

Why is art like an alligator?

Survey Results

If you are one of the 124 people who filled out this survey, *thank you*. We were delighted by your enthusiastic responses. Your answers were much funnier than expected. Who knew there could be so many ways to answer a simple question like, "How many stop signs can you find in this picture?" Nobody got it right, but it turns out some things are *better* than right.

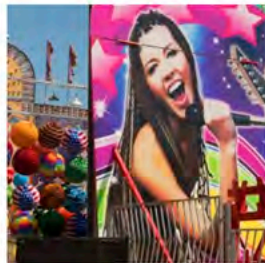
Here we present you with all the responses. Overall, we find cautious pessimism (potato), creativity motivators (wall), irritation with meaningless complications (artspeak), and an acceptance of our snicker-worthy japes and exhortations.

Voluntarily filling out a survey seems to be an example of free will within limits: fun for some, uncomfortable for others, a possible cause of suspicion, surprise, or a challenge. "WHY," is the final question for just about everything.

Why is art like an alligator? was created by BURNING BOOKS
for Axle Contemporary as part of Currents New Media 2021 Festival

FUTURE • PROFESSIONS • BEAUTY
PROPAGANDA • FEEL • SAY
TIME • WALL • TYPE
THEORISTS • GENDER • ISSUES
GOING • BELIEVE • STOP
USE • DIRT • SUCCESS
FREEDOM • INTENTION • BOLLARDS
IDIOT • GUNS • GOD
PICTURE • WRONG • WHY

Which of these do you see in your future?



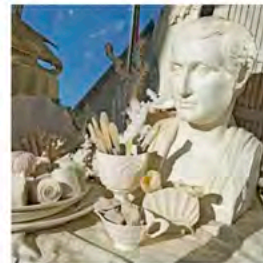
1



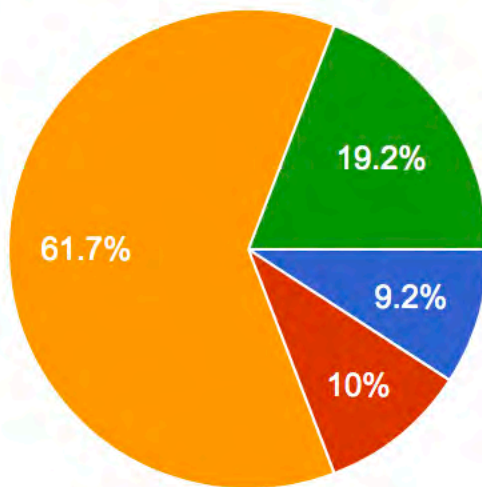
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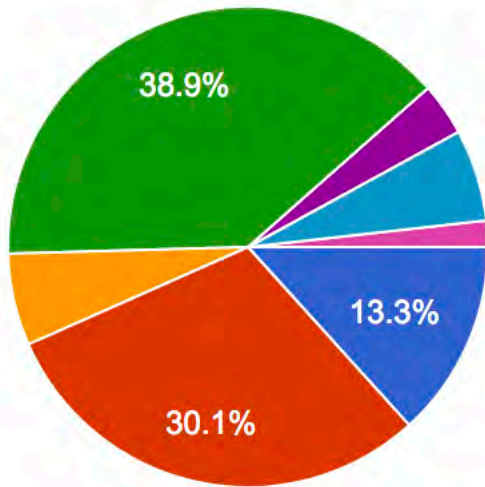


4



Which of these professions has been most lucrative for you?

- Influencer
- Gig Worker
- Podcaster
- Content Creator
- TikToker
- Instagrammer
- YouTuber



What is the nature of your beauty?



● chthonic



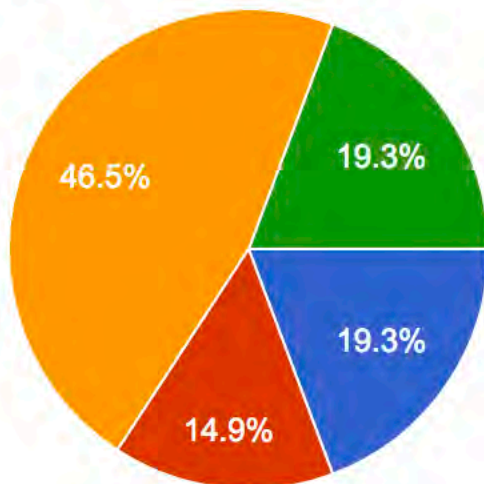
● empyrean



● percipient

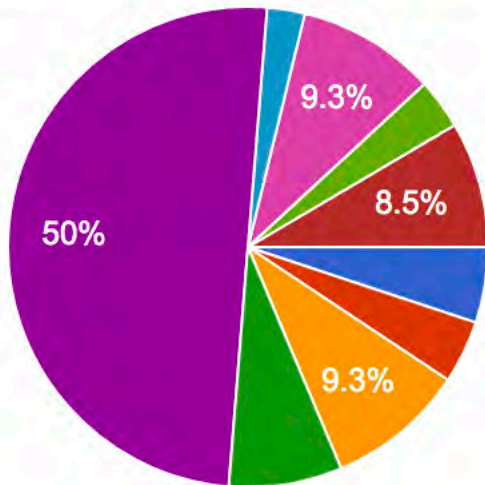


● galvanic



Who said "All art is propaganda."

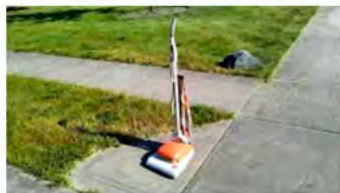
- Ayn Rand
- Lenny Bruce
- Charlie Chaplin
- Pablo Picasso
- George Orwell
- Norman Mailer
- Susan Sontag
- Jean-Paul Sartre
- Lady Gaga



Which photograph most reflects how you feel today?



1



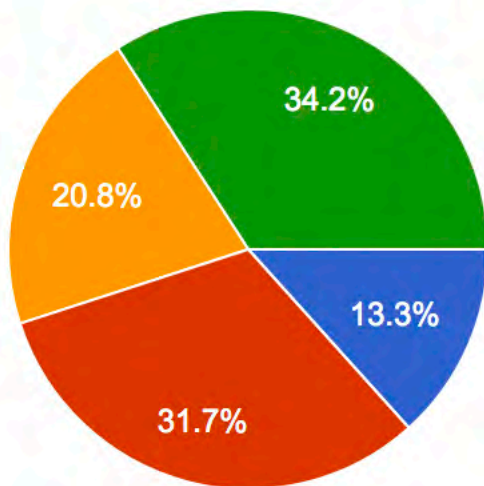
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3



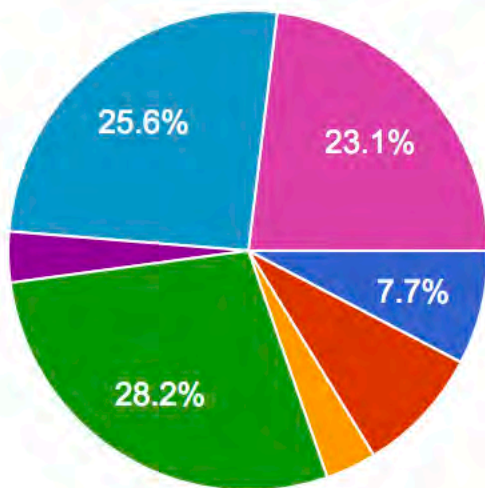
4



What does this say?



- YOLO
- FOMO
- FUD
- OMG
- IRL
- IDK
- Klaatu Barada Nikto



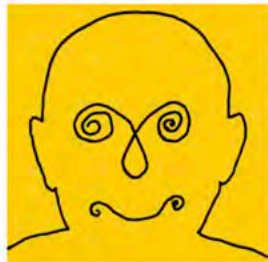
What slows down time for you?

- A pandemic
- a tree
- an economics lecture
- answering questionnaires
- Being focused
- being sick
- Being totally absorbed in an activity
- Being with people I care about
- Birds
- Birdwatching
- Birdwatching
- Bitch slapping Joe Biden
- Bleeding.
- Bleeding.
- Boredom boredom
- breath
- Cake
- CBD
- Chantal Akerman films
- Children
- clocks
- clouds
- coffee
- composing music
- concentration
- Conflict
- DMT
- Doctors waiting rooms.
- Doing nothing
- DOPE
- “Down time,” whenever it happens, goes at its own speed, which cannot be altered.
- Dreaming of 2's day, early Morning
- Dressing well.
- Entropy
- Everything
- Fear of sleep.
- fear, anticipation, and observation
- fire
- Grocery shopping, hotel rooms, ellipsis
- Herschell Gordon Lewis movies
- Holding a handstand for time
- Hope
- Hot weather slows down time in a good languorous way. Exercising in a gym slows down time in a boring way.
- insomnia
- Listening to a breeze.
- looking for answers
- Love
- Love
- love
- Love!
- Lying in a all-grey hospital room waiting to go under
- lying on my back holding my breath at the bottom of an exhale underwater looking up at the light on the surface of the water from underneath
- making aaaaaaaaaarrrrrrttttttt
- More time
- moving fast
- music
- music
- music
- music and sunsets
- My Pix
- Nadi Shuddi
- Nature
- pain
- Pen tool activity
- Perception
- Playing video games
- Portishead on vinyl
- Puzzles
- Reading
- reading
- repetition
- rivers
- sailing
- Sand
- saturation, immersion
- Silly surveys
- sleep
- Sleep
- Sleeping
- Space
- Space
- Spacing out
- Sports
- Sumnerian Surveys — thank you very much!
- Taking road trips
- Tea ceremony
- the eye of the hurricane
- the flow that follows inspiration upon availability
- the flu
- The heat
- The stand from hit anime JoJos Bizarre Adventure the world
- The stand from hit anime JoJos Bizarre Adventure the world
- thinking about the future
- Thinking up answers
- Traffic
- Travel
- travel
- Traveling any distance
- Unintended or unexpected distractions
- Unknowables
- Unplanned events
- Valium
- waiting
- waiting
- Waiting for a meeting.
- Waiting in the car for my wife.
- waiting to get paid
- Walking
- Walking
- Watching clouds
- Watching fish
- watching golf on tv
- Weed
- Weed
- Writing
- Writing
- You

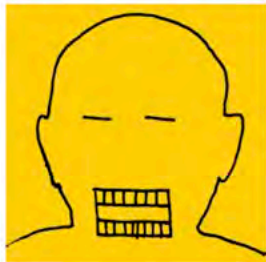
When Chekhov was asked where he finds his material, he said, as a final resort "If you look long enough at anything, say just that wall in front of you—it will come out of that wall." . . . What is your wall?

- a bird
- A blade of grass
- A book, or a song
- a compost pile - sometimes the edges of a parking lot
- a dark green wall
- A difficult person stonewalling.
- A fireplace
- A paper bag.
- A sky
- A wall
- A wall
- A wall
- A wall
- a word and its history
- adobe
- An accumulation of glances.
- Anything
- back of the closet
- Bias
- Birds
- Blank computer screen
- Bob Ashley's writing
- Boredom
- Boredom
- Clean laundry
- coffee
- Consciousness
- Couch
- Dark Side o' the Lids
- Darkness
- Depression
- dirt/garbage
- electricity
- emptiness
- Everywhere
- Existence
- Existence
- Fatigue
- Flaubert
- Found objects
- Frame stucco.
- good books
- Hey certain true
- horizon
- huh?
- hunting and gathering in my collections of unfinished junk
- Hypnagogic and hypnapompic and dream states
- I'll get back to you on this
- Instagram
- iPad
- It's a rabbit hole..
- le monde
- light
- Listening to jazz
- Lying in bed late at night looking out into the darkness
- math
- Mind, Mind's Eye, Dreams, Liminal Space
- MUD PIES
- My anus.
- my dreams
- My empty easel
- My fabric collection
- my memory
- My mind
- natur
- Nature
- Nature
- New Mexico sunsets
- noise
- Nudity
- Oh no!
- pages of books
- Pain
- painting
- Patterns in words and in nonhuman nature.
- Process
- Process
- puns
- Red Dirt
- running water
- sleep
- sleep
- Sleep
- space
- Stillness
- Stucco
- Suffering
- Sun, wind, shadow
- tbh climate change and my rage at earlier generations for not doing better for us
- tending the grounds
- That wall in front of me
- that window next to you
- That's Wall, folks.
- The back of my eyelids.
- The back of my eyelids.
- The boundary between me and you.
- the clock ticking
- the elm tree outside my window
- The ground
- The Internet
- the landscape
- The moon
- The news
- The nighttime sky
- The Pacific Ocean
- the shower
- The sky
- the space between stars
- The window above my writing desk.
- this is a trick question
- Time
- Trees
- um... a wall?
- Walking by the ocean
- water
- Weed
- wherever I happen to be
- window
- wood

What type are you?



● 1



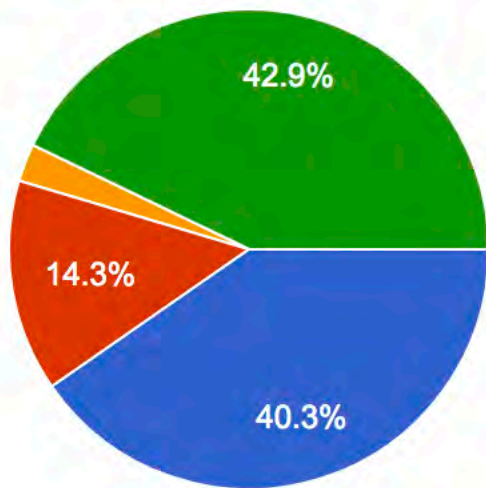
● 2



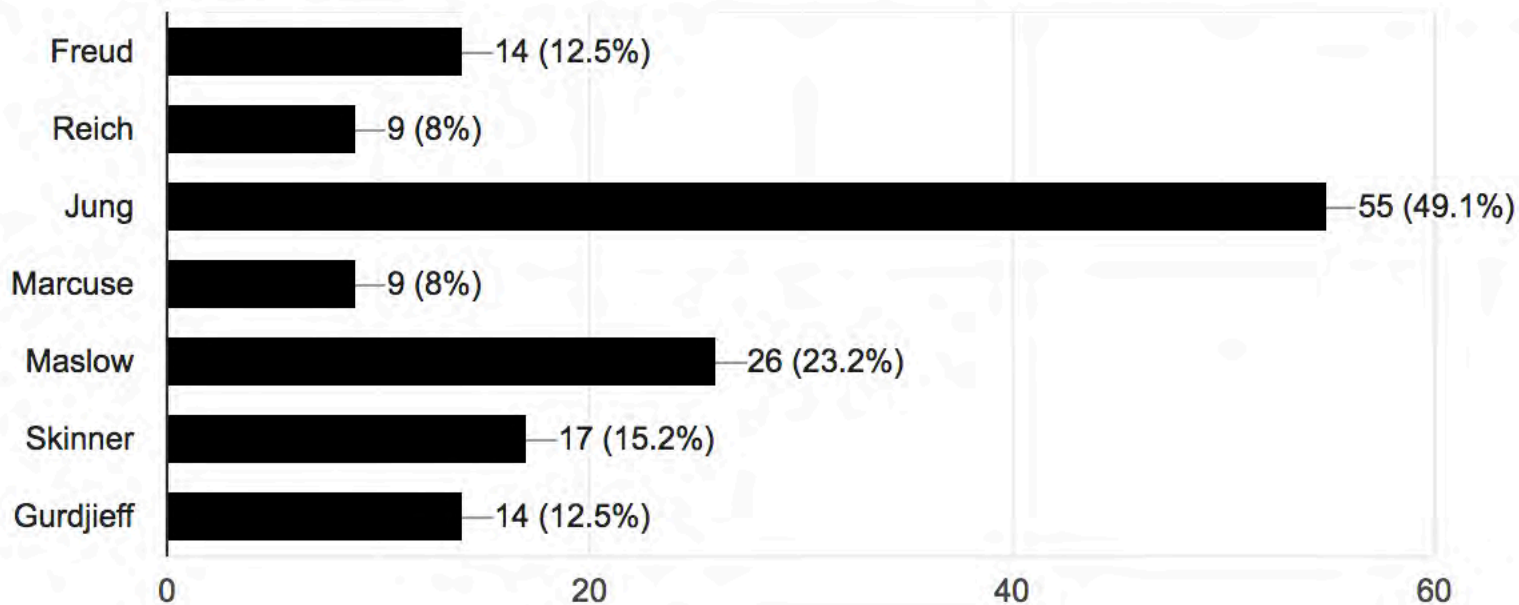
● 3



● 4



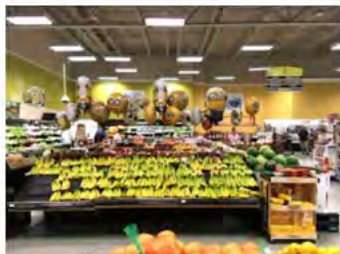
Which of these theorists has influenced your lifestyle choices?



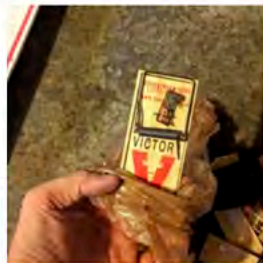
Which image is gender neutral?



● box of screwdrivers



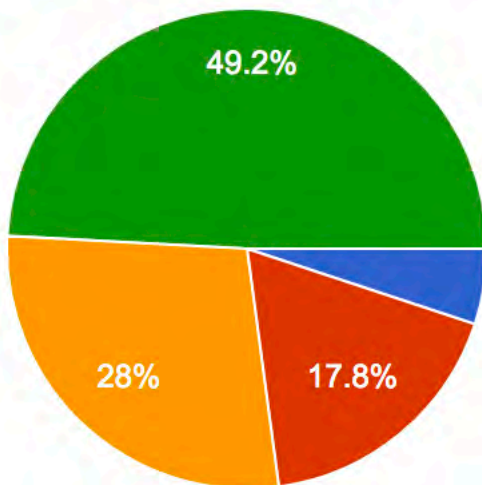
● the produce aisle



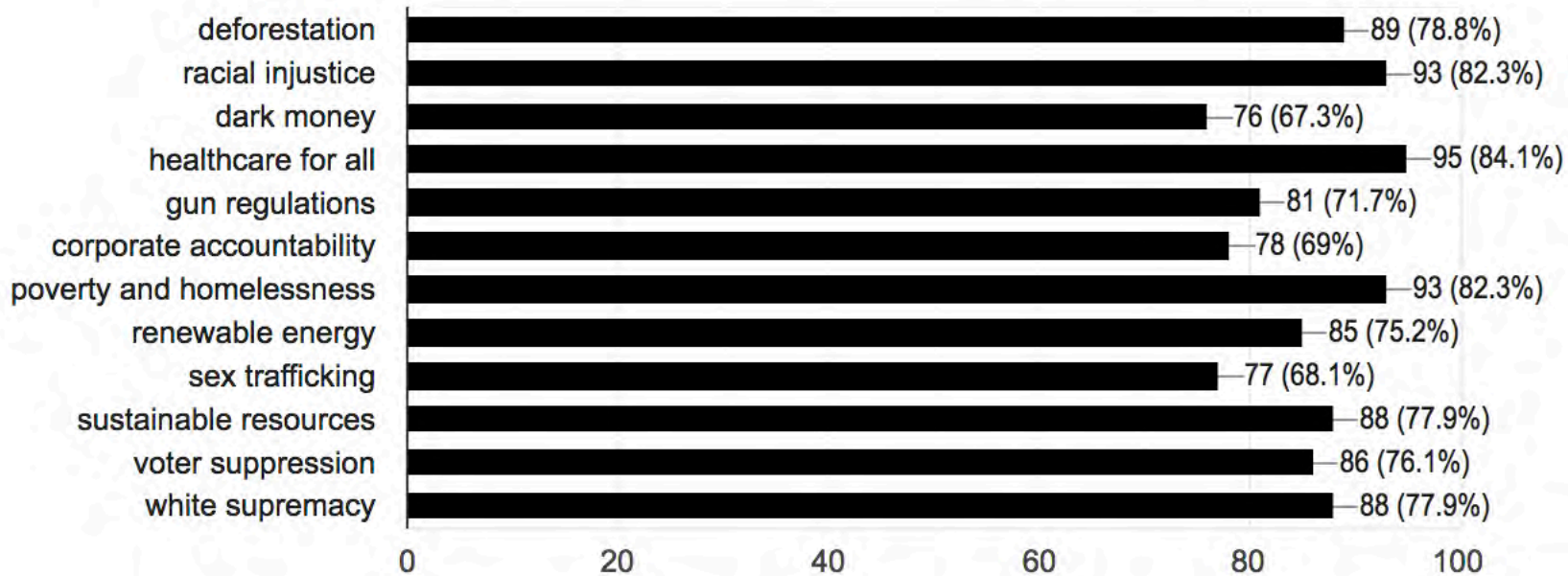
● mouse trap



● two shrouded cars



Please click on all the issues that are of critical importance to you at this time.
This will give the false impression that you are actually doing something.



What keeps you going? (choose 3)

☐ fun ☐ work ☐ love ☐ hate ☐ Other: _____

- [illegible]

What is the strangest thing you actually believe?

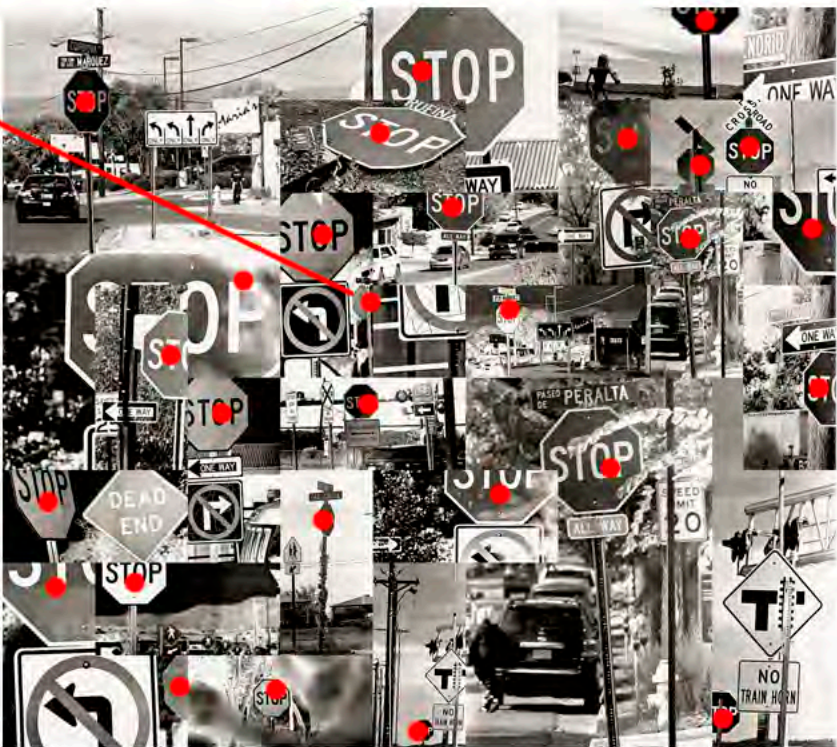
- A variation of simulation theory
- ants are smarter than we are
- art
- astral travel
- belief is just relief spelled with an upsidedown one-legged R
- Birds talk to me
- Birds talk to me
- Creativity
- Creativity
- dick cdick chaney and donald trump have the same father
- Energy
- everything happens for a reason
- fate
- goodness will prevail
- how can humans look into the past and see such naiveté, but then look at the present & future with such arrogance?
- humanity is not entirely irredeemable
- humans are animals
- I am accompanied ethereally by six dragons in highly saturated hues.
- I believe that relativity applies to each and every one of us.
- I can really fly.
- I don't believe anything strange
- I exist
- I exist outside of my physical body
- I have a soul
- I have magical powers
- I have no strange beliefs, only transcendental ones.
- i stop watches
- I talk to dead people
- I'm amongst enemies
- I'm not really that old.
- I'm worthless
- if I knew I would stop believing it
- In energy manifesting between people
- It's all going to be ok
- karma
- lakes are persons
- life has meaning
- Mares.
- Mind over matter.
- Mind over matter.
- my eyes change color
- My father was reincarnated into a seal.
- myself
- Myself
- N.A.
- Not strange, no one is unique. We are all similar
- Not sure.
- one day there will be no violence
- prayer, but only 1 prayer
- Quantum entanglement
- ranked choice voting is a good idea
- Reincarnation
- Robin Williams was just trying to cum
- Santa Claus
- Santa Claus
- Science and God are both real.
- Several politicians
- Shapeshifting
- Someday I will get to live by the ocean in an vital community
- Someone will come to help
- stones have souls
- Tat tvam asi
- That all life is interconnected to the extent that we share a universal subconscious
- That all people are good
- that anything is worthwhile
- That Donald Trump is human.
- That glowing health is dependent on consumption of copious quantities of butter
- that hard work and best intentions pay off
- That I am conscious
- That I matter
- That I will die and be forever dead
- That I'm still here
- that it's worth it
- that my answer will actually make a difference
- That my mustache is like Samson's hair
- that my twin brother and I could communicate telepathically as children
- That none of the things I believe are strange
- That people actually don't like me
- That the universe was designed with me in mind
- That there are ghosts, and that they are good.
- That there is a library in the time space continuum that contains the thoughts and experiences of every sentient being. Akashic Records!!!
- That there is an unseen entity that creates each being
- That there is hope
- That there is no such thing as Randomness
- That twiddling my thumbs helps me remain calm
- That we are all connected
- that we can all live peacefully together
- that we can talk with the dead
- That we've ALL been here before
- the earth is round
- The first and last words of a book tells story. Same as the sentence first and last. Why? Because that in stone those words and Waze people see the whole middle differently than each other.
- The hereafter is a comfort but I don't believe it.
- The imagination is a network of galatic portals
- the infinite parallel universe thing
- The most important things are all invisible
- The truth.
- The value of narrative construction
- theocratic anarchism
- There are things in the same place as us we don't see or know about and they probably didn't have a clue about us either.
- There is beauty in everything.
- there is spiritual connection between people before and after death
- There will be a future that is not dystopian
- This survey
- ur mum
- WALKING BAREFOOT IN GRASS FOR ELECTRIC BALANCE
- We are between worlds
- We are so tiny, in the scope of the universe, that our minds can't even comprehend how small we are.
- We can get through this.
- We live in our own simulations
- we're not alone in the universe
- Well that depends on who you ask!
- Woop.

How many stop signs can you find in this picture?

28

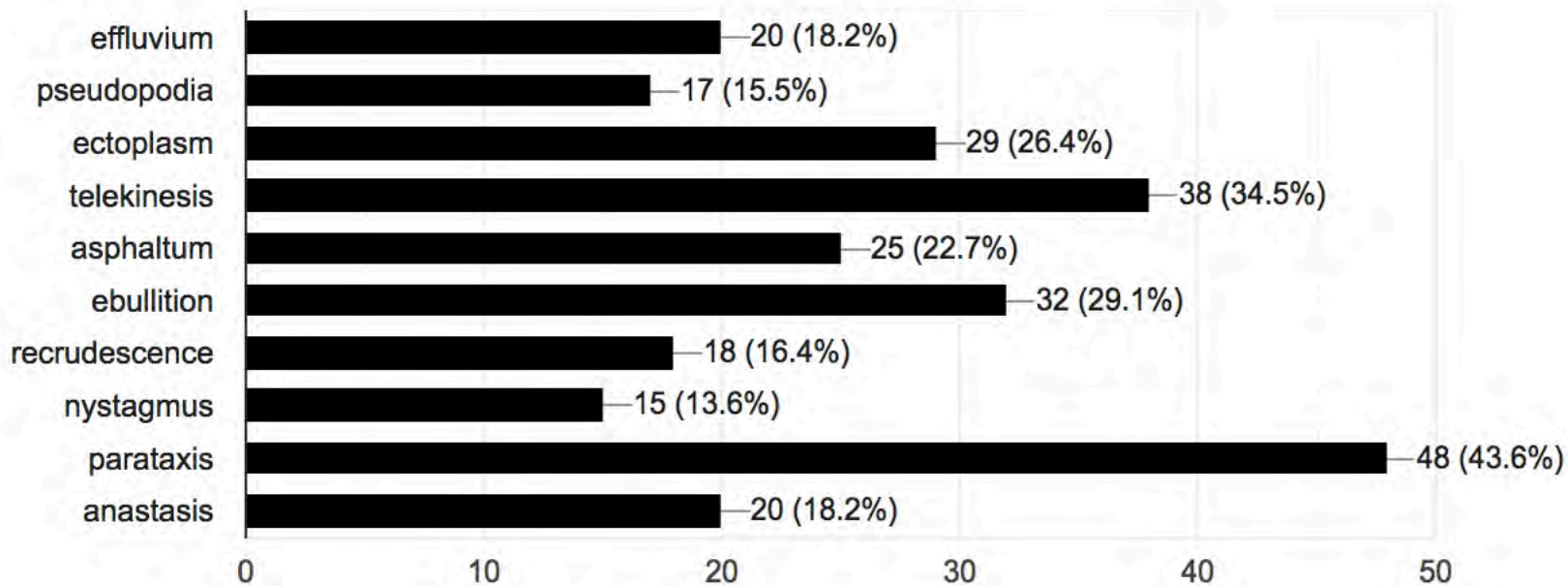
- <%>
- one
- One
- One
- 1
- 3
- no <3
- 4
- Eleventeen
- eleventy twoty forty
- 12
- 12
- 15
- 15 or so
- 16
- 17
- 18
- 18
- 18
- 18
- 19
- 19.5
- 20
- 20
- 21
- 21
- 21
- 21
- 22
- 22
- 22
- 22
- 22 and 4 halves.
- 23
- 23
- 23
- 23
- 23 (And I am not a robot!)
- 24
- 24
- 24
- 25
- 25
- 25
- 25
- 25
- LOL :-)
- 25 but that was one pass of counting so I'd guess there are a few more than that. I'm mostly enjoying the effect of all of them collaged together!
- 26
- 26
- 26
- 26
- 26
- 26
- 26 maybe - I don't like counting things
- 27
- 27
- 27
- at least 27
- 27ish
- 29
- 29
- 30
- Thirty
- 31 + the infinitude of stop signs in our own minds, maaaaan
- 31 I am not a robot.
- 36

the tricky one



- 37
- 37
- 42
- 45
- 100
- 333
- 3000
- 69420
- 69420
- 8,753
- a lot
- A lot
- A lot
- a lot
- a whole bunch.
- All of them
- all of them
- almost all of them
- are there any?
- brain hurt... <exiting visual cortex> <reboot soft>
- Enough.
- enuf
- fuck off
- I hate these things; they favor visual acuity.
- I only see pots
- Infinity +1
- Lots
- Lots
- lots
- lots of them
- Many
- many
- many
- More than enough
- more than I am willing to count
- More than I want to count
- More than needed
- multiplicity
- None
- Not interested in knowing
- Several
- Signs of what?
- so many
- some among others
- There is only one stop sign
- There's no way I'm going to complete this task - I'm not your monkey
- too many
- Too many
- Too many to try and count.
- Too many to waste time counting them
- Too many.
- who cares?
- why is a mouse when its spinning

Which of these do you use?



Which of these dirt piles has the most dirt?



● 1



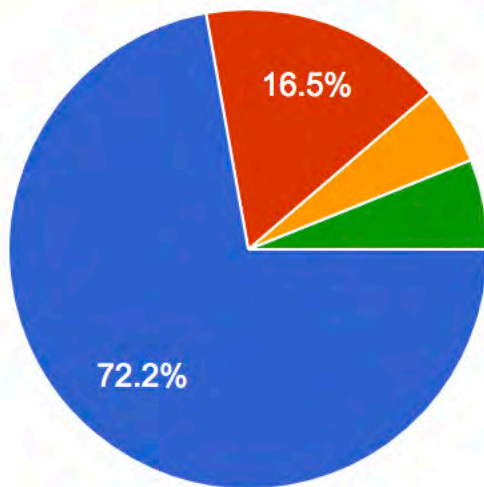
● 2



● 3

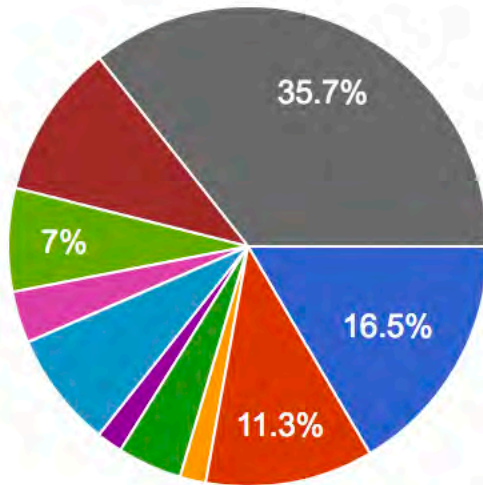


● 4



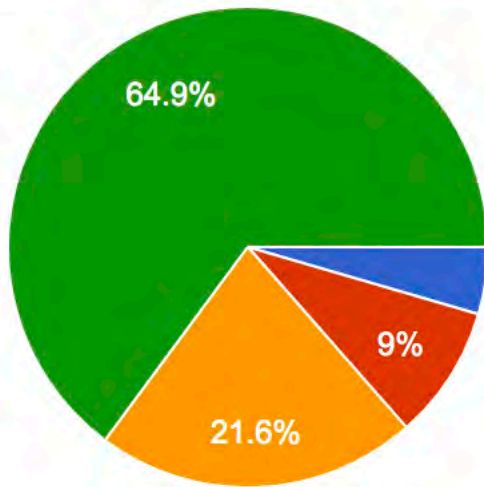
To what do you attribute your success?

- The conceptual rigor of my ideas.
- Pulling really hard on my bootstraps.
- The names of the schools I attended.
- Having beautiful hair and a great smile.
- Networking, networking, networking.
- The color of my outer surface.
- My Instagram account.
- My astrological chart.
- I am a genius.
- Dumb luck.



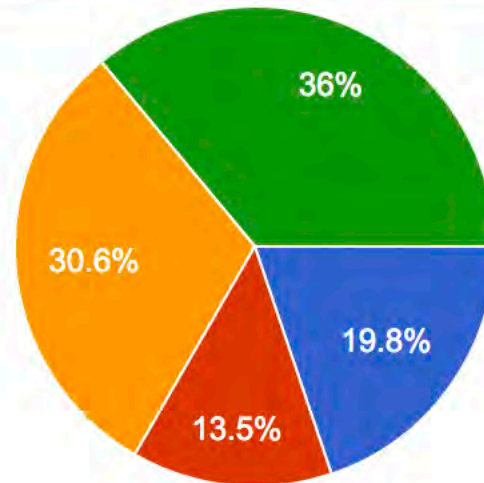
What does "freedom" mean to you?

- no government
- no death
- no shoes
- no nothing

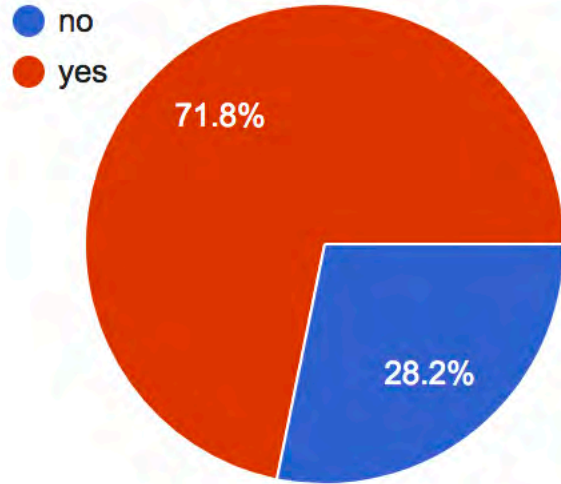


Choose the statement below that you think best describes this artist's intention.

- To explore the intersection of self-similar patterning and the vastness of liminal space to provide both a sense of comfort and a glance at hopelessness.
- To reimagine personal identity by investigating nostalgic memories interpreted through emotions and objects placed in a dangerous yet familiar space.
- To engage the viewer's perceptions by examining the relationships between individual and collective psychology and the politics of spatial control.
- To confront the duplicity concerning informed consent in a place where the tension between movement and structure, freedom and control, loses ground.

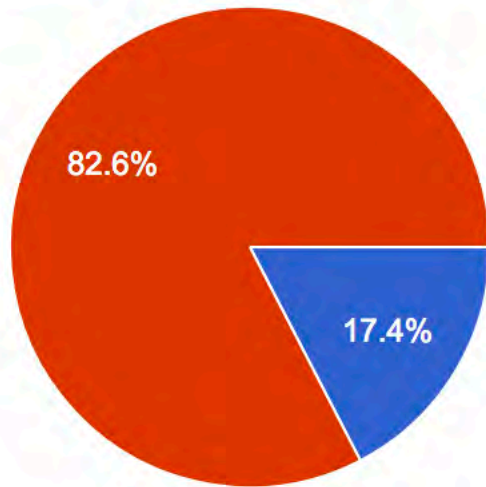


Have you ever paid attention to bollards?



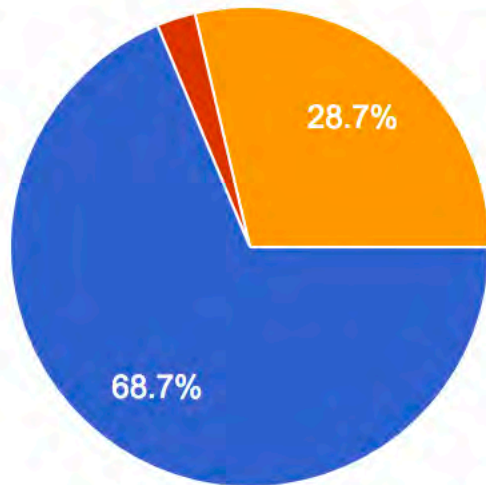
Have you ever voted for an idiot?

- yes
- of course

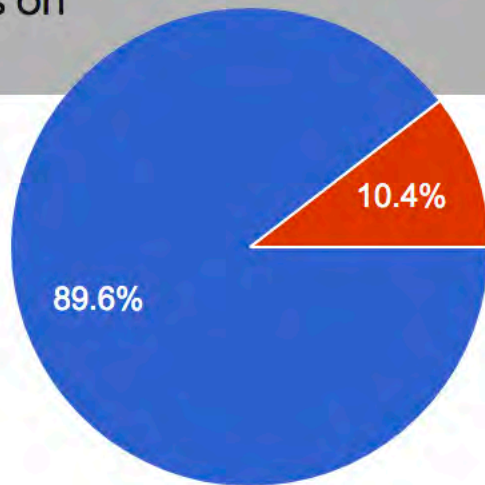


How many guns do you own?

- less than one
- more than ten
- not sure



The phrase "under God" was added to the Pledge of Allegiance by the U.S. Congress on June 14, 1954.



What do you see in this picture?

- A bad breakup
- A beautiful contemplative woman
- A beautiful girl
- A beautiful woman in an interesting neighborhood.
- a city very different from the one in which we ostensibly live
- A femme looking dreamily through a toystore window at the latest edition of Tangrams
- A fire escape
- A friend
- A friend
- A friend
- A fun neighborhood
- a literary figure or trope
- a manatee
- A Melody with paper birds in front of a black and white street scene.
- a moment in time
- A photograph hanging in space
- A poet
- A polar bear and a lady
- a reflection
- A sick album cover
- A street and 5 people.
- A summer day in NYC
- a sweet melody in the chaos
- A swimming pool
- a very old friend
- a window breaking
- A woman wondering why she exists in that moment
- A young Melody?
- an unrepeatable event
- beautiful decay
- black and white
- Brooklyn
- Chaos
- Chaos
- Chaos
- Chaos i h, a and doom
- Cityscape
- cityscape
- Creation
- Crystal meth
- Crystal meth
- Death
- Decay
- Decay
- Decay on the photo
- Feminist art
- Fire escape, window, two people walking, three people looking at the viewer. Melody looking suspiciously.
- Fragmented memories
- fragments of a dream
- gentrification
- Gentrification and 7 year bad luck
- glare
- hope
- Humans
- Life going on
- Lisa Strausfeld
- Marginalized neighborhood
- Melodie
- Melody
- Melody
- Melody
- Melody
- melody
- Melody
- Melody
- Melody in a wind storm..... maybe Amsterdam?



- Melody in an urban landscape with other people on the street. A reflection it appears.
- melody in San Francisco early 1980s, 2 pedestrians, 2 loiterers on a stoop, graphic distortion
- Melody in street seen through dirty window
- Melody!
- Michaelism
- my friend
- my grandma's missing ring
- my old apartment building
- My sister-in-law, Melody.
- Mythical City Scene
- Neighborhood
- Not sure
- NYC
- Observers and pedestrians
- Passengers.
- people
- people
- People just living
- people, windows, a very wide sidewalk.
- reflection
- reminds me of the maybe Simone Forti piece where she left the audience and walked across the street while a recording played of what she was gonna do
- seeing
- shattering
- Snow, leaves, tarps
- Soho
- Soho
- Someone I know when she was very young.
- spaceship
- Street art
- Sumner Carnahan
- Sunlight on urban buildings
- the associative matrix glitchin
- The familiar and the unknown; despair and chaos; understanding and separation.
- the inevitability of change
- The profusion of alacrity that dominates the zeitgeist
- The reimagining of personal identity by investigating nostalgic memories interpreted through emotions and objects placed in a dangerous yet familiar space.
- things falling too much
- two ducks kissing
- Unchained Melody by the Righteous Brothers
- urban blight with Melody in the foreground
- Urban decay
- wind crying mary
- windows
- windows
- windows
- Women of glitch art
- You
- yung melodee

When did things go wrong?



Why are you completing this questionnaire?

- :(
-
- A good friend cajoled me into it.
- Am I?
- am I?
- avoiding quality time
- Because I can't wait to see what the next question will be
- Because I like Michael and Melody.....
- Because I like the person who sent it to me
- Because I like the stuff you do.
- Because I love and admire Melody and Michael
- Because I love rabbit holes
- Because I love you and it's fun.
- because I love you both very much and I am procrastinating making dinner
- because I love you guys
- Because I love you two
- Because I really like Melody and Michael
- Because I support your endeavors.
- because I want to
- because I was prompted to complete this questionnaire by artists whom admire
- Because it makes more sense than most forms! And it has a plethora of words I had to look up. Learning new words and their meanings is always interesting.
- Because it's their
- Because of Michael and sent it to me. I left out a few things but I'm not perfect I don't have an answer to everything
- Because of my respect for your agency's work in First World countries.
- Because the night belongs to lust
- Because you asked me to.
- Because you wrote it
- benny
- Bored
- bored at work
- boredom
- checking out the local festivals
- Conviviality.
- curiosity
- Curiosity
- Curiosity
- cuz Benny put it in our slack
- Damned if I know
- FOMO
- For enjoyment And someone asked me to
- for fun
- For fun.
- for m y friend
- for shits and giggles
- For you, few fills out mine. It's for: !
- FUD
- fun - and to kill time
- Guilt
- he told me too
- I don't have to?
- I don't know
- I don't know
- I don't know
- I don't know I'm bored.
- I don't know I'm bored.
- I feel coerced to do it because someone I know and like very much sent it to me.
- I have no fucking idea
- I like you both & respect your interventions
- I love Burning Books
- I love my friend michael
- I love you
- I miss you all
- I miss you two!
- I thought this was a loan application. Innit?!
- i want to know what other people said
- I was asked to.
- I was intrigued by the art piece 998. Besides being beautiful & delicate it is also about communication.
- I'm not.
- In order to put one grain of sand on the scale in favor of inclusive fun. Art is Keen!
- inertia
- Insomnia
- It is like eating sunflower seeds, I can't stop.
- It makes me laugh
- it's a good distraction
- It's more fun than doing the dishes
- It's the best thing on the internet
- Its fun
- It's quirky and fun, and my lovely friend Elisa suggested it
- It's so much better than many other things to do in this moment. I love my M&Ms.
- I'm bored
- I'm completing this questionnaire because it made me curious
- I'm high and postponing bedtime
- I'm very whitty. You should have my opinions.
- Joy.
- Joyful tangent on a Monday
- Love
- Love
- Love
- Love.
- Love.
- Love.
- Michael asked me to.
- my daily regimen of exercises in futility
- My painful existence
- My painful existence
- Out of pure love!
- Procrastination.
- QR code told me to
- Revenge bedtime procrastination
- so people will think i am fascinating and with it.
- so that I don't miss the deadline
- test driver
- The BB asked me to
- the obligations of friendship
- The odds of winning the lottery are less than being struck by lighting.
- there is not why, I do
- thought I could be clever but you got there first. Also, procrastination.
- to distract myself from brooding
- To learn about the world and my role in it
- to say hi to you two
- To slow down time, to dwell in beauty, to concretize the ineffable.
- Waiting for my delayed flight to take off
- waiting for my spanikopita to bake
- Why not?
- why not?
- Why not? And I love you guys.
- Will I complete it? It's getting long

Thanks again . . .

for letting us cajole you
into participating in
Why is art like an alligator?
If you have any complaints,
comments, or questions
please let us know at:
info@burningbooks.org



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