

THE UNCIVIL SOCIETY



INLAND EMPIRE

TRACK LIST:

- 1) SO CAL . . .SO COOL**
- 2) SUNSHINE OR NOIR?**
- 3) POWER LINES**
- 4) HOME GROWN REVOLUTION**
- 5) FORTRESS UPLAND**
- 6) THE HAMMER AND THE ROCK**
- 7) CONFESSION**
- 8) JUNKYARD OF DREAMS**
- 9) COUNTER ARGUMENT #4**
- 10) DAYS OF WINE AND ROSES**

SO CAL . . SO COOL

I AM INLAND AIR TAINTED WITH SMOG
FROM A LAND WHERE ONCE ARID BRUSH
THROUGH THE ALCHEMY OF TECHNOLOGY
HAS TRANSFORMED INTO GOLDEN ARTIFICIAL ABUNDANCE
NOW DEVoured BY RELENTLESS
DEVELOPMENT OF THE TACKY LITTLE BOXES
MADE BY LEWIS AND THEIR CLAN
I AM DRIVING IN AND OUT (AT LEAST AN HOUR EACH WAY)
ON ENDLESS FREEWAYS
THAT LEAD TO A BEACH BONFIRE AT DUSK
WHERE THE FAINT SCENT OF PEROXIDE MINGLES
WITH VALLEY GIRL TWANG "FUR SHURE DUDE" . . .
I AM A DODGER DOG
BEING DIGESTED BY THE DISAPPOINTMENT
OF ANOTHER TITLE-LESS SEASON
IN THE CENTER FIELD BLEACHERS
OF A STOLEN ELYSIAN FIELD
ONE OF TWENTY FOUR MILLION INSIGNIFICANT LOCUSTS
ADRIFT IN A SEA OF PLASTIC THAT DEFINES
THE AESTHETICS OF THIS PLACE
YET WE DON'T MIND ONE BIT BECAUSE WE FIND SOLACE
IN THE WARMTH EMBRACE OF A YEAR ROUND SUN
AND ARE DISTRACTED BY THE ILLUSIONS
THAT COME TO FRUITION IN THIS FAULTY SPACE
I AM THE SUBURBS, A FORTIFIED BUTTRESS
DESIGNED TO DEFEND THE STRATA OF CLASS
WHERE FREEDOM IS DEFINED BY CONSUMPTION
IN THIS ARTIFICIAL STATE

SUNSHINE OR NOIR?

STANDING ON THE RUINS
OF AN ALTERNATIVE FUTURE
IN THE SHADOW THE CREOSOTE AND BURRO BRUSH
AND OCCASIONAL YUCCA TREE
I CAN FEEL THE EARTH MOVE UNDER MY FEET
SUBURBAN WAVE CRESTS AND BREAKS
IN A RELENTLESS APPROACH
READY TO ENCROACH
AND ENGULF ALL INSIDE
I CAN FEEL THE EARTH MOVE UNDER MY FEET
SURROUNDED BY GROVES UPON ARRIVAL
LAND REDACTED AND RESHAPED
PLAYING IN THE SKELETAL FRAMES
AS INSTANT COMMUNITY TAKES SHAPE
I CAN FEEL THE EARTH MOVE UNDER MY FEET
CITY AS COMMODITY
SURFACE AS EXCHANGE
ARTIFICIAL INDUSTRY
PERUSING A FEVER DREAM

POWER LINES

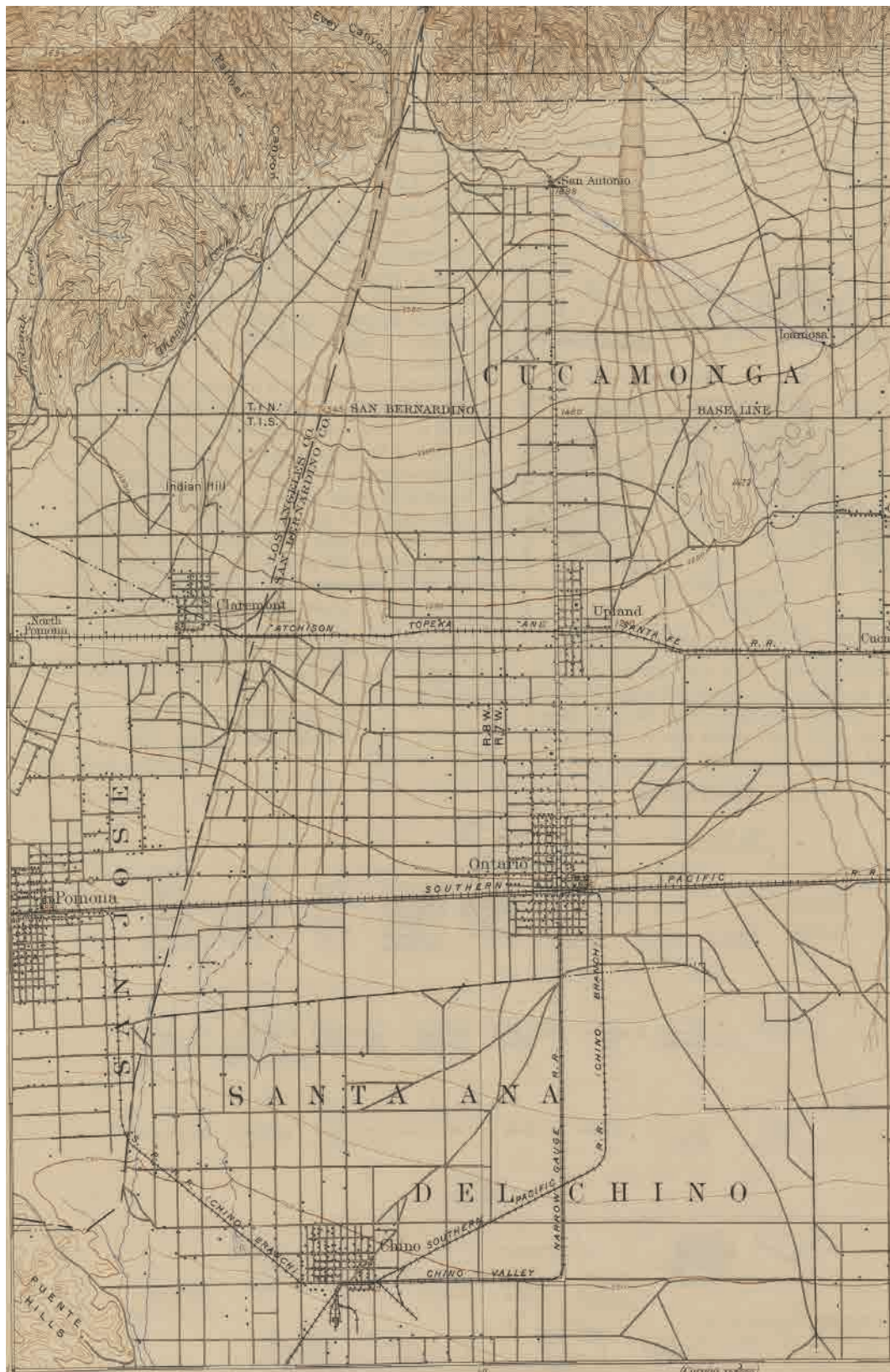
**STREETS MARK STRATA
STRATA MAKES CLASS
CLASS MAKES LINES
MEANT TO LAST
STREET AND ADDRESS
WILL DEFINE
WHERE YOU LIVE
WITHIN THE LINES
NORTH IS RICH
SOUTH IS POOR
WEALTH RESIDES
ALONG THE SHORE
LINES RUN THROUGH US
AND DIVIDE
OPAQUE YET TRANSPARENT
YOU CAN'T RUN OR HIDE
WHEN LINES ARE CENTRALIZED
POWER BECOMES MILITARIZED**

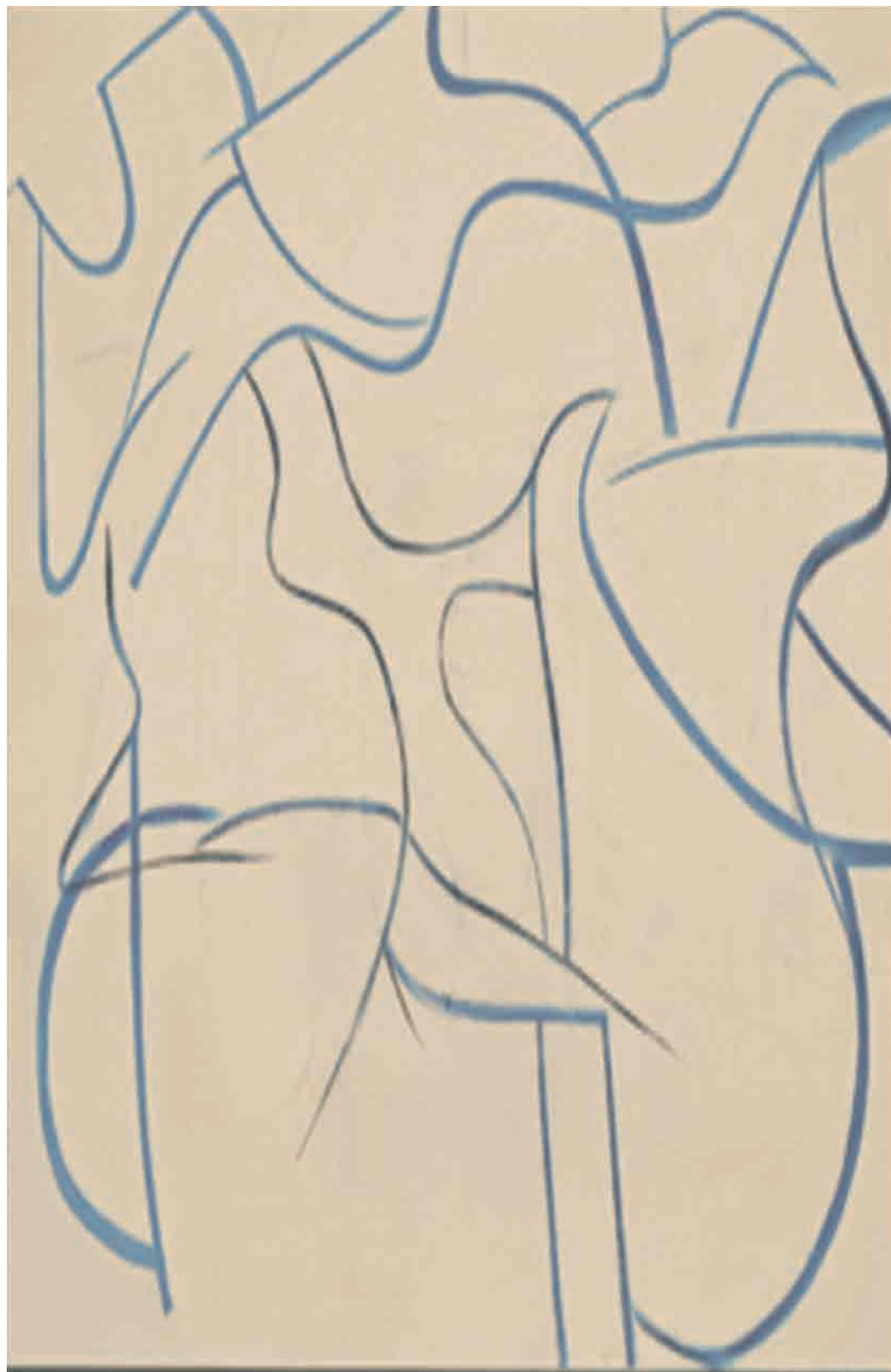
HOMEGROWN REVOLUTION

THERE WAS NO APOCALYPSE
OR ENCOUNTER OF A THIRD KIND
IN FACT NOT A SINGLE PERSON
HAD EVEN DIED
SHOPS WERE STILL OPEN
AND POLLUTION NO WORSE
THAN IN ANY OTHER PART
OF THIS CURSED
SMOG-CHOKED VALLEY
YOU SEE LIFE IN LOS ANGELES
WHERE EQUALITY IS VALUED
THROUGH PROPERTY
OF SINGLE-FAMILY HOMES
SELF WORTH IS APPRAISED
THROUGH DESIGNATION
OF THE TRACT YOU OCCUPY
WHAT WOULD MAKE A
NIMBY REVOLT?
ANGER AND OUTRAGE
IS CHANNELED
THROUGH RELENTLESS DEFENSE
OF THE DISTANCE BETWEEN
A WHITE PICKET FENCE

FORTRESS UPLAND

FROM CAREFUL LAWNS
SPROUT SIGNS THAT WARN
OF TRESPASS AND HARM
IN OUR SWEET SUBURBAN HOME
WHERE PERSONAL INSULATION
CREATES TRANSMUTATION
THE DEFENSE
OF THIS PLACE
HAS CREATED DIVIDED SPACE
IN THE MASTER PLAN
INCOME EQUALS ACCESS
AND SECURITY CREATES DEMAND
WELCOME TO FORTRESS UPLAND
OUR SWEET SUBURBAN HOME





HAMMER AND THE ROCK

WHEN THE JACK BOOTED
COMMANDOES STORM
CHALK ANOTHER
VICTORY FOR THE NORM
WE FIGHT WARS
WE LOVE TO LOSE
SO WE CAN
FUND THE BLUE
I CAN HEAR
THE CHOIR
OF FEAR
THE ESTABLISHMENT
IS MADE OF SCOWLING FACES
BY YOUR INCREDULOUS NEIGHBORS
WHO HIDE BEHIND TRACT BARRIERS
AND ECHO THE GREAT NAY-SAYERS
FOR EVERY RED HAT BOOMER
AND BECKY WHO UNITE
TO CONDEMNS
THOSE OUT OF SIGHT
AND MIND
THEY DECLARE
THESE PEOPLE
NEED A TEACHER
OR A PREACHER
OR BE PUT AWAY
TO BE REFORMED

CONFESSIO

DEAR FATHER
I MUST CONFESS
THE RELIGION
AND BELIEFS
YOU TRIED TO STRESS
NEVER ONCE DID IMPRESS
EVEN THOUGH
YOU MADE ME
AND BOW DOWN
IN RITUAL FORCE
TO ABSORB GUILT
AND LEARN
TO APPEASE YOUR
REPEATED DOGMA
YOUR MURMURED PRAYER
YOUR STUPID CUSTOMS
I LEARNED
NOT TO CARE
SUNDAY BATTLE
FOR HEART AND MIND
GNOSTIC TENSION
FREED MY MIND
YOUR POISONS
FROM TOXIC THOUGHTS
HAS BEEN LEFT
FAR BEHIND

JUNKYARD OF DREAMS

AS YOU TRAVEL EAST
TOWARDS SAN BERDO'
TRAVERSING THE I-10
WINDOWS ARE SEALED TIGHT
TO PROTECT FROM SMOG AND DUST
AND ANY INCIDENTAL
CONTACT WITH THE EMPIRE
LEMON GROVES
ONCE HEATED
BY SCHUE'S POT
HAVE GIVEN WAY
TO AN ENDLESS SEA
OF BEDROOM DREAMS
THE STONES
THROWN OUT BY
JOAT'S DEMISE
MASK HER
UNHEARD CRIES
GEOLOGICAL AND
SOCIAL DETRITUS
MAKES A LAND
OF TRESPASS
ONCE SCARRED
BY BLASTING FURNACE
IS NOW BOTH
JUNKYARD AND UTOPIA
OF THE CALIFORNIA DREAM

LINER NOTES

SOMETIMES THE SIMPLEST ACTS INSPIRE ME TO CREATE. FOR THIS PROJECT TWO THINGS HAPPENED IN THE SAME WEEK. THE FIRST, I BOUGHT A NEW BASS. I HAD BEEN LISTENING TO THE IAN MACKAYE AND AMY FARINA'S ACOUSTIC DUO THE EVENS RECORD "THE ODDS" ALL SUMMER. WHILE INITIALLY LISTENING TO THEIR RECORD, IT REMINDED ME OF A WILHELM DEKONING RETROSPECTIVE I SAW MANY YEARS AGO THE SHOW HAD ART FROM THE SPANNED HIS ENTIRE CAREER - DRAWINGS FOR MAGAZINE ADS IN THE 1950'S, THE WARM AND FUZZY ABSTRACTIONS OF THE 1970S AND ENDED WITH A SERIES OF WHITE 8'X10' CANVASES WITH A SINGLE BLUE LINE ON THEM. INITIALLY WHEN I ENCOUNTERED THEM I SCOFFED THINKING IT WAS YET ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF LAZY CONTEMPORARY ART. YET AFTER SEVERAL VIEWINGS OF THE SHOW I LEARNED THAT NEAR THE END OF DEKONING'S LIFE HE HAD DEVELOPED FULL BLOWN ALZHEIMER'S, BUT KEPT PAINTING, LITERALLY TO THE DAY HE DIED. ARMED WITH THAT UNDERSTANDING, I EXAMINED THE SINGLE LINES ONLY TO DISCOVER HE HAD CAPTURED THE ENTIRETY OF HIS EXPERIENCE AS A PAINTER. ALMOST LIKE MAKING A MAP OF HIS ART AND MIND. AMAZING . . . WHAT WAS MOST EXCITING TO ME ABOUT THE EVENS, IS THAT I COULD HEAR THE SONIC ELEMENTS THAT COULD TRACE THE ENTIRE SPAN OF A SEMINAL ARTIST'S CREATIVE EXPRESSION, ALL THERE, YET TRANSMUTED INTO A NEW FORM. THE DEEPER I DUG INTO THE AURAL EXPERIENCE, I KEPT HEARING THINGS THAT I STRUGGLED TO MAKE SENSE OF WHAT WAS BEING PLAYED. THE SOUND WAS NOT QUITE A BASS, AND NOT REALLY A GUITAR THE TONE WAS RICH AND WINSOME AT THE SAME TIME AND MADE A GREAT COUNTERPOINT TO THE VOCAL HARMONIES. I DISCOVERED THERE IS SUCH A THING AS A BARITONE GUITAR, I TRIED TO PLAY ONE AND REALIZED IT HAD TOO MANY STRINGS - YET THAT LED ME TO PURCHASE AN ACOUSTIC BASS.

THE OTHER INFLUENCE CAME FROM A TRAINING AT WORK TO HELP ME EXPAND MY OWN CULTURAL COMPETENCE THROUGH UNDERSTANDING OF WHERE WE COME FROM. THE POEM I WROTE AND SHARED WITH MY CO-WORKERS TURNED OUT TO BE THE TITLE TRACK "SO CAL . . . SO COOL". LAST YEAR I RE-READ MIKE DAVIS' "CITY OF QUARTZ", AND USING HIS SOCIOLOGICAL CRITIQUE, I FUSED THE IDEAS TO FORM THE LYRICS FOR THIS PROJECT. THE ORIGINAL EDITION ESSENTIALLY PINPOINTED THE EPICENTER OF THE RIOTS THAT RIPPLED THROUGH THE REGION IN RESPONSE TO THE ACQUITTAL OF THE OFFICERS WHO BEAT RODNEY KING. THE NEWER VERSION FOCUSED MORE ON THE LENS ON LAND ACQUISITION AND HOW PROPERTY OWNERSHIP IN THIS REGION CREATES INTENTIONAL CLASS BASED SEGREGATION. HAVING OVER 30 YEARS OF DISTANCE FROM MY EXPERIENCE OF LIVING IN THE SUBURBS OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA I AM AT A POINT IN MY LIFE WHERE I FEEL COMFORTABLE AND CONFIDENT ENOUGH TO EXPLORE MY PERSONAL NARRATIVE AND INFUSE CRITIQUE THROUGH MUSIC. THE SONIC TEMPLATES I CHOSE TO INSPIRE THIS PROJECT ARE ALL DRAWN FROM SONGS THAT DEEPLY RESONATED WITH ME WHILE GROWING UP. THE EARLIER SONGS WERE DRAWN FROM THE SOFTER

FOLK ROCK RECORDS AND MUSICAL SOUNDTRACKS MY MOTHER PLAYED IN OUR HOME. MY TASTES STARTED TO INDIVIDUATE AS MY EXPOSURE TO TOP 40 AM RADIO AND MY NEAR COMPULSIVE DEVOTION TO CHARTING THE WEEKLY COUNTDOWN DEVELOPED. AS MY CONSCIOUSNESS OF MUSIC GREW I SHIFTED MY AURAL ALLEGIANCES TO FM AND THE RADIO FRIENDLY AOR 70'S ROCK AND ROLL. IN MIDDLE SCHOOL, I DISCOVERED THE LEFT SIDE OF FREQUENCIES AND COLLEGE RADIO. AS ADOLESCENCE STARTED TO RISE AND RAGE I CONNECTED MY EXPERIENCE TO NOT ONLY LISTENING BUT GOING TO SHOWS IN THE BURGEONING ALTERNATIVE MUSIC SCENE OF LOS ANGELES. IN MANY WAYS DISCOVERING MUSIC AND THE BANDS WAS MY FREEDOM, FROM THE SAFETY OF THE SUBURBS AND ULTIMATELY FROM BOREDOM THAT IS INEXORABLY BOUND TO THE NOTION OF SECURITY.

DURING RECORDING I STROVE TO USE A LIVE MIC SETUP TO CAPTURE AS MUCH ACOUSTIC AMBIENCE AS POSSIBLE AND WORKED TO PLAY AND PERFORM AN ENTIRE SONG RATHER THAN RECORD SEGMENTS OF SONGS AND EDIT TOGETHER IN POST. WHAT I DIDN'T ANTICIPATE WAS BY ADDING A NEW PIECE OF EQUIPMENT INTO THE PROCESS, I HAD TO TEST, AND DISCOVER WHAT WORKED AND WHAT DIDN'T. WHILE I WAS RUNNING ONE MORNING I REALIZED THAT I WAS NOT ABLE TO CAPTURE THE RICH ACOUSTIC SOUND I WAS HEARING BECAUSE I NEEDED TO RECORD ACOUSTICALLY. DRAWING DEEPLY FROM THE WISDOM AND GUIDANCE OF AL SCHMITT, I EXPERIMENTED TO FIND THE RIGHT TOOL WITH THE CORRECT MIC PLACEMENT TO GET THE RICHEST WARMEST SOUND I COULD. I ENDED UP USING THREE MICS – RODE NT-1, SM57 AND BETA 98 AT THE SAME TIME, ALL POINTED IN RELATIVE DISTANCES TO THE RESONATOR IN THE ACOUSTIC BASS TO CAPTURE THE RICHEST SOUND POSSIBLE. IT IS FUNNY TO ME THAT I FEEL LIKE I FORGET EVERYTHING BEFORE I START A NEW PROJECT. PERHAPS THAT IS WHY CREATING IS SO EXCITING FOR ME – I GET TO REFRESH, REINVENT AND RECREATE EACH SESSION. FOR THIS PROJECT I LEARNED ABOUT THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PASSIVE AND ACTIVE PICK-UPS AND HOW TO USE A DI TO BOOST THE SIGNAL FROM THE ACOUSTIC BASS. EACH NEW REALIZATION HELPS ME UNDERSTAND HOW MUCH GEAR YOU NEED, IS REQUIRED TO CAPTURE VIBRATIONS IN TIME AND SPACE.

WHILE RECORDING I REALIZED THAT IF I AM CAPTURING THE ROOM, I COULD EASILY ADD PERCUSSIVE ELEMENTS, SO I WENT TO MY KID'S TOY CHESTS AND TOOK THE INSTRUMENTS THAT I HAVE BOUGHT FOR THEM OVER THE YEARS (THAT THEY HAVE NEVER TOUCHED!) AND USED THEM THROUGHOUT THE PROJECT. IT'S FUNNY, AS A PARENT YOU UNCONSCIOUSLY INFLUENCE YOUR KIDS ONLY TO HAVE THEM SPITE YOU BY HAVING THEIR PERSONAL REBELLION MANIFEST THROUGH BECOMING REPUBLICAN HEDGE FUND MANAGERS. WE HAVE ALWAYS LOVED MIKE BAIARDI'S ROCK A BYE BABY SERIES, I CHANNLED HIS INSPIRATION AND CREATIVITY INTO THE RECORDINGS. I ALSO STUMBLED INTO THE 40TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE BEACH BOY'S PET SOUNDS, WHICH INCLUDED THE OUT TAKES AND TRACKING SESSIONS WHICH FOCUSED ON THE LUSH INSTRUMENTATION WHICH CONTRIBUTED TO MAKING IT SUCH A SEMINAL RECORDING. NOT THAT I GOT ANYWHERE CLOSE ON THIS PROJECT, BUT IT WAS FUN TO OPEN UP MY MIND TO INCLUDE OTHER RHYTHMIC ELEMENTS INTO THE MIX.

THANK YOU!!!

**PRISS-ILLA (INSERT PHOTOGRAPHY)
RE-SISTER (LYRICAL COLLABORATION)
GORILLA Z (LETTING ME BORROW YOUR TOYS)
JANE GORMAN – FOR BRINGING MUSIC INTO MY LIFE
KFI 640 AM
KOLA 99.9 FM
KSPC 88.7 FM
MIKE DAVIS
CAROLE KAYE
AL SCHMITT
MIKE BAIARDI
IAN MACKAYE
AMY FARINA
JOHN GEEK
MICHAEL T. FOURNIER
HILLARY BINDER
CHRIS RANKIN
KEN KEARNEY
ANNE LEE
PAM KRAY
CAROL GRONNER
JOE HELMSLEY
BRYAN ERHARDT
DISCIPLES OF KEN
GREG NELSON
SARA TIPS
SARA'S DAUGHTER
HOLLY SENN
AMY RYKEN
SEAN GRIFFEON**



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"INSTEAD OF CITIES OF LIGHT SOARING TOWARD HEAVEN, MUCH OF THE 21ST-CENTURY URBAN WORLD SQUATS IN SQUALOR, SURROUNDED BY POLLUTION, EXCREMENT, AND DECAY."

-MIKE DAVIS

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SUBURBAN UTOPIA PROJECT: #13