

# SONGS FROM THE SHUTTERED



Fine art project dedicated to songs

Created by: Tomer Jacobson & Maxim Golovanov

# The Mercy Seat



# Mercy Seat

## Nick Cave & The bad seeds

Well, I dreamed I saw the knights in armor coming  
Sayin' something about a queen  
There were peasants singin' and drummers drumming  
And the archer split the tree  
There was a fanfare blowin' to the sun  
That was floating on the breeze

Look at mother nature on the run in the nineteen seventies  
Look at mother nature on the run in the nineteen seventies

I was lyin' in a burned-out basement  
With a full moon in my eyes  
I was hopin' for replacement  
When the sun burst through the sky  
There was a band playin' in my head  
And I felt like getting high  
I was thinkin' about what a friend had said  
I was hopin' it was a lie  
Thinkin' about what a friend had said  
I was hopin' it was a lie

Well, I dreamed I saw the silver spaceships lying  
In the yellow haze of the sun  
There were children crying and colors flying  
All around the chosen ones  
All in a dream, all in a dream  
The loading had begun  
Flyin' mother nature's silver seed  
To a new home in the sun  
Flyin' mother nature's silver seed  
To a new home

Nick Cave draws a comparison between the mercy seat (the Ark of the Covenant) and a modern electric chair, describing the final thoughts, fears, and introspection of a Christ-like figure sentenced to death on the chair.



## Kaporet

The literal meaning of the song's title, "Mercy Seat," in Hebrew is "כַּפּוֹרֶת" (Kaporet), which according to the Bible served as the gold cover of the Ark of the Covenant in the First Temple.

The scriptures detail the precise dimensions of the Kaporet and the presence of two cherubim depicted as entities with the face of a child and wings that covered the Ark of the Covenant.

## Winged Graffiti

The original plan was to photograph a model resembling the iconic figure of Jesus sitting on a chair between two models.

After several failed attempts to construct a composition that successfully combines the three figures, we found in **Lifta** (near Jerusalem), a location resembling a skull where the famous street artist ID (Julia Stengl) skillfully painted winged creatures on two walls on either side of the ancient building:



Painted by Julia Shtengel AKA Imaginaty Duck

## My Fire

The image "My Fire" combines Hebrew text with a flame and is a modern symbol visually representing the words of Rabbi Nachman of Breslov who said, "My fire will burn until the coming of the Messiah,"

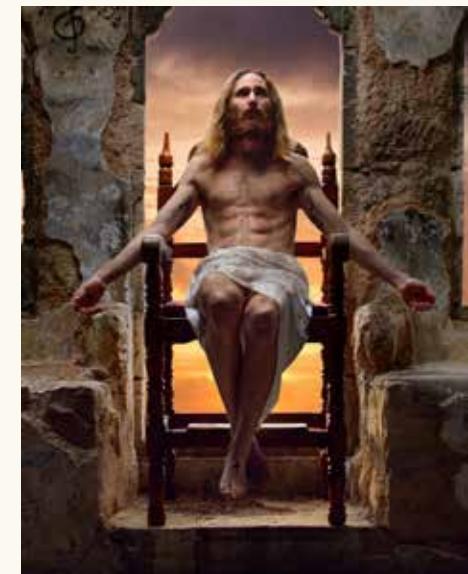
commonly interpreted to mean that the Jewish people must keep the ember of their faith burning until redemption.



## Elijah's Chair

Elijah's chair is a special chair used by Jews in the traditional circumcision ceremony. According to belief, Elijah the Prophet is present at all these ceremonies, and the chair

is essentially there for him. Its appearance is very reminiscent of a modern electric chair, and its dimensions were perfect for their place in the composition.



# Her Lies



# Her Lies

## Asaf Avidan & the Mojos

She said "baby, get down on your knees"

I said "babe if you insist"

She said "why do you keep seeing things you know that don't exist?"

I said "baby, I love you, now what can I do,"

I'll probably love you till the day I die"

She said "oh pretty honey, if that's true than give me both them,  
pretty eyes"

I said "baby, you can have them – you can have my eyes"

See I was thinking if she took them I won't see her lies

But my baby I can taste her lies  
But my baby I can taste her lies

She said "baby, get into this sack"

I said "baby, I don't know what's there"

She said "all I want to do with you

Is I wanna take you with me everywhere"

I said "okay, baby take me everywhere,

Take me through the day, through the night"

She said "oh pretty honey, don't you kid with me,

I probably don't got that kind of time".

Still I said "baby, you can take me" and I got right in

See, I was thinking if she took me, I could taste her skin

But my baby, all I taste is her lies.

Oh my baby, all I taste is her lies,

Oh my honey, all I taste is her lies.

I said "baby, you can have them – you can have my eyes"

See I was thinking if she took them I won't see her lies

But my baby I can taste her lies.

Oh my baby,

Oh my honey,

Oh my baby

Oh my baby,

I can taste...

Her lies.

Asaf Avidan's 2008 song depicts a toxic relationship based on sickly love, lies, and control.

These relationships are typically characterized by a destructive cycle that begins with a phase of idealization, where one partner feels loved and perfect, akin to a statue on a pedestal.

Followed is an inevitable process of gradual devaluation to complete trampling of the initial ideal leading to an unavoidable and painful separation.

## Medusa



Arnold Böcklin, Medusa, c. 1878

Medusa is a monstrous figure from Greek mythology.

According to the story, Medusa was a victim of rape by the sea god Poseidon in the temple of Athena, the goddess of wisdom.

Athena chose to punish the victim by cursing her, transforming her from a beautiful woman into a monster with snakes for hair, and as if that wasn't enough, Athena's curse also caused any man who looked at Medusa to immediately turn into a stone statue.

## The Sword

Medusa's fate was sealed when King Polydectes commanded Perseus to bring him Medusa's head. Athena and Hermes, the messenger of the gods, came to Perseus' aid, providing him with winged sandals, a sickle, and a shield with a mirror on its inside. By looking at Medusa's reflection in his shield, Perseus was able to approach her safely and decapitate her with a sword.

In our version, the sword and power lie in Medusa's own hands, and she uses it to shatter the statues created by her fateful encounter with them.



## The Snake

The story of the Garden of Eden established the serpent's image as evil, venomous, slippery, and cunning.

Following this, Jewish law and tradition express a strong aversion to snakes.

They symbolize the lies and deceit that are the foundation of toxic relationships.

# WEAK



Asaf Avidan's song depicts the thoughts of a man who has been trying for a long time to part ways with his partner. The still-existing love and mutual dependency lead to an endless cycle of separations and reunions.

The decision for a final disconnection is difficult and confusing, and the narrator likens himself to a tree whose roots are planted in the relationship with his current partner, but the blossoming of leaves and renewal can only happen apart from her.

## Apollo and Daphne



Gian Bernini, Apollo and Daphne, 1622-1625

The reference to the image is taken from the work "**Metamorphoses**" by the Roman poet Ovid. According to the mythological story, the god **Apollo**, struck by Cupid's arrow of love, passionately pursues the nymph **Daphne** who flees from him into the forest.

## Weak Asaf Avidan & the Mojos

Speak, baby speak  
Tell me I'm weak

Tell me these promises are not mine to keep  
Tell me I'm ugly

But tell me you love me

Tell me you cannot go through this world without me

Oh I'm, I'm just a tree  
My roots  
Are with her  
But my leaves are with thee.

Heal, baby heal  
Take all the time you will

I never thought I'd say this but I'm letting go of the bill  
I don't wanna see

Your face here no more

Still that doesn't mean that I'm shutting the door

Oh I'm, I'm just a tree  
My leaves are with her  
But my roots are buried with thee

Speak, baby speak  
Tell me I'm weak

Tell me these promises are not mine to keep  
Tell me I'm ugly

But tell me you love me

Tell me you cannot go through this world without me

Oh I'm, I'm just a tree  
My roots  
Are with her  
But my leaves are with thee.

I know these words are tearing you apart  
Still I told you, right from the start  
This is how our little song  
Is gonna play out.

Songwriters: Ran Nir / Ori Winokur / Yoni Sheleg / Roi Peled / Hadas Kleinman / Asaf Avidan

After Daphne, who was not interested in Apollo, called out in despair for help, her father, Peneus, turned her into a laurel plant, thus even Apollo could not reach her.

## Mmetamorphoses



This dramatic scene has been painted and sculpted hundreds of times throughout art history, and one of the most striking and inspiring examples is the sculpture by **Gian Lorenzo Bernini** who sculpted the occurrence out of marble in 1624.

In our image, we have switched the roles of the original story, and for perhaps for the first time, Daphne is chasing Apollo, who in response becomes a motionless, emotionless tree.

# Fake Empire



The National's 2008 song describes the reality of a couple experiencing life amidst ongoing conflict and denial. On the surface, they live in a seemingly euphoric, secure, and abundantly wealthy empire, yet the reality guided by human nature is different, fragile, and dystopian.

Faced with this glaring disparity, they escape into a routine of distractions (apple picking, alcohol, cheerful ice skating, and bluebirds) instead of acknowledging and then attempting to confront the difficulties or looking at things as they are.

The recurring motif in the chorus of the song is that the protagonists are half asleep in a fake kingdom.

## Lost Paradise

When thinking of an image that describes a seemingly utopian place offering abundance, endless luxuries, and security, the story of the Garden of Eden from the bible seems like a natural choice. The original sin of Adam and Eve, that moment when the couple realizes that something is rotten in the kingdom, that the empire is fake, fragile, temporary, and will never again be within reach, is a pivotal moment.



Basket of Fruit (c.1599) Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio

# Fake Empire

The Nationals

Songwriter: David Dessner / Matthew Donald Berninger

Stay out super late tonight  
Picking apples, making pies  
Put a little something in our lemonade  
And take it with us

We're half awake in a fake empire  
We're half awake in a fake empire

Tiptoe through our shiny city  
With our diamond slippers on  
Do our gay ballet on ice  
Bluebirds on our shoulders

We're half awake in a fake empire  
We're half awake in a fake empire

Turn the light out, say goodnight  
No thinking for a little while  
Let's not try to figure out everything at once  
It's hard to keep track of you falling through the sky

We're half awake in a fake empire

## Blue Bird

The bluebird symbolizes hope, joy, and freedom in various cultures.

The color blue is generally associated with peace and positive thoughts, while the bird is connected to freedom and positive aspirations.



## Reflection & Perspective

There are cases where reflections are pleasing to the eye, contributing to harmony and enhancing the viewing experience, and sometimes they reflect distortions, chaos, and ugliness bubbling beneath the surface.

# Society



Jerry Hannan's song, performed by Eddie Vedder, is a famous part of the soundtrack for the 2007 film "Into the Wild" directed by Sean Penn. The film, like the song itself, expresses criticism and a pointed protest against modern Western capitalist society.

The lyrics, which could be interpreted as a farewell or a suicide letter, oppose the conventions of the society we live in, the economic system we were born into, the forces that act upon and influence us throughout our lives, and the fact that we will never know real satisfaction.



Nicolas Poussin, Adoration of the Golden Calf (1603)

This, essentially, is the basic principle on which everything is built: to exist and thrive, modern Western society and the economic system driving it must create or maintain a perpetual hunger and preserve a chronic sense of "lack" among its citizens, whether it's for faster, higher, and of course, stronger and strangest things.

According to the song, greed, one of the seven deadly sins in history, ensures the preservation of this hunger across generations. People who cannot, do not succeed, or simply do not want to participate in this cruel race are thrown aside or left to wither alone somewhere in the wilderness

## The Raging bull

The Golden Calf is one of the biblical stories where the moral is that impatience, greed, and the need to obey authority and worship insignificant idols and symbols are part of human nature and it's a shame and a disappointment time and time again.

# Society

Eddie Vedder

**Songwriter: Jerry Hannan**

Oh, it's a mystery to me

We have a greed, with which we have agreed  
And you think you have to want more than you need  
Until you have it all you won't be free

Society, you're a crazy breed  
I hope you're not lonely without me

When you want more than you have  
You think you need  
And when you think more than you want  
Your thoughts begin to bleed  
I think I need to find a bigger place  
'Cause when you have more than you think  
You need more space

Society, you're a crazy breed  
I hope you're not lonely without me  
Society, crazy indeed  
I hope you're not lonely without me

There's those thinking, more or less, less is more  
But if less is more, how you keeping score?  
Means for every point you make, your level drops  
Kinda like you're starting from the top  
You can't do that

Society, you're a crazy breed  
I hope you're not lonely without me  
Society, crazy indeed  
I hope you're not lonely without me

Society, have mercy on me  
I hope you're not angry if I disagree  
Society, crazy indeed  
I hope you're not lonely  
Without me

The modern embodiment of the Golden Calf is sculpted in Wall Street, the pure capital of capitalism, with its famous bull at the center, which has become a synonymous symbol of our oppressive economic system.



## Root of all evil



Guernica is one of Pablo Picasso's most famous artworks. It was painted in 1937 in response to the bombing of the Basque town of Guernica on April 26, 1937, during the Spanish Civil War by the Nazis.

The bombing, which killed about 1,600 people and injured thousands more, struck Picasso with shockwaves that reached him in Madrid, where he read about the tragedy in the daily newspaper. Motivated and filled with rage over such unnecessary killing, he created about 60 preliminary sketches before he rolled up his sleeves and set out to paint one of the most influential paintings in the history of art.

Picasso's immense painting unfolds in a claustrophobic room where all the figures, animals and symbols he used either rise or trample over each other. If you're quiet enough, you can almost hear the screams emanating from the seven meters of canvas in Madrid.

Illuminating all this hell is a single exposed **electric bulb**.

The prevalent interpretation in the art world is that Picasso saw modernity, the Industrial Revolution, and "progress" as the main cause for the banality of evil as reflected in the horrific acts of humans during World War II. The lamp also appears as one of the bombs dropped on the innocent city, adding to the horror.

In our image, we place the bull statue, which according to the song is the source of evil in our society, at the top of the composition, and by reflecting light from the sun, it seemingly illuminates the endless pursuit of more.

# I Am Waiting For My Man



Lou Reed's song performed by The Velvet Underground in 1966 describes an evening in the life of a young white man traveling to buy a dose of heroin in the tough streets of Harlem.

On his way there, he feels sick and dirty and all he wants is to find his man who, for 26 dollars, will sell him his desired dose which he needs to quickly take back home, as fast as possible. The first thing he learned from almost this daily experience is that he always, always has to wait for his man. Despite feeling unwell, and even as the locals start to look, bother, and threaten him, he must, must wait.

At the end of the wait, the man always arrives. Usually, he's well-dressed and with a nice car. He provides a taste, the dose, and immediately Lou Reed's hero hurries back home, to his partner, trying to silence her and her screams while the drug starts its euphoric effect. In the background, promises he made can be heard, that he would sort things out, that he would feel better. Tomorrow.

## St. Sebastian at Central Station

The tragic story of Saint Sebastian depicts a soldier who was accused of treason, tied to a tree, and as a punishment, was shot with dozens of arrows that almost killed him. In the story, he frees himself from the tree and begins to recover, only to be executed shortly after.

Throughout art history, the scene of being tied to the tree and the arrows lodged in Saint Sebastian has been painted and sculpted thousands of times. In our case, it is chosen as a reference to represent a young man who is essentially tied to a street pole, obligated to wait and unable to leave.

# I am waiting for my man

The Velvet Underground and Nico

Songwriter: Lou Reed

I'm waiting for my man  
26 dollars in my hand  
Up to Lexington 125  
Feel sick and dirty  
more dead than alive  
I'm waiting for my man

Hey white boy, what you doing uptown  
Hey white boy, you chasing our women around  
Oh, pardon me, sir, it's furthest from my mind  
I'm just lookin' for a dear, dear friend of mine  
I'm waiting for my man

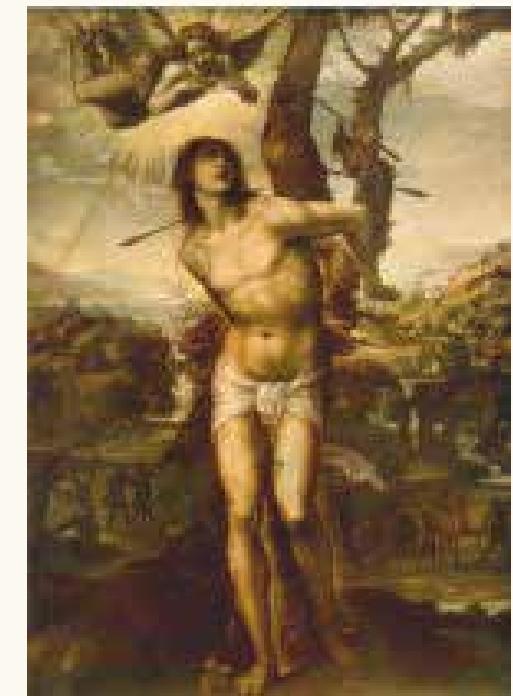
Here he comes, he's all dressed in black  
P.R. shoes and and big straw hat  
He's never early, he's always late  
First thing you learn is that you always gotta wait  
I'm waiting for my man

Up to a Brownstone, up three flights of stairs  
Everybody's pinned you, but nobody cares  
He's got the works, gives you sweet taste  
Then you gotta split  
Because you've got no time to waste, ah  
I'm waiting for my man

Baby, don't you holler  
Darling don't you bawl and shout  
I'm feeling so good  
I'm gonna work it all out  
I'm feeling good, I'm feeling oh so fine  
Until tomorrow, but that's just some other time  
I'm waiting for my man  
I'm waiting for my man  
I'm waiting for my man  
man-man-man-man-man-man

## Always gotta wait

The arrow lodged in him hints at the pain that ties him to that pole in desperate anticipation for redemption, for his man to finally arrive, so he can return home and feel better about himself.



Martyrdom of Saint Sebastian, by Il Sodoma, c. 1525



# Where To Now St. Peter?



Elton John's poignant 1970 song delves into the heart-wrenching narrative of a wounded soldier grappling with his impending mortality amid the chaos of war. Through vivid imagery and evocative lyrics, the song captures the soldier's poignant reflection as he confronts the inevitability of his own demise.

Against the backdrop of battle, he engages in an imaginary dialogue with Saint Peter, contemplating his fate and seeking solace in the face of uncertainty.

## Up or Down?

Saint Peter (originally Simon son of Jonah/Bar Jonah) was the chief among the twelve apostles of Jesus mentioned in the New Testament and is considered the first pope. According to belief, Peter received "the keys to the kingdom of heaven." This is why in many artworks,



Saint Peter by Peter Paul Rubens

# Where to now st. peter?

Elton John

Songwriter: Bernie Taupin / Elton John

I took myself a blue canoe  
And I floated like a leaf  
Dazzling, dancing  
Half enchanted  
In my Merlin sleep

Crazy was the feeling  
Restless were my eyes  
Insane they took the paddles  
My arms they paralyzed

So where to now St. Peter  
If it's true I'm in your hands  
I may not be a Christian  
But I've done all one man can  
I understand I'm on the road  
Where all that was is gone  
So where to now St. Peter  
Show me which road I'm on

Which road I'm on  
It took a sweet young foreign gun  
This lazy life is short  
Something for nothing always ending  
With a bad report

Dirty was the daybreak  
Sudden was the change  
In such a silent place as this  
Beyond the rifle range

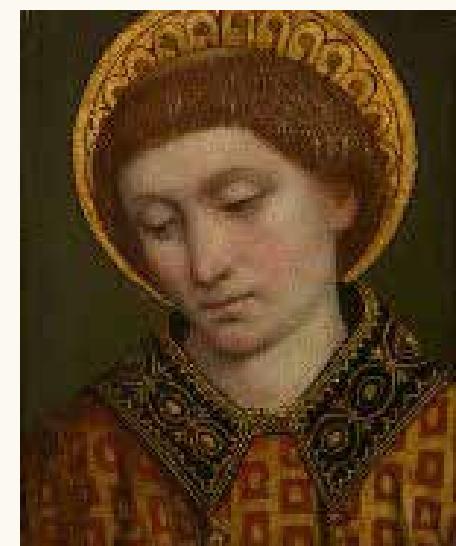
So where to now St. Peter  
If it's true I'm in your hands  
I may not be a Christian  
But I've done all one man can  
I understand I'm on the road  
Where all that was is gone  
So where to now St. Peter  
Show me which road I'm on  
Which road I'm on

Peter can be identified holding a pair of keys: a gold key symbolizing the kingdom of heaven (usually pointing upwards) and an iron or silver key, representing the kingdom of earth (pointing downwards).

## The Holy Halo

The halo, in the form of a disk of light surrounding the head of a subject in a painting or photograph, has symbolized the sanctity of the hero/heroine of the work since the dawn of art.

In Christianity, the prevailing belief is that the halo represents the light of divine grace filling the soul, which perfectly unites with the physical body.



Ambrogio Bergognone Saint Lawrence



# Flume



The song "Flume" by Justin Vernon, performed by Bon Iver, is one the songwriter himself admitted in interviews to not being sure of its poetic intention.

He believes the song's lyrics are raw combinations of emotional descriptions he experienced, attempting to convey those feelings and their intensity to the listener through various images.

The common interpretation among the band's fans is that since the entire album "**For Emma, Forever Ago**" is a concept album dedicated to separation (written entirely in a secluded cabin over several long months), this song also describes a person after detaching from a loved one, separated from the warmth of the sun, lost at sea in desperate search of a safe shore as an image of the tragic end of love, confusion, and accompanying sense of loss.

## Icarus and the Sun



Jacob Peter Gowy's The Fall of Icarus (1635-1637)

The song repeatedly mentions wings glued to the back of the song's hero. This reference to the mythological story of Icarus who, along with Daedalus, his father, attempted to escape from Crete using wings attached to their bodies with wax.

Daedalus warned his only son not to fly too close to the sun lest the wax melt, but the rebellious Icarus did not listen, got too close, his wings fell off, and he plunged into the sea.

## Flume

### Bon Iver

#### Justin Deyarmond Edison Vernon

I am my mother's only one  
It's enough

I wear my garment so it shows  
Now you know

Only love is all maroon  
Gluey feathers on a flume  
Sky is womb and she's the moon

I am my mother on the wall, with us all  
I move in water, shore to shore  
Nothing's more

Only love is all maroon  
Lapping lakes like leery loons  
Leaving rope burns  
Reddish rouge

Only love is all maroon  
Gluey feathers on a flume  
Sky is womb and she's the moon

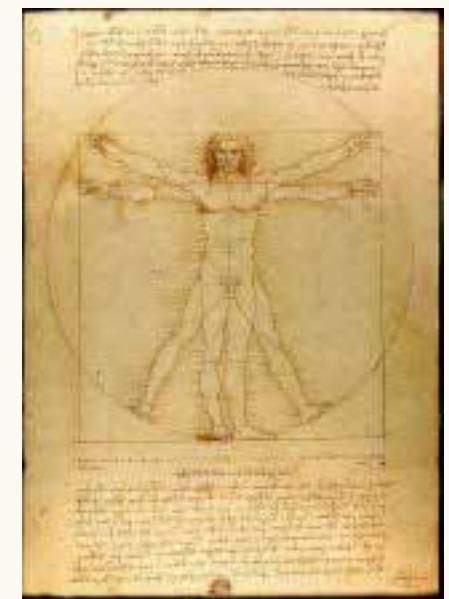


## The Divine Proportions

In 1490, Leonardo da Vinci accomplished one of his most famous drawings, "The Vitruvian Man." The drawing utilizes the proportions and symmetry of the human body as a symbol of beauty, perfection, and harmony.

It represents a rediscovery of the mathematical proportions of the human body in the 15th century and is considered one of the renowned works of art of the Italian Renaissance.

"The Vitruvian Man" embodies Leonardo da Vinci's multidisciplinary approach, reflecting his keen interest in both art and science. Beyond its artistic beauty, the drawing serves as a testament to da Vinci's deep understanding of anatomy and his quest to explore the principles of proportionality and balance in nature.



Leonardo da Vinci L'uomo vitruviano 1490

By meticulously studying the human form, da Vinci not only captured its aesthetic appeal but also laid the groundwork for advancements in fields such as anatomy, physiology, and biomechanics, leaving an indelible mark on both artistic expression and scientific inquiry for centuries to come.

# After The Gold Rush



There is an artistic freedom in interpreting Neil Young's songs from the 70s, as Neil himself admitted that he does not remember what he meant when he wrote most of his songs from that wild period.

Our image focuses on the second verse of the song, where a burned cellar is described with the hero lying exhausted from the race of life, music playing in his head as he seeks a way to escape the oppressive reality that has overtaken him. The sun breaks from the sky into the cellar, and he asks for an "exchange." It seems that the song's hero is tired and desperate, lying there helplessly.

## Death of Marat

"Death of Marat" (French: La Mort de Marat) is an oil painting by the Neoclassical painter Jacques-Louis David. The work depicts the assassination scene of Marat and is one of the most identifiable images associated with the French Revolution.



Death of Marat by Jacques-Louis David (1793)

# After The Gold Rush

## Neil Young

Well, I dreamed I saw the knights in armor coming  
Sayin' something about a queen  
There were peasants singin' and drummers drumming  
And the archer split the tree  
There was a fanfare blowin' to the sun  
That was floating on the breeze

Look at mother nature on the run in the nineteen seventies  
Look at mother nature on the run in the nineteen seventies

I was lyin' in a burned-out basement  
With a full moon in my eyes  
I was hopin' for replacement  
When the sun burst through the sky  
There was a band playin' in my head  
And I felt like getting high  
I was thinkin' about what a friend had said  
I was hopin' it was a lie  
Thinkin' about what a friend had said  
I was hopin' it was a lie

Well, I dreamed I saw the silver spaceships lying  
In the yellow haze of the sun  
There were children crying and colors flying  
All around the chosen ones  
All in a dream, all in a dream  
The loading had begun  
Flyin' mother nature's silver seed  
To a new home in the sun  
Flyin' mother nature's silver seed  
To a new home



Jean-Paul Marat was a French revolutionary who frequently required special baths due to a chronic skin disease.

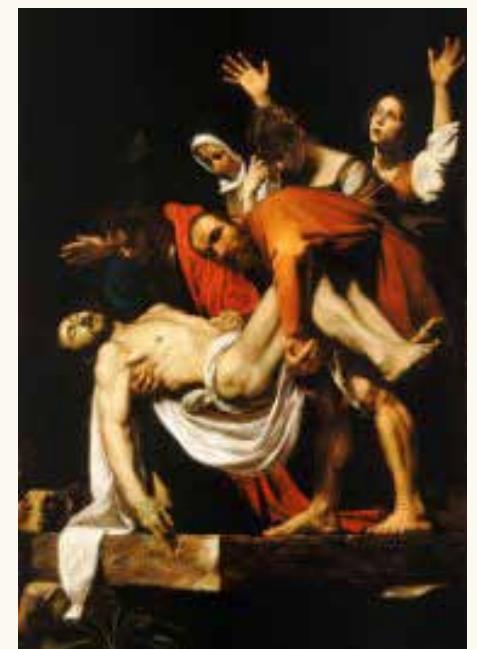
Charlotte Corday, who opposed his extreme views, came to meet him under false pretenses and, after being admitted to his home, stabbed him to death in the chest while he lay in the bath.

Jacques-Louis David, a close friend of Marat, was shocked by the violent murder and painted his friend in a classical sanctified posture and lighting.

Marat is holding a fictional letter in which the murderer's words before the act are speculated. David even added a prominent dedication at the bottom of the painting "To Marat from David."

## Wretched Saint

As in the original, we tried to give the hero of the image the appearance of a saint, his face is serene, illuminated by a soft light, and his lying posture reminds us of how saints have been depicted throughout art history, like in the classic example of Caravaggio who painted Jesus in a similar sanctified posture and lighting.



The Entombment of Christ by Caravaggio\_(c.1602-3)

# The Good Son



Nick Cave's 1990 song relates to the parable of the "Prodigal Son," one of the most famous parables in Christianity. The parable tells of a father and his two sons, the younger of whom, one day, asks for his share of the inheritance to leave home for a new life away from his family.

After receiving his request, he squandered his inheritance in reckless living. Ashamed and on the verge of starvation, he returns home to find that his father joyously welcomes him back, reintegrating him into the family without consequences for his reckless actions.



The Return of the Prodigal Son by Pompeo Batoni (1773)

Nick Cave's song tells the parable from the perspective of "the good son." This is the elder brother who stayed with his family while his younger brother deserted them.



He bore the burden, worked hard, and remained faithful, while his brother left, wasted his resources, and failed, and instead of facing punishment, he is received with love and forgiveness by the family patriarch as if nothing happened.

## The Good Son

### Nick Cave

One more man gone  
One more man gone  
One more man

One more man gone  
One more man gone  
One more man is gone

The good son walks into the field  
He is a tiller, he has a tiller's hands  
But deep down in his heart now  
He's a-laid down queer plans  
Against his brother and against his family  
Yet he worships his brother  
And he worships his mother  
But it's his father, he says, is an unfair man

The good son  
The good son  
The good son

The good son has sat and often wept  
Beneath a malign star by which the good son kept  
And the night-time in which he's wrapped  
Speaks of good now and it speaks of evil  
And he calls to his mother  
And he calls to his father  
But they are deaf in the shadows  
Of his brother's truancy  
The good son  
The good son  
The good son The good son

And he curses his mother  
And he curses his father  
And he curses his virtue like an unclean thing

The good son  
The good son  
The good son

One more man gone  
One more man gone  
One more man

His anger, jealousy, and frustration raise malicious thoughts towards his father and family, towards whom he feels resentment and a desire for revenge for the injustice and the enforced goodness of his father.

## The Knife & the Apple

The good son sits very far from his family's triangle. He holds a hunting knife with which he is cutting an apple. In many cultures, the apple is linked to the biblical story of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. Often, it is depicted as the forbidden fruit that led to the original sin. In this context, the apple could symbolize original sin and the consequences of human actions, which always carry a heavy punishment.

## The Family Triangle



The focus of the story from the frustrated perspective of the good son is on the renewed family union that he does not feel a part of. A triangle, like a pyramid, is considered a very stable and unified structure, and in his anger, he is outside this structure, looking for violent ways to express the frustration that has accumulated in him.

The good son feels as distant from the family triangle as the distance between the Shabbat candles.

# The Power Of Love



"The Power of Love," one of the standout songs of the 1980s by **Frankie Goes to Hollywood**, is a hymn to the feeling of falling in love and the act of love itself. The lyrics attempt to describe the physical and spiritual intensity of the feeling, presenting it as a supreme force capable of shaping and changing lives.

Lines like "I'll keep the vampires from your door" evoke a sense of guardianship and protection.

The lyrical description includes many elements of love that are spiritual/transcendental. Frequent references to angels, paradise, a dove kissing the sky, and divine intervention suggest a love that transcends earthly and carnal boundaries, bubbling up in the realms of pure spiritual sanctity.

### The Ecstasy of St. Teresa

"The Ecstasy of Saint Teresa" (Italian: L'Estasi di Santa Teresa d'Avila) is the name of a group of sculptures created by the Italian sculptor **Gian Lorenzo Bernini** between 1647–1652. The work, located in the Cornaro Chapel of the Santa Maria della Vittoria church in Rome, is considered one of the most famous Baroque artworks in art history. Bernini, commissioned by the church, sculpted the Spanish saint and Carmelite reformer Teresa of Ávila, who was canonized in 1622.



The Ecstasy of Saint Theresa, by Gian Lorenzo Bernini 1652.

## The Power Of Love Frankie Goes to Hollywood

Ay, ay, ay, ay  
Feels like fire  
I'm so in love with you  
Dreams are like angels  
They keep bad at bay, bad at bay  
Love is the light  
Scaring darkness away, yeah

I'm so in love with you  
Purge the soul  
Make love your goal

The power of love  
A force from above  
Cleaning my soul  
Flame on, burn desire  
Love with tongues of fire  
Purge the soul  
Make love your goal

I'll protect you from the hooded claw  
Keep the vampires from your door  
When the chips are down I'll be around  
With my undying, death-defying love for you  
Envy will hurt itself  
Let yourself be beautiful  
Sparkling love, flowers  
And pearls and pretty girls  
Love is like an energy  
Rushin' an' rushin' inside of me, eh

This time we go sublime  
Lovers entwine, divine, divine  
Love is danger, love is pleasure  
Love is pure, the only treasure

I'm so in love with you  
Purge the soul  
Make love your goal  
Flame on burn desire  
Love with tongues of fire  
Purge the soul  
Make love your goal

I'll protect you from the hooded claw  
Keep the vampires from your door

## 50 Shades of Faith

In her autobiography, known as "The Life of Saint Teresa of Jesus" (La Vida de la Santa Madre Teresa de Jesús), Teresa described an extraordinary experience for a holy nun. In a brave confession, she described a strong sensation of "the piercing of the heart," during which a smiling angel appeared to her, piercing her heart with a spear. In her writings, she describes her physical sensations during the encounter with the angel: **"So intense was the pain that it made me utter several moans, and so excessive was the sweetness caused by this intense pain that one can never wish it to cease, nor is one's soul content with anything but God. It was not a physical, but rather a spiritual pain, though the body had some share in it, even a considerable share."**

Bernini chose to focus on this vivid confession, its provocativeness, and through it sought to achieve the most challenging feat: to carve into hard marble the physical peak of love. The moment when time seems to stop, fireworks explode from all directions, and all cultural/religious taboos succumb to an uncontrollable natural urge.

At the center of the scene appears Teresa. Her eyes are half-closed, her lips slightly open, her face perfect and radiant. One can almost hear her moaning. Beside her, a divine angel. In her left hand, she gently holds the dreaming nun, perhaps lightly lifting her into the air? In her right hand, she holds a phallic arrow, aimed not at the heart of the drama's heroine but directly towards her groin.

The stone face of Teresa expresses an orgasmic sensorial intoxication enhanced by the folds of the nun's robe she wears, which is turbulent and stormy, attempting to reflect the physical and sensory sensation she is experiencing.

Some viewers of the statue in Rome have sworn that Teresa appears as if she is truly floating slightly above the ground.

# Hallowed Be Thy Name



Iron Maiden's 1982 song from the album "The Number of the Beast" describes the last thoughts of a prisoner who initially waits and then walks towards his execution by hanging. Along the way, he tries to cling to the belief that there is life after death, but as time passes, this belief weakens, and he comes to terms with his imminent death, knowing that God has forsaken him to his fate. At the end of the song, the hero hopes that earthly life is just a grand illusion and the sublime truth will only be revealed to him after death.

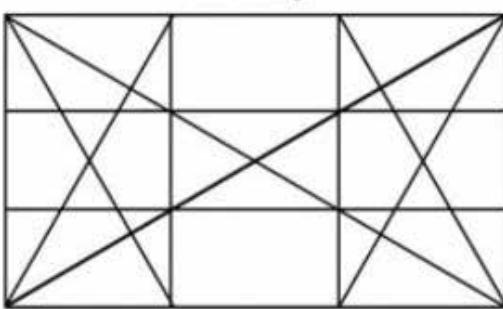
## Dynamic Symmetry

Harris's lyrics liken the remaining time of the song's hero to the sand running out from a metaphorical hourglass, which we tried to illustrate in the picture.

This is the first picture we divided according to the rules of a composition system known as "dynamic symmetry"

Dynamic symmetry is a system of artistic design principles known and used by humans since the Renaissance days without official documentation.

The method was mathematically grounded and recognized in the modern era only at the beginning of the 20th century, led by Jay Hambidge and his influential 1920 book "The Elements of Dynamic Symmetry."



Since then, principles of the method have been used in various artistic disciplines, including painting, photography, and architecture, to create harmonious and visually appealing compositions.

# Hallowed Be Thy Name

## Iron Maiden

Songwriter: Stephen Percy Harris:

I'm waiting in my cold cell when the bell begins to chime  
Reflecting on my past life and it doesn't have much time  
'Cause at 5 o'clock, they take me to the Gallows Pole  
The sands of time for me are running low  
Running low, yeah!

When the priest comes to read me the last rites  
Take a look through the bars at the last sights  
Of a world that has gone very wrong for me

Can it be that there's some sort of error?  
Hard to stop the surmounting terror  
Is it really the end, not some crazy dream?

Somebody, please tell me that I'm dreaming  
It's not easy to stop from screaming  
The words escape me when I try to speak  
Tears flow, but why am I crying?  
After all, I'm not afraid of dying  
Don't I believe that there never is an end?

As the guards march me out to the courtyard  
Somebody cries from a cell, "God be with you"  
If there's a God, why has he let me go?

As I walk, my life drifts before me  
Though the end is near I'm not sorry  
Catch my soul, it's willing to fly away

Mark my words, believe my soul lives on  
Don't worry now that I have gone  
I've gone beyond to seek the truth

When you know that your time is close at hand  
Maybe then you'll begin to understand  
Life down here is just a strange illusion

Yeah-yeah-yeah, hallowed be thy name  
Yeah-yeah-yeah, hallowed by thy name

At its core, dynamic symmetry aims to achieve proportion and balance. It uses geometric shapes and mathematical relationships to create an aesthetic arrangement of objects in the picture. Hambidge's book successfully formulated mathematically what was passed down as an oral (and secret) tradition among Renaissance artists, making the idea accessible and replicable for modern artists. The method utilizes and emphasizes the importance of relationships like the golden ratio in attempts to create attractive compositions.

One of the fundamental advantages of dynamic symmetry is its ability to guide the viewer's eye along diagonals and triangles in artworks, thereby creating a sense of flow and unity. Through prior planning and precise placement of elements within the composition, artists from almost any discipline can decide how and where they want to lead the viewer's attention in their work.

As mentioned, this was our first attempt to use the system, and since then, we've tried to improve the accuracy and alignment between the picture and the dynamic division lines.



# שירת הסטיקר



"Sticker Song" is a political protest song written by David Grossman in response to the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin in 1995 by Yigal Amir.

Grossman collected about 120 diverse and opposing political slogans that were stickered on vehicles across the State of Israel in the years following the assassination. Through the juxtaposition of these slogans, he attempted to highlight the ideological and value gap between different sectors of Israeli society at the end of the 90s, a gap that the extreme murder widened.

In 2023, three decades from those turbulent days, this gap has turned into a vast crack that only widens as contemporary Israel is a fragmented society without a governing core, reaching a boiling point.

A State in Moral Vertigo where extremers prepare the ground to contain, forgive, and normalize, for instance, that historical murder.

Despite its young age, Israel contends with dozens of traumas and ancient sins woven into its short history, even before its official establishment, all of which burst forth with unprecedented intensity into the streets of 2023—in fervor, anger, astonishment, fear, and loathing.

## Abel and Cane



Cain and Abel, Adi Nes 2007

The biblical story of Cain and Abel, which appears at the beginning of the Book of Genesis (Chapter 4), is a biblical tale of jealousy and fratricide. In the story, Cain rises against Abel, his brother, to kill him. His motive was (again) one of the ancient deadly sins in history, this time **jealousy**, as Cain was angry that his offering to God was accepted, while his was rejected.

## שירת הסטיקר

דוד גROSSמן והdag נחש

דור שלם דורש שלום, לנו לזכה לנצח  
עם חזק עושה שלום, לנו לזכה לכוכב  
אין שלום עם ערבים, אל תנתנו להם רובים  
קרבי זה הכי אחוי  
גיאוס לכולם, פטור לכלום  
אין שם יאוש בעולם  
ש"ע זה כאן, נ נח חמן מאמון  
ניש מאין, משיח בעיר  
אין ערבים, אין פיגועים  
בג"ז מסכן יהודים  
העם עם הגולן, העם עם הטרנספר  
טסטע בירכא, חבר, אתה חסר  
הקדוש ברוך הוא אנחנו בחורים בר  
בחירה ישירה זה רע  
הקדוש ברוך הוא אנחנו קנים לך  
ימותו הקנאים  
כמה רוע (כמה רוע רוע)  
אפשר לבלווע (אפשר לבלווע לווע)  
אבא תרחים, אבא תרחים  
קוראים לי נחמן ואני מגמגם  
כמה רוע (כמה רוע רוע)  
אפשר לבלווע (אפשר לבלווע לווע)  
אבא תרחים, אבא תרחים  
ברוך השם אני נושם, ולכך...  
מדינת הלכה, הלכה המדינה  
מי שנולד הרוויזיון, יחי המלך המשיח  
יש לי בטחון בשלום של שרון  
חברון מazz ולתמייד  
ומי שלא נולד הפסיד  
חברון אבות, שלום טרנספר כהנא זדק  
CNN משקר  
צריך מנהיג חזק  
סחתיין על השלום, תודה על הבטחון  
אין לנו ילדים למלחמות מיותרות  
השמאל עוזר לעربים, ביבי טוב ליהודים  
פושעי אוסלו לדין  
 אנחנו כאן הם שם, אחים לא מפקרים  
עקבית ישובים מפלגת את העם  
מוות לבוגדים, לנו לחיות לחיות  
מוות לערכיכם  
כמה רוע (כמה רוע רוע)  
אפשר לבלווע (אפשר לבלווע לווע)  
אבא תרחים, אבא תרחים  
קוראים לי נחמן ואני מגמגם  
כמה רוע (כמה רוע רוע)  
אפשר לבלווע (אפשר לבלווע לווע)  
אבא תרחים, אבא תרחים  
ברוך השם אני נושם, ולכך...  
כמה רוע (כמה רוע רוע)  
אפשר לבלווע (אפשר לבלווע לווע)  
אבא תרחים, אבא תרחים  
קוראים לי נחמן ואני מגמגם  
כמה רוע (כמה רוע רוע)  
אפשר לבלווע (אפשר לבלווע לווע)  
אבא תרחים, אבא תרחים  
ברוך השם אני נושם, ולכך...  
להסיגר, להסיגר, עונש מוות,  
להשמיד, להכחד, למגר, לבער  
הכל בגלאך, חבר  
NO FEAR

This is probably the most sculpted and painted murder scene in the history of art, and we chose to focus on it as a visual reference in the work of Adi Nes, who photographed the occurrence as part of his "Biblical Stories" series from 2007.

## Burned Granaries

Our picture's time is the year 70 CE, a year when the Jewish Wars boasted in besieged Jerusalem and while the Roman Titus waited with his army outside its walls, a masochistic war unfolded within:

A lack of unifying leadership and irreconcilable differences led the Jewish people to harm and weaken themselves, with the most prominent example being the zealots, in one of their most famous moments of struggle against the moderate majority, burning everyone's grain supplies, which sustained and fed the Jewish people under heavy Roman siege.

This act led to severe famine and allowed the Romans to slaughter and easily conquer Jerusalem, bringing the seven-branched menorah from the destroyed Temple as war spoils to Rome.

## Pitchfork



The pitchfork in Abel's hands served humans for loading hay as well as a weapon throughout history, and combined with the spreading fire and the seven-branched menorah, they create an image that translates the struggle of Cain and Abel to another time with no less devastating consequences.

# One More Cup Of Cofee



# Lost In the Flood

