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1



KEN APTEKAR

The code to validate Visa purchase, 2021
gouache, 22k goldleaf, in on Arches paper
22 1/2 x 22 1/2 inches
(Inv. No. KA9971)

TEXT: The code to validate Visa purchase at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) of Clorox Disinfectant Wipes 2-pack Fresh Scent for \$6.19 is 66581372 This validation code will expire after ten minutes following receipt

2



KEN APTEKAR

Your UPS tracking #, 2021
gouache, ink, 22 karat gold leaf on paper
22 1/2 x 22 1/2 inches
(57.2 x 57.2 cm)
(Inv. No. KA10385)

[Cellphone text message] John the Evangelist, from an Ethiopian illuminated manuscript from the first half of the 16th century CE. The symbol associated with John is the eagle, also the logo for the US post office.

Text: Hello Kenneth R, Your USPS tracking #9485 8003 0916 3199 8212 01 hasbeen delivered to the mailroom. How was your delivery? [thumbs up icon] Itwas great [thumbs down icon] Not so great

3



KEN APTEKAR

Just so you know, I'm worried, 2023

gouache, ink, 22 karat gold leaf on paper

22 1/2 x 22 1/2 inches

(57.2 x 57.2 cm)

(Inv. No. KA10380)

Text exchange with ChatGPT: KA (Ken Aptekar): Just so you know, I'm worried about the perils of AI. But I want to make an illuminated manuscript about it. So what do you think would be a good angle?

(in Arabic): Artificial Intelligence

GPT: Suggest that the true path lies in using technology as a tool to enhance human abilities, rather than replace them entirely. The manuscript's tone should be both contemplative and cautionary, inviting viewers to ponder the role of AI in their lives while appreciating the intricate beauty of the illuminated manuscript. Remember, this is just a conceptual framework to inspire your illuminated manuscript. Feel free to adjust and embellish the details to align with your artistic vision and the specific message you wish to convey.

(in Arabic): The Real Thing

KA (Ken Aptekar): Yeah, sure.

4



KEN APTEKAR

I want to touch the world, 2021

gouache, ink, 22 karat gold leaf on paper

22 1/2 x 22 1/2 inches

(57.2 x 57.2 cm)

(Inv. No. KA10378)

Cellphone video and text: “I want to touch the world” —George Floyd, 1992, Jack Yates High School, Houston, Texas, and BLM

George Floyd was a star high school football quarterback (#88) in Houston, Texas. After his murder a buddy of his from high school was interviewed. He told the reporter that he asked George back then what he wanted to do when he grew up. The text on the scroll is what he told his buddy, scrolling over a sequence of cellphone video stills of Floyd catching the ball and leaping to the ground over the goal line to make a spectacular touchdown.

5



KEN APTEKAR

RIP Saint Fiacre??, 2023

gouache, ink, 22 karat gold leaf on paper

22 1/2 x 22 1/2 inches

(57.2 x 57.2 cm)

(Inv. No. KA10381)

[FaceBook re-post from artnet. Saint Fiacre died August 18, in the year 670.]

Text: artnet 18 months 23 days

At Frieze a 45-foot Herb Garden is an Unlikely and Highly Effective Visualization of the threat

to Women’s Reproductive Rights—Sarah Cascone, May 19, 2022

<https://news.artnet.com/market/frieze-how-to-perform-abortion-2117877/amp-page>

Like Comment Share

Ken Aptekar is in La Grande Verriere, August 18, 2023

RIP Saint Fiacre?? I don’t think so. Famous for your herb garden cures, you refused to treat women after one called you an evil sorcerer.

Some saint.... #theabortionherbgarden

#triggerplanting #maureenconnor

Like Comment Share

6



KEN APTEKAR

Doctolib, lundi 25 septembre, 14h45, 2023

gouache, ink, 22 karat gold leaf on paper

22 1/2 x 22 1/2 inches

(57.2 x 57.2 cm)

(Inv. No. KA10386)

[Cellphone text message] Doctolib is a French app for doctor appointments.

Based upon Les Très Riches Heures du Duc de Berry, a calendar for prayers

Text: Doctolib, lundi 25 septembre, 14H45

(Monday, September 25, 2:45PM)

Dr Sonia Bebane, chirurgien urologue

(urologist)

Patient, Ken Aptekar

partager avec quelqu'un (share with someone)

Se rendre a la consultation (how to get to the appointment)

Clinique du Mont-Louis (Mont-Louis Clinic)

8 rue de la Folie-Regnault (street address)

75011 Paris

rez-de chaussée (street level)

accès handicapé (handicap accessible)

7



KEN APTEKAR

Your Uber is on the way, 2023

gouache, ink, 22 karat gold leaf on paper

22 1/2 x 22 1/2 inches

(57.2 x 57.2 cm)

(Inv. No. KA10388)

[UBER app message]

Text: UBER PICKUP LOCATION RUBIN

MUSEUM 150 W 17th St

UBER 2m ago

En Route

Your Uber is on the way. Piru (4.9 stars) will arrive in 2 hours 8 minutes.

WHITE ELEPHANT

uberX SUV RUSH

8



KEN APTEKAR

Apple Software may be used, 2022

gouache, ink, 22 karat gold leaf on paper

22 1/2 x 22 1/2 inches

(57.2 x 57.2 cm)

(Inv. No. KA10389)

[Text exchange] Apple Software may be used to reproduce materials so long as such use is limited to reproduction of non-copyrighted materials, materials in which you own the copyright, or materials you are authorized or legally permitted to reproduce. Title and intellectual property rights in and to any content displayed by, stored on or accessed through your Device belong to the respective content owner. Such content may be protected by copyright or other intellectual property laws & treaties, and may be subject to terms of use of the third party providing such content. Subject to the terms and conditions of this License, you may use the Memoji characters included in or created with the Apple Software (“System Characters”) while running the Apple Software and to create your own original content and projects for your personal, noncommercial use. No other use of the System Characters is permitted by this License, including but not limited to the use, reproduction, display, performance, recording, publishing or redistribution of any of the System Characters in a profit, non-profit, public sharing or commercial context.

9



KEN APTEKAR

Happy Birthday Al-Khidr!, 2022

gouache, ink, 22 karat gold leaf on paper

22 1/2 x 22 1/2 inches

(57.2 x 57.2 cm)

(Inv. No. KA10376)

[Facebook birthday post for Al-Khidr, a legendary Islamic figure endowed with immortal life] He's celebrating his 900th-something birthday. The Farsi at the top means "Happy Birthday!" Here Al-Khidr is shown with the prophet Elijah who has led him to the Fountain of Life. Alexander the Great is seen behind him with his guide, unable to find the Fountain. Zamzam water, the source of eternal life in Islamic lore, is believed to be blessed and holy amongst the Muslim community.

Text: HB Al-Khidr! It's your what? Who's counting?? Consider the alternative!! Whaddya expect after 70. Plus Covid-no-Delta, cancer scares, suicides close to home, lunatic shooters, killer fires and floods. DEATH everywhere you look. TOO BAD for Alex-not-so-Great up on the hill. HA! Couldn't find the Fountain of Youth. You get last laugh, Al. Show me the ZAMZAM!

10



KEN APTEKAR

In the Soup (Stanley Miller), 2021

gouache, ink, 22 karat gold leaf on paper

22 1/2 x 22 1/2 inches

(57.2 x 57.2 cm)

(Inv. No. KA10379)

[Facebook re-post] New York Review of Books article about Stanley

Miller, the son of Jewish Latvian immigrants. In 1952 Miller ran an experiment attempting to replicate the conditions on Earth around 4 billion years ago, when life is thought to have begun. His work revolutionized our understanding of the origins of life on our planet. The Hebrew letters, which contain the citation from this NYRB article, spell out the word "chaim," ("life").

11



KEN APTEKAR

Came across a 600-year-old map, 2023
gouache, ink, 22 karat gold leaf on paper
22 1/2 x 22 1/2 inches
(57.2 x 57.2 cm)
(Inv. No. KA10382)

[FaceBook post] Text: Ken Aptekar is at
Crimea, Sea of Azoz, mouth of the
Dnieper River, Ukraine
5m – thewaltersartmuseum – Baltimore, MD

Came across a 600 year-old map in a
museum. Deceptively marvelous outlines of a
now blood-soaked war zone. Some kind of
beautiful.... [sad smiley face]

Like Comment Share

12



KEN APTEKAR

How could I not be awake now? 4:07AM, 2022
gouache, ink, 22 karat gold leaf on paper
22 1/2 x 22 1/2 inches
(57.2 x 57.2 cm)
(Inv. No. KA10377)

[FaceBook post] Text: How could I not be
awake now? Kyle Rittenhouse,
George Floyd, Armaud Arbery, Breonna
Taylor, White Power, Proud Boys, QAnon,
Trump...still, The Big Lie, Fox News, CRT ban,
voting rights, gerrymandering, Supreme
Court, Texas abortion ban, opioids, anti-
vaxers, anti-maskers, Koch Bros, melting
icecaps, Paradise, CA, concealed carry, open
carry, Columbine, Parkland, Newtown, Tree of
Life, Mandalay Bay Hotel, Dylann Roof, Pulse
nightclub, Joe Manchin, Kyrsten Sinema,
income inequality, & because I care about
France, Eric Zemmour



KEN APTEKAR

Lyoesh, why are you not answering?, 2022

gouache, ink, 22 karat gold leaf on paper

22 1/2 x 22 1/2 inches

(57.2 x 57.2 cm)

(Inv. No. KA10383)

Cellphone text exchange between a Russian soldier in Ukraine and his mother, moments before his death

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/russia-soldiermessageskilled-ukraine-b2025194.html>

English translation (Russian text next page):

(Mother:) Lyoesh, why are you not answering for so long, is it still true your unit is at exercises?

(Son:) Mama, I am no longer in the Crimea or at the exercises.

(Mother:) Then where??? Papa is asking if we can send you a parcel.

(Son:) No parcel for me right now, mom. Instead I want to hang myself.

(Mother:) Why would you say a thing like this? What happened?

(Son:) Mom, I am in Ukraine. A real war takes place here. I am scared, we are fucking everyone up, even civilians. Everyone indiscriminately. We were told they would welcome us with open arms, but they throw themselves under our armed vehicles, not letting us pass through. They call us fascists. Mama, I feel awful.

Text in Russian: Леш, ты как почему так долго не отвечаешь, вы точно на учениях?

12:23

Мама, я уже не в Крыму, не на Учениях

14:16 √√

А где??? Папа спрашивает можно ли тебе посылку отправить 14:33

Да какую посылку мам. Я сейчас только вздернутся хочу 14:38 √√

Что ты говоришь такое? Что случилось?

14:37

Мам, я на Украине. Тут настоящая война.

Мне страшно, мы херачим по всем подряд, даже по мирным. По всем подряд. Нам сказали что они нас будут приветствовать а они кидаются под нашу технику не дают проехать. Называют нас фашистами. Мама мне очень тяжело. 14:50 √√

**KEN APTEKAR***After you died, Dad*, 2023

gouache, ink, 22 karat gold leaf on paper

22 1/2 x 22 1/2 inches

(57.2 x 57.2 cm)

(Inv. No. KA10387)

Cellphone text exchange between me and my father, Milt Apteckar. (diptych)

Ken: [in three separate text message boxes]
 After you died, Dad, I got the Steinway. Was it 1949 that you and Mom gave it to each other for a wedding present. Can you believe I shipped it from Detroit to Paris. My studio there was the only place big enough. Later when I decided to build a studio in the house in Burgundy I sold the one in Paris. Everything in it including the piano went to Gauthier Moving and Storage while the new studio was getting built. Remember when I used to call you on Skype from Paris, the computer by your desk would pick up automatically. Sometimes I could hear you in the other room practicing Bach Two-Part Inventions, same ones I practiced on that Steinway when I was 12. Was your playing the piano then bringing Mom back to life? I sat silently until you stopped before calling out Dad come on over I'm on the computer.

After a year the studio and a special room for the piano are finished. The day before delivery the movers call to confirm, adding oh yeah, there was some damage to one of the piano's legs. Nothing about months of water leaks in their storage unit. The next day I discover that our piano was totally destroyed.

Milt: [in one text message box]
 How terrible, so upsetting. But you managed without me for 14 years now right? You'll breathe all the life of our Steinway into the new piano I know you'll find. I'll be listening in.

15



KEN APTEKAR

Help! Fly torture!, 2023

gouache, ink 22 karat gold leaf on paper

22 1/2 x 22 1/2 inches

(57.2 x 57.2 cm)

(Inv. No. KA10375)

[FaceBook post] Text: Ken Apteckar is in La Grande Verriere with Nestor 23m Help! Fly torture! Got any great ideas, FB pals? #bêtenoire #swatteam

16



KEN APTEKAR

Says who? Says me., 2023

gouache, ink, 22 karat gold leaf on paper

22 1/2 x 22 1/2 inches

(57.2 x 57.2 cm)

(Inv. No. KA10384)

Telephone text exchange between the four Evangelists, Matthew, Luke, Mark, & John, image based upon the Egmond Gospels, 9th c., Netherlands (diptych)

TEXT: Matteus (Matthew): "Says who?", Lucas (Luke): "Says me.", Marcus (Mark): "Says you?", Johannes (John): "Who's you?"