No hand-drawn image was produced for this image. Here's the conversation I had with Ivano while getting started:

[4/22/2021 8:11:17 AM] Thomas Jay Rush: I'd like to create a one-off image something like this:

A weird looking, older, overweight man is sitting at the gates of the Boston Commons. He's saying, "Okay. So you would like to inquire about the Boston Commons? Let me show you some photos..."

The photos he's holding in his hands are of a beautiful well-maintained common garden.

In the background, the viewer can clearly see over his shoulder that the actual Boston Commons are in total ruin.

Thomas Jay R.

[4/22/2021 9:58:37 AM] Ivano Nardacchione: Hello Thomas, thanks for sending me the offer, tell me, (to get an idea of the amount of work I can put into the caricature) how many hours you have in the budget? the 5 that you have set as a limit?

[4/22/2021 9:59:42 AM] Ivano Nardacchione: the first thing I will do is send you a sketch of it so we can look at it together and then I will add more details and go to color and shading.

[4/22/2021 1:16:56 PM] Thomas Jay Rush: I've never done this before, so I don't really know how many hours it would take. I set that limit just as a way to begin discussion. I'm doing this for personal reasons (I am very interested in the idea of supporting open source and building for the common good, particularly in the Ethereum cryptocurrency space), so I want to create an image that will express my opinion that while everyone sort of says the magical words "decentralization," "common good," not that many people actually do those things in practice. I saw that you had some work that mentions Bitcoin, so I thought I'd at least not have to explain that part of the idea to you. I also liked your work.

What do you think a reasonable budget would be remembering that I am a lone individual with an silly idea that I can change people's minds with a meme.

[4/22/2021 3:04:10 PM] Ivano Nardacchione: no problem Thomas we will find the best way to do it... as for the emotional I am also in favor of decentralization , this year I started to study about cryptocurrencies and I am a very small investor , I always spend my monthly savings to cryptos hahahah.

[4/22/2021 3:07:58 PM] Ivano Nardacchione: with a budget of 100 (5 hours at 20 dollars)i can make a great caricature of the situation. not because i really work 5 hours, it really takes me more work but it is a good way to put a parameter.
this afternoon i will send you the sketch for further work, i have already started working on it, i guess if everything goes well, by tomorrow we can have it ready.

[4/22/2021 6:26:33 PM] Ivano Nardacchione: here is the sketch. it may look a bit chaotic but believe me it will be distinguishable when you retouch and color it. the photography is very colorful while the whole background will be dry sandy and with dull colors. maybe the statue is written with graffiti. i chose some iconic places of the park and put them together to represent it. although i know it is much more spacious than that, but i thought it was important to portray the concept.

[4/22/2021 6:59:05 PM] Thomas Jay Rush: This is beyond cool. Can we figure out how long you think it will take before getting to a final version (of course, that depends hugely on me and my number of suggested changes). Just a guess is fine. Would you say $200.00 US? I'd be willing to pay that much, but can't really afford very much more.

Assuming yes, I can say this about the image:

SO COOL!

but....

I kind of envisioned the longer view of the park....I'll try to dig up some pictures. I see a tallish black fence that you can see through and over but the guy is standing at a gateway. He's better dressed, almost lawyerly, but not super polished. Like a semi successful or soon-to-be semi successful business man (but still a little pudgy). He's reaching into his pocket of his coat to bring out the picture which is in color and very pretty -- trees, flowers, etc. Over his shoulder, over the fench, sort of off in the background is maybe the overflowing trash can which I love, the broken down bandshell, a statue with grafitti, but maybe a bit further off. Not quite so close up, so it's believable that someone might fall for his hoax -- that the park is in good shape. If the devastation is too close up, the viewer may not fall for his guise...

Excellent start. (It's amazing to me that people can draw things like that....)

Let me know what you think. I think it's wonderful.

[4/22/2021 7:10:29 PM] Ivano Nardacchione: I'm so glad you liked my work =) it makes it all worthwhile.
of course we could do it for 200 we would be more free to modifications and working hours (for example so far I have worked approximately 4 hours but I could not charge you the total as it would be a fortune hahahah)

we can make this man (the unsuccessful lawyer with little taste for clothes) standing at the park gate. behind him the gates and even further back and in a more distant view all the objects that I have drawn. i just put them close so you can see the details.

if you have a photo that shows the perspective you want to portray, it would be great. simply portray a concept of what the park is like with its most iconic constructions.

[4/22/2021 7:17:49 PM] Ivano Nardacchione: I guess you are referring to these grids, right?

[4/22/2021 8:10:54 PM] Thomas Jay Rush: This isn't necessarily exactly it, but something like this.

[4/22/2021 8:17:54 PM] Ivano Nardacchione: I'm sorry but I want to know if I understood correctly. by "oil rig" you mean an oil extraction machine? I don't know if it means something different.

[4/22/2021 8:19:12 PM] Ivano Nardacchione: the rest is all possible I will add all the elements if you want and it will be all pretty much ruined.

[4/22/2021 8:22:09 PM] Ivano Nardacchione: if you want you can change the configuration of the weekly hours because it is in a maximum of 5. and it is all that I will be able to load until Sunday. if you want to put 10 of maximum. so I'm loading them and maybe counting these changes for tomorrow or Saturday I will have it ready!

[4/22/2021 8:44:35 PM] Thomas Jay Rush: Forget about the oil rig. Just a dumb idea.

I think whatever you make will be good, so please go ahead an use your judgement.

[4/22/2021 8:46:52 PM] Ivano Nardacchione: no idea is silly my friend, we can try to put some of that. the caricature will be a little bigger and horizontal, leave it in my hands that tomorrow I will send you a new sketch!

[4/22/2021 8:52:21 PM] Ivano Nardacchione: I have a favor to ask of you... you must tell me what will be the 5 projects / cryptocurrencies that will make me rich in the next 5 years hahaha i'm saving to buy a house

[4/22/2021 9:21:23 PM] Thomas Jay Rush: Oh no. Don't ask me that...I'm a BIG believer in Ethereum for a couple of reasons: (1) I've been in it since almost its start, (2) I see the number of people developing on that chain to be orders of magnitude larger than any other chain, (3) without fear of contradiction, everything interesting that has happened in the blockchain space in the last five years (ICOs, DAO, Stable Coins, Decentralized Exchanges, DeFi, NFTs -- everything) happens on Ethereum, (4) Ethereum is still making forward progress with layer 2's, Eth 2.0, Sharding, etc. Tons of momentum and most of the developer mind share. That's where I'm betting. Another very interesting thing to me is called FileCoin for similar reasons. Lots of developer mind share. Lots of forward movement. There are other chains, other ideas, but those are the one I'm interested in. Very important note: invest in other regular non-crypto stuff too because it would all blow up and then you'd be left with nothing. So -- diversify.

[4/22/2021 9:27:58 PM] Ivano Nardacchione: i understand diversify maybe in the regural stock market, nasdaq. ethereum is a gigantic project. the truth is that everyone believed that 2.0 would arrive soon but it is part of the illusion. here in argentina we are very bad economically so any possibility of getting on the vanguard train is a light in our path. i am lucky that i can work internationally. but imagine that here an average person has an average salary equivalent to what

it costs to buy 2 or 3 nikes in our country. i hope that cryptocurrencies and blockchain will give us a break and we can get closer to a more dignified lifestyle.

[4/22/2021 9:41:06 PM] Thomas Jay Rush: Are things getting worse there (sorry I don't know very much)? Do people work with crypto currencies a lot?

I think Ethereum 2.0 is taking a long time, but there's been pretty steady progress. I think a lot of people outside the central group who's been working on the code underestimated how long it would take, but the people writing the code didn't think that.

I don't work on the 2.0 code, but I pay pretty close attention. I work on Eth 1.0 code and my own project, TrueBlocks.

[4/22/2021 10:20:17 PM] Ivano Nardacchione: Buenos Aires, our capital city (which is where I live) is among the 10 cities that have more bitcoin in the world. people are looking for options. although there is still not much legal and transacciopnes progress here. many opt to pass savings or investments to cryptocurrencies because banks are not trustworthy. imagine, i am a professional with no debts working abroad, with a salary in dollars and the banks here only offer me credits of 300 or 400 dollars, it is a joke, they laugh in our face. unemployment has grown considerably and there is no government aid. for the ARGENTINE who lives as an Argentinean, his only destiny is ruin.

[4/22/2021 10:23:16 PM] Ivano Nardacchione: I was looking at some of your project, congratulations.

[4/23/2021 2:01:19 AM] Ivano Nardacchione: something like that?
I had to completely redo it. obviously it will be more detailed!

[4/23/2021 6:00:32 PM] Thomas Jay Rush: You're pretty freaking good. This is almost exactly what was in my mind. Wow.

Now what?

I guess if I had to say one thing, I'd say I want to be able to the photo he's trying to show me and that it shows a beautiful garden.

I really like your work, and I want to support you, so if you go over a couple of hours don't worry. Let's say up to 15 hours in total. Have you spent that much time yet?

It looks so cool. Thanks.

[4/23/2021 6:11:52 PM] Thomas Jay Rush: I just had an amazing idea (at least to me). Have you heard at all about NFT's? (If not, look them up.)

We could make these into NFTs. I want to make a series of these and call them "CommonsSense". One of the thing I find most fascinating about the crypto space is the idea that

blockchains allow us (humans) for the first time in human history to 'coordinate' on a very large scale. People used to talk about blockchains as a way to solve some of the harder problems in game theory. There's a whole group of people I know who are studying this and trying to figure out just how far they can push blockchain tech to realize those dreams.

I'm kind of a critic, not of those people's dreams, but of the way the industry if playing out. The dreams are what drives me to work every day. The nonsense I see in the space and the utter disregard for those dreams makes me annoyed. The image above is (I guess) an expression of my dissatisfaction with the way things are working out.

I was thinking we could create a small collection of images expressing that dissatisfaction and try to sell them as NFT's. (By the NFT's are one of the things that annoys me a bit, although it does help original artists to have a new potential market, so I like that.) I'd pay for the creation of the image, and then we can share in any revenue we might make -- it will most likely be zero, but if we can make them funny and cutting enough, maybe someone would bite.

Anyway -- just another of the millions of hairbrained ideas I've had and shared. Add it to the pile.

If you're at all interested in the ideas of solving game theory, building commons with blockchains, check out a project called The Commons Stack and another one called GiveEth. There's also a very interesting woman called Ellanor Ostrem who won a Nobel Prize for her work related to commons. The people at the Commons Stack rely heavily on her work.

Just thought I'd share. Have a good weekend and thanks for your great work.

[4/23/2021 6:26:17 PM] Ivano Nardacchione: wow tom, this is great.
first of all : thank you for saying such nice words about my work. i will keep working on it. i will make the picture of your pocket more colorful and start painting it....

[4/23/2021 6:31:04 PM] Ivano Nardacchione: now ... let's go to your new idea: since I knew the NFT I always wanted to create one... you propose me to make a line of them!
LET'S MAKE THEM! I love your idea, I'm going to send you a series of illustrations I did for a client who is also a critic but of technologies in general and we developed a series of single panel comics where I included him as the protagonist of the situations.
I think we could do a line together !!!!

[4/23/2021 6:59:34 PM] Thomas Jay Rush: Sounds cool.

[4/23/2021 7:27:42 PM] Ivano Nardacchione: this is the comic strip series I told you about…