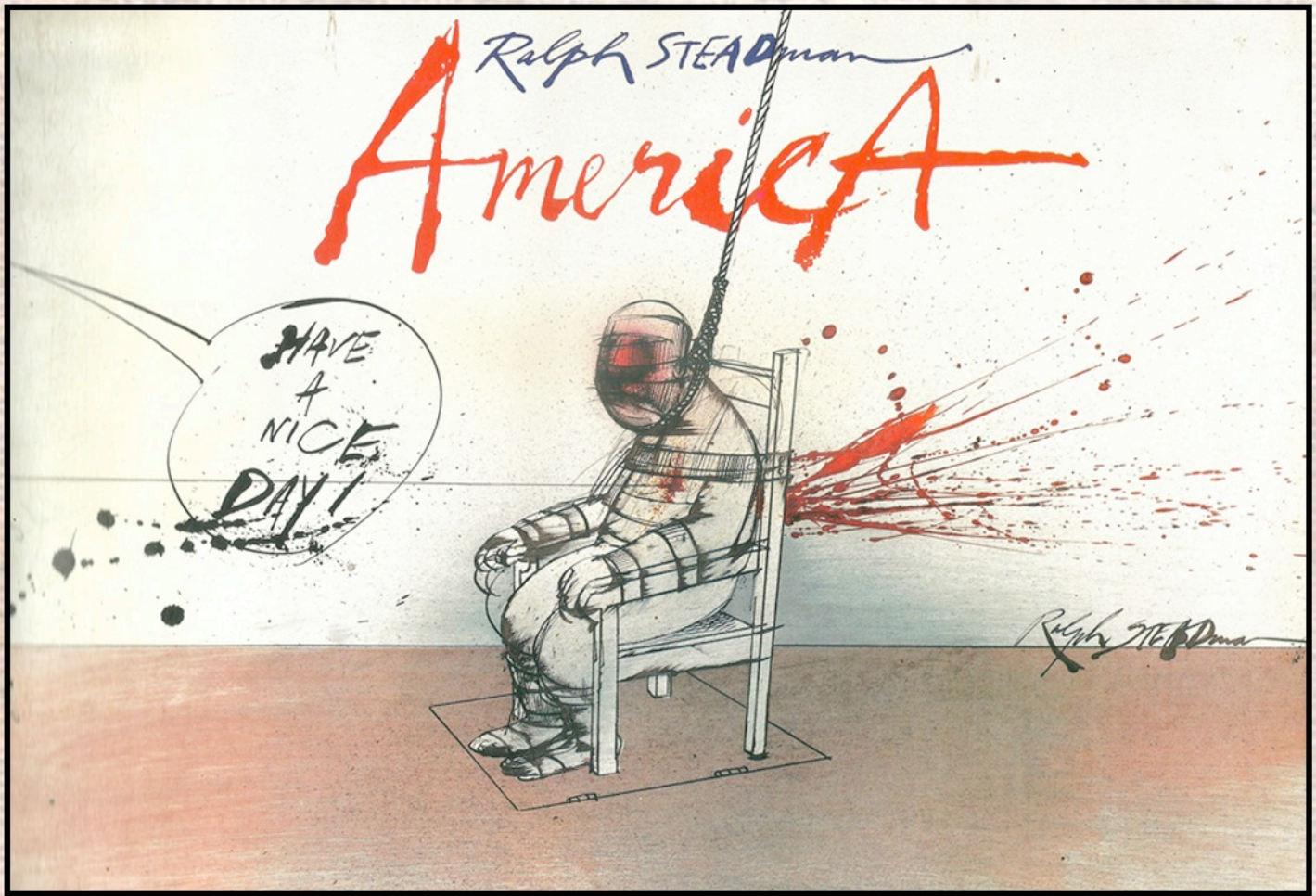


"This will never get through!"
 I thought as there is a remote postal station in the Galapagos Islands that seemed more to serve fantastic wishes than a respected business enterprise...but, truth to tell, the postcard made it's way back to my parents in the USA!



I'm hoping you enjoyed this premiere issue of GRAPHIC ARCHIVES Magazine as a valuable source designed to inspire and encourage others through my own creative ventures and life experiences. Life and Art are one and the same to me and it has been a dream of mine to find a consistent way to articulate many of the things that have inspired me as well. As with any artistic endeavor, there is much room for growth and your feedback helps me to understand from other perspectives. This page will become a column in the future that addresses questions you may have, stories that had an impact, ideas for the future, or to introduce something relative that may be of concern. I become inspired by those who want and need more from me because it becomes a census on directions to follow for the future.

Famous Last Words...



Ralph Steadman's "America" published in 1974 and reprinted in 1989 by Fantagraphics books seems more like a cartoon quatrain prophecy in which his outlandish art, abstract concepts, and editorial captions have become a reality.

Next!

"The Dog Days of Summer"

August will feature our canine pets that become part of family. Send me a favorite photo of your dog that may appear in next month's "Gallery of Friends!" Include the dog's name, age, and where you live. I can't wait to see the response and the sooner the better as deadlines are ASAP! That's a Rap for now, Love and Wishes and Be Safe!

email dog photos: graphicasylum@yahoo.com



