

PASSED UP THE CHANCE TO GO TO NEW YORK. AND AS MUCH AS I LOVE THE IDEA OF WANDERING THE CONCRETE JUNGLE, I JUST NEED TO SLOW DOWN. I'VE BEEN TOO AGGRESSIVE WITH FILLING MY DAYS. PLUS, A BUNCH OF IMPORTANT WORK CALLS ALL CONVERGED THIS MORNING, AND I'M FEELING FRIED. I'VE BEEN ASKED TO DO A LIVE CODING TEST (A FATE WORSE THAN DEATH).

DECIDED TO TURN MY BRAIN OFF AT THE SPY MUSEUM — MISSION ACCOMPLISHED, BECAUSE IT WAS REALLY DUMB. THE HIGHLIGHT WAS A GAME WHERE YOU HAD TO DECIDE WHETHER TO INVADE BIN LADEN'S COMPOUND IN PALESTINE. NOT EXACTLY A GREAT USE OF MY DAY.



DuPont underground is my fave venue so far



West End Library.

I love this place - my base of operations. It gives free prints (several failed attempts to try to print this journal successfully). Went to the coffee meetup (expectations were low) and it was absolutely fascinating it was like having front row seats to a podcast - every line from the librarians mouth was a great lyric and people were really engaged.

Letting out Binance's Changpeng "CZ" Zhao to drop a coin and with his tax breaks Trump has doubled his money before America has the chance to even sniff at a universal healthcare system.

America keeps us just busy enough to not turn on each other. But keeps us hungry so we hate our neighbors and convinced immigrants are stealing our stuff. Keep things divisive. Distract with blood sports and gambling.

It's all working as intended. America isn't a country that supports its people. America is about supporting corporations and increasing the wealth of individuals and dynasties. Living the real American dream is to hate the poor. Arrive as an immigrant, screw over as many people as possible until you are at the top. Neo-rober economic oligarchy era.

Only have this many days until I retire. Looking forward to the weekend. It's all a grift.

BG: PICKUP FOOTBALL
YOU PLAY WITH CONES
INSTEAD OF GOALIES
TERRIBLE IDEA BUT
GREAT GAME & PITCH.



I was super nervous going to my first boxing class but Crane (the GMC who physically resembles a brick wall and has a tiny dog) was so kind /welcoming that I bit the bullet and signed up for six months.



DC (proper) day one

My lord DC hasn't stopped. Katy and Lara welcomed me in with sake. I managed to make it out to Angie's but fell asleep into my burger. The first thing I do is go to DC tech startup week breakfast (a terrible cup of coffee) about 10 mins walk away in the very swanky International Square. Fun chats. A lot of hitting the LinkedIn connect button but not so much irl connection. Still, it's great to hear people's ideas, share stories and score freebies. I felt totally burnt out by lunch but had a fun lunch with Katy, Lara and George.

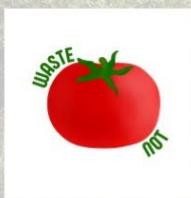


me on the train lugging this god
for saken plastic bag I decided to
pack all my stuff in that literally
was disintegrated by the time I got
to the house



The event was located on a floor in the classic start-up exposed open plan brickwork. The International Square is a great venue. I got a few leads, my resume checked, a beer and a 5 minute massage.

Slept for a bit and then went back to the event which was easier when I got my free beer token. So so many people that used to work for the fed are now out on their ass. It's terrible but admirable that they are making the most out of things. 6pm went to Civic DC where I genuinely felt like I was meeting some people that I could work with. The choice is now if I try to salvage ElectricifyDC or work on something else.



Having met them at the event, I met with the very nice founders of Waste Not at Baked & Wired in Georgetown. We came up with a great prototype idea — an app that tracks food waste after Thanksgiving. Who knows how these things will pan out, but it would be a fantastic project if they get their act together.

Update: they are keen but they are moving too slowly for my liking.



Turning 37.

It's my birthday! I went to group boxing and we were taking turns punching each other (so odd) and then the coach went "IT'S SOMEONES BIRTHDAY AND THEY ARE ABOUT TO ENTER THE RING OF DEATH"

so I basically had to put my arms up while the entire class punched me for a while.

Katy meanwhile got her TOOTH extracted so I met her at CVS after surgery.

Went to Du Pont market and got some fresh veg (and dressed as a veg) and also got a very fetching martial arts jacket.

DC is so rad - it's so hard to not get distracted! Trying to cram for a live coding interview and accidentally stumble across live jazz and beat poetry.

Had a fabulous trip with Kate, Katy and Lara to target. Stocked up on Christmas decorations and then had a very legit diner experience at Tom's.

My favourite museum so far is the textile museum. Some great exhibits on making sustainability fashionable and all free. Also they give lots of #swag because it's all funded by GW uni.

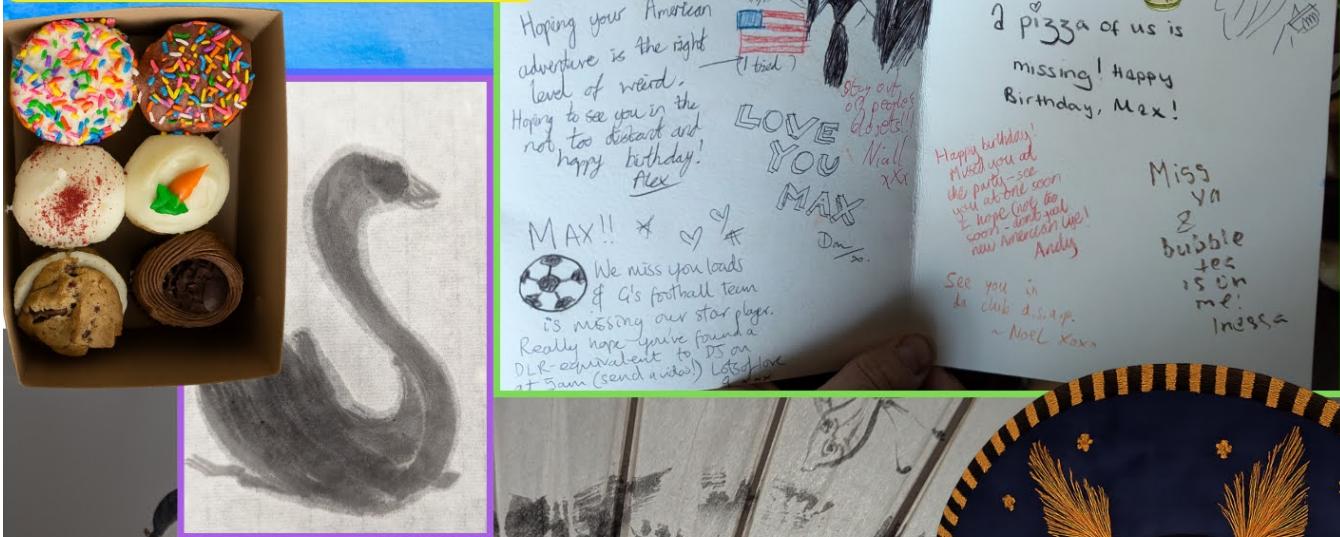


Katy threw a fireworks party the cops raided it then Steve Bannon showed up.

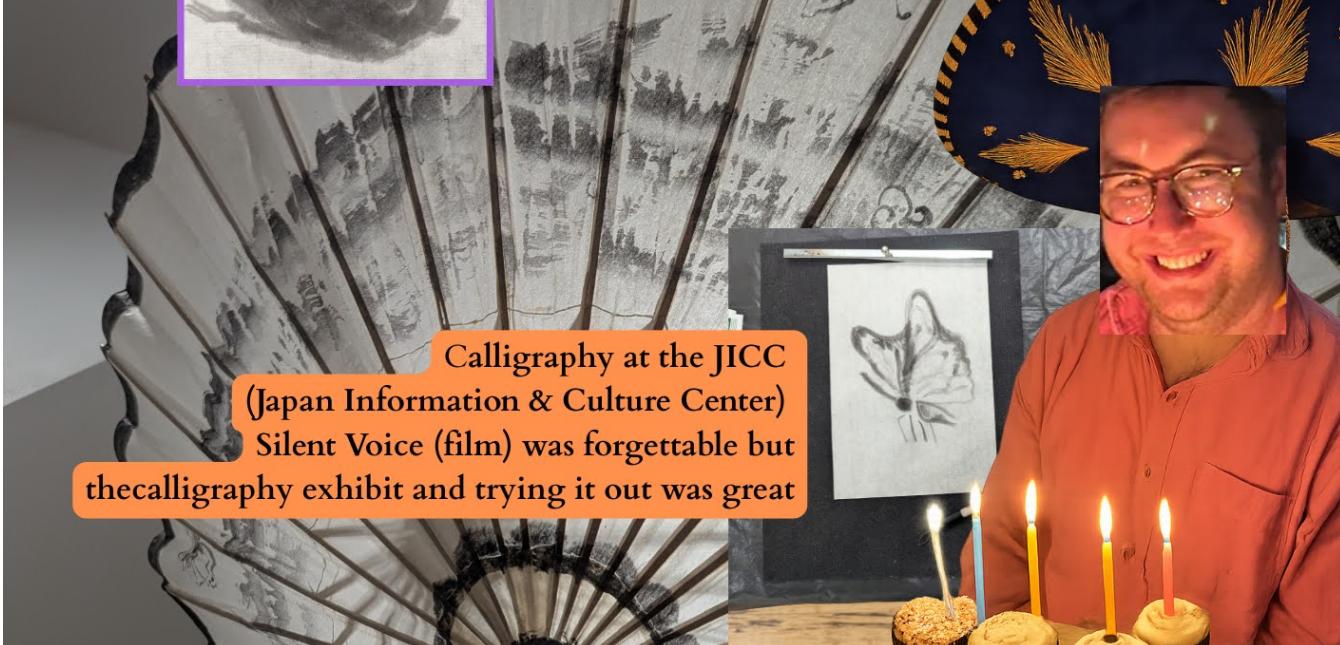




Great cards from friends and family



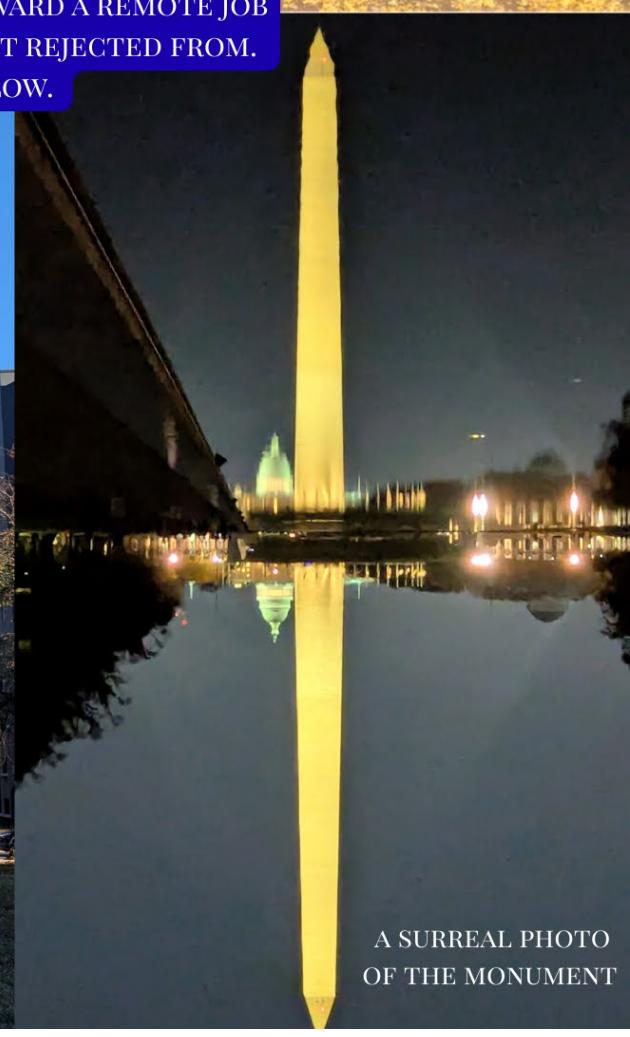
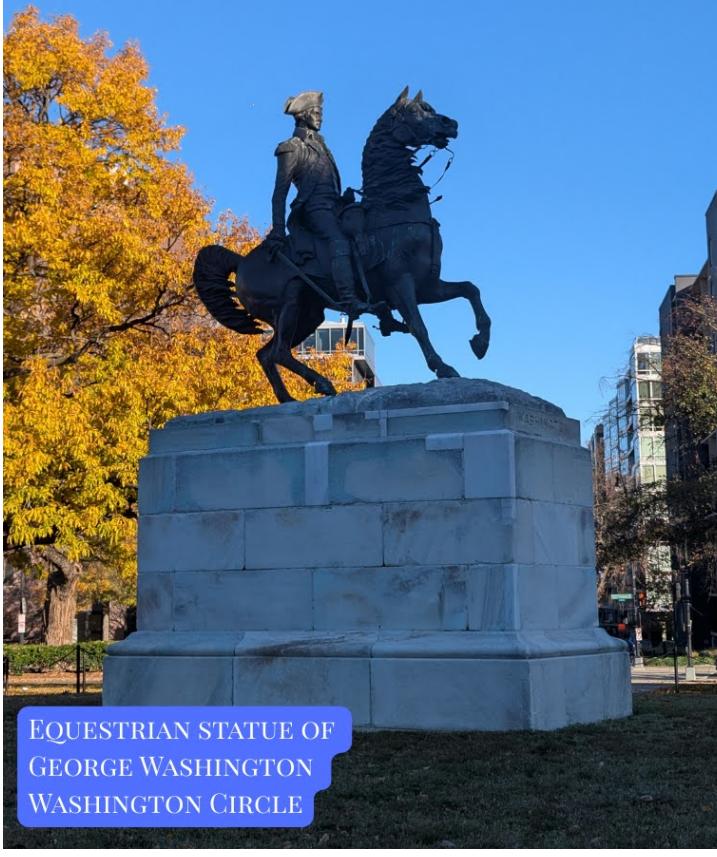
Calligraphy at the JICC
(Japan Information & Culture Center)
Silent Voice (film) was forgettable but
the calligraphy exhibit and trying it out was great

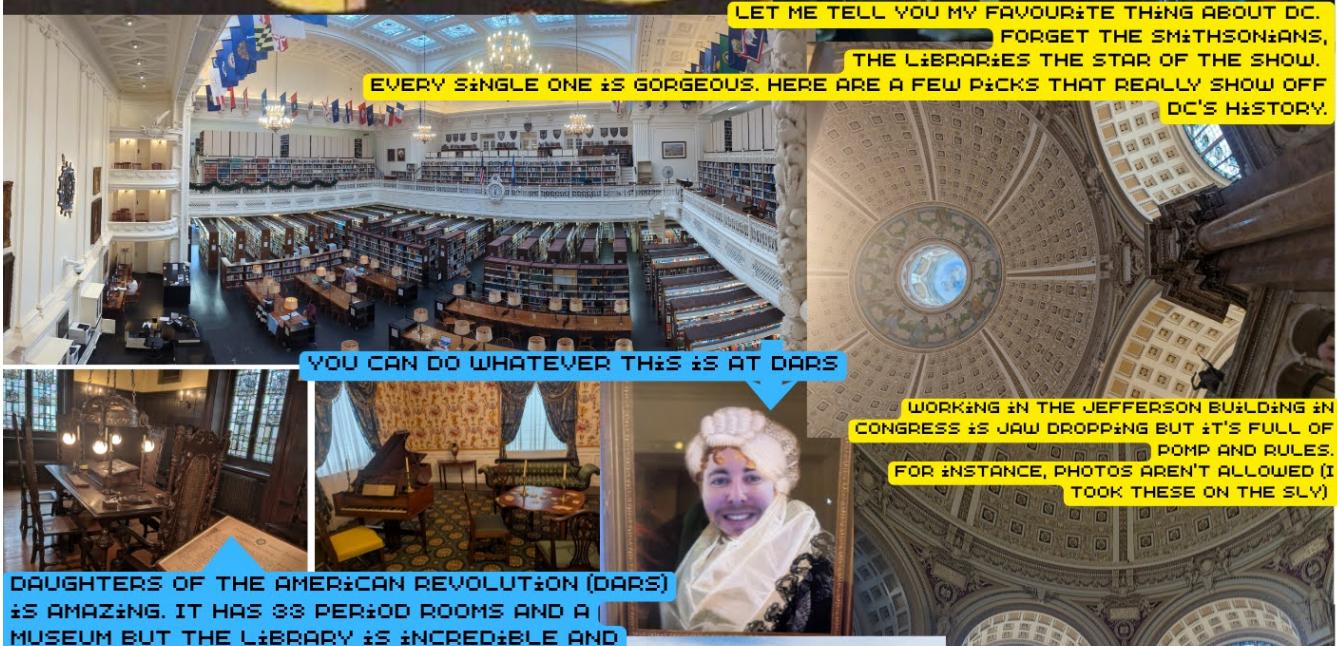
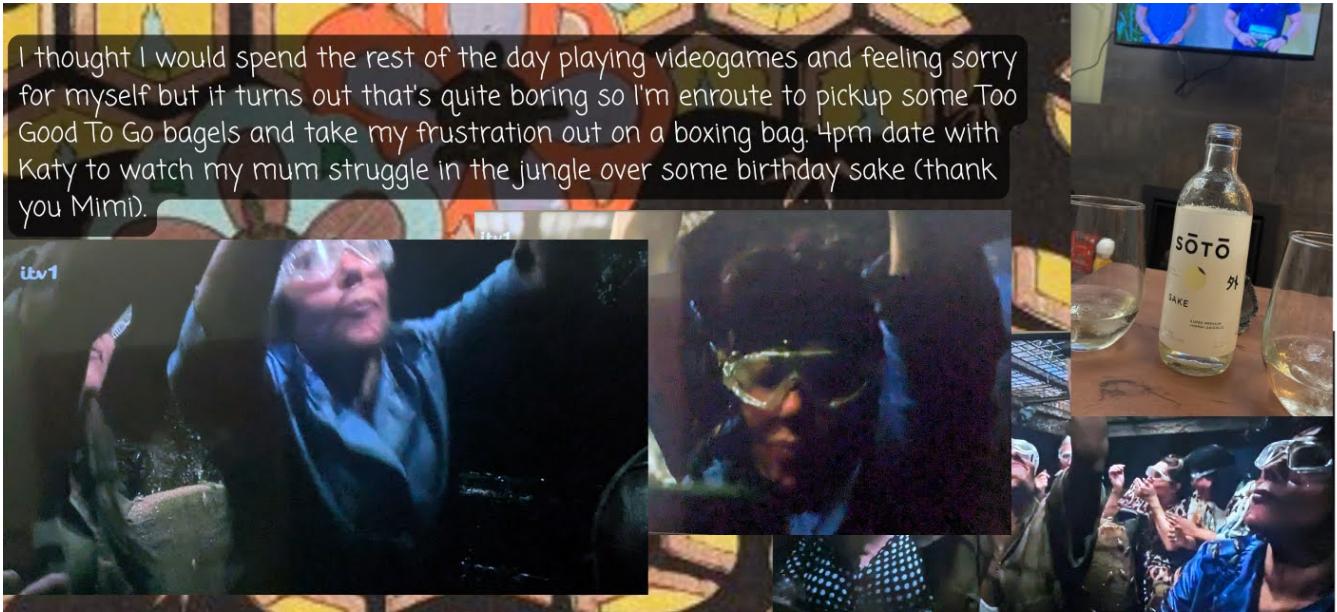




I SPENT A LOT OF THIS WEEK AND LAST HEAD DOWN
IN THE LIBRARY WORKING TOWARD A REMOTE JOB
OPPORTUNITY THAT I JUST GOT REJECTED FROM.

A CRUSHING BLOW.

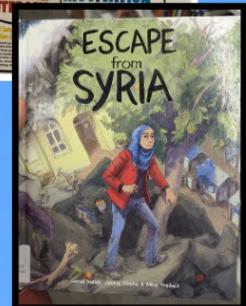
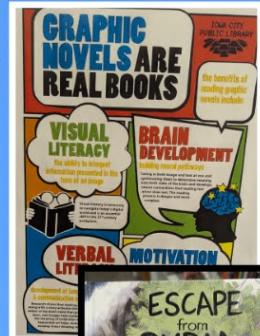




Taking a break from all the beautiful climbing at Rock Creek (see background) at Cleveland Park Library. This sign is something I'd show Mum so she stops laughing at me for reading comic books.

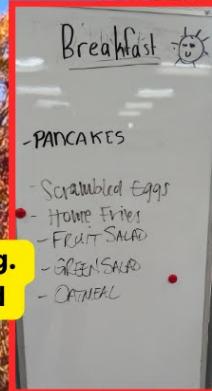
But then I actually picked up and read in single sitting this graphic novel about a woman's struggle to flee Syria.

I was completely transfixed. I read it slowly, in one sitting, taking in every page. It captures so much — the history, the fear, the tenderness of people trying to survive. It really put things in perspective. I realized how sheltered my understanding of struggle has been. What struck me most was the generosity of the Canadians who take in an entire family. I already donate to Ripple Effect every month, but the idea of giving a family an actual apartment, a new beginning — that kind of kindness feels almost otherworldly.



I've started volunteering at miriam's kitchen. It's really great fun. It's about three hours of cooking. People are super nice and I call everyone "chef" and I take home their delicious food when I'm done.

Western ridge trail in rock Creek



Here's some facts that I learnt about DC homelessness from working at miriam's:

- 6000 people are homeless in DC.
- The costs of people living on street on society (emergency room and public safety) is \$40,000 i.e. for one person to sleep outside in a tent.
- Housing first costs \$20k a person and 99% people stay in housing.
- The average homeless is 45 and 55 is the life expectancy.
- People sometimes go 2 weeks without anyone talking to them.
- We feed about 200 people across 3 hours of volunteer time.

Finishing a 10K for miriam's absolute agony



SHINTO GAME

Not been writing in the journal much because I'm trying to get this shrine video out as quickly as possible. I'm under time pressure, and before Christmas everything slows down. I realise there's a 99.99% chance Japan House never sees it, but I'm clinging to that 0.01% that they do. have just sent off to family, lucy and meli for feedback and there's a slightly higher chance that they play and watch the pitch.



MY SCRIPT FOR JAPAN HOUSE VIDEO

Hi, I'm a huge fan of Japan House, and it actually inspired me to travel to Japan. I've created a game to inspire people to do the same and to teach people about Japan—specifically about Shinto, which I think is one of the most wonderful and mysterious things Japan offers to the world. Let me give you a small demo of my game.

The game starts with the player being dropped off at a shrine. I went for an aesthetic based on old-school Japanese RPG games because I wanted to evoke the feeling of playing Zelda or PokéMon. The character's first challenge is to pass through the torii gate. If they read the sign, they receive a hint about how people should pass through the gate.

All puzzles in the game are based on real-world Shinto traditions. For example, if the character passes straight through the middle of the gate, they will be reset—the middle path is reserved for the kami. To complete the first section of the game, the player must pass to the left or right of the center of the gate.

Of course, throughout the game there is ample opportunity to learn more about Shinto and Japan, and I'm hoping people will enjoy the experience and feel inspired to visit Japan.

This short demo only shows the first section of the game.

The next parts of the game include:

- Interacting with the chozuya
- Interacting with the shrine
- Making a wish on a virtual prayer plaque

The game is hosted on a website that can be formatted to play on any device.

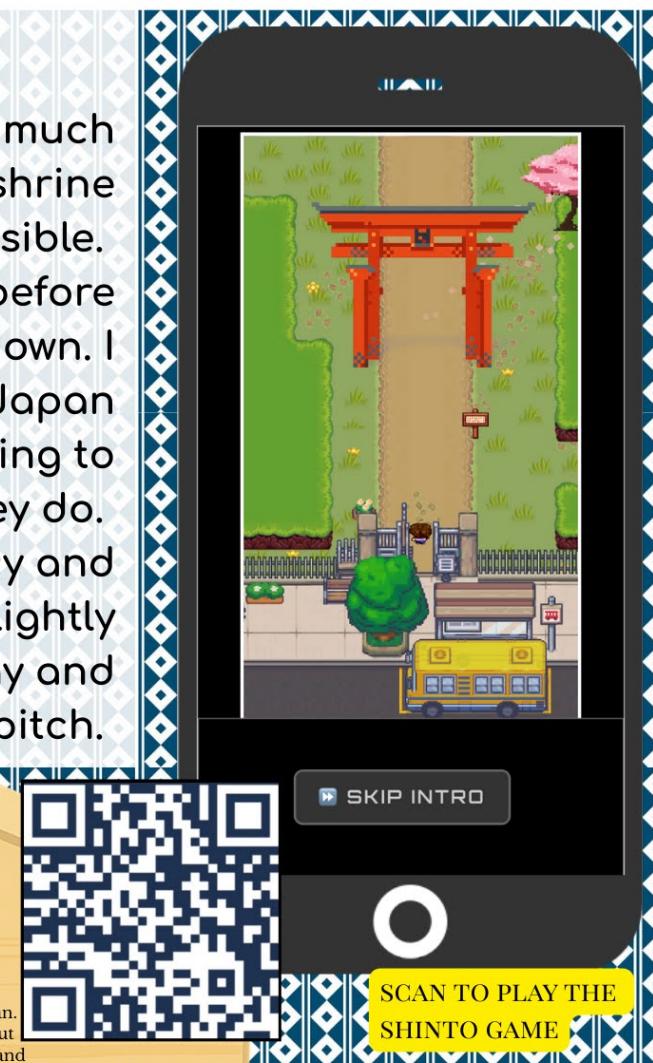
It can be played on any device, virtual or real.

I love going to Japan House, and I wanted to explore the opportunity of displaying the game in the visitors section. I know many of the in-store brochures advertise real-world shrines, so playing the game near these brochures may inspire people to learn more. The iPad podiums would be perfect for the game, or we could potentially show it on the screens and have people control the game via their phones.

Alternatively, the game could be displayed and playable downstairs in the gallery, cinema, or library. Coincidentally, during the event a pictograph was projected that showed how to interact at a shrine.

The demo I showed can be played on your mobile or web device by scanning this QR code. Please understand that the game is a passion project created by myself, so any requirements, inclusions, or rebranding can easily be made.

Japan House is my favourite place to visit, so I hope I can add value, and I fully welcome any opportunity to discuss a potential collaboration.



JAPAN HOUSE ACTUALLY TALKED ABOUT SHINTO SHRINE CUSTOMS IN A RECENT EXHIBIT



WHERE I HOPE THE GAME IS DISPLAYED

HILARIOUS THAT PAUL, MY INCREDIBLE D.C. NEIGHBOUR (WHO I WENT TO SEE **PREDATOR: BADLANDS** WITH AT THE EQUALLY IMPRESSIVE DRAFTHOUSE), RECOMMENDED WE VISIT **MIDDLEBURG IN VIRGINIA**. SO I HIRED A CAR FROM RONALD REAGAN **SIXT RENTAL** — WHICH, VERY INTERESTINGLY, SHARES A CAR PARK WITH THE ABINGDON PLANTATION RUINS (EVERYTHING HAS A RICH YET ENDEARINGLY RECENT HISTORY HERE).

ANYWAY, I PICK UP KATY AND WE DROVE TO THE DELIGHTFUL RED FOX INN & TAVERN — **THE GARDENER'S COTTAGE**. OFF TO **MT. DEFIANCE CIDER & DISTILLERY**, WHERE WE LEARN THAT MIDDLEBURG (AS I SUSPECT ANYWHERE IN AMERICA THAT ISN'T A HIGH STREET) IS COMPLETELY UNWALKABLE — WE END UP WALKING IN A DITCH BY THE SIDE OF THE MAIN ROAD — KATY IN HEELS. RECOVERING, KATY GRABS US A **PICKLE FLIGHT** (SHE'S SO ECCENTRIC) AND TWO **CIDER FLIGHTS**. DESPITE THE ENORMOUS HIGH CEILINGS, THE PLACE IS VERY COSY; THE GRAND HALL REMINDS ME OF THE PICTURESQUE APRÈS-SKI, AND WE SIT BY THE FIRE.

KATY BOOKS US THE WORLD'S CUTEST TAXI DRIVER, WHO GIVES US GOODY BAGS AS HE DROPS US OFF AT **LOST BARREL BREWERY**, WHERE THERE'S **LINE DANCING**. AFTER A FEW CIDERS, I IMMEDIATELY JUMP IN AND GET TOLD THAT THE CLASS IS **NOT FOR BEGINNERS**.

NEXT DAY WE WALK THE **HIGH STREET** — IT'S COMPLETELY CHARMING CHECKED OUT **BALL'S BLUFF** - THE SITE OF A DISASTROUS UNION DEFEAT.

ANYWAY, KATY LOVES THE HOLIDAY SO MUCH WE GO BACK THE NEXT WEEKEND! THIS TIME WITH KATE. VIA A TRIP TO **LEESBURG**. VERY CUTE, BUT THE ELECTRICIAN BILL MUST BE OUTRAGEOUS — EVERYTHING IS LIT TO THE NINES. MUM WOULD LOVE IT HERE. MY LORD, IT'S GETTING COLD THOUGH. LOST BARREL WAS CLOSING UP BY THE TIME WE GOT THERE, BUT WE DISCOVERED **RED HORSE TAVERN**. A VERY GOOD LOCAL MUSICIAN CALLED CALVIN THOMAS WAS PLAYING (THE GIRLS COLLECTIVELY TIPPED HIM \$150 - WHICH THEY FOUND HYSTERICAL). GREAT BAR WITH REALLY INTERESTING LOCAL CHARACTERS. WE STAYED TILL THE WEE HOURS.

EXCELLENT TIME IN MIDDLEBURG — I'M GLAD WE'RE NOT GOING BACK THREE SUBSEQUENT WEEKENDS, BUT I KNOW THAT WE'LL BE BACK SOON.



MIDDLEBURG AND LEESBURG ARE BOTH UNBELIEVABLY PRETTY ESPECIALLY IN THE FALL

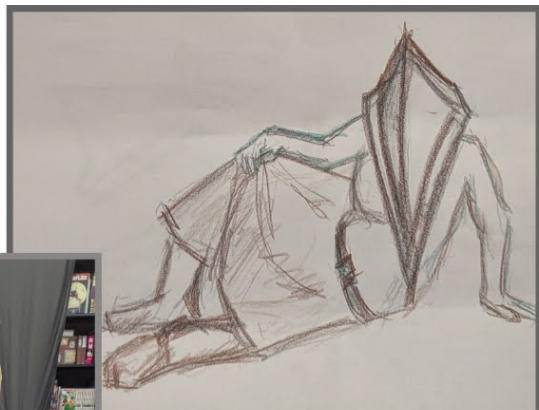


LEESBURG'S BOOKS AND OTHER FOUND THINGS IS VERY ECCENTRIC.



LOTS OF BREWERIES





Really into Phantom Comics in Du Pont

drawing pyramid head in seductive poses to the silent hill
droning soundtrack was... memorable

They also did an intro to magic the gathering and I got my
ass absolutely handed to me

MIDDLEBURG HAS TINY
BENCHES



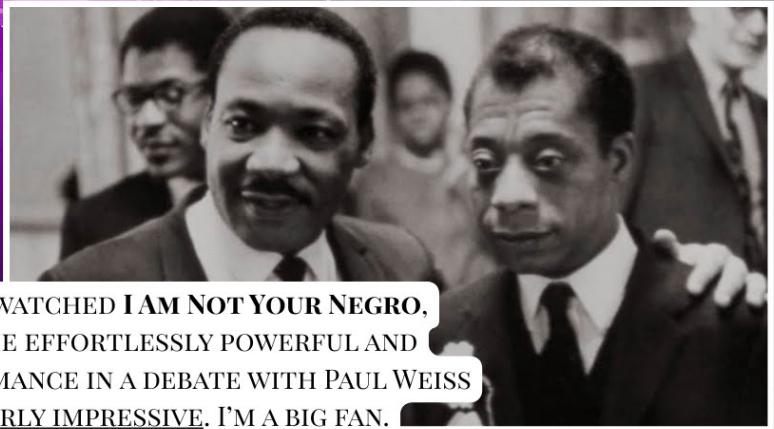
Lord forgive me, I violated one of my very few fucking **life lessons**. Katy's face as I entered the Ned with jeans and trainers was **complete venom**. It's completely my fault. I have **less** life lessons than commandments and **don't underdress** is top of them. I was completely charming, ate some caviar and made a quick exit. I think even Katy began to **forgive me** by the time I was out.

Tech meetup - liberating
going to a meet a company you have
absolutely no intention to work for. I
actually think I did a much better job
of meeting people with the pressure
off and I should learn to relax and
wait for the next opportunity to come
to me.

QUITE AMUSING A TICKET OUTSIDE THE BANK OF AMERICA TELLING PEOPLE HOW MUCH DEBT AMERICA IS IN \$113,000 PER PERSON.



Two national guard shot dead. Horrible. I was in DAR so really close. My dumbass was watching malcom x on the phone and only clocked the whole city was on shut down. The second helicopter flying over finally inspired me to ask what was happening. Now, the whole city is lit up with sirens. Watching the fireworks of police cordons next to students spill over from the student bars next to the White House high up from the 10th floor of The Ned feels surreal and walking home the migraine inducing soundtrack of sirens on the street even more so. The guard who were shot were just kids and the nutcase drove across the country to shoot them. Absolutely tragic.

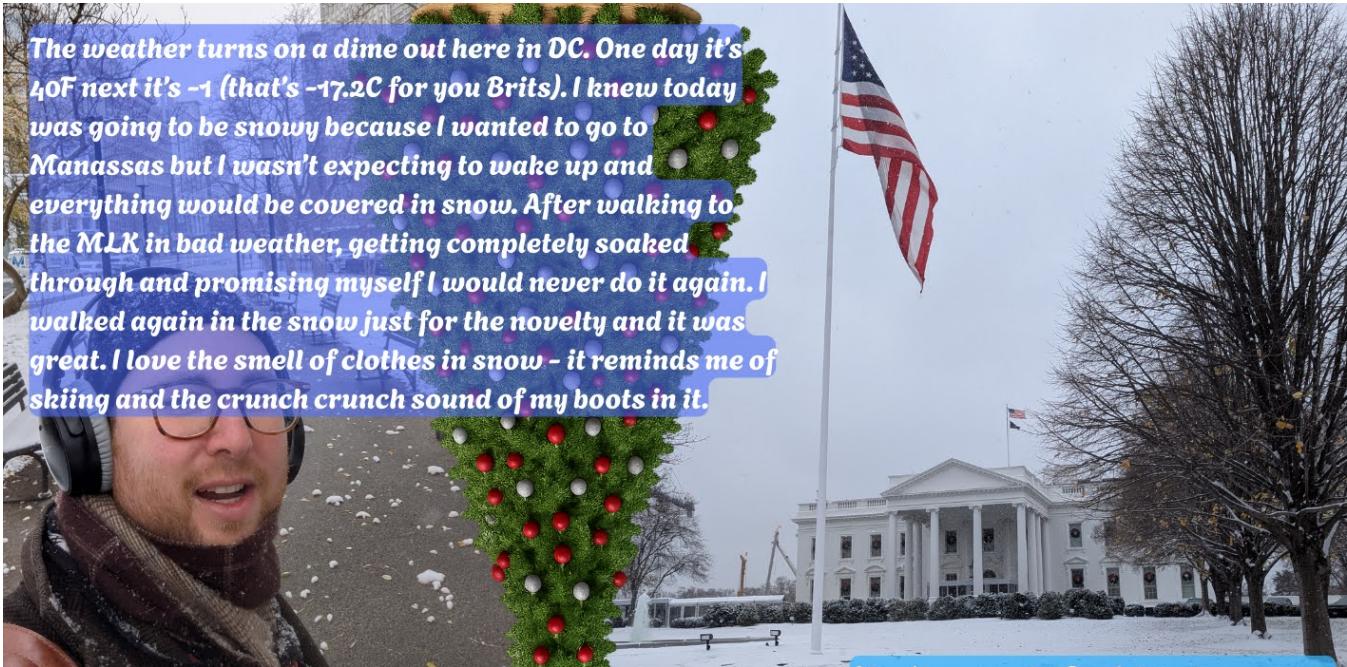


THE DC LIB HAS GIVEN ME KANOPI AND I WATCHED **I AM NOT YOUR NEGRO**, WHICH BRINGS TO LIFE THE WORDS OF THE EFFORTLESSLY POWERFUL AND ELOQUENT **JAMES BALDWIN**. HIS PERFORMANCE IN A DEBATE WITH PAUL WEISS ON THE DICK CAVETT SHOW IS PARTICULARLY IMPRESSIVE. I'M A BIG FAN.

BALDWIN'S DOCUMENTARY ALSO HIGHLIGHTS THE LIVES OF **MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.** AND **MALCOLM X** — TWO PEOPLE I REALISE I KNOW EMBARRASSINGLY LITTLE ABOUT. SO I'VE DIVED INTO MALCOLM X, WITH THE INCREDIBLE DENZEL WASHINGTON. I'M NOT USUALLY A BIG FAN OF SPIKE LEE, BUT CREDIT WHERE IT'S DUE: AFTER A PRETENTIOUS AND STRANGELY EDITED START, HIS FILM (A "JOINT," AS HE CALLS THEM) REALLY FINDS ITS FLOW.

HILARIOUSLY, FOR THE FIRST THIRD OF THE FILM — MORE THAN AN HOUR — "**BIG RED**" (AS MALCOLM LITTLE WENT BY IN HIS EARLY LIFE) IS BASICALLY THE BIGGEST ASSHOLE IMAGINABLE. HE'S THREATENING PEOPLE DURING GAMES OF RUSSIAN ROULETTE, CHEATING AT CARDS, TAKING COKE RUNNING RACKETS, AND EVEN STEALING A RING OFF SOMEONE WHO'S ASLEEP.

BUT I THINK HE'S RIGHT ON THE CUSP OF CONVERTING TO **ISLAM** WHILE INCARCERATED FOR TEN YEARS. IN THE END, MALCOLM X FEELS BETRAYED BY **ELIJAH MUHAMMAD** AND THE **NATION OF ISLAM** AFTER DISCOVERING MUHAMMAD'S INFIDELITIES. THE FILM HEAVILY IMPLIES THAT THE NOI WERE SINGULARLY RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS DEMISE BUT I'VE READ ABOUT OTHER BAD ACTORS. IN HIS EARLY LIFE HE COMPARED **MLK** TO **UNCLE TOM**. IT'S AMAZING HOW MUCH HIS JOURNEY TO **MECCA** CHANGED MALCOM'S MIND, BRINGING HIM MUCH CLOSER TO THE **PREACH LOVE NOT HATE** VERNACULAR AND RESPECT FOR **MLK**.



MANASSAS

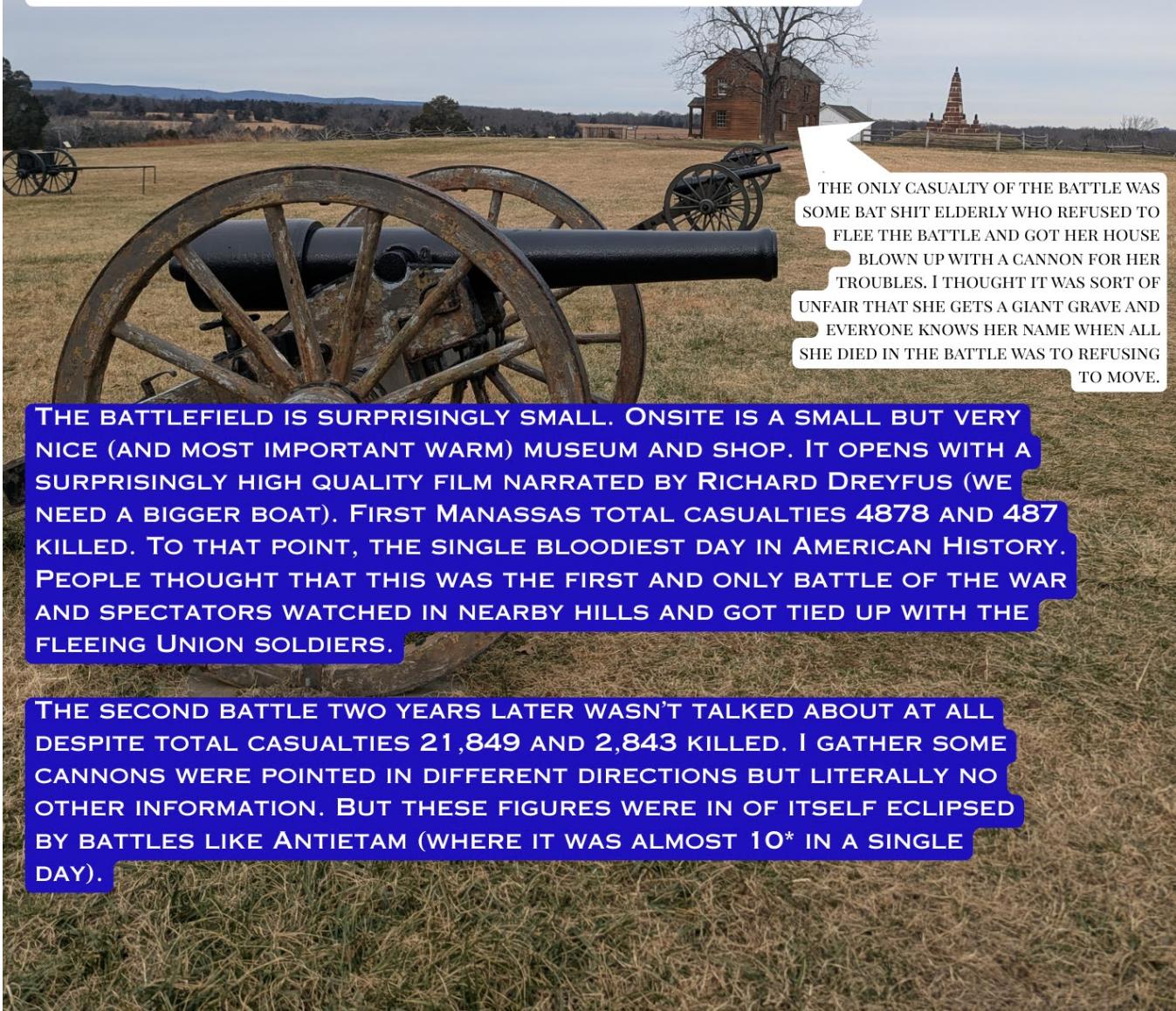


MAYBE PEOPLE IN DC ARE A BIT MORE COLD BUT WHEN I WENT AND ASKED THE MANASSAS VISITORS CENTER WHERE THE BATTLEFIELD WAS, THE SMILES WERE SO BROAD THAT I THOUGHT THEY'RE ABOUT TO PLAY A CRUEL TRICK ON ME. AND I THINK I WAS TOTALLY CORRECT AS NOT ONE OF THE INSTRUCTIONS THEY GAVE MADE ANY SENSE. I'M CURRENTLY WALKING 6 MILES IN THE WRONG DIRECTION THROUGH AN INDUSTRIAL PARK.

BUT I'VE JUST BECOME A LIFER OF THE TURKEY VULTURE (WHAT BENJAMIN FRANKS THOUGHT SHOULD BE THE NATIVE BIRD) AND WITH THAT I'VE GIVEN UP WALKING AND HOPPED IN AN UBER. KATY WOULD BE PROUD.

JOKES ASIDE. UBER WAS DEFINITELY THE RIGHT CALL AND THE KIND FOLKS IN THE VISITOR CENTER ARE PURE EVIL. THERE'S ABSOLUTELY NO WAY I COULD HAVE WALKED UP AN INTERSTATE TO GET HERE.

BULL RUN IS NOW MAINLY A COMMERCIAL PARK. I CAN IMAGINE STONEWALL JACKSON ORDERING HIS MEN TO TAKE BACK OLIVE GARDEN.



THE ONLY CASUALTY OF THE BATTLE WAS SOME BAT SHIT ELDERLY WHO REFUSED TO FLEE THE BATTLE AND GOT HER HOUSE BLOWN UP WITH A CANNON FOR HER TROUBLES. I THOUGHT IT WAS SORT OF UNFAIR THAT SHE GETS A GIANT GRAVE AND EVERYONE KNOWS HER NAME WHEN ALL SHE DIED IN THE BATTLE WAS TO REFUSING TO MOVE.

THE BATTLEFIELD IS SURPRISINGLY SMALL. ONSITE IS A SMALL BUT VERY NICE (AND MOST IMPORTANT WARM) MUSEUM AND SHOP. IT OPENS WITH A SURPRISINGLY HIGH QUALITY FILM NARRATED BY RICHARD DREYFUS (WE NEED A BIGGER BOAT). FIRST MANASSAS TOTAL CASUALTIES 4878 AND 487 KILLED. TO THAT POINT, THE SINGLE BLOODIEST DAY IN AMERICAN HISTORY. PEOPLE THOUGHT THAT THIS WAS THE FIRST AND ONLY BATTLE OF THE WAR AND SPECTATORS WATCHED IN NEARBY HILLS AND GOT TIED UP WITH THE FLEEING UNION SOLDIERS.

THE SECOND BATTLE TWO YEARS LATER WASN'T TALKED ABOUT AT ALL DESPITE TOTAL CASUALTIES 21,849 AND 2,843 KILLED. I GATHER SOME CANNONS WERE POINTED IN DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS BUT LITERALLY NO OTHER INFORMATION. BUT THESE FIGURES WERE IN OF ITSELF ECLIPSED BY BATTLES LIKE ANTIETAM (WHERE IT WAS ALMOST 10* IN A SINGLE DAY).

Manassas (the town)

This town is very nice. Store owners are very happy to give you their unabridged life story and keep yelling recommendations at you after you've left. I just got giving free cookie and hot chocolate. I thought I committed a crime by getting and not paying but SWAT haven't apprehended me yet.

Leaving Manassas was like the last chopper pit of Saigon. I think Santa sent all the naughty children this year onto the last train back to DC. This train contains 98% crying toddlers who to my bafflement don't appreciate quiet carriage rules. Fortunately the train is so vast - I didn't take a photo of the train as I was so dumbfounded how big this cruiseliner is. I was able to easily find a seat away from the child with a whistle before I threw one or the other off.

Santa just entered the quiet carriage. I guess he even has his limits. I asked him if his sleigh was out of commission and he told me to fuck off.

There were too many kids in The grotto so I took this extremely paparazzi stalker creepy photo of him. Looks like I'm going to follow him to the north pole and wear his skin.

Another creepy photo of Santa.
This is turning into a collection.

the George Washington Masonic
is crazy it's like someone stuck
the empire state building on the white house

Manassas old town

Double decker VRE I rode to Manassas

KATY INSISTS ON TAKING UBER BLACK EVERYWHERE (IT'S ABOUT DOUBLE THE PRICE OF A REGULAR UBER). EVER WONDERED WHAT THE PRESIDENT'S SECRET SERVICE DO ON THEIR LUNCH BREAKS? MAYBE KATY THINKS HER OPINION PIECES ARE EXPOSING DC'S NEFARIOUS ELITE BECAUSE THE DOUBLE LANE SIZED, TINTED WINDOW CARS SHE RIDES TO AN ICE CREAM PARLOUR IN GEORGETOWN COULD SURVIVE AN RPG ATTACK.

COOL MURAL NEAR ADAM'S MORGAN

Hiroshige Exhibit

東都八景
洲崎御殿山
高麗
佃

Utagawa Hiroshige (1797–1858)
Susaki, Goten Hill, Takanawa and
Tsukuda, about 1831

Of all the genres that engaged Hiroshige it was his realistic, yet richly poetic, landscapes that earned him greatest fame in his lifetime and continue to win admiration today.

These four prints belong to one of his earliest landscape series, *Eight Views of the Eastern Capital*. They depict well-known sights around Edo Bay. The 'Eight Views' Chinese literary and painting theme was often used by Japanese artists to celebrate Japan's lakes, rivers and coastal areas.

From *Eight Views of the Eastern Capital*, published by Sanoya Kihei
Colour woodblock prints
Loaned from the collection of Alan Meadagh



Went to the Hiroshige exhibit with my Japanese class. It was super sweet catching up with the online class. Hiroshige is amazing—you can get right up close and still see all the detail. I was especially inspired by his views of the capital.

Below, I've chosen my eight top views of London:



Covent garden



Nottinghi