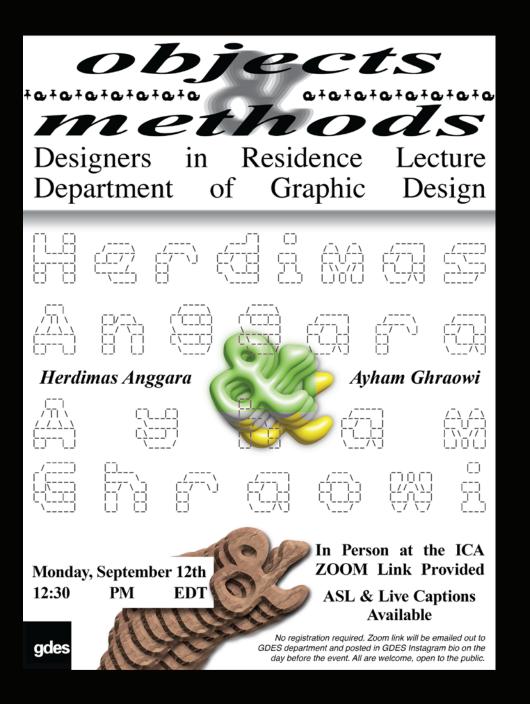
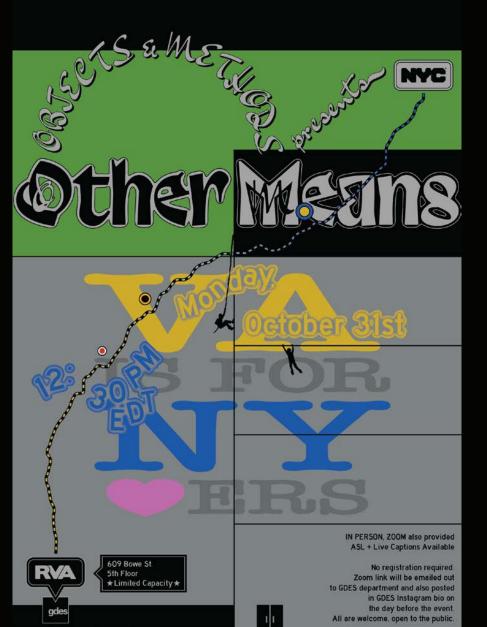
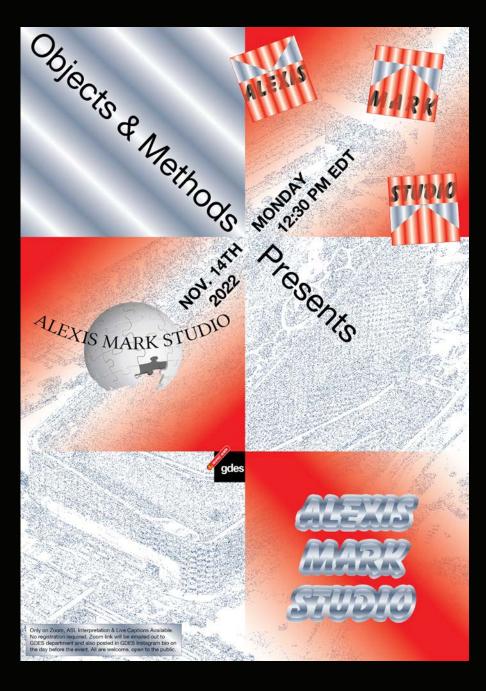
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portfolio 2023







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In Praise of Shadows

Jun'ichirō Tanizaki

he darkness in which the No is shrouded and the eauty that emerges from it make a distinct world of shadows which today can be seen only on the stage; but in the past it could not have been far removed from daily life. The darkness of the Nö stage is after all the darkness of the domestic architecture of the day; and No costumes, even if a bit more splendid in pattern and color, are by and large those that were worn by court nobles and feudal lords. I find the thought fascinating: to imagine how very handsome, by comparison with us today, the Japanese of the past must have been in their resplendent dress-particularly the warriors of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. The No sets before us the beauty of Japanese manhood at its finest. What grand figures those warriors who traversed the battlefields of old must have cut in their full regalia emblazoned with family crests, the somber gro and gleaming embroidery setting off strong-boned faces burnisted a deep bronze by wind and rain. Every devotee of the Nö finds a certain portion of his pleasure in speculations of this sort; for the thought that the highly colored world on the stage once existed just as we see it imparts to the No a historical fascination quite apart from the drama.

But the Kabuki is ultimately a world of sham, having little to do with beauty in the natural state. It is inconceivable that the beautiful women of old-to say nothing of the men-bore any resemblance to those we see on the Kabuki stage. The women of the Nö, portrayed by masked actors, are far from realistic; but the Kabuki actor in the part of a woman inspires not the slightest sense of reality. The failure is the fault of exces-sive lighting. When there were no modern floodlamps, when the Kabuki stage was lit by the meager light of candles and lanterns, actors must have been somewhat more convincing in women's roles. People complain that Kabuki actors are no longer really feminine, but this is hardly the fault of their talents or looks. If actors of old had had to appear on the bright stage of today, they would doubtless have stood out with a certain masculine harshness, which in the past was discreetly hidden by darkness. This was brought home to me vividly when I saw the aging Baikó in the role of the young Okaru. A senseless and extravagant use of lights, I thought, has destroyed the beauty of Kabuki.

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naller rooms are the fashion now, and even if one were to use candles in them one would not get the color of that darkness, but in the old palace and the old house of pleasure the ceilings were high, the skirting corridors were wide, the rooms themselves were usually tens of feet long and wide, and the darkness must always have pressed in like a fog. The elegant aristocrat of old was immersed in this suspension of

ashen particles, soaked in it, but the man of today, long used to the electric light, has forgotten that such a darkness existed. It must have been simple for specters to appear in a "visible darkness," where always something seemed to be flickering and shimmering, a darkness that on occasion held greater terrors than darkness out-of-doors. This was the darkness in which ghosts and monsters were active, and indeed was not the woman who lived in it, behind thick curtains, behind laver after layer of screens and doors-was she not of a kind with them? The darkness wrapped her round tenfold, twentyfold, it filled the collar, the sleeves of her kimono, the folds of her skirt, wherever a hollow invited. Further yet, might it not have been the reverse, might not the darkness have emerged from her mouth and those black teeth, from the black of her hair, like the thread from the great earth spider?

> he novelist Takebayashi Musõan said when he re-Turned from Paris a few years ago that Tokyo and Osaka were far more brightly lit than any European city, that even on the Champs Elysées there were still houses lit by oil lamps, while in Japan hardly a one remained unless in a remote mountain village. Perhaps no two countries in the world waste more electricity than America and Japan, he said, for Japan is only too

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anxious to imitate America in every way it can. That was some four or five years ago, before the vogue for neon signs. Imagine his surprise were he to ome today, when everything is so much brighter.



Yamamoto Sanchiko, president of the Kaizo publishing house, told me of taminous outching of the second of the second problem of the second problem of the second of the sec such things"—this was Yamamoto's interpretation. But the truth of the matter is that Japan wastes more electric light than any Western country except America. This calls to mind another curious Ishiyama story. This year I had great trouble

making up my mind where to go for the autumn moon-viewing. Finally, after much perplexed head-scratching, I decided on the Ishiyama Temple. The day before the full moon, however, I read in the paper that there would be loudspeakers in the woods at Ishiyama to regale the moon-viewing guests with phonograph records of the Moon-light Sonata. I canceled my plans immediately. Loudspeakers were bad enough, but if it could be assumed that they would set the tone, then there would surely be floodlights too strung all over the mountain. I remember another ruined moon-viewing, the year we took a boat on the night of the harvest full moon and sailed out over the lake of the Suma Temple. We put together a party, we had our refreshments in lacquered boxes, we set bravely out. But the margin of the lake was decorated brilliantly with electric

We set or avery out, but the margin of the take was decorated ormanny with electric lights in five colors. There was indeed a moon if one strained one's eyes for it. So benumbed are we nowadays by electric lights that we have become utter-ly insensitive to the evils of excessive illumination. It does not matter all that much in the case of the moon, I suppose, but teahouses, restaurants, inns, and hotels are sure to be lit far too extravagantly. Some of this may be necessary to attract when the lights are turned on in summer even before a waste, and worse than the waste is the heat. I am wherever I go in the summer. Outside it will be cool. dark it is upset by it but inside it will be ridiculously hot, and more often than not lights too strong or too numerous. Turn some of them in no time at all the room is refreshingly cool. Yet cuoff and neither the guests nor the owner seem to realize this. A should be brighter in winter, but dimmer in summer; it is

appropriately cool, and does not attract in sects. But people will light the lights, then switch on an electric fan to combat the heat. The very thought annoys me. One can endure a Japanese room all the same, for ultimately at escapes through the walls. But in a Western-style hotel lation is poor, and the floors, walls, and ceilings drink in heat and throw it back from every direction with unbear intensity. The worst example, alas, is the Miyako Hotel to, as anyone who has been in its lobby on a sum-As a single the most been in its been in its been on a same verning should agree. It stands on high ground, facing north, commanding a view of Mount Hiei, Nyoigatake, the Kurodani pagoda, the forests, the green hills of Higashiyama—a splendid-

and clean view, all the more disap

ing so. Should a person of a summer's fresh himself among purple hills and

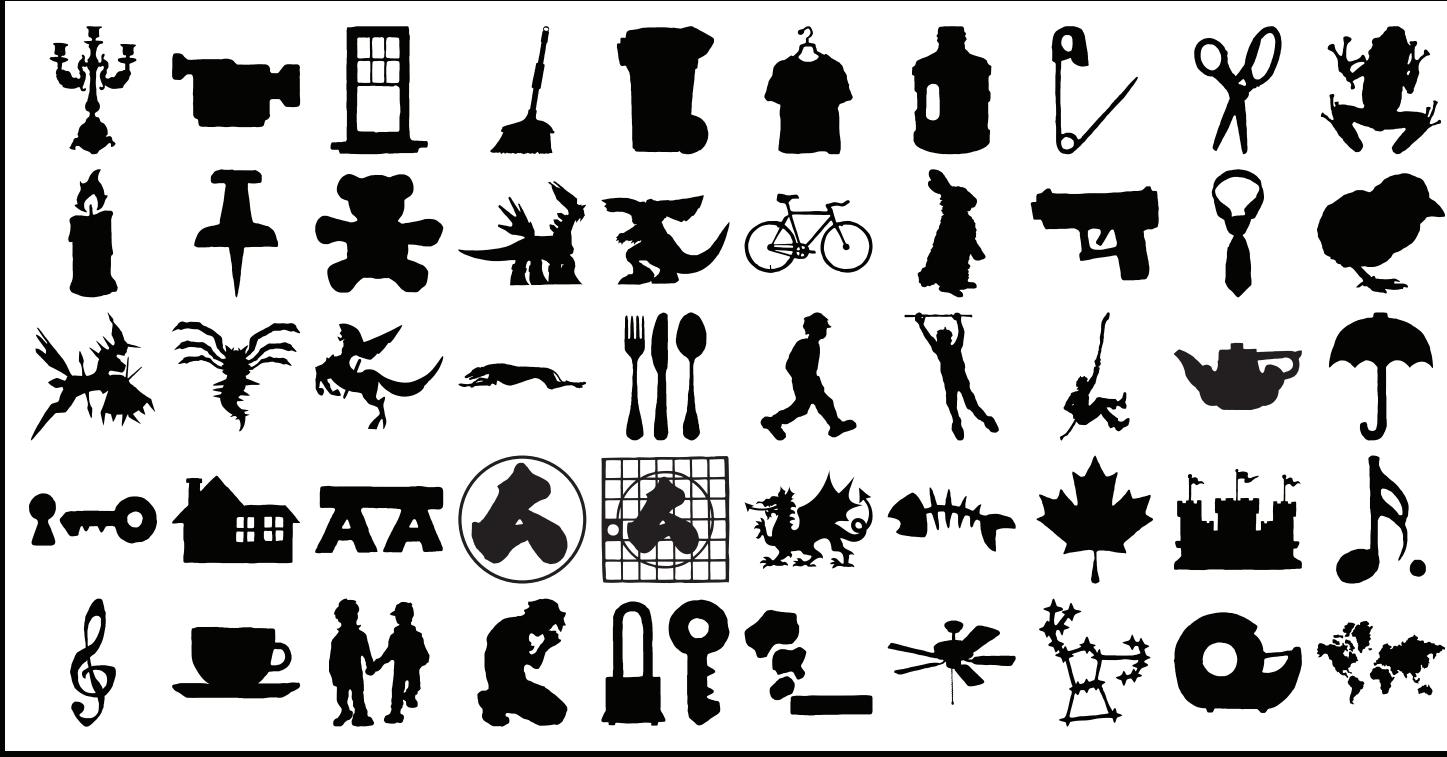
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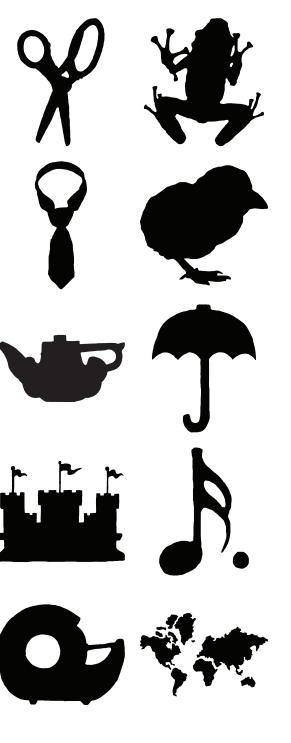
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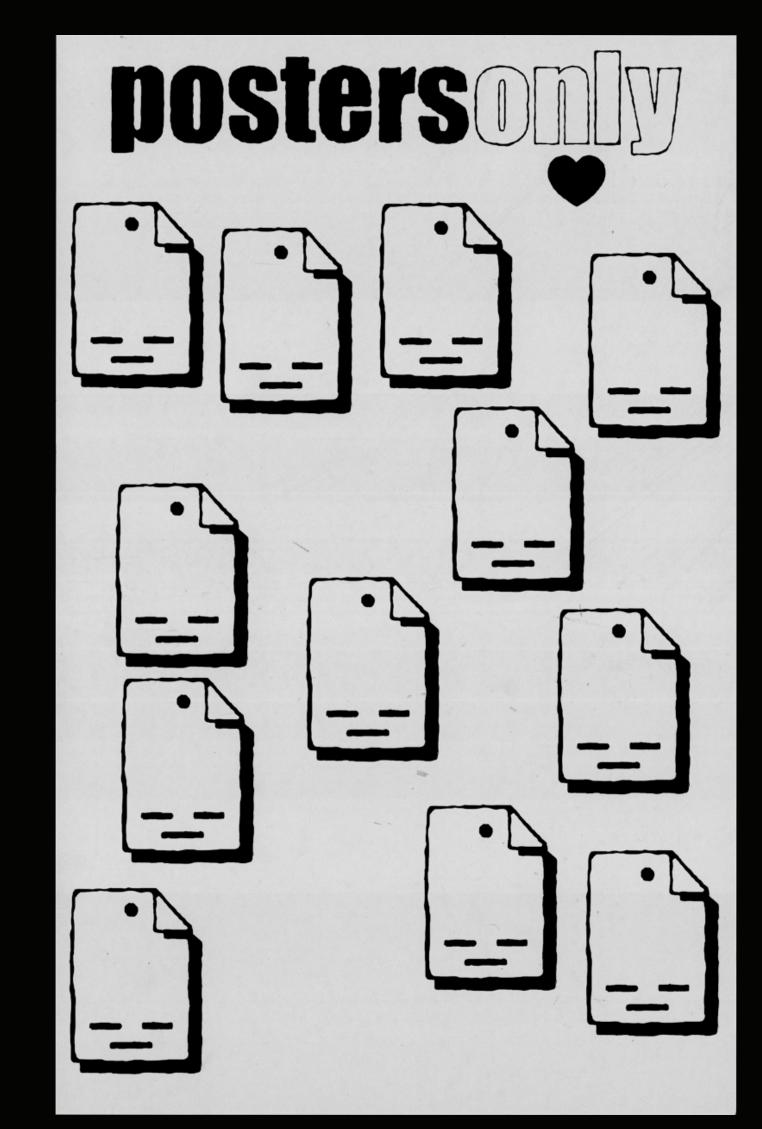
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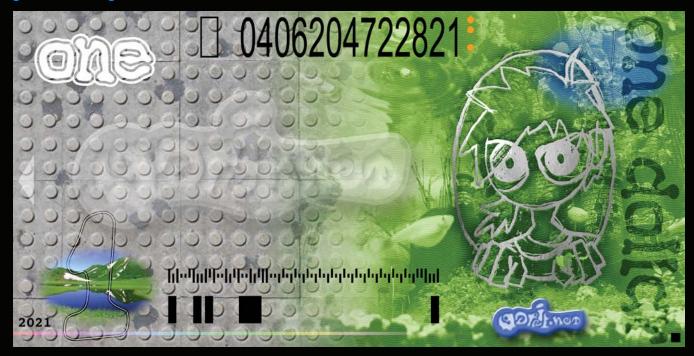


In Praise of Shadows (Silhouette Dingbats) — A set of dingbats representing everyday objects, symbols and ideas exclusively as silhouettes, to represent the beauty Tanizaki saw in the unseen. Inspired by Charles Bigelow and Kris Holmes's Wingdings, I used the characters throughout the book as a vernacular of their own, implying illustrated scenes rather than depicting them outright.













Printed Money, 2021 - Investigation into the design of banknotes and aesthetics of officiality and how they can be appropriated

















I'm now collecting this series of mailpieces Under the name "Principalities"

I was really inspired by the names for the Christian Hierarchy of Angels

Principalities is the seventh highest rank out of nine

I'm not sure if there's any significance to which rank I am naming it after

But I think of each person or group of people that I send mail to as a Principality That I correspond with

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Followers Following

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Address book new members: 15 New total: 43

Hello Harper Hello Jake Hello Tony Hello Ryan Hello Ezra Hello Caroline Hello Asher Hello Sophie Hello Celia Hello Joseph Hello Sterling Hello Abby Hello Rae Hello Lauren Hello Ayush TABLE OF CONTENTS *Letter #2 - 3/15 The letter you're reading right now *An Interview With Grace on the

Principalities, 2023 — A study of receipt printing as format. The typographic forms it produces, format-shifting required to produce images, and its ability to quickly and cheaply produce multiples, in this case to be distributed to my mailing list.

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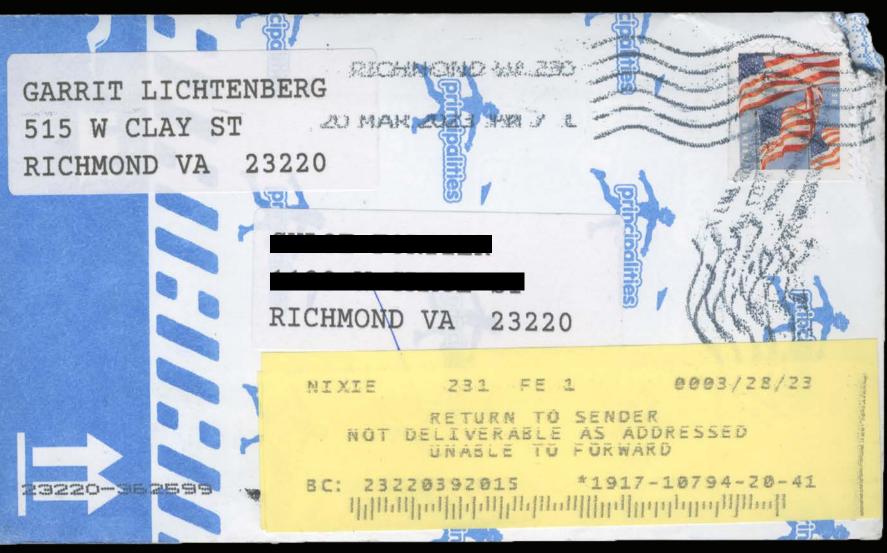
Hello Garri

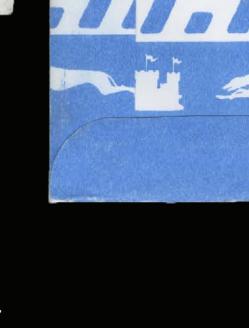
Thanks for joining my address book. I am really excited to send you all some things

& I hope you enjoy what I send you. I think as a project, my outgoing mail and permaps any reply you might want to send (!) are a complement to the weekly newsletter I have been posting on my website. So I guess you could think of each piece of mail I send out as another page or another chapter or another volume in one big, huge, maybe endless publication that would sit next to a book or an archive of every newsletter I've published. And if you're receiving this, that means you're starting from page one, but someone who signs up a month from now could be starting on page 11 or page 34 or

page 194 or whatever.

Speaking of mail as an accumulation and the archiving of such, the best way to





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Garrit Lichtenberg 515 W Clay St Richmond VA 23220

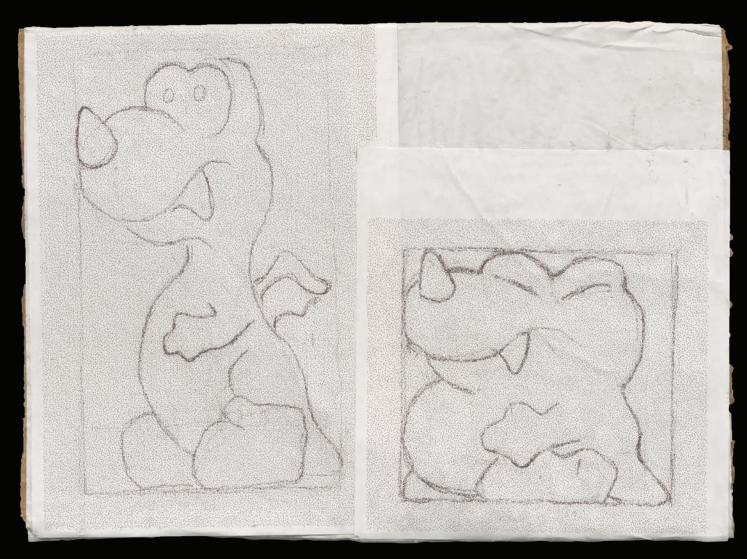


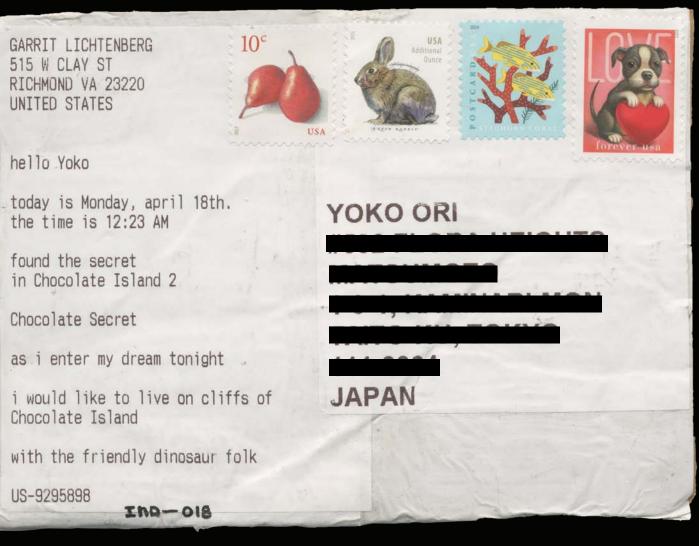


Robin DuggAn Brook lyn NY



Mailpiece IND-012, to Robin Alvare, 2023





Mailpiece IND-018, to Yoko Ori, 2023









