



## Life on the Move







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Renate Kohl-Wachter  
Curator, *Life on the Move*

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**Foreword**  
**Renate Kohl-Wachter**  
**Curator, Life on the Move**

Dear art lovers all, dear friends and partners,

The Brussels Circle of Diplomatic Artists and Friends (BRUCODA) is very pleased to present its third annual art exhibition. For the 2018 event, **twenty artists** from **thirteen different countries** have come together to show their work.

Consisting mainly of members of the Diplomatic Corps, BRUCODA has changed a lot over the past three years. Diplomats are professional movers. They come and go. Rarely do they stay long enough to put down roots in foreign soil. Sadly, we already had to say goodbye to many fellow artists over the course of these past three years. So it doesn't come as a surprise that we opted, this time, for the subject "Life on the Move".

In physics, motion is a change in position of an object over time. It is described in terms of displacement, distance, velocity, acceleration, time and speed. Motion of a body is shown by providing the observer with a frame of reference and measuring the change in position of the body relative to that frame. An object cannot move unless it is acted upon by a force.

But how can artists express movement and motion in their work? Motion in art is more than just physical. In addition to the changing positions of objects, people, animals, landscapes or nature on the

whole, it also means development over time: it means a change of the observer's perspective, perception and feelings. It plays with our state of mind and can be metaphorical, allegorical and ironic. Or it can be expressed by focussing on the opposite, on immobility and tranquillity.

You'll see that every one of the participating artists has found a special approach to this subject. Some focus on practical needs and present handbags, scarfs or books, useful items for any traveller. Others use cardboard material from moving boxes as support for their works in order to demonstrate the vulnerability of objects that can be torn apart by moving.

Some concentrate on the opposite, on immobility, frozen moments, memories that remain. Houses they lived in or landscapes they saw. You will also find talismans, icons created against homesickness and identity crisis, beautifully immobile incarnations of stability.

Others depict the physical aspect of movement. They have found a way to coalesce speed, energy or radiance within a support structure and make a two-dimensional creation look three dimensional. Another way to present the idea of movement is to leave traces of the work process visible, showing how energy was invested.

Even more complex is the presentation of moving objects that represent general ideas, allegories, metaphors. The movement you see is linked to an invisible movement in your mind. A shift of perspective can also turn a very common object into something astounding. While walking around it, the spectator is moved.

Marcel Duchamp once said: "Ce sont les regardeurs qui font les tableaux." Therefore, not all art is quite useless, but all quiet art is useless. Art needs to be presented and to be seen. We all hope you enjoy these particular presentations.



## **RITA ANSONĒ (Latvia)**

Art has always been a matter I enjoy performing, viewing, discussing. It attracts me in several manners. I am interested in greatest art mean expressions where photography is the spine of my personal and emotional interpretation. Likewise I enjoy creating handmade crafts, such as: jewelry, decors and post cards.

Visual details play an important role in my perception of everyday life. I enjoy exploring how precise atmospheres and ambiances of the moment can be captured. Some of my photographs depict a world that floats between reality and fantasy, between believable spaces and sites of make believe.

Rather than transforming the pictures, I emphasize tonality and illumination for enhanced perception of the scene. Visually I am influenced by curiosity and a sense of mystery, helping me to express my personal sensations in the image.

At this exposition, I am presenting works from my latest cooperative art project called "Radiance".





***Radiance* | 2018 | installation pigment print on canvas | 60 cm  
x 45 cm**



### **JOANNA BASZTURA (Poland)**

My name is Joanna Basztura and I live in Brussels. When I was a young girl I liked sewing dresses by hand for little dolls, very little ones, only 8 cm long. I enjoyed it a lot, but then came school and studies, and I forgot about it, though I was always begging my family to let me use the sewing machine of my grandmother. It was the time of communism in Poland and you could not buy such things as sewing machines easily. They were either unavailable or very expensive. My grandmother's machine was not working properly so my parents did not allow me to use it. They said I might break it further. I was thinking of enrolling for a sewing course but there was always something else to do. Only recently, after I had relocated to Brussels and was a bit frustrated with the range of colors and shapes available in shops, I thought, again, that it would be nice to learn how to sew. I enrolled in a sewing school here three years ago and did some other courses, one in Milan at NABA Academy and also in London at Saint Martins College and London School of Fashion. I bought my first sewing machine one year later, an overlock machine, and started making simple dresses for myself. Then came the idea of making bags. The first collection was in the shades of brown-beige and single ones in blue, red and black, followed by Christmas bags (black ones with a red Christmas flower and red ones with a black flower). The third collection of bags was a play of red, blue, dark blue and grey: colors inspired by Pierre Soulages and Mark Rothko. The bags are made of quality cotton with the beads and features sewn by hand. I love the color blue!



***Blue-red bag | 2017 | cotton | 35 x 40 cm***



### **POMPILIU CONSTANTINESCU (Romania)**

- BRUCODA Coordinator (since March 2018) -

Pompiliu Constantinescu is a self-taught artist currently based in Brussels. As a manager in multinationals and public administration institutions, he has lived and worked in many different European countries, and in the last five years, in cultural projects' management. He and his wife, both diplomats, have worked in Romania, France, Germany, Austria and Great Britain.

Raised in a family with a passion for arts, his interest in painting developed in childhood. His first group exhibition, in 2002, provided a source of inspiration for new experiences in drawing and painting. His work and art have been enriched by the cultures he has been living in. Pompiliu's portraits, still life and landscapes reveal an intriguing level of mastery of colors, shapes and perspectives. Painting in oil on canvas, he seeks to maintain a high level of abstract expression while rendering the essential. Emerging thoughts about life on the move illustrate the story behind a portrait or the earthly micro universe viewed as fragile equilibrium created by the movement of a butterfly.

Featured in this exhibition is *EYE see you*, a transformational approach of self-reflection seen through the daughter's eyes. They reflect old and new memories, hope and sometimes uncertainty that can be overcome with inner strength and reinforced confidence.



***EYE see you* | 2018 | oil on canvas | 40 x 50 cm**



### **ALEX DAMPNEY (Great Britain)**

Originally from the South coast of England, Alex Dampney has lived in Brussels for over 20 years. After realizing that the political world was not for her, Alex began to explore her much neglected creative side, firstly through editing and graphic design, then by writing poetry and short fantasy stories for children and finally in finding her inner home, painting.

Traveling widely and with family spread throughout Europe, Alex finds the inspiration for her paintings in that place where the imagination meets the forces and beauty of the natural world.

She works almost exclusively in oils, taking great joy in the paint's consistency and vitality of colors. Loving to experiment and experiencing the excitement that comes from a new discovery, Alex applies the paint with knives, brushes, fingers, rags and anything else to hand that can give the desired effect, she also scrapes and sands a lot of it off before applying the next layer!

Over the last few years, Alex has taken part in a number of exhibitions in the Brussels region.



***North Sea* | 2017 | painting, oil on canvas | 120 x 80 cm**



### **MIRJANA DELETIC (Montenegro)**

Mirjana Deletic is a designer and founder of DELETI handbags. A native of Montenegro, and part time resident of Kenya, she is now based in Brussels, Mirjana has had a lifelong passion for design. She has worked in a variety of different art forms before discovering in 2010 her creative calling of designing high-end, exclusive handbags.

In 2011 she founded DELETI handbags, a small-scale luxury handbag line for women and men. The brand began in Montenegro, travelled through the Balkans and Africa and is now based in Brussels. She is inspired by the rich diversity of vibrant patterns, bold design and rich colors of daily life.

Her designs feed on that inspiration as well as draw on her love for geometric shapes. Every bag is made with beauty and function in mind, and each is unique. All are made from the highest quality materials with an exceptional eye for finished detail. Mirjana has participated in many international fashion award-winning events and exhibitions.





***DELETI handbags* | winter 2014 | calf skin | 30 x 40 cm**



**MARÍA TERESA DURÁN - WARNIMONT**  
**(Colombia)**

María Teresa Durán-Warimont is a professional art restorer, specializing in Spanish Colonial Art.

In order to accompany her husband in his diplomatic career, she gave up the exciting activities she had been involved with for 12 years at the National Centre of Restoration in Bogota. Primarily, she has been fascinated by the scientific analysis of various pictorial techniques and practices.

In each of the countries she has resided, she has seized the many opportunities to enrich her experiences and pictorial inspiration.

In the last few years, she has dedicated much of her attention to the study and practice of painting; her work is now essentially a research of techniques that aim at creating a special harmony, while simultaneously exploring different techniques.

She also is active in bookbinding, in particular, the conservation of ancient books. She also creates books with completely modern designs.



***Chromatisme* | 2018 | Fatty Pastel | Natural Earth on Canvas  
Board | Size: 60 x 50 cm**



## **TRISH HAMILTON (Germany)**

Trish Hamilton – Trish Hamilton Photography

'Life on the Move'...For this exhibit I selected images that convey and represent the subject not just literally but also figuratively. I hope to evoke the viewers emotions and memories.

My background: born and raised in Dueren, Germany; abitur, apprenticeship to photographer in Bonn, Germany; married and moved to Central California; back to Bonn, Germany; from there to Frankfurt/M; then Belgrade, Serbia. Washington, DC; Ft. Lauderdale, Florida; Milan, Italy; and now Brussels, Belgium.

A life on the move.

Each place carries its own history. Personal and in the greater sense. It has shaped me; influenced how I look around, and how I create images.

I'm still on the move.

[www.trishhamilton.com](http://www.trishhamilton.com)

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/trishhamiltonphotography/>

<https://www.facebook.com/TrishHamiltonPhotography>

IG @hamiltontrish



***Ferris Wheel* | 2012 | acrylic print | 20 x 30 cm**



### **RENATA VON HOESSELE (Germany)**

Born in Kuwait City, as a German with Indo-German-Estonian roots (her father being a German diplomat, her mother a brahmin from Bengal and her grandmother an Estonian), Renata grew up in Algeria, Egypt, India and Germany.

Having left Algeria at the age of ten, her early poems dealt with longing 'Sehnsucht' and the search for an idealized home. At the same time the Arabian horse, symbol of royalty and strength, settled down in her sketchbooks.

From 2002 onwards, she worked on Fine Art and subsequently on sculpture in Cairo. During her Masters studies of Oriental Art, Classical Archaeology and Indology, she included several stays in India, where she stood under the patronage of the known artist Anjolie Ela Menon. Mrs. Menon's works became a point of reference to her own artistic activity.

Her pictures are inspired by the place where she has created the painting. The bright colors of Rajasthani cloth, a glimpse of snow on joyful slithered-on German Alps as well as a sandy sky over Cairo - all find their place on her canvases. Having exposed in several countries such as Belgium, Egypt, Germany and India, the artist now lives and works in Germany and Belgium.



**Samsara | 2016 | mixed media on canvas | 100 cm x 70 cm**



### **GULISTAN KHAMZAYEVA (Kazakhstan)**

Gulistan Khamzayeva is a spouse of the Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Belgium, EU, NATO and Luxembourg. She accompanied her husband, a career diplomat, on diplomatic postings to the USA, Great Britain, Spain, Italy, Greece, Malta, San Marino and Belgium for the last twenty-four years. Gulistan is an artist, writer, painter and craftswoman. As she often says, she loves what she does, whether it is learning a language, painting, writing, crocheting, patchwork, bijou making, knitting, decoupage or others. Gulistan has published several books in different languages. They are all about her cross-cultural experiences abroad. Her writing is easy to read and engaging. She attended the art workshop in Rome and has organized personal exhibitions and participated in group presentations in Italy and Belgium, solidifying her reputation as a contemporary painter.

Gulistan has a signature style in all her works, where figuration is used in a specific and deliberate way, contrary to the widespread and sometimes pretentious globalization of today's styles. She is fond of nature and realism and always helps the viewer understand her paintings with perception and simplicity. Through painting and crafting, she enriches herself spiritually. Translating emotions into words is difficult, but emotions are indeed transmitted in Gulistan's creations.





***Seagull* | February 2018 | acrylic | 35 X 30 cm**



### **RENATE KOHL - WACHTER (Germany)**

Born in 1958 in Frankfurt/Main. Renate is studying painting at the RHoK Akademie in Brussels since 2012. In 2014, she showed large drawings and arrachages at the International Summer Academy in Salzburg. In 2016, she was 'student in situ' at RHoK Woluwe, in January 2017 'artist in situ' at the Flemish community centre KONTAKT in Woluwe-Saint Pierre.

Renate loves fast paced work, hence she uses mostly acrylics, mixed media and collage/décollage. She often scrapes layers off, leaving traces of the previous working process visible. Identity and disintegration, repetition and variation, perception and deception are topics that appear repeatedly in her work. She also combines painting with 3D elements such as tape, tissue, waste paper or cardboard.

For the BRUCODA exhibition 2018, she presents abstract works on canvas, paper and cardboard that explore space, as movement is spatial interaction, and every change of position challenges your perspective on life. Thus, being on the move is more than just being physically active or changing place. 'Moving' can also mean stirring deeply in a way that evokes a strong emotional response. It influences your identity. You gain and lose. You get hurt or consoled. 'Living on the move' is life changing.

Website: [www.renate-kohl-art.eu](http://www.renate-kohl-art.eu)



*White trace* | 2015 | acrylic on canvas | 60 x 80 cm



## **EVE LUCAS (Great Britain)**

Eve Lucas is a freelance travel and arts journalist ([theuncommontraveller.com/](http://theuncommontraveller.com/)).

Painting provides a way into the many places she has lived in since marrying a diplomat in 1989.

She has been working in watercolors, gouache and pastels for over thirty years and has attended courses at the Smithsonian and worked with a number of private tutors.

Moving is a subjective experience. Going to India involved a long journey from Europe. It felt like a big adventure. But once I was there, I became fascinated by the way the local population moved around in their daily lives: on foot, by cart, on bicycles etc. Motorcycles were the most popular means of transport, often involving at least three people. Watching them put my experience of long distance travel into a homely context and made me feel more at ease than I expected to be.



***Moving 1* | February 2018 | acrylics on paper | 54 x 37 cm**



**ROB P. NOVIKOV (Serbia)**

'The roof of someone's world in my thoughts again, a fulfilled life left no trace on a path. Because you do not choose this road, it chooses you'. I wrote this on the back of a train ticket, while descending the Koya mountain, after visiting some monasteries in that distant land of Japan. For this exhibition I will share with you photos and paintings from that period.

In my books, I put together scattered thoughts, memories and photographs from my journeys across continents.

The journey is far to see what is near.

I lived in Novi Sad, Vancouver, Tokyo... and for the last 6 years I have been in Brussels.

A bud sprouted from a bare branch. Music started from a complete silence.





**A N N E - M A R I E   V O N   P U T T K A M E R**  
**(Germany)**

Anne-Marie v. Puttkamer was born in Hannover, Germany. Education: Rudolf-Steiner school. No art education. Autodidact. Living in Brussels since 1990 after staying in Mumbai for two years. Some private exhibitions.





**Garden | spring 2016 | gouache | 40 cm x 30 cm**



### **PATRICIA RUIZ PEREA (Peru)**

Patricia Ruiz Perea is Peruvian and has lived in many different countries around the world. Her journeys have allowed her to admire art from different perspectives and have enriched her passion for painting. She started her artistic formation in the workshop of Graciela Ronchetti in Washington D.C., and then continued in the studio of Bernarda Lanus. She has worked with oil, acrylic and aquarelle.

Her admiration for the millenary culture of Peru has led Patricia to paint; using color, texture and design to create a style that evokes the rich legacy of the Pre-Incas and Incas. With solid colors, and firm and poetic strokes and designs, her works are inspired by this ancestral heritage.

Currently, she lives in Belgium with her family and pursues her artistic passion in Priscilla Casterman's atelier.



***The Andes through Magritte's eyes* | 2017 | acrylic on  
canvas | 50 x 60 cm**



### **OLGA SAVELIEVA (Russia)**

Olga Savelieva is from St. Petersburg, Russia. She has drawn since childhood, though she does not work as a professional artist.

She travels with her husband, a German diplomat, throughout the world, painting with oil on canvas wherever she is.

She paints classical still life, landscapes and portraits, including icons on wood in the Byzantine style.



***Still Life* | September 2017 | oil on canvas | 70 cm x 50 cm**



**ARIEL SGARBI (France)**

Ariel has recently completed her sixth and final year in painting at the RHoK Academy, School of Arts in Brussels. She studied art in Florence, Italy and has a deep passion for pictorial decoration on porcelain. She has been working as a restorer of paintings and ceramics for museums, antique dealers as well as art collectors.

In her paintings, she enjoys reflecting nature and expressing her feelings. Inspired by the surrounding of Brussels and the surrealism movement, she is also attracted to portraits, nudes and still lifes. Being allergic to oil, she works in acrylics but works to convey the characteristics and sensations of oil.



***Le depart* | 2018 | acrylic on canvas | 80 x 80 cm**



### **CLAUS SIEBENEICHER (Germany)**

Siebeneicher's diverse body of work ranges from traditional photography and non-figurative sculpture to interactive, process-oriented or time-based 'action' art, where the interaction of the audience can facilitate deeper reflections and a shift of perception. His works are often centered around themes of time, verisimilitude, moments and transiency. Sometimes simply expressed through the 'freezing' of moments and elemental beauty by the means of photography bringing complex, often critical examinations of the slavery of time. His interactive works can stimulate thoughts and feelings (in dealing with time) and trigger a rethinking towards an ultimate pleasant and positive overall experience.

Claus Siebeneicher is also founder Photoresk, the internationally growing, knowledge-sharing network which facilitates intercultural communication and understanding via a common interest, photography.





***Farsighted* | 2018 | interactive installation, Fine Art pigment  
print on canvas, steel, brass, gold | ca. 65 cm x 55 cm**



### **HEIKE TIEDE (Germany)**

Heike Tiede lives in the south of Belgium since 1990, the year after the fall of the Berlin Wall. She regularly works on topics like freedom, transcending inner and outer limits, difficult encounters between two worlds, and the search for personal roots.

The (starting) point is the origin of all things. As a computer makes pictures from pixels, our brain connects the points to lines, curves and surfaces. An ink drawing on Pointillism is a voyage of discovery on paper, which explores an unknown country and fills in blank spaces in the inner map.

In her daily train rides on the Brussels-Floreffe line, Heike Tiede portrays fellow commuters. In the background of her portraits she tells stories about inner and external worlds. In this way, the train becomes her mobile studio full of living models, at the same time it is her platform of publicity. The drawings break the routine of the commuters, connect people and are the source of interesting encounters.



***Heaven and Mother Earth* | 2016 | ink on paper Dessin A4  
Cadre | 50 cm x 40 cm**

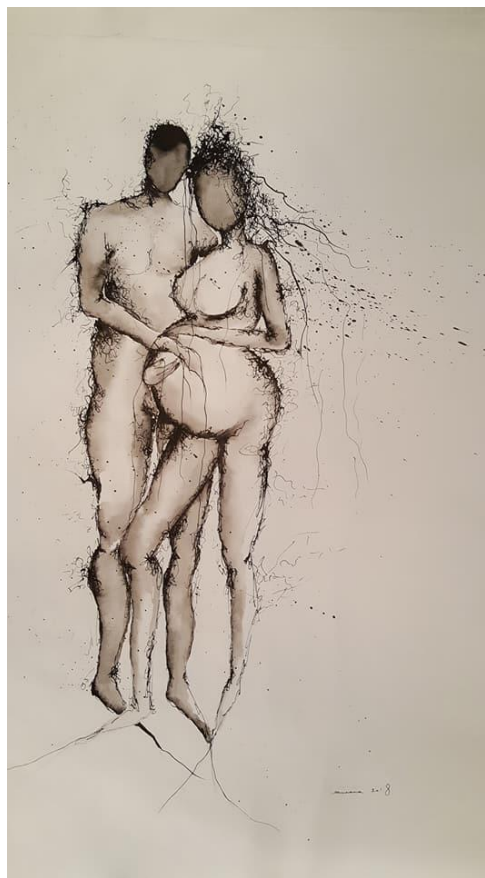


### **SVANHVIT VALGEIRSDÓTTIR (Iceland)**

Svanhvit has been working as a full time artist for the last 17 years. She studied art for 3 years in Iceland and has taken many art courses and long-distance art courses.

She has had both solo and group exhibitions in Iceland, Germany, Japan and Belgium. She got a grant for an art residency in Snæfellsnes, Iceland, in 2015 and 2016, to work and exhibit for a month and she paints with oil and acrylic both figurative and abstract. She also paints with japanese ink, which she started to use when she lived in Japan, Svanhvit is also a renowned make-up artist, especially in the opera and theater world, designing make-up for productions in Iceland such as Oliver Twist, Wizard of Oz, Rigoletto, the Magic flute (opening production at Harpan Concert house in 2011) and Nabucco, Aida and Don Carlos (Latvian national opera) and many more. In 2014 she was nominated for best make-up award in TV and Film in Iceland.

Her philosophy is to continue to let life and culture from various countries inspire her.



***Lava Wedding* / Japanese ink on paper |  
60 cm x 90 cm**

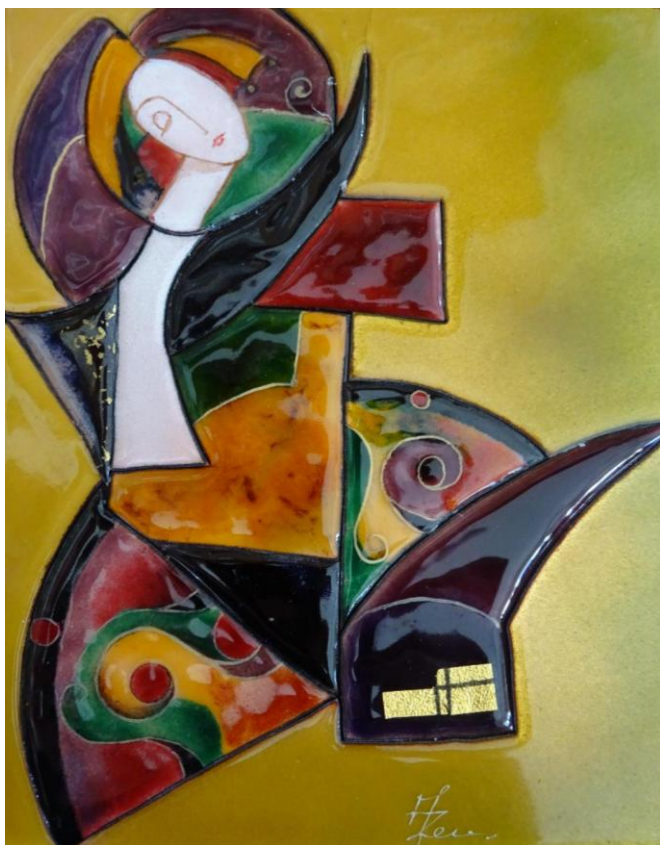


### **MARTINE ZENS (France)**

I discovered the art of enamel a few years ago. I quickly became passionate about this medium and dedicate my free time to it. I attended courses at the School of Arts and Crafts in Brussels and have participated in many seminars in France and Germany.

I am a member of the CKI (Creativ-Kreis-International e.V. of worldwide artists).

Enameling uses precious materials and enables a huge range of expression in various techniques such as champlevé, cloisonné and plique-à-jour.



***Alienore | April 2017 | enamels | 30 x 30 cm***





## Mission statement of the

### **Brussels Circle of Diplomatic Artists**

Elmar Paltzer, the founder and the first coordinator of The Brussels Circle of Diplomatic Artists (in 2016) whose organizational vision we keep unaltered and present below, played an active and key role as community liaison officer. The rotating coordination of BRUCODA, ensured by its diplomatic active members, was relayed to Rob P. Novikov (since fall 2017), and is currently held by Pompiliu Constantinescu (since March 2018).

The Brussels Circle of Diplomatic Artists is a platform and a network for artistically creative members within the Diplomatic Corps in Brussels. It is inclusive in its nature and open for all fields of artistic creativity.

In supporting and encouraging diplomatic artists in Brussels, it connects them with each other as well as with other artists and friends here in Belgium. ALL Diplomats and Friends who are artistically creative and serious about their work are welcome in the Circle.

The Circle's aim is to foster collaboration, cooperation and support amongst its members and promote goodwill between the Diplomatic Community and the people of Belgium.

The Brussels Circle of Diplomatic Artists is envisaged to be more than just an event-organizing group. First ideas speak of an artist's salon, a jour fixe, with exhibitions featuring individual artists, workshops, get together's and much, much more! A lively Circle of Diplomatic Artists and Friends...

To this effect the Circle organizes various activities. The upcoming exhibition/event is therefore not an end in itself. It is a step on the way, aiming to show all the creativity present in the Circle.

Exhibition made possible with the kind  
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