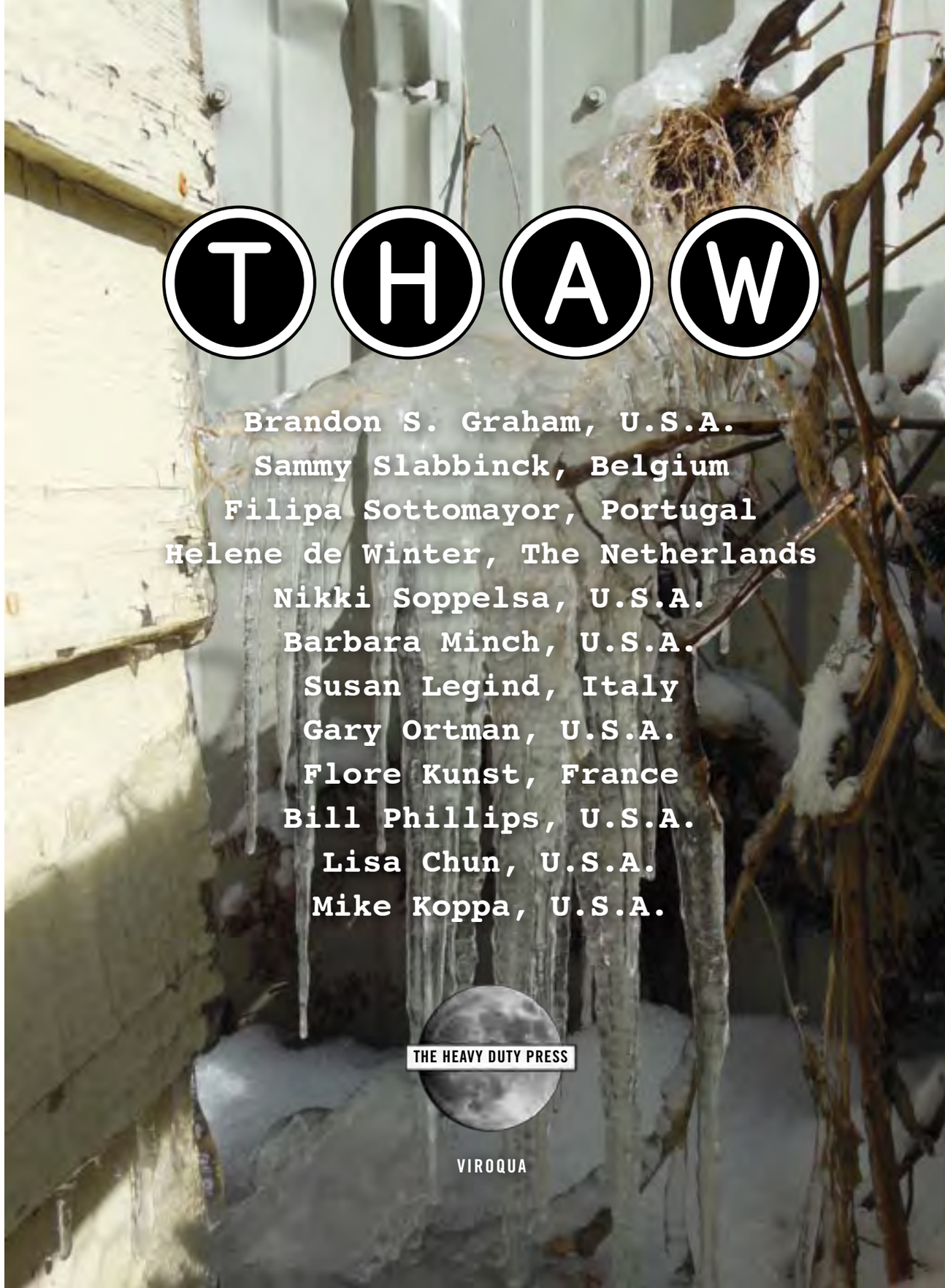
THAW


THAW
Brandon S. Graham, U.S.A.
Sammy Slabbinck, Belgium
Filipa Sottomayor, Portugal
Helene de Winter, The Netherlands
Nikki Soppelsa, U.S.A.
Barbara Minch, U.S.A.
Susan Legind, Italy
Gary Ortman, U.S.A.
Flore Kunst, France
Bill Phillips, U.S.A.
Lisa Chun, U.S.A.
Mike Koppa, U.S.A.
THE HEAVY DUTY PRESS
VIROQUA

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Cover art by Nikki Soppelsa.

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for the future

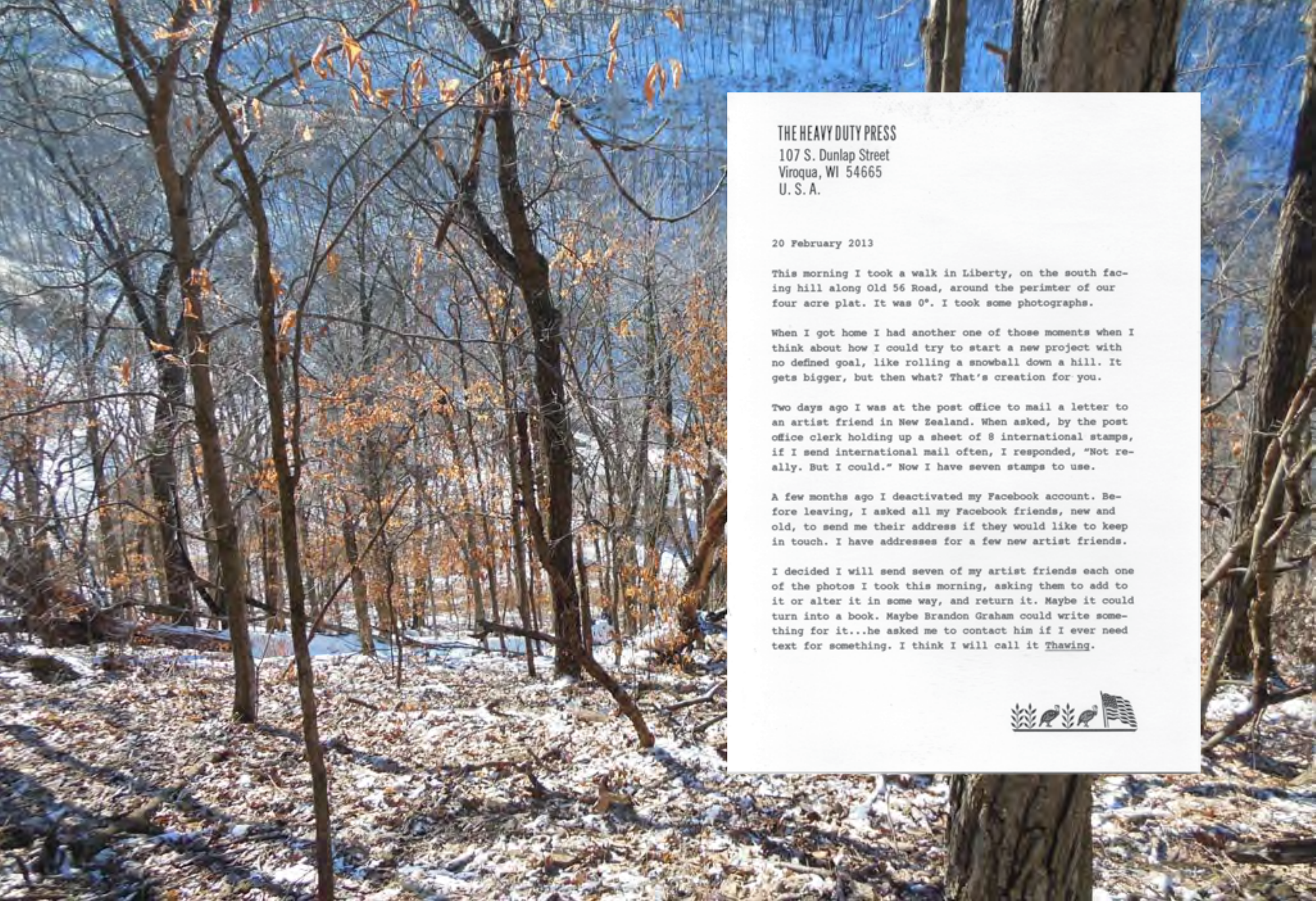












THE HEAVY DUTY PRESS
107 S. Dunlap Street
Viroqua, WI 54665
U. S. A.

20 February 2013

This morning I took a walk in Liberty, on the south facing hill along Old 56 Road, around the perimter of our four acre plat. It was 0°. I took some photographs.

When I got home I had another one of those moments when I think about how I could try to start a new project with no defined goal, like rolling a snowball down a hill. It gets bigger, but then what? That's creation for you.

Two days ago I was at the post office to mail a letter to an artist friend in New Zealand. When asked, by the post office clerk holding up a sheet of 8 international stamps, if I send international mail often, I responded, "Not really. But I could." Now I have seven stamps to use.

A few months ago I deactivated my Facebook account. Before leaving, I asked all my Facebook friends, new and old, to send me their address if they would like to keep in touch. I have addresses for a few new artist friends.

I decided I will send seven of my artist friends each one of the photos I took this morning, asking them to add to it or alter it in some way, and return it. Maybe it could turn into a book. Maybe Brandon Graham could write something for it...he asked me to contact him if I ever need text for something. I think I will call it Thawing.



Walking through the woods in Liberty,
Caught becoming a doorway.

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Sammy S labbinck
Fronteinstraat 16
8000 Brugge
Belgium

20 Feb 13

Dear Sammy,
Plaese see the enclosed items and respnd if you are interes5ed in participating. Very little is needed...just your addition or subtraction however you feel is best and return the picture to me. I will return the favor with prints of other artists' returns, or a copy of the book if that's what comes from it. If it becomes a book, the edition will be small (20 copies?) and sold as an "artist's book" to special collections in libraries or collectors... whomever. Scratch that, I will send each particpating artist 2 copies of the book, if it happens...one to keep, one to sell? Just an idea I had this morning...I thought it felt like a good thing to do, so I needed to see hwat would happen if I tried it.
Best regards!

From: Koppa <viroquacreative@gmail.com>
Date: Wednesday, February 20, 2013 2:50 PM
To: Flore Kunst <florekunst@orange.fr>
Subject: Re: collab?

Excellent! Thank you.

From: Flore Kunst <florekunst@orange.fr>
Date: Wednesday, February 20, 2013 2:29 PM
To: Koppa <viroquacreative@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: collab?

Hi Mike,

I like your idea, thank you for thinking of me, here is my address:

Flore Cons
5, rue de l'Arbre Sec
69001 -Lyon-
FRANCE

Many thanks :)
Best.

Flore.

Le 20 févr. 2013 à 17:48, Mike Koppa a écrit :
Dear Flore,

As one of a handful of collage contemporaries I met through Facebook, I'm wondering if you would like to participate in a very simple collaborative exchange.

Two days ago I had to buy international stamps to send a letter to Juliet McAra (Collagista) in New Zealand and the postmaster asked if I send international mail regularly. My response: "Well, not really. But I could." So I bought 7 international stamps and I need to use them.

This morning I went for a walk in the woods on our land in the country here in rural southwest Wisconsin. I took my camera and have a few photos of the experience. My thought is that I will send a miniature photo in the mail of my experience this morning to my international collage friends and ask that they use it as the base for a very simple collage and return it.

In exchange for your favor, I will send small prints of each collage I receive back from the other artists.

If you would like to play, please send a postal address.

Thank you and have a lovely day!

Mike

Mike Koppa, organizer
Viroqua Creative Workshop LLC
DBA Viroqua Stone Lettering & The Heavy Duty Press
107 S. Dunlap Ave.| Viroqua, WI 54665
608-606-5854

misterkoppa.com

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Flore Cons
5, rue de l'arbre Sec
69001 -Lyon-
France

20 Feb 13

Dear Flore,
I just received your email reply for the address moments ⁄ ago, thank you. A synopsis of this project is enclosed and the ideas about what it is and what it will include are growing and changeing as I type these invites...trying to keep it spontaneous and light. Simpple idea simple execution. As of now I am hoping to get response enohg enough from artists invited to have it become a book, which I sell as an "art book" to special collections librarians and collectors. I can for sure sell 3...then give 2 copies to each contributor, final edition size probably something like 20 or 30, whatever it takes to cover the bases. All clear? Hope to hear (and see) back from you soon!

Best regards,



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U. S. A.

Gary Ortman
342 E. Greenwood
Morton, IL 61550

20 Feb 13

Dear Yrag,
Had an idea today. See enclosures. When I go over my address book...I used to call it a mail mailing list but that sounds so impersonal I don't know why the hell I ever used it--musta wanted to be a business...anyway, my address book, when I go over it I see only a few international artists, not 7, and I see a few collage friends here in the U.S.A. You is one so here you go. If you choose to sned the image back with your alterations, I'll send you 2 copies fo the book that comes of it...if it happens. I need to find out if other artists reply to these things I sned in the mail. I intend to sell the book, if it happens, as an "artists' book" to special collections librqriams and collectors. Small market. So I'll make a small edition (20...25?), give some to the contributors,sell theothers.
Yes? Best regards,



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Lisa Chun
5936 Gaviotta Ave.
Long Beach, CA 90805

20 Feb 13

Dear Lisa,
I had an idea this morning...explained in the enclosures, mostly. Take a look. If you choose to particpate, and others, too...and let's say a book comes of it, as I'm hoping, then I make a small edition of 20 or 25 copies, send 2 copies to eac h contributor, and the others I sell to special collections librarians and collectors, which is a pretty small market, but I know I can sell at least 3 copies, so to me that makes it woth* dong*. Sounds good? I was planning to international with the project, but found I only have address for a few collage friends outside the U.S. So...hatever it takes...we shall see! Thanks for considering and have a nice day!
Best regards,

*that was supposed to say worth
*ha ha...seriously...that was supposed to say doIng!



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Viroqua, WI 54665
U. S. A.

Brandon S. Graham
336 8th St.
Downers Grove, IL 60615

20 Feb 13

Dear Brandon,
Member you said I should let you know if I need any text for any project? I have something here, maybe. The idea came this morning, see enclosures. If all 7 artists respond with an image, it could be a book with 7 images and an opposing page of text for each, like a poem, maybe, or whatever. Stream of conscious-ness or whatever the phrase is. I'm thinking something that woluld be one piece broken into seven. Or what if only six or 5ive images...who knows? The whole thing is pretty spontaneous right now. 6 letters written about an idea conceived 5 hours ago. If you contribute (please), I will, if artists contribute and it becomes a book in the end, give you 2 copies as payment and the rest of a small edition (25 or s0, 2 each to everyone and the remainder to seelll as art) I sell to special collections librarians or collectors. I can sell 3 for sure. Best regards, out of room!



Da: Mike Koppa [mailto:viroquacreative@gmail.com] **Inviato:** giovedì 21 febbraio 2013 12:22 **A:** Sussie Legind Oggetto: **Re:** R: collab

Excellent…

Actually, the collage will be very tiny. I am sending a photo I took yesterday morning, about 2 x 3". You do what you want with it. Could be very simple…

I am not even sure how well they will reproduce in a book, because I will be scanning these little photos when I get them back, but I'll just take what I get…I think the idea is more important than the reproduction, but I'll do the best I can with it.

The Lecce thing…that story ended (or didn't end) with a little frustration. I think I've been had. I paid a lower rate to have the work included in a second exhibit. Again it didn't sell, thought he reported people were "interested." Then he asked if I wanted to pay more to show it again or have it sent back. I said send it back. He said okay and he would let me know the cost of shipping. That's the last I heard from him. So it's still there, not shipped back, either in the garbage or in their storage.

I actually was thinking I could tell him I have a friend in Rome, could he just send it to her. Then YOU could have it instead of him. Or better, supposed you wanted to go visit Lecce some day, I could just tell him you're coming to pick it up! No charge, you can have it…if that's some thing you would do and it wouldn't be any special trip or hassle. Anything to get it at least into the hands of a friend and out of the hands of a crook!

Have a nice day and expect something in the mailbox soon!

Best,

Mike

From: Susan Legind <sussielegind@gmail.com>
Date: Thursday, February 21, 2013 12:35 AM
To: Koppa <viroquacreative@gmail.com>
Subject: R: collab

Godmorning Mike…
What a great thought…I would like to join in. I miss you a lot at facebook so it would be lovely to make something together and keep contact!
My adress is:
Susan Legind
Via Anagnina 332
00118 Rome, Italy

What about the size of the collage-work I send to you? Would A4 be ok?...it would be esay to mail in an envelope!
Mike…what's going on with the "italian-story"…did they sell your work? Did they ask more money?...what happend?

Hope to hear from you soon…and have a nice day..
Susan

Da: Mike Koppa [mailto:viroquacreative@gmail.com] **Inviato:** mercoledì 20 febbraio 2013 17:50 **A:** Susan Legind **Oggetto:** collab

Dear Susan,

As one of a handful of collage contemporaries I met through Facebook, I'm wondering if you would like to participate in a very simple collaborative exchange.

Two days ago I had to buy international stamps to sent a letter to Juliet McAra (Collagista) in New Zealand and the postmaster asked if I send international mail regularly. My re-

sponse: "Well, not really. But I could." So I bought 7 international stamps and I need to use them.

This morning I went for a walk in the woods on our land in the country here in rural south-west Wisconsin. I took my camera and have a few photos of the experience. My thought is that I will send a miniature photo in the mail of my experience this morning to my inter-national collage friends and ask that they use it as the base for a very simple collage and return it.

In exchange for your favor, I will send small prints of each collage I receive back from the other artists.

If you would like to play, please send a postal address.

Thank you and have a lovely day![1]

Mike

Mike Koppa, organizer
Viroqua Creative Workshop LLC
DBA Viroqua Stone Lettering & The Heavy Duty Press
107 S. Dunlap Ave.| Viroqua, WI 54665
608-606-5854

misterkoppa.com

[1] This is a slightly embarrassing confession that there are times when I do cut and paste, eliminating the require-ment to retype a standard message. No personal touch, nothing left to the way a thought pattern might change from one moment to another. But in the name of efficiency, regardless of any respect for humanity, it happens. Or has happened.



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U. S. A.

Susan Legind
via Anagnina 332
00118 Rome
ITLAY

21 Feb 13

Dear Susan,
Enclosed are the details...well, maybe they're not exactly details...enclos3d is a simple journal entry regarding how this project started yesterday morning. I am trying not to think too much about it but rather just get it going and see what happens. Alter the photo however you wish and return it. I'll scan it and include it in the book (if I get enough rep;ies...not sure how many that is...all 7?) and send you 2 copies of a small edition (maybe 20-30 books) inexchange for your cooperation. I sent a letter asking for some text to accompany the photos... we'll see if it works out. Or what. Maybe the fun is in not knowing at this point, and dreaming about these letters flying all around the world for the fun of spontaneous and experimental creativity! Thanks againfor agreeing to participate. Best regards,

From: Koppa <viroquacreative@gmail.com>
Date: Thursday, February 21, 2013 12:31 PM
To: Helene de Winter <info@helenedewinter.nl>
Subject: Re: collab?

Great. Thanks.

I'll send it today.

From: Helene de Winter <info@helenedewinter.nl>
Date: Thursday, February 21, 2013 10:37 AM
To: Koppa <viroquacreative@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: collab?

Hello Mike,

Thank you for contacting me.
Your idea sounds interesting. I like the idea of a worldwide collaboration.
One of the advantages of collage making: it's relatively easy to ship :-)
I had a look on your website and I like your work!

If you send me something: please send it to my home-address, the studio-adress is not ideal as a post-address.

My home address is:

Helene de Winter
Eerste Morgendreef 10
5233 ND Den Bosch
The Netherlands

Looking forward to this collage-making-adventure.

Kind regards,
Helene de Winter

www.helenedewinter.nl | 0031(0)651424258 | info@helenedewinter.nl

Op 21 feb. 2013, **om** 15:57 **heeft** Mike Koppa **het** volgende geschreven:

Dear Ms de Winter,

My name is Mike Koppa. I am a collage and book artist living in Wisconsin, U.S.A.

I am a subscriber to Kolaj magazine and saw your ad in the directory. I'm wondering if you would like to participate in a very simple collaborative exchange.

Two days ago I had to buy international stamps to sent a letter to Juliet McAra (Collagista) in New Zealand and the postmaster asked if I send international mail regularly. My response: "Well, not really. But I could." So I bought 7 international stamps and I need to use them.

Yesterday morning I went for a walk in the woods on our land in the country here in rural southwest Wisconsin. I took my camera and have a few photos of the experience. My thought is that I will send a miniature photo of my experience to a handful of international collage artists, and ask that they use it as the base for a very simple collage and return it.

One simple act…all you need to do to participate is receive the miniature photo, do something with it, and return it.

In exchange for your favor (and if I get enough response to make it into an interesting book), I will send you two copies of a small edition (20-30 copies), for you to keep or sell.

When I went to my address book, I found I don't have 7 seven international collage friends! So I looked to my right, saw the Kolaj mag sitting there, and figured this was the right time to make practical use of it.

If you would like to play along with me and a few other collage artists, please let me know and I will send an envelope to the address listed on your website: Ateliers PK14twee, Horse Kerkhofweg 14, Den Bosch.

Thank you and have a lovely day!

Mike



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U. S. A.

Helene de Winter
Eerste Morgendreef 10
5233 ND Den Bosch
THE NETHERLANDS

21 Feb 13

Dear Helene,
Thank you for agreeing to participate in this spontaneous project. The enclosed journal entry talks a little more about how it started...I am working quickly so as not to dismiss the idea as foolish or silly or not worthy of the effort. Please alter the enclosed photo and return it. I will scan it and include it with whatever other images get ## back to me in a book and send y@u 2 copies in exchange for your cooperation. This is the 7th of these letters...I think I will send one more to an unconfirmed address (I have the stamp for it, after all) and hope to get at least 7 images back. If I don't get enough response from the letters to make it interesting I won't make the book. Time will tell, I guess. Thank you again for your immediate willingness to participate. And have a nice day in the netherlands. Best regards,

MMK

From: Koppa <mvkoppa@mwt.net>
Date: Saturday, February 23, 2013 4:30 PM
To: Gary Ortman <gnamtro@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: Question

I don’t remember making any rules other than what I sent in the envelope.

From: Gary Ortman <gnamtro@gmail.com>
Date: Saturday, February 23, 2013 3:54 PM
To: Koppa <mvkoppa@mwt.net>
Subject: Question

Any size limitation? OK to cut off the white border? (Being the freewheeling artiste that you are, think I know the answers.)

From: Koppa <viroquacreative@gmail.com>
Date: Thursday, February 28, 2013 6:38 AM
To: Susan Legind <sussielegind@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: R: R: R: collab

That would be incredible.

From: Susan Legind <sussielegind@gmail.com>
Date: Thursday, February 28, 2013 12:32 AM
To: Koppa <viroquacreative@gmail.com>
Subject: R: R: R: collab

Don’t worry Mike…I have actually been in Urbino…so I could imagine what it was all about. Anyway Urbino is a super-place…you would love it…old old town…so beautifull. Maybee one day we can all meet in Urbino! Susan

Da: Mike Koppa [mailto:viroquacreative@gmail.com] **Inviato:** mercoledì 27 febbraio 2013 22:29 **A:** Susan Legind **Oggetto:** Re: R: R: collab

Urbino is not a book artist. Urbino is a city where a book artist lives.

Irene is a book artist!

Da: Mike Koppa [mailto:viroquacreative@gmail.com] **Inviato:** mercoledì 27 febbraio 2013 22:22 **A:** Susan Legind Oggetto: **Re:** R: R: collab

The other artists are Gary Ortman (Medford, IL U.S.A.), Lisa Chun (Los Angeles U.S.A.), Sammy Slabbinck (Brugge, Belgium), Flore Cons (…or is it Kunst? Lyon, France), [an artist] ([a city, a country]), [an artist] ([a city, a country]) and Helene de Winter (den Bosch, The

Netherlands). I am anxious to see who will and who will not be participating, as most of them were sent the invitation to participate without being briefed with an email first!

Gary contacted me with the same question…what size. I forgot to specify that (maybe intentionally), so I think it's best to leave it up to each artist. I envisioned something added to the photo so the size would not change, but now that two people have asked the same question, I realize that the scope of the project is still evolving and open for interpretation by all involved…I'll take whatever you send and the various sizes I receive will help guide the final size and layout of the book.

I have also recently made contact with another artist in Italy, Irene Lazzarin, in Urbino. Urbino is a book artist and has a store called Slowbook on Etsy! I think we're going to have her make a book to paste all the collages into, then scan and reproduce those pages. At least that's what it looks like right now.

Another note…regarding the collage in Lecce…the quote for shipping back to U.S.A. came from Riccardo this morning…75 euros. Because the price was so high, and I am intending to buy a book or books from Irene in Urbino, I asked her if I could have them ship the collage to her, then she will ship the collage to me along with the book or books. Or perhaps the collage becomes a trade item for the books. She agreed to have the collage shipped to her, and we'll figure out what happens with that later.

Looking forward to whatever comes next!

Warm regards from Wisconsin, where today we received another inch or so of fluffy snow.

Mike

From: Susan Legind <sussielegind@gmail.com> **Date:** Wednesday, February 27, 2013 8:40 AM **To:** Koppa <viroquacreative@gmail.com> **Subject:** R: R: collab

Hi Mike…
I got it…the photo is here on my table…and now….the "snowball will start rolling down the hill".

I love that kind of things…where you get something allready done…and you have to alter it. It's just my style…..and I would say very much "collage-like". That's actually what we do all the time…alter the things allready done.
GREAT!...love it!
So now Mike…I would very much like to know what kind of size I'm supposed to use. You can have it just as you like…but I would love if it was an A4…or somtheing like that. Easy to mail…and gives a chance to make something real. But…if you prefer something like a post-card…it's ok for me!
I am very curious..would like to know…if I know anyone of the others….who are they? Have we all got the same photo?
I think this is a lovely project…well done MIKe…let me know about the size and I will start to work right away.
And have a lovely day….Susan

From: Koppa <viroquacreative@gmail.com>
Date: Saturday, March 2, 2013 7:08 AM
To: Flore Kunst <florekunst@orange.fr>
Subject: Re: SLOWBOOK

Okay, thanks.

From: Flore Kunst <florekunst@orange.fr>
Date: Saturday, March 2, 2013 7:03 AM
To: Koppa <viroquacreative@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: SLOWBOOK

My common name is “CONS”, my artist name “Kunst”.
I send you my collage for the project “Thawing” soon ...

Ps: For the project “Slowbook” I thought a Friend collagist. I asked him ... he will contact you if interested ...

Thank you Mike !

Nice day to you.
Flore

Le 2 mars 2013 à 13:37, Mike Koppa a écrit :
Excellent. Thank you.

I have just one question for you.

When you sent me your mailing address, you typed your name as “Flore Cons.” Is it Cons or Kunst?

Looking forward to receiving your work in the mailbox. For the record, this book project has a working title of “Thawing,” and “SLOWBOOK” is another project.

SLOWBOOK is something I conceived shortly before leaving Facebook in November and submissions are coming very slowly! Only 3 in 3 months. So, I think it goes without saying, but you are welcome to participate in that project as well, and it would certainly appreciate you passing the invitation along to your friends and contacts through whatever means…email or Facebook, if you find it worthy.

More here: http://heavydutypress.com/current-projects

Thank you!

Most regards,

Mike

From: Flore Kunst <florekunst@orange.fr>
Date: Saturday, March 2, 2013 3:28 AM
To: Koppa <viroquacreative@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: SLOWBOOK

Dear Mike,

I received your letter and photograph, thank you. I love your idea and the posibility to make a book ...
I will create a collage in this photograph and I will return shortly after.
Thank you again for the invitation to the project.
Best regards.

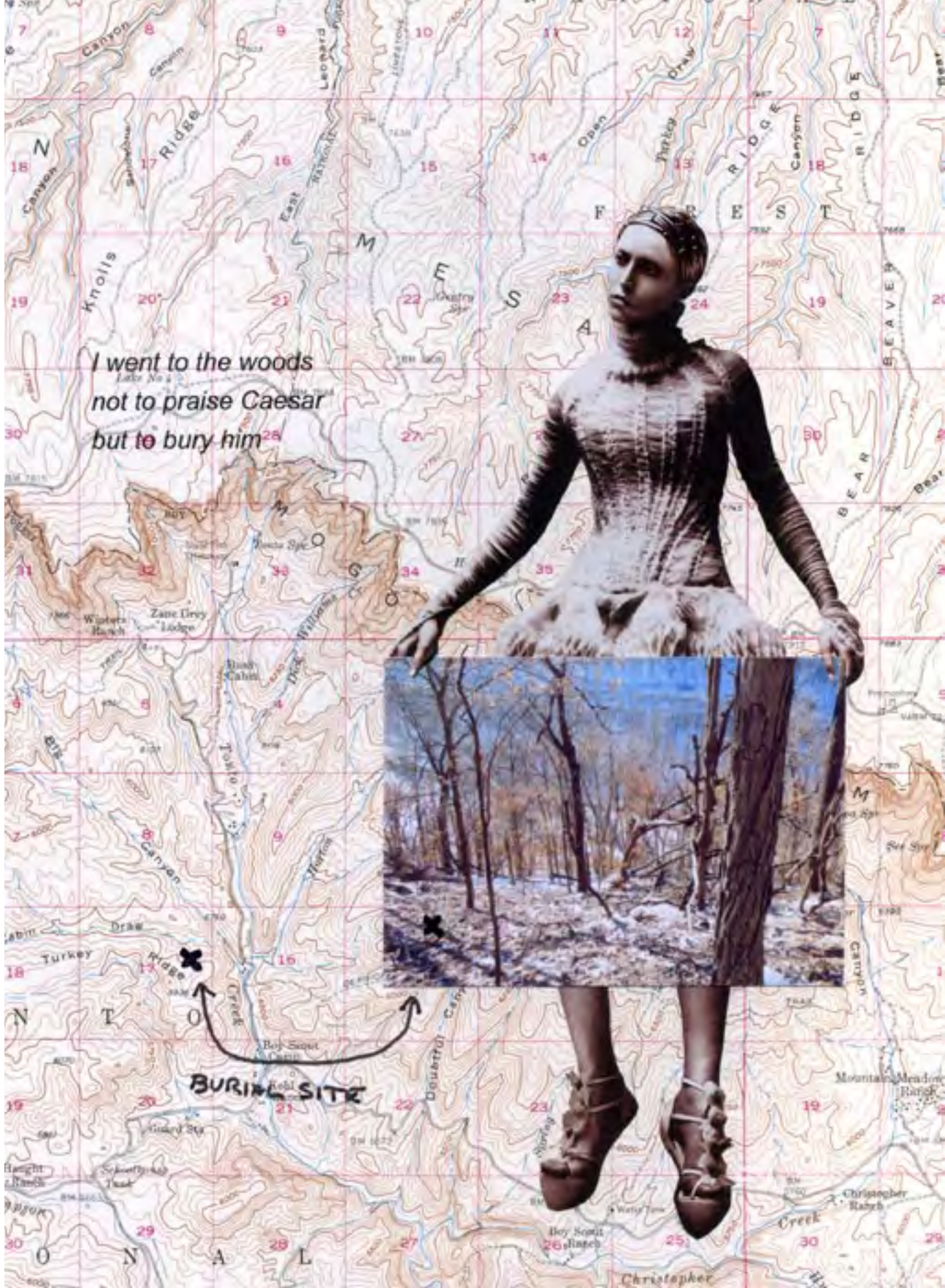
Flore.

From: Koppa <mvkoppa@mwt.net>
Date: Monday, March 4, 2013 2:29 PM
To: Gary Ortman <gnamtro@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: Envelope

I was hoping to see it today, but no.

From: Gary Ortman <gnamtro@gmail.com>
Date: Monday, March 4, 2013 9:25 AM
To: Koppa <mvkoppa@mwt.net>
Subject: Envelope

Mr. Koppa,
Pls. let me know when the package arrives. It's like sending a kid to camp--you always feel better when you know he got there safely.
Thanks,
g


I went to the woods
not to praise Caesar
but to bury him
BURIAL SITE

Dear Mr. Koppa,
First you should know I'm most of the way thru my afternoon glass of burgundy. I asked Pam to make me an extra copy of the pic in case I fell victim to the evil one, error. The first printing was still set on B&W but I thought it was kind of cool so I used it. Then she ran a couple extras of the colors. Seeing as how I don't let much go to waste, I used them. The first and intended one is Catch Me If You Can. The other two are collateral damage. Unfortunately, the Canon printing paper hates rubber cement and suffers very ill effects. It looks like a pic has cement that can be rubbed off but it can't--the surface is damaged. On the B&W I took artist's prerogative and "stylized" it with more cement for kind of a ghostly look. I enjoyed doing this project because it forced me to focus on a particular thing—the pic of the woods—rather than trying to pull together an idea from my pile of clippings without a real goal. Hope I was successful and didn't disappoint. Feel free to use one, two, three or none of them. Hope you get good response from your victims. I feel honored that I was one the few to be chosen. If you get decent response maybe you could "assign" us projects quarterly or so and put them on your site.
Anyway…
Thanks,

P.S. I actually had this
I went to the woods because
I wished to live deliberately,
to front only the essential facts of life,
and see if I could not learn what it
had to teach, and not, when I came to die,
discover that I had not lived. THOREAU
printed on a topographical map and got to thinking it was kind of conventionally mild when one of the voices suggested the "bury Caesar"quote. So I combined them.



From: Koppa <viroquacreative@gmail.com>
Date: Wednesday, March 6, 2013 8:32 AM
To: Gary Ortman <gnamtro@gmail.com>
Subject: SAFE!

Your package arrived safely and I enjoyed the contents greatly.

And in my head that sounded like the Mayor of Munchkinville addressing Dorothy regarding the murder of the wicked witch of the East.

From: Helene de Winter <info@helenedewinter.nl>
Date: Tuesday, March 5, 2013 5:27 AM
To: Koppa <viroquacreative@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: making collage

Mike, thanks for the good wishes.
And for the answer regarding the size; inspiration starts flowing..... :-)) Even the words you use have a roll in this.
I hope you'll be surprised in a pleasant way when the photo comes back to you as a collage.
Greetings
Helene

Op 5 mrt. 2013, **om** 01:57 **heeft** Mike Koppa **het** volgende geschreven:

Good to hear you have received the photo, sorry to hear of your bicycle wreck.

There is no rush…I can get anxious like any other person, but am trying my best to exercise patience with everything. The earth only spins so fast, and each of us has only so much time in a day. What will happen will happen!

Regarding size, this is the third time I've fielded this question and I can only answer one way…I never specified what to do with the picture and sent them off quickly without considering that detail, so…in the name of allowing the project to evolve in whatever it will, do whatever you wish with it and I will take what I get back and design the book around whatever is returned to me.

Heal up!

Most,

Mike

From: Helene de Winter <info@helenedewinter.nl>
Date: Monday, March 4, 2013 6:43 AM
To: Koppa <viroquacreative@gmail.com>
Subject: making collage

Hello Mike,
I've received your letter with the photo. Inspiring photo!
Unfortunately, on the day your photo arrived, I fell from my bike and now have a concussion and and badly bruised ribs.
I will not be able to go to my studio this week and maybe longer.
So if you are not receiving the collage back soon: don't worry, I long to work on it, it will come.
One more question about the photo: do you want me to work with it in this size you send me or can I scan it and work in/with an enlarged version?

I'm curious how your project will work out.
Greeting
Helene

Greetings-

I'm excited about this project. I sent my typewriter out for some badly needed service.

I am including some text I hope will work, as well as returning the specific images that I was responding to.

My thought was that the Chicago portion would stand apart, as a kind of narrative into and point of contrast, to the images and text that follows.

If you produce enough copies and are interested in having me help with placement, I could send copies to my book dealers. They would likely sell numerous copies to various collections.

Let me know.

Brandon



WINTER IN CONTRAST

I witness the first light of dawn and imagine I should consider myself fortunate. But I'm honestly not that taken with it. Winter mornings in Chicago are nothing worth wrtiting a poem about.

Mute, bleak shadows slowly shrinking into the recesses of dank alleys and pooling black under cars along packed curbs as weak shades of gunmetal and dirty off-white snow begin to dominate the overcast cityscape. Wind whipped trash hovers and falls in dead end corners where the lakeside gale can't find a way through.

Nothing like the beautiful bright blast of clean light from my youth to the north; peering out glass panes to see piles of soft snow fluff and crystalline icicles blanketing the pines and cedars.

Stepping into the air, the saturated, cold blue sky reflected in unfrozen portions of the lake.

Walking among brittle green moss, grey stone outcroppings, orange and red leaves curled in determined fists against the chill, clinging to branches like charcoal line drawings.

Dragging my sled over snow in low-lying ribbons, screatchy brown growth poking through seeking what warmth the angled sun may provide.



Past her white orchid by the window: a March squall. She sat on the day bed with tea before her on the table. "Expectation," she said. "Like expecting something… illumination. Waiting for it."

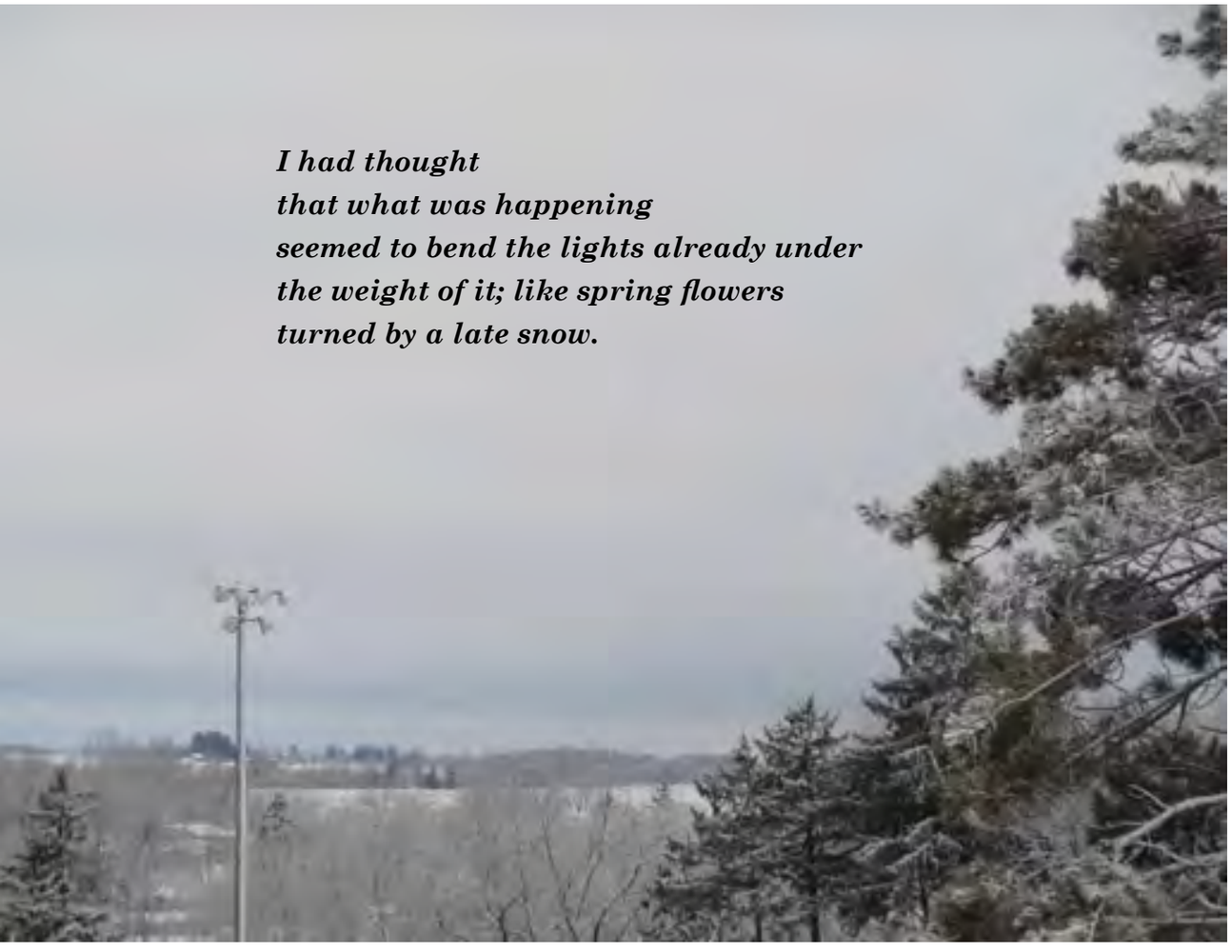





VIROQUA


VIROQUA


VIROQUA



I had thought
that what was happening
seemed to bend the lights already under
the weight of it; like spring flowers
turned by a late snow.

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11 March 2013

Dear Susan,
In the email thread we talked about patience, mine andyour lack of it, and now I have decided to let mine run out. Here's an update...a walk in the neighborhood park this morning providded more thawing photos after we received a beautiful few inches of wet March snow last night. As of this morning,aside from yourself, I have received communications confirming the intent of three other artists (Gary Ortman in the USA, Flore Kunst in France, and Helene de Winter in The Netherlands) AND some words from the solicited poet, Brandon Graham. I am sending all original invitees another photo with hopes to generate more visual content (from any or all, multiples welcome...you can send another or more) and considering inviting another poet or two, but I know few. I ask that you move quickly, if you choose to send more, because I will move forward with the book design using whatever content I receive postmarked before the end of win ter, March 20! It is soon springtime and the thaw will be over. Have a lovely day in Rome.
Slowly,

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11 March 2013

Dear Gary,
There's more. This morning I took a walk in the neighborhood park and found myself returned home with more photos and what good are photos if you don't do something with them. You are welc ome to send more collage(s) if you feel moved to do it. Also is enclosed the text I received from Brandon Graham, on Saturday. Thinking about inviting another poet or two. Other artists confirmed are (or let's say confirmed INTENT) Sudan SuSan Legind in Rome, Flore Kunst (Lyon, France), Helene de Winter (Den Bosch, The Netherlands). Whatever you do, if anything, please get it done in a hurry. I have decided t move forward with the design of the book using whatever content I receive postmarked before March 20, the end of the winter. Peace to your being.
Slowly,

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11 March 2013

Dear Flore,
An update on the Thawing book project: you and three other artists have communicated with intent to participate. The others are Gary Ortman (USA), Susan Legind (ITALY), and Helene de Winter (The NETHERLANDS). I have also received prose from Brandon Graham (enclosed). This morning I took more photos, this time in my neighborhood park after receiving a few inches of wet snow last night. One is enclosed for you. I am sending everyone another photo with the optionto use it or the other er both, and a request to do so before the end of winter, March 20, because I will begin designing the book with whatever content I received postmarked by that date. I am also considering asking one or two other poets to contribute. You are welcome to send more than one collag e if you wish and to scan and duplicate the photos I send...whatever you feel like doing. Have a lovely day and a ahppy spring!
Slowly,

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11 March 2013

Dear Helene,
A good news update on the Thawing book project: You and three other collage artists have been in contact with intention to participate. The others are Gary Ortman (U.S.A.), Susand Legind (Italy), Flore Kunst (France). I also received prose from Brandon Graham. Today I am sending everyone (including the other 4 collage artists who have yet to communicate) another photo of my walk this morning through our neighborhood park after reeceeving a few inches of heavy & wt wet mid-March snow. I am also enclosing Brandon's text. You may choose to use either or both of these images in whatever fashion you see fit...Gary sent 3 collages after scanning and duplicating the original photo. All I aks is you act quckly...I have decided to move forward with the book design with wahtever content I receive postmarked by winter's end, March 20. Have a nice day and I hope you are recovering quickly from your bicycle spill.

Slowly,

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11 March 2013

Dear Sammy,
No word from you as yet, so perhaps the invitaion didn't appeal to you. But if it did in the least, then I have this news to share with you. I have received a confirmed interest in participation form Gary Ortman in Medford, Illinois (U.S.A.), Susan Legind in Rome, Helene de Winter in Den Bosch, and Flore Kunst in Lyon. The solicited worder of the proposed book, Brandon Graham, also agreed to supply the text, which was received here this past Saturday.

Last night we received a wet mid-March snowfall and I am enclosing a photo from my walk in the neighborhood this morning. If you feel compelled to send something for inclusion in the book,using this or the other photo or both, please do so promptly, as I have decided that will move ahead with whatever contents I receive postmarked before the end of Winter, March 20. Hoping to hear from you. Regardless, have a moving day,
Slowly,

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11 March 2013

Dear Lisa,
An update on the Thawing project. As of today, I have received 3 collages from Gary Ortman in Medford, IL...the one requested plus two bonus for inclusion (or not) in the book. Susan Leegin ...let's do that again...Susan Legind in Rome, Helene de Winter in Den Bosch (The Netherlands), and Flore Kunst in Lyon (Rrance, but you knew that, right?) have all been in contact by email confirming their interest and intent to participate. The summoned poet, Brandan Graham, sent the text, which was received here on Saturday. You and the other three collage artists, no word, and that;s okay...but because I am feeling some momentum, enogh to carry this one through anyway, I am writing again to every9one in an effort to generate more collage content, where ever it comes from. I am enclosing the text Brandon wrote, which might have some influence on how you perceive this project. It certainly steers it in a direction. I am giving thought to in viteing another poet to add another voice. Maybe two more. Trios are nice. I am also enclosing another photo here,

this one of the park here in town, on my morning walk this morning after an overnight mid-March wet snowfall. If you choose to partic ipate in any way, you may use one or the other or both of the images...or maybe you, being a poet, would like to respond to this request in words.Whatever the case, if you do choose to play along, please do so ₩ickly. I have decided to move forward with designing the book with whatever content I receive postmakrked by the end of winter, March 20. I hope all is well with you and that you find many ways to have a nice day in L.A.

Slowly,

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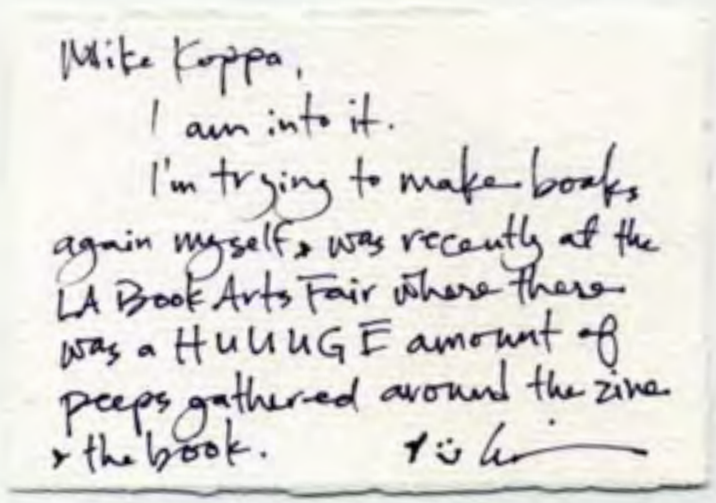
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11 March 2013

Dear Brandoff,
A. I hope you dine on the finest fare. I was go$ng to type don't but an i slipped in and I had to think fast.But I do. I do hope you dine on the finest fare and I hope you don't mind me playing with your anme. And I hope you get your typewriter back from the repairmen soon. And thank you for your response to the photos and by it your contribution to the Thawing book project. So far, four of the eight artists have been in contact with intention to parti-ci pate. So all systems go. Today I am sendin g another round of photos and a deadline of March 20 (end of winter) to all the artists. I am also considering inviting another poet or two to bee f up the book, since I have this new round of photos from my walk in the neighbor hood park this morning after receiving a few inches of wet wet March snow last night. I am gratefulX for your willingness to help with distribution...how many copies canyou place? Lowside? B. This is the tenth le5ter of this lenghth in two hours and my neck hurts.
Slowly,





Mike Koppa,

I am into it.

I'm trying to make books again myself, was recently at the LA Book Arts Fair where there was a HUUUGE amount of peeps gathered around the zine + the book.




To the auburn coated fox: Show me how to walk back from the edge
of doubt and buzz in the meadow ablaze with buttercups
and little yellow roses courted by drunken bees.


5

4-3-ROHA

Hi MIKE!
Here is 'SOMETHING' FOR YOU!
HOPE it will ARRIVE OK!

BEST
SUSAN

BLASETTI
sacbolt
8 007258 117143
DESTINATARIO:
SUSAN LEGND
VIA ANAGNINA 332
00118 ROMA
ITALIA

Ketchup









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12 March 2013

Dear Lisa,
I put that last letter to you in the mailbox yesterday morning and came home in the after noon to find your collage and other contents in themailbox. Thanks for sending. As for sending more, I don't want to ask too much of people, so please don't feel any pressure to send more. But I will say that I'm now very interested in getting more words into the book. I sent a request to poet in Milwaukee yesterday, along with the new suite of photos, and here I'll enclose a few pictures this morning around the house. I took this morning. Lots of letters flying out of this typewriter lately. What the book could use, more than more visual artperhaps, would or could be a few words to respond to these photos. Then I'm done with requests, I promise. Oh...I should also mention that another letter is going out this afternoon to a poet in Brooklyn which will contain photos from all three days. Again I;ll remind you that this is supposed to be spontaneous in nature...so no need or time to overthink it. If you send something please have it postmarked by winter's end, March 20. Thank you so much for what you have already contributed!
Warmer,

From: Bill Phillips <Wphil123@aol.com>
Date: Tuesday, March 12, 2013 5:07 PM
To: Koppa <viroquacreative@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: There, you?

Hi Mike, count me in. My address is:

360 Clinton Avenue #6J
Brooklyn, New York
11238

I hope things are going well in Viroqua,
Bill.

ps Go family farms!

-----Original Message-----
From: Mike Koppa <viroquacreative@gmail.com>
To: Bill Phillips <Wphil123@aol.com>
Sent: Tue, Mar 12, 2013 6:01 pm
Subject: There, you?

BILL!

I have this hot project…needs, or rather, would benefit from another poet's voice.

Time is of the essence, so if you have any interest and time available, please reply immediately stating as much with a postal address.

Peace to your being,

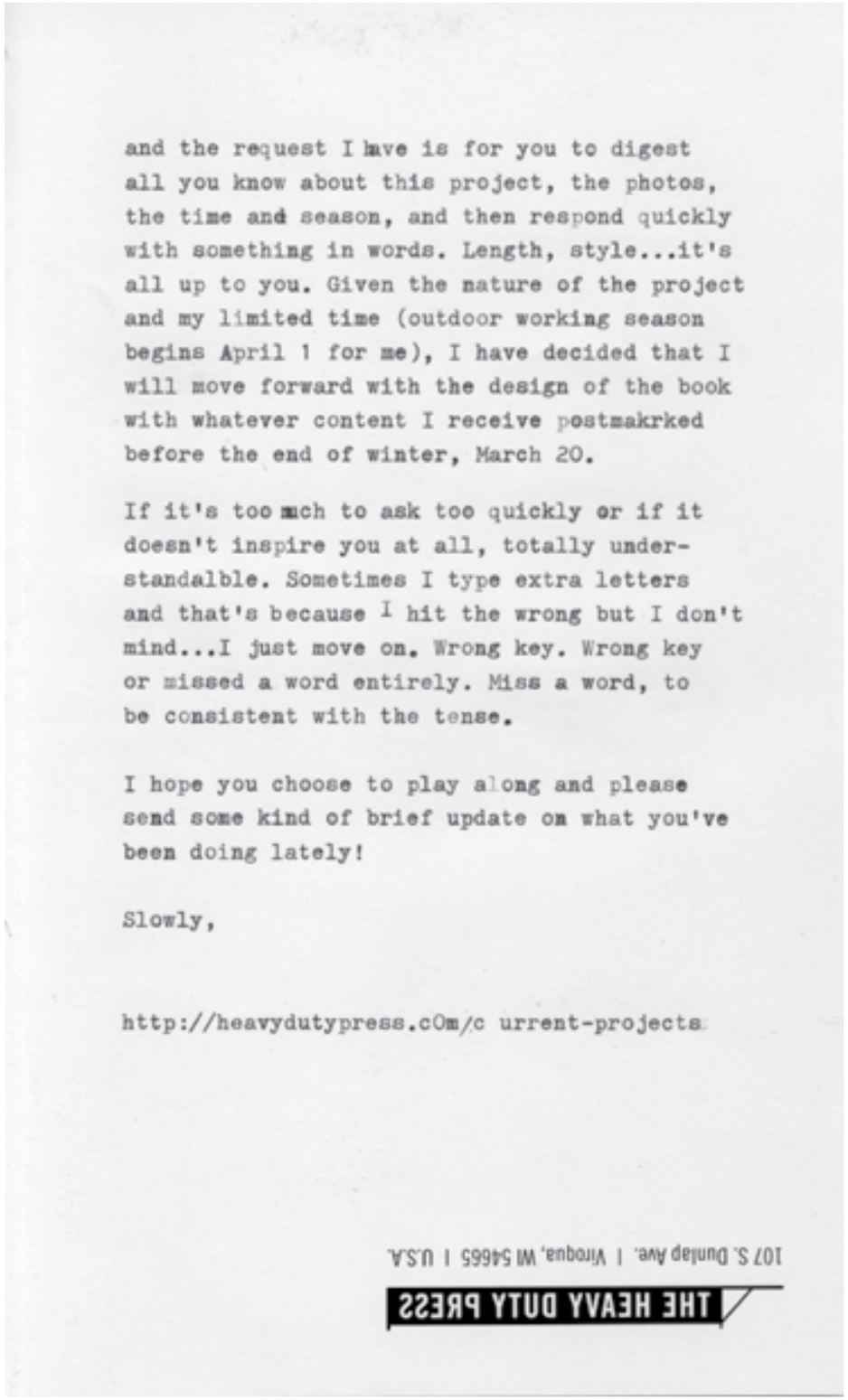
Mike

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Bill Phillips
360 Clinton Avenue #6J
Brooklyn, NY ~~XZ~~11238

12 March 2013

Dear Bill,
I'll try to be clear and concise and leave the rest to you. Enclosed you will find a brief on the project, written the day it was conceived (about 20 ago). Since then, I8ve had 4 artists confirm their intent to participate, and work from 3 artists has arrived in my mailbox already. Brandon Graham was given the original suite of photos and responded wiht prose to include in the book. Ystrdy I took more photos in my neighborhood and sent another round to the original eight artists, plus the suite to another poet I know in the Milwaukee area with the same request...a response. This is coming as a surprise to him, as it did to most of the artists, so participation is up to them, or fate...the real fun is to see what can happen so spontaneously. I recently, as in yesterday, had the thought to include multiple works of words as well as visual pieces...sent those photos out, and now that a day has advanced and so as not to repeat too much content, I'll go out this afternoon to grab photos to include here...maybe I'll send all of them to you...



and the request I have is for you to digest all you know about this project, the photos, the time and season, and then respond quickly with something in words. Length, style...it's all up to you. Given the nature of the project and my limited time (outdoor working season begins April 1 for me), I have decided that I will move forward with the design of the book with whatever content I receive postmakrked before the end of winter, March 20.

If it's too much to ask too quickly or if it doesn't inspire you at all, totally understandalble. Sometimes I type extra letters and that's because I hit the wrong but I don't mind...I just move on. Wrong key. Wrong key or missed a word entirely. Miss a word, to be consistent with the tense.

I hope you choose to play along and please send some kind of brief update on what you've been doing lately!

Slowly,

http://heavydutypress.cOm/c urrent-projects

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From: Koppa <viroquacreative@gmail.com>
Date: Wednesday, March 13, 2013 8:07 AM
To: Susan Legind <sussielegind@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: R: R: R: R: R: collagework

Even without Facebook, I find I am still on the computer too often and unable to make time for relaxing, contemplative creative work with my hands.

It's can be frustrating. But orchestrating these book projects with other artists is very interesting to me, and rewarding…and I am excited to see what the finished product will look like!

From: Susan Legind <sussielegind@gmail.com>
Date: Wednesday, March 13, 2013 6:42 AM
To: Koppa <viroquacreative@gmail.com>
Subject: R: R: R: R: R: collagework

AAAAAA…GREAT…so you allready mailed it! Really really GOOD. Can't wait to see…what it's all about this time.
It's a pity we can't see anymore what we are doing…no facebook…but I really do understand that it couldn't work that way. If it ends up that you pass all your day infront of the computer…it's no more "a window to the world"…but it becomes "the world". No good at all…no art comes out of that!
My "stop-movie-guy" didn't show up either today…..wonder what happend to him. Somebody might have thought he was the new Pope…and later on today we might see him in TV? Hmmmmm…hahaha…no I don't think so. He doesn't look like a Pope-guy at all…
YOu are right Mike…retirement should be for all the funny things you didn't have time for during you life. But it looks quite different. Every day I see men sitting in park and in front of the coffee-bar…having just nothing to do apart from reading the newspaper. That's too bad. Evidently the women find things to do…because they are not there…infront of the coffee-bar and in the park.
Now I will go and place myself infront of my mailbox…hahaha…happy happy you mailed the foto!
Susan

Da: Mike Koppa [mailto:viroquacreative@gmail.com] **Inviato:** mercoledì 13 marzo 2013 13:44 **A:** Sussie Legind **Oggetto:** Re: R: R: R: R: collagework

It's in the mail! The letter went out yesterday!

I love your enthusiasm and this talk of stop-motion collage film.

So many interesting and creative things to do. How wonderful it would be to have a life-time to do nothing but creative activity. I need to live long enough to fully enjoy retirement some day!

Mike

From: Susan Legind <sussielegind@gmail.com> **Date:** Wednesday, March 13, 2013 2:34 AM **To:** Koppa <viroquacreative@gmail.com> **Subject:** R: R: R: R: collagework

Goodmorning Mike…
I'm so happy that it arrived safely to you…you never know when you mail something from Italy. Every time you have to do with themail-service in this country it's a matter of luck.
I love to do collage-work Mike…and often I use all the day doing it…so I feel lucky when I get involved in something like this. I would love to do more collageworks for you… but I would need another foto from you. That's the fun …to get the foto and do something with it. If you could send me another foto…I will send you another collage.
It sounds great fun…to teach art even if it's just as substitute teacher…I have never tryed to teach anyone anything…don't even know if I'm good or bad at it. At the moment I'm working with a guy to make a stop-motion collage-film. Unfortunately he is a bit slow and terrible messy and everything takes a lot of time. Now he has disappered completey for the last 14 days…and who knows where he is. Very irritating….haven't really got the patience for that. Meanwhile I'm looking collage-films at youtube…to get some new idears ; I'm not really impressed from what I see…lots of things with too much talk and no action. Seems that when it's about collage…people just put a lot of things together wihtout thinking about anything special. The result is messy…no good! But it helps to under stand what you are NOT going to do.

Tell me if you will mail me another foto……it would be a great pleasure for me…to make another collage.
Have a great day Mike….let's hope spring is right around the corner.
Susan

Da: Mike Koppa [mailto:viroquacreative@gmail.com] **Inviato:** mercoledì 13 marzo 2013 00:13 **A:** Sussie Legind **Oggetto:** Re: R: R: R: collagework

It arrived today, and oh, my…beautiful…more than anticipated…not that I didn't anticipate beauty, but clearly you put a lot of time into this and that is something I didn't expect. Very much appreciated. Also received work from Gary Ortman a few days ago…I think I mentioned that…and Lisa Chun in Los Angeles today. Still waiting on others, but expecting to get something from Flore Kunst and Helen de Winter.

Today while I was away, the postwoman picked up another set of envelopes to be dispersed to the team around the world while yours arrived…in the letter I sent another photo and the invitation to sendanother collage with the motive to generate more visual content for the book. Now that I see how much time you put into your first collage, I feel my suggestion that perhaps you would send another is asking way too much…but I'll leave that up to you.

Thank you for participating…I'm looking forward to getting started on the design of this book, but will wait a few more weeks for morecontent to arrive in the mailbox.

I was a substitute teacher today in the art classroom at the high school and there was an exchange student in the class from Rome!

Winter is being stubborn to leave here…snow the past few days but it's just barely cold enough to keep it on the ground. Soon the crocuses will poke through!

Warm regards,

Mike

From: Susan Legind <sussielegind@gmail.com> **Date:** Friday, March 8, 2013 6:29 AM **To:** Koppa <viroquacreative@gmail.com> **Subject:** R: R: R: collagework

Ok Mike…you have got the patience…that I haven't got…hahahaha. I hope they will answer soon…I'm just so curious to see what the others will do. I guess..so are you! If anything should happen to my master-piece..haha…and it shouldn't arrive to you…I scanned it before to mail. So we are safe! Susan

Da: Mike Koppa [mailto:viroquacreative@gmail.com] **Inviato:** martedì 5 marzo 2013 15:34 **A:** Sussie Legind **Oggetto:** Re: R: R: collagework

Of the 4 that have not sent any message by email to confirm they received the letter, I feel pretty confident that 2 of them will respond. The other 2…I don't know what to expect. But, I never requested that anyone send any email confirmation, so I'm not ready to start thinking that they're not going to be sending something in the mail. I'll wait until the end of March before I start to formulate, or re-formulate the plan.

From: Susan Legind <sussielegind@gmail.com> **Date:** Tuesday, March 5, 2013 8:17 AM **To:** Koppa <viroquacreative@gmail.com> **Subject:** R: R: collagework

Hahaha…it's not my style! When I see something good…I go for it!

Da: Mike Koppa [mailto:viroquacreative@gmail.com] **Inviato:** martedì 5 marzo 2013 14:11 **A:** Sussie Legind **Oggetto:** Re: R: collagework

Patience!

From: Susan Legind <sussielegind@gmail.com> **Date:** Tuesday, March 5, 2013 12:12 AM **To:** Koppa <viroquacreative@gmail.com> **Subject:** R: collagework

But Mike…4 artists are too little to make a book…right? So shouldn't you find some more? It's such a great idea …..

Da: Mike Koppa [mailto:viroquacreative@gmail.com] **Inviato:** martedì 5 marzo 2013 02:02 **A:** Sussie Legind Oggetto: **Re:** collagework

Excellent! Thank you..I am anxious to see the returns. So far, 4 of the 8 artists invited have contacted me and are engaged. The other 4…well…they're either not interested, not interesting, or working and responding in an interestingly quiet manner.

Nice day to you, too!

Mike

From: Susan Legind <sussielegind@gmail.com> **Date:** Monday, March 4, 2013 12:47 AM **To:** Koppa <viroquacreative@gmail.com> **Subject:** collagework

Goodmorning Mike…
This morning I will bring my collage work to the postoffice.. so watch out….in your mailbox!
I tryed to pack it in the best way….hope it will arrive well!
Have a nice day Mike
Susan

From: Lisa Chun <lisa@lisachun.com>
Date: Friday, March 15, 2013 9:40 AM
To: Koppa <viroquacreative@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: mail

heeheehee.

On Fri, Mar 15, 2013 **at** 8:58 AM, Mike Koppa <viroquacreative@gmail.com> **wrote:**
More mail coming!

What you sent is just fine…perfect. More is great, and appreciated, but as you know the pay for this job sucks…

From: Lisa Chun <lisa@lisachun.com>
Date: Friday, March 15, 2013 8:56 AM
To: Koppa <viroquacreative@gmail.com>
Subject: mail

koppa koppa koppa,
got your letter yesterday.
did you get the mail i sent you in response to your first one?

i didn't spend a lot of time on altering the image that you sent to me - but i did do it.
this was partly because i wasn't sure what the parameters were, how you were going to use it, etc.
i can look into doing something a little more, a little more collage-y, and i plan to do that.

this message just to say that i got your mail and i am responding.

i am doing A LOT of reflecting on books and book-making lately so it's cool to see what you are doing.

me

--
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facebook: http://www.facebook.com/thesoulfulrevolution

323.400.5877
lisa@lisachun.com

From: Koppa <viroquacreative@gmail.com>
Date: Monday, March 18, 2013 4:18 PM
To: Bill Phillips <Wphil123@aol.com>
Subject: Re: There, you?

That's excellent news. Thank you.

From: Bill Phillips <Wphil123@aol.com>
Date: Monday, March 18, 2013 3:16 PM
To: Koppa <viroquacreative@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: There, you?

Mike, I got your package. I've captioned two photographs and you can pick which you want to use. Or both if you like them. I'll mail them to you tomorrow, just wanted to let you know. Very enjoyable, you gave me alot to think about.

Bill.



19 March 2013

11:40 in the morning and just 21°, 3+ inches of fresh snow yesterday is crunchy cold but that might just be the end of it. Forecast is for 40s by next Thursday, overnight 32°...March 28, a week behind an ideal world.

Every day I go to the mailbox with anticipation and while there have been a few delights, most days I am met with nothing but junk mail. I take this to represent the reap-what-you-sow adage, in that one must give to receive, work for reward, etc. This is what you get, when you give so little.

The documentation, however, continues to reveal how the spontaneous innitiation and execution of an idea leads itself on a journey of creativity, where one thing leads to another, in ways that could never have been pre-determined, but rather take on the nature of destiny. One might call it new growth.

The weather has also been fitting. Continued rain and snow in the 20s for the perpetual wintry mix for weeks, never getting ugly, here in the driftless, but heavy, wet, and tiresome. This thawing will be one well-earned, a sweet and glorious reward for those of us who have been so patiently waiting for it to come.

Did I mention my health. It’s been miserable.

But I trust things will get better!

From: Koppa <viroquacreative@gmail.com>
Date: Tuesday, March 19, 2013 10:54 AM
To: Susan Legind <sussielegind@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: goodmorning

Thanks for the note, Susan.

Every day it remains winter here…more snow yesterday and not yet 20° F here today.

Every day I go to the mailbox with great anticipation and day after day there is nothing but junk mail. But every now and then there is a treat, and the metaphor in that being in the act of giving to receive, and that will have to be enough. What comes together will come, and it will be up to me to put it together in an interesting way.

I'm glad you're enjoying the experience. As for inviting others, it's too late this time, but maybe there will be another. Why not? I know of Nikki's work, I was a friend of hers on Facebook, too. Pretty sure I saw the work of Barbara Minch…I think I might even have saved one of her images on my hard drive as a favorite. I'll check. I haven't heard of your friend Filipa, but always happy to meet other artists, so maybe this suggestion of yours will lead directly into the next project. How that snowball rolls!

I imagine it must be nice to be in Rome right now. The new Pope gives the impression of a good natured man, so that's kind of nice. Hopefully he doesn't come with unforgivable baggage!

Weather forecast is 40s (F) by next Thursday!

Wanting for warming,

Mike

From: Susan Legind <sussielegind@gmail.com>
Date: Tuesday, March 19, 2013 6:30 AM
To: Koppa <viroquacreative@gmail.com>
Subject: goodmorning

Good morning Mike…
I got the foto….juhuuuu….it's here on my table.
Thank you very much….I will do my best…and be fast!
It's lovely to get letters from you…I'm running all the way from the mailbox up the stairs and in the house. What did he send this time…? Hahaha…love it!
I think it all sounds very good…it's starting to look really interesting. If you need more artists…I have got 3 really good friends at facebook Nikki Soppelsa, OHIO – Barbara Minch, NEW-YORK and Filipa Sottomayor, PORTUGAL. If you like you can give a look at GOOGLE and you can contact them outside facebook and mention that I gave you the names. They are all very different…but love new things…and all 3 of them make great works!
Thank you also for "Winter in contrast"…I guess I have to read it more times to understand it all…my english is sort of "emergency english"…
Mike..I appreciate very much the personal touch you give all this project. That you write to us…one by one…that you take your time to tell what it's all about in a stimulating way..I would say it's half the job! It's great fun…and thank you for thinking about me for this project. I will do my very best.
Today we have a bit of sun here in Rome…after weeks and weeks of rain. Now I will sit down and watch carefully the foto…and then we see…what comes out of that.
Have a great day…spring is just around the corner!
Susan

From: Koppa <mvkoppa@mwt.net>
Date: Tuesday, March 19, 2013 9:32 AM
To: Gary Ortman <gnamtro@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: Good morning

Don’t sweat it.

Deadline is/was the postmark date. As long as you get it in the mail by tomorrow.

Really struggling through a BAD cold or something up here…it’s been since last Wednesday. Haven’t been sick for this long is a LONG time. I have forgotten what it feels like to feel normal and it’s bringing me down.

Fucking bullshit is what it is.

But I think I hit rock bottom last night at 2 a.m.

From: Gary Ortman <gnamtro@gmail.com>
Date: Tuesday, March 19, 2013 8:17 AM
To: Koppa <mvkoppa@mwt.net>
Subject: Good morning

I struggled with this one. Not super pleased with the result, but I ended up making it into a postcard (a popular item among collagers, I guess). Am heading to the PO now so I don’t think it will make your deadline of the 20th, I believe. Fortunately, I left most deadlines at Caterpillar but still observe those from the IRS, utility providers and insurance companies. If you don’t like it, that’s OK. I won’t be insulted. I’m not putting on a title, but if you need one I guess it would be “Night Eyes on Viroqua.”
See ya,
g





From: Koppa <viroquacreative@gmail.com>
Date: Wednesday, March 20, 2013 4:16 PM
To: Flore Kunst <florekunst@orange.fr>
Subject: Re: 9°

Excellent news. Thank you so much.

It remains bitter cold here, with snow all over the ground, but we are hoping this is the end…40° F by next week this time…or so the forecast says.

Better,

Mike

From: Flore Kunst <florekunst@orange.fr>
Date: Wednesday, March 20, 2013 3:12 PM
To: Koppa <viroquacreative@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: 9°

Hi Mike,

I was pleasantly surprised to receive an illustrative second picture for the project “thawing” thank you, I’ll do something with you and send it soon ...

ps: You will receive shortly the first collage, I have sent

Best regards.

Flore.

Le 20 mars 2013 à 17:56, Mike Koppa a écrit :
Last I checked it was 9°. I have been sick as a dog. Like a sick dog.

Both book projects currently in the works (SLOWpostBOOK and Thawing) are progressing slowly, the former slower than the latter. An update to the latter has been posted on the website for those who care to read it, directly below today's date on this page:

http://heavydutypress.com/current-projects/

I am nearing completion of another book, this one in the one-of-a-kind book class. It's a hand-made accordion-bound book of 3 1/2 x 5" rag mat board panels, each side of each panel collaged in a series, storytelling with pictures, in eight panels (x2), bound with Japanese tape. I said JAPANESE tape! It is a self-expression piece, marking a significant change in time and perspective. I'm thinking I could manufacture reproductions of it using the computer here in front of me. The working title for this project is B4. Moron the website.

Finished designing a book of poems for my friend and band-mate, Jon Passi. 196 pages of poetry, amassed over a life time, most, I believe, published here for the first time. Jon is self-publishing the book, and copies may be purchased directly through him. I'll send his contact info when the book is done. It is titled The Luck of the Finnish. Jon is Finnish.

Cemetery lettering season is right around the corner and as soon as the weather breaks I'll be driving all over the driftless region in a big white van.

Happy spring!

Mike

Mike Koppa, organizer
Viroqua Creative Workshop LLC
DBA Viroqua Stone Lettering & The Heavy Duty Press
107 S. Dunlap Ave.| Viroqua, WI 54665
608-606-5854. And that's official.[2]

[2] The 9° email was one of the sometimes monthly updates to the Friends of the Heavy Duty Press email address book. The practice has since been abolished.

From: Koppa <viroquacreative@gmail.com>
Date: Wednesday, March 20, 2013 8:01 AM
To: Sammy Slabbinck <sammy.slabbinck@telenet.be>
Subject: Re: mail

Excellent news, thank you.

I'll correct that street name in my book.

Did I mention to you that my wife and I were in Brugge in 1999? What an excellent holiday that was.

And what a beautiful place to live. Or at least, so it seems, as a visitor.

From: Sammy Slabbinck <sammy.slabbinck@telenet.be>
Date: Wednesday, March 20, 2013 6:09 AM
To: <mike@viroquacreative.com>
Subject: mail

Hi Mike,

I just received your 2nd letter in the mail today.
Sorry I haven't answered yet.

There was quite a delay on your first & second letter because the street name was spelled wrong, it's Fonteinstraat, not FRonteinstraat....

I will make something with your pic and mail it to
you this week.

best,
Sammy.



From: Helene de Winter <info@helenedewinter.nl>
Date: Thursday, March 21, 2013 7:19 AM
To: Koppa <viroquacreative@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: to quick

Ok Mike,
I will try to work on it as soon as possible. But it might not be before the end of next week. I'll let you know as soon as I start working and can tell when I'll be sending something.

It's cold here too. For this weekend they've predicted snow! So it's seems the thawing is simultaneously on bot sides of the ocean.

Greetings
Helene

Op 21 mrt. 2013, **om** 13:47 **heeft** Mike Koppa **het** volgende geschreven:
Dear Helene,

I am reluctant to accept the news that you will not be able to participate.

How long before you can put something…ANYTHING…in the mail to ship back? Again it is single-digit temps here, and therefore the thawing we are anticipating and celebrating with this project is still very much in progress, regardless of the calendar's first day of spring (yesterday). Please consider sending something soon…perhaps you can think about it in a different way…very simplistic, a la Da Da…you are in the land of "let the chips fall where they may," so-to-speak.

Thank you for considering, and I do hope to receive something in the mail from you in the next few weeks.

Slowly,

Mike

From: Helene de Winter <info@helenedewinter.nl>
Date: Thursday, March 21, 2013 5:23 AM
To: Koppa <viroquacreative@gmail.com>
Subject: to quick

hello Mike,

Yesterday (march 20) I received your letter with the second photo.
As you have put the deadline at the 20th it will not be possible for me to participate.
I am sorry about that. Really would have liked to join this project.

As for my health: it is not possible for me to work for a longer time as it will give a drop-back.
Therefore I can not go and work in my studio.
When I am better i will start working on a few collages and will include the photo's you send me.
When I am finished i will email you some pictures of the results.
If you like it and want them for some project I can send them to you.

I hope you'll enjoy your project and if you ever start such a project again: I'm interested.

Greetings
Helene de Winter



From: Koppa <viroquacreative@gmail.com>
Date: Thursday, March 21, 2013 8:33 AM
To: Susan Legind <sussielegind@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: new work

Excellent! I have been thinking about the possibility of adding that collage by Barbara Minch…the one I had saved on my computer as a favorite…to the Thawing book. Including it makes it a more integral part of the story…a story that begins here but can lead to other things; illustrative of the snowball rolling. To add it, I will need her permission, and ideally a higher resolution digital image (jpg) of the collage, along with confirmation of the title, which I have noted as “Be Your Best Artist.” Would you please forward this request to her? If she would like a more thorough perspective on the project before granting permission of the use of the collage, she could look at the website:

http://heavydutypress/current-projects

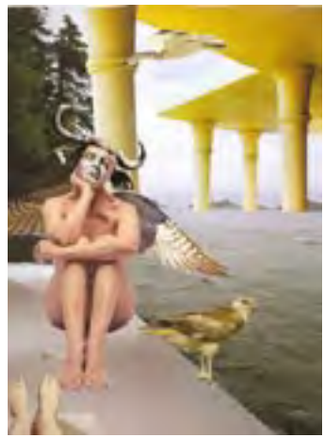
or contact me by email, at this address. In return for the use of the image, I will send her two copies of the book when completed, just as I have promised to all other contributors.

Emails from other solicited contributors recently include confirmation that Flore Kunst has sent a collage from Lyon (and possibly another on the way), Sammy Slabbinck in Brugge says he’ll be sending something soon, and Helen de Winter (Den Bosch) had a bicycle accident which is preventing her immediate attention to the project, but says she might be able to put time into it this weekend and still send something over. She reports the same freezing and snow we are having here, so the weather continues to cooperate with the timeline of this project!

Be well, and have a lovely day.

Warming (please),

Mike



From: Susan Legind <sussielegind@gmail.com>
Date: Thursday, March 21, 2013 3:18 AM
To: Koppa <viroquacreative@gmail.com>
Subject: new work

Godmorning Mike..
New work is on it's way! I went to the postoffice this morning…hope it will not take to much time to reach you!
Best
Susan

From: Koppa <viroquacreative@gmail.com>
Date: Thursday, March 21, 2013 8:46 AM
To: Susan Legind <sussielegind@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: I: goodmorning

…and now I finally took a look at the link and write-up for Filipa Sottomayor and feel like that might be a nice addition to the book…how during the thawing new growth is incubating, and there is new growth in new relationships forming new networks of thought and practice.

For this, it would be a courtesy to ask for her permission, but being no real work had been contributed I would offer one book instead of two in return for her agreement to be represented in this way. It would also be best to include the name and date of the publication that is the source of the article.

Do you think so? If you would, please forward this request to her, and again, for further insight into the project she could visit the website. To understand how she got looped into this, she will have this email as reference, or maybe you can explain it to her.

Thanks!

Cooperatively,

Mike

From: Susan Legind <sussielegind@gmail.com>
Date: Wednesday, March 20, 2013 1:28 AM
To: Koppa <viroquacreative@gmail.com>
Subject: I: goodmorning

http://rasgo.files.wordpress.com/2012/09/portugal-news2.jpg

Godmorning Mike…

Yes…they are 3 super-ladies….very good collage artists…and I have a good contact too all 3 of them. Nikki is really a great friend…we have been writing a lot during the last years…and for my birthday some years ago she send a “Susan-paper-doll” for me. You can’t imagine what a great work…so lovely. To have yourself made as a paper-doll…it’s really amazing!
Yes…it looks as if “they”are very happy about this new Pope….I don’t really know what to think. I don’t have any religion…but I have respect for the religion of others. It’s just… that we are used to a certain behavior from the Vatican and it’s difficult to believe it can change…just like that! They usuallly “take what they need”…and if they have chosen this Francesco-guy…it’s probably because that’s what they need now. And no doubt…hahaha… it works! He says the right things at the moment…and people are AMAZED!
It’s absolutely great…how your “snowball” is rolling…hahaha…I’m so much looking forward to see what comes out of it all.
I’m working with my new collage…”Winter in contrast” it looks good…my probleme is always not to put too many things. In the end…I almost ever take away half of the things…. because they are not “nessesary”. Hmmmm…
Mike…have a lovely day…enjoy the “never-ending-winter”….because when summer comes and it’s really hot we will long for it. That’s the human nature…hahaha…Susan

Da: Mike Koppa [mailto:viroquacreative@gmail.com] **Inviato:** martedì 19 marzo 2013 17.54 **A:** Sussie Legind **Oggetto:** Re: goodmorning

Thanks for the note, Susan.

Every day it remains winter here…more snow yesterday and not yet 20° F here today.

Every day I go to the mailbox with great anticipation and day after day there is nothing but junk mail. But every now and then there is a treat, and the metaphor in that being in the act of giving to receive, and that will have to be enough. What comes together will come, and it will be up to me to put it together in an interesting way.

I’m glad you’re enjoying the experience. As for inviting others, it’s too late this time, but maybe there will be another. Why not? I know of Nikki’s work, I was a friend of hers on

Facebook, too. Pretty sure I saw the work of Barbara Minch…I think I might even have saved one of her images on my hard drive as a favorite. I’ll check. I haven’t heard of your friend Filipa, but always happy to meet other artists, so maybe this suggestion of yours will lead directly into the next project. How that snowball rolls!

I imagine it must be nice to be in Rome right now. The new Pope gives the impression of a good natured man, so that’s kind of nice. Hopefully he doesn’t come with unforgivable baggage!

Weather forecast is 40s (F) by next Thursday!

Wanting for warming,

Mike

From: Susan Legind <sussielegind@gmail.com>
Date: Tuesday, March 19, 2013 6:30 AM
To: Koppa <viroquacreative@gmail.com>
Subject: goodmorning

Good morning Mike…
I got the foto….juhuuuu….it’s here on my table.
Thank you very much….I will do my best…and be fast!
It’s lovely to get letters from you…I’m running all the way from the mailbox up the stairs and in the house. What did he send this time…? Hahaha…love it!
I think it all sounds very good…it’s starting to look really interesting. If you need more artists…I have got 3 really good friends at facebook Nikki Soppelsa, OHIO – Barbara Minch, NEW-YORK and Filipa Sottomayor, PORTUGAL. If you like you can give a look at GOOGLE and you can contact them outside facebook and mention that I gave you the names. They are all very different…but love new things…and all 3 of them make great works!
Thank you also for “Winter in contrast”…I guess I have to read it more times to understand it all…my english is sort of “emergency english”…

Mike..I appreciate very much the personal touch you give all this project. That you write to us…one by one…that you take your time to tell what it's all about in a stimulating way..I would say it's half the job! It's great fun…and thank you for thinking about me for this project. I will do my very best.
Today we have a bit of sun here in Rome…after weeks and weeks of rain. Now I will sit down and watch carefully the foto…and then we see…what comes out of that.
Have a great day…spring is just around the corner!
Susan





From: Susan Legind <sussielegind@gmail.com>
Date: Friday, March 22, 2013 12:40 AM
To: Koppa <viroquacreative@gmail.com>
Subject: I: Conversation with Filipa Sottomayor

HI Mike…as you can see here under…positive answer from Filipa in Portugal…..Susan

Da: Filipa Sottomayor [mailto:filipa.sottomayor@facebook.com] **Inviato:** giovedì 21 marzo 2013 19:40 **A:** Sussie Legind **Oggetto:** Re: Conversation with Filipa Sottomayor

Um grande beijo de Portugal
On March 21, 2013 11:39:28 AM PDT, Filipa Sottomayor wrote:
Sure Susan, all that comes from your side is good. Thanks for suggesting my name, it is always a pleasure to participate or help develop new ideas. From this post I didn´t understand what is really requested. I'll try the link you sent.

From: Susan Legind <sussielegind@gmail.com>
Date: Friday, March 22, 2013 11:41 PM
To: Koppa <viroquacreative@gmail.com>
Subject: R: I: I: new work

I surely hope so. Otherwise try to mail Barbara! Susan

Da: Mike Koppa [mailto:viroquacreative@gmail.com] **Inviato:** venerdì 22 marzo 2013 22:35 **A:** Sussie Legind **Oggetto:** Re: I: I: new work

I have not received any emails from Barbara Minch yet.

But this is very interesting news! Still watching the mailbox day by day and nothing…

Some day it will all come flooding in.

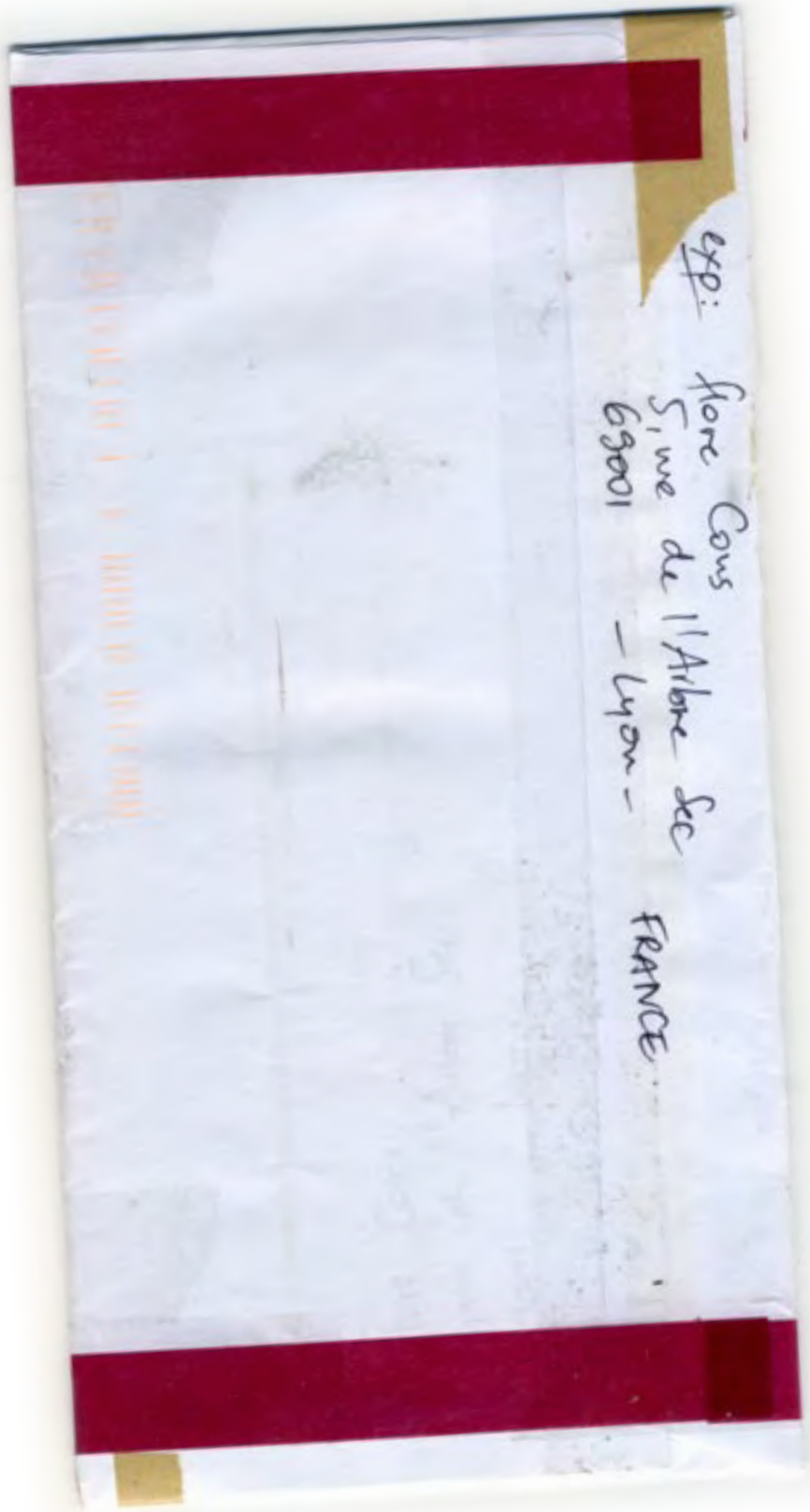
From: Susan Legind <sussielegind@gmail.com> **Date:** Friday, March 22, 2013 2:02 PM **To:** Koppa <viroquacreative@gmail.com> **Subject: I:** I: new work

Hi Mike…just saw the answer from Barbara Minch….hope you get contact to her soon! Susan

Da: Barbara Minch [mailto:barbara.minch.3@facebook.com] **Inviato:** venerdì 22 marzo 2013 18:25 **A:** Sussie Legind **Oggetto:** Re: I: new work

Hi Susan, Yes, I'm interested in this book. Thanks so much in suggesting me. I trust your opinion. I sent him an email, but I'm not sure it went through. If I don't hear from him, I'll try again. Barbara




exp: flore Cons
5, we de l'Arbre Sec
69001 - Lyon -
FRANCE

flore Cons
5, we de l'Arbre Sec
69001 - lyon -
floreKunst@orange.fr

Dear Mike,

Thank you again for inviting me to this project.
Here is the collage i did on the picture. As much as possible, i have been spontaneous while telling a story...
I sincerely hope that you can gather all the artworks and make a book, that would be great!
Please, let me know.

Best regards.

flore.


Flore Kunst
Mixed media illustration
Mail: florekunst@orange.fr
Web: http://florekunst.tumblr.com/


Des explosions atomiques silencieuses





From: Koppa <viroquacreative@gmail.com>
Date: Thursday, March 28, 2013 8:12 AM
To: Bill Phillips <Wphil123@aol.com>
Subject: Re: There, you?

This will work for now, rules bent. The post office struggles.

A few weeks ago it took 4 days for a letter from this office to travel 16 miles to Soldiers Grove.

It will be nice if it arrives in the post box one of these days.

From: Bill Phillips <Wphil123@aol.com>
Date: Thursday, March 28, 2013 6:54 AM
To: Koppa <viroquacreative@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: There, you?

I sent it 9 days ago? That does seem like a long time. Here's a fresh copy, though it bends the rules a little. Maybe we can blame the 3rd Avenue/ 54 street Post Office.
Bill.

-----Original Message-----
From: Mike Koppa <viroquacreative@gmail.com>
To: Wphil123 <wphil123@aol.com>
Sent: Wed, Mar 27, 2013 5:42 pm
Subject: Re: There, you?

Haven't received anything yet. Seems a long time.

The first caption is from the photo of the lights, like in a park or football field or something. I picked that photo first, showed the stack to Antonia (my wife), and she chose the same one. This, she thought, was proof of our mind-melding abilities. My idea was that, looking at any object, your perception of that object is determined by your perspective, your experience, etc. I incorporated my conversation with Antonia and the storm going on in Brooklyn that afternoon, with my interpretation of the photograph.

Past her white orchid by the window: a March squall. She sat on the day bed with tea before her on the table. "Expectation," she said. "Like expecting something…illumination. Waiting for it."

I had thought that what was happening seemed to bend the lights already under the weight of it; like spring flowers turned by a late snow.

The second caption is to the photograph of the tree with the bark kind of splitting off from it, though any other forest scene might do. I was on the train coming home from work and I was reading a book that reminded me of the Diamond Sutra, where it has this formula 'A is not A, that's why we call it A,' and I thought of that photo of the back splitting from the tree, like the tree is being peeled apart to find where its being lies. In the trunk? the rings? the roots? You ask until there's nothing left but an opening in the forest. The tree is all those things plus the ground, air, time, whatever has happened that takes you to this point. That realization brings you from one side of the matter, to the other.

Walking through the woods in Liberty,
Caught becoming a doorway.

BELGIQUE
BELGIE
€ 1,34
PRIOR INTL
8000
20.3.13-15
BRUGGE BEURSPLEIN
BRUGGE BEURSPLEIN
Mik Koppa
107 S. Dunlap Street
Viroqua, WI 54665
USA
PRIOR
A 0000 X
54665$1532



Brugge
20/03/2013.

Here you go, Mike!
Hope you like it, wasn't
very easy! Next time
a bigger picture :)

I enclosed a pic of
Brugge to remind you of
your trip over here,
Good luck with the book,
best, Sammy.



BRUGGE. - Prinselijk Begijnhof « ten Wingaarde » (toegangsbrug).
BRUGES. - Béguinage princier « de la Vigne » (pont d'entrée).
BRUGES. - Princely Beguinage «at the Vineyards» (entrance bridge).








B. Graham
536 8th St.
D. G. IL 60515
CAROL STREAM IL 601
27 MAR 2013 PM 9 L
FOREVER
USA
Salt evaporation ponds
M. Koppa
107 S. Dunlap Ave.
Viroqua, WI 54665
AGRICULTURAL


URBAN



Hello-

About distribution of the Collaborative book: I usually send my dealers 5 copies to start with. They generally accept them and place them then ask when they need more.

I would need to know how to price it. They would take a cut.



That was really, really nice of you!

And the edition size....

Good luck. Keep me posted -B



CARLTON
CARDS

ROME 20.3.2013

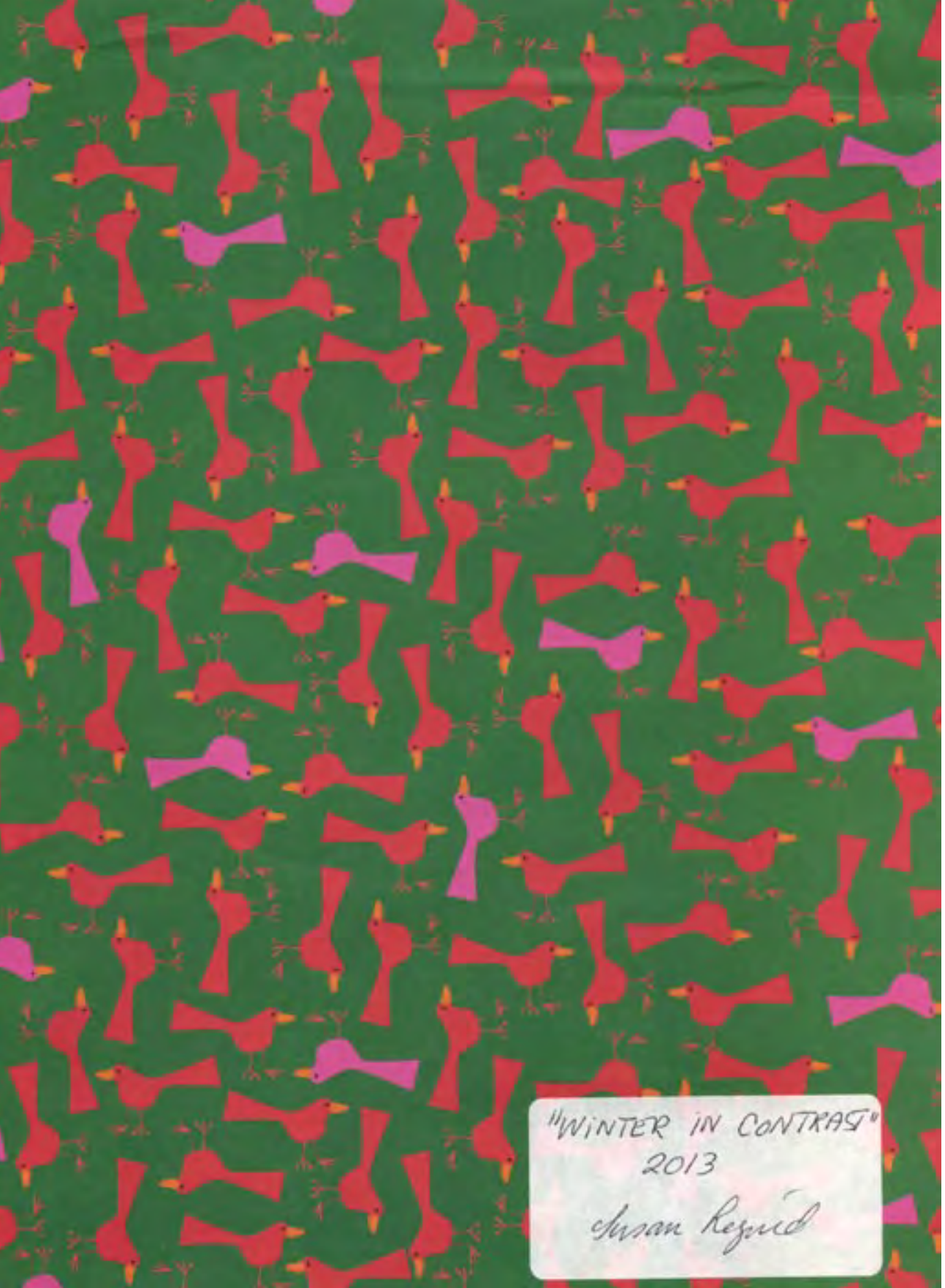
Hi MIKE..
ANOTHER WORK FOR
your book!

SUSAN

MITT:

SUSAN LEGG
VIA ANAGNINA 332
00118 ROMA
ITALIA

CIAO MIKE



From: Koppa <viroquacreative@gmail.com>
Date: Tuesday, April 2, 2013 5:45 AM
To: Barbara Minch <barminch@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: Collage book

Barbara,

First, thank you…I take this as your agreement to have the image in the book.

But, as you suspected, this is a very low resolution image…the largest I could reproduce it is about 1 x 2 inches.

I am looking for a much larger file for print…where this file is about 80 KB, I'm looking for a file at least 10x that, something like 800 KB, even better would be a file larger than 1 MB (megabyte).

There is not a big rush to get it to me. I will be very busy with my "day job" for a few months now, and it's very unlikely I'll be able to put any time into the design of the book until June.

Please confirm the title when you resend. For some reason I have the title on my file as "Be Your Best Artist." You sent the same image with the name "Sea Nymph."

Thanks again, and best regards,

Mike

From: Barbara Minch <barminch@gmail.com>
Date: Monday, April 1, 2013 9:22 PM
To: Koppa <viroquacreative@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: Collage book

Hi Mike,

Sorry about the delay. I've attached a photo. Hope it's what you wanted. Let me know if it's good enough. If not I'll need to call my techy friend for help.
Let me know if you get this and if it's okay.
Barbara

On Mon, Apr 1, 2013 at 10:08 PM, Mike Koppa <viroquacreative@gmail.com> wrote:
Dear Barbara,

Trying my best not to be impatient, but wondering if you have received this long-winded message and have had time to digest and consider it.

Best,

Mike

From: Koppa <viroquacreative@gmail.com>
Date: Tuesday, March 26, 2013 8:46 AM
To: Barbara Minch <barminch@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: Collage book

Dear Barbara,

Thank you for the note! Yes, I'm working on a book project, but I'm not exactly writing it, and it's not exactly about collage. I'll try to explain here first, then give you a link to the info I have posted on the website.

I was walking on our property out in the country in the middle of February and had my camera with me, like I often do out there, and took a few pictures of my walk on that zero-degree day. The snow had mostly melted by then, and I had a thought that the thawing of the land was beginning. I also thought about what I could with the pictures, because I'm going through a cleansing period and trying not to accumulate too much stuff, both physical material and unnecessary digital assets. I take these documenting pictures, but what

to do with them? I also happened to buy a sheet of international stamps at the post office earlier that week, and have recently left Facebook after making a few collage contacts there over the years.

I resolved to print the photos (miniatures to fit in envelopes) and send one to a small group of collage artists around the world. These were mostly cold-calls, though I did have to email a few of them to get postal addresses. Of the 8 artists solicited to alter my photos in some way of their choosing, I have received contributions to the project from 4 of them, Susan Legind being one of them.

At one time, Susan was concerned, as was I, about the number of contributions I had received…she wanted to see the book happen but was worried that I might call it off because of lack of interest…the whole thing was a crap shoot from the beginning, playing on the nature of spontaneity and what comes from executing an idea on the spot. She dropped your name along with another collagist in Portugal as possible contributors for the book. At that time it was mid-March and too late, according to me, to invite new contributors to this book, but suggested that maybe there would be other collaborative collage books in the future.

So anyway…how did you get roped into this? Well, when Susan mentioned your name, it sounded familiar to me. I went to my files and found the folder called "other artists" and in it another called "favorites." There was a time when I was on Facebook when I was collecting and sharing images by other artists. I had one of your collages in there, and then suggested to Susan that I could include that collage in the book (with your permission) as a part of the storytelling.

And that leads me to what the book is about…

This book, to me, is about new growth and what can happen when we reach out to others. In it, there will be the collages contributed by the artists solicited, and poetry contributed by a few poets to whom I sent the photos, and excerpts of the correspondence that took place over the course of the thawing winter of 2013. It is a book about the creative process, and the book itself will be the evidence of what happened as a result of one simple man having an idea on a chilly wooded hillside one day, and then coming home to execute that idea.

Here's the info on the website:

http://heavydutypress.com/thawing

If you will give me permission to use the attached image in the book, I will need a higher-resolution image. The title is so perfect for this book.

Oh, payment! In return for their efforts, I offered each contributor 2 copies of the book. In this case, because it is the use of an existing collage, I would be happy to offer one copy of the book (instead of two) to you in exchange for your permission to use your collage.

Thanks for considering and have a nice Tuesday!

Slowly,

Mike

Mike Koppa, organizer
Viroqua Creative Workshop LLC
DBA Viroqua Stone Lettering & The Heavy Duty Press
107 S. Dunlap Ave.| Viroqua, WI 54665
608-606-5854. And that's official.

misterkoppa.com
heavydutypress.com
go-family-farms.com

From: Barbara Minch <barminch@gmail.com>
Date: Sunday, March 24, 2013 9:19 AM
To: Koppa <viroquacreative@gmail.com>
Subject: Collage book

Hi Mike,[3]

I heard from Susan Legind about the book on collage you're writing. I am interested in letting you use some of my work but would like to know more about it. Your website didn't open for me. Could you send me more information?

Looking forward to hearing from you,
Barbara Minch

[3] When laying out a book like this, one question you have to answer is how you are going to break each page—should you fill out each frame to the designated margins, or break where convenient, between messages, or, maybe even selectively break them to create an interesting balance between the two pages of composed text. While it's not good practice to leave orphans at the head or foot of a leaf, just as we don't leave widows at the end of a paragraph, I decided to fill out the text frames in all cases, to imply the continuous scrolling we see in our email threads. Fittingly, it happens not once but twice in the pagination of this thread with Barbara Minch (because two is more fun than one, of course), and leaves a final page to open with credit given to Susan, whom, as we've seen if we have been paying attention up until this point, has been instrumental in the development of this book, not only in her suggestion to consider the work of Barbara and Filipa, but in her consistent enthusiasm for collage and encouragement of this book project from its inception.

THIS YEAR SPRING IS SO SLOW TO SETTLE IN

PART I

She is waiting for something.

Waiting for her waiting to burst
into two white magician's doves
freed from the dark confines of her hat
when she lifts it from her scorched head,
scorched by this profusion of
New Mexico light.

It's eleven o'clock. The sun is sharp
and way too bright.
She cringes when she
reads the weather report.
Tomorrow it might snow again.




blind (aveugle)


Mike Kopp2
107 S. Dunlap Ave.
Viroqua, WI 54665
USA


exp: flore Cous
5, rue de l'Arbre Sec
69001 -Lyon- FRANCE.

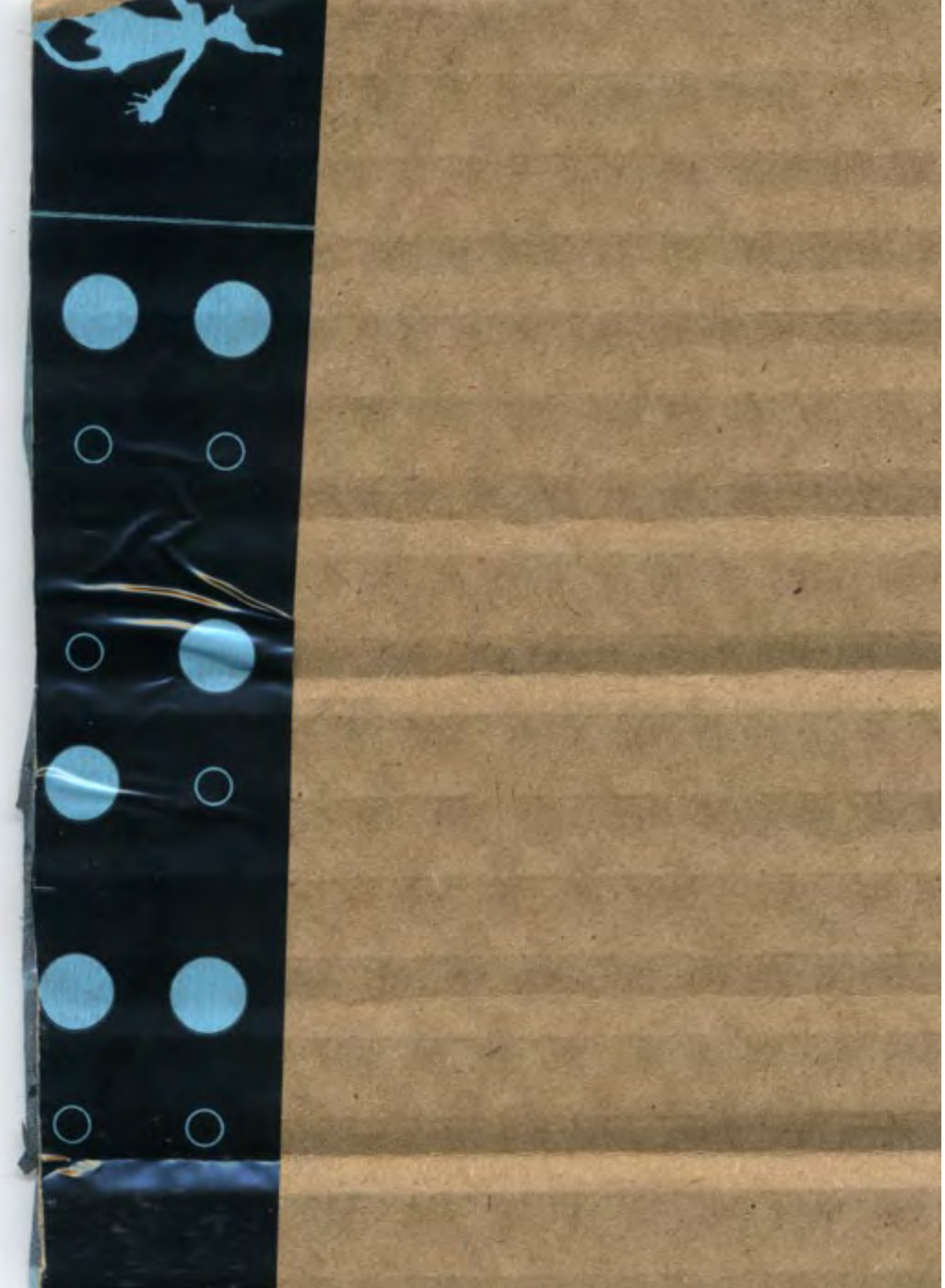
Hi Mike!

Here is the second collage ... thank you again for your project.

Best regards.

flore.





From: Susan Legind <sussielegind@gmail.com>
Date: Thursday, April 4, 2013 12:20 PM
To: Koppa <viroquacreative@gmail.com>
Subject: R: R: R: book invitation/Susan Legind

Thank you so much Mike…for taking your time to tell a little more about yourself. I am very interested in people…who they are and why they do the things they do. In Denmark… where I come from..I guess it would be called to be CURIOUS….and people look you badly when you make too many questions. But here in Rome …among italians…hahaha…I think they would call it "INTEREST".
I have no probleme to imagine what is going on in your head…when you go up and down with the enthusiasm concerning this project. Several times …for instance when I organized my exhibitions I had this feeling. I was asking my self for what kind of reason I put my self in this idiotic situation…when there was actually no need of that. I am not at all the kind of person who like to show up….not at all. And I'm very bad at working together with others. I like to be on my own…and to work by myself. So I find it easy to imagine you going around in the cemetary with the van…thinking about all kind of things…maybee planning the book. This is acutally a great thought…that "the book was planned in the cemetary" (hahaha) it even makes you laugh a bit. Put together with the story of how you went to the postoffice and got the stamps for mailing all the photos for the collageartists…it's really great fun. I hope you will use all that in the book….because that was actually one of the reasons why I found it so interesting. When something starts with a STORY….you must see what happens….what is around the corner!
You write about your radio-show?????? What is that? Are you having a radio-show? About what?...sorry sorry…hahahaha….all the questions!
I am still very happy about my book…..but unfortunately there is only ONE book printed… it simply cost too much, and I'm not sure who would buy a collage-book. Not so many people…I think!
Now I'm working with a new one….it's 50 collage-works about Rome. A kind of altered postcards from Rome. I have been working with this thing for a couple of years and now finally I'm about to be ready. It started up one day I was with a friend to buy postcards to send from Rome to Denmark….and found out that it's really too bad what you can buy. Stupid photos of Sant Peters Church seen from the front…seen from the corner…seen from the back. No fun…no fun at all. So I made these altered postcards…and I have had great fun all the time. So…hahaha…at least one person laughing!
Now it's about time for dinner……and dinner is a very important moment. To sit down and have nice food and a glass of wine and enjoy life. Have a nice evening also you Mike…so nice to keep this contact with you!
Susan

Da: Mike Koppa [mailto:viroquacreative@gmail.com] **Inviato:** giovedì 4 aprile 2013 16:08 **A:** Sussie Legind **Oggetto:** Re: R: R: book invitation/Susan Legind

Good morning Susan!

That is quite the beautiful book you have created. Is it available in a hard copy? I hope the Thawing book becomes equally interesting!

I go up and down with enthusiasm for these projects. It is difficult to think of it as an important thing to do in the day-to-day priorities when for so long it has felt like maybe the only person who cares about the project is me. It begins to feel like a very selfish act, and I argue with myself that I do it for others to appreciate and enjoy, but then I come back to the awareness that whatever I do is so small and insignificant in the larger picture of life. I began the layout last night, in the mood of "Why bother?", but it is mine to finish after dragging so many people into it. I am sure it will get exciting as I continue to work on it, and I have faith that it will become something good, but for now I am waiting for that moment of passion for the project to arrive. It'll come in time.

What I do for "real" work? Many people in the United States hold to the tradition of marking their existence on the planet with a granite memorial stone over their burial site. They often purchase the stones before their death and have them waiting in the cemetery for the day they finally arrive there. When that day comes, I go to the cemetery and add the date of their physical departure to the stone.

I will begin this work this afternoon, after my radio show, in the Viroqua Cemetery. My territory covers a 60-mile radius around Viroqua, the city where I live in beautiful southwestern Wisconsin. I bought the business a year and a half ago, and I enjoy it. The time on the road between cemeteries offers plenty of time for reflection and thoughtful planning, and the actual work is of a physical and typographic nature, which suits me perfectly. The added bonus is that I feel I am providing a service that is very important to the people who want it done.

And now it's time to get on with my Thursday!

Onward!

Mike[4]

From: Susan Legind <sussielegind@gmail.com> **Date:** Wednesday, April 3, 2013 12:30 AM **To:** Koppa <viroquacreative@gmail.com> **Subject:** R: R: book invitation/Susan Legind

Goodmorning Mike…
I'm a terrible curious person…hahaha….so now I must absolutely know…what are you doing "outdoor"? What is your "real" work….?
I wonder what will come out of the book…it's very exciting…! Some years ago I designed my collage book…the one you can see at issuu…and I found out that it was not easy at all. Now I'm about to do another one with my latest works and I find myself with the same troubles again. In the end I will find out…but it will probably take me a lot of time "and nasty words" hahahaha…
Just now I can see a bit of blue sky from the window…and this day might be good for some cleaning around.
So…ciao ciao Mike!
Susan

Da: Mike Koppa [mailto:viroquacreative@gmail.com] **Inviato:** mercoledì 3 aprile 2013 00:03 **A:** Sussie Legind **Oggetto:** Re: R: book invitation/Susan Legind

Hi, Susan!

Your collage #2 arrived yesterday, thank you! And today another from Flore in Lyon. Barbara has confirmed by email that it will be okay to include that collage of hers, but I am waiting for her to send a higher resolution image. No word from Filipa yet, but it's only been less than a day. Spring here is slowly creeping around the corner…but not without a fight. Yesterday barely above freezing, today in the low 40s (F) and the forecast is for 50s on Friday. This is all good because I need warmer and dry weather to do my outdoor work, which is how I make a living. But…next week the forecast is 50% chance of rain and high 40s. This could mean I am stuck inside and cannot go out to work…nicely timed, perhaps… I could spend the early part of next week designing the book before getting on with my

[4] This is awkward, but the rules is the rules! (see page 144)

seasonal outdoor work.

We shall see what Mother Nature has in store for us!

At least the sun has been shining on us the past few days…I hope it comes for you soon. Sounds like you could use it!

Ciao!

Mike

From: Susan Legind <sussielegind@gmail.com> Date: Tuesday, April 2, 2013 8:37 AM **To:** Koppa <viroquacreative@gmail.com> **Subject:** R: book invitation/Susan Legind

Hi Mike…
Thank you for imforming me….you write everything so nicely…I think it's almost impossibile to say NO…hahaha. Hope Filipa will accept….her works are special.
Mike did you get my collage number 2….???? Winter in contrast? The mail-service seems to be very slow at the moment…maybee it has something to do with the Easter?...Hmmm?
What about Barbara Minch…is it working?
Hope spring has arrived to you…here we turned backwards and it's cold and rainy…all Easter has been like that.
Anyway….apart from that…things are OK…No news about my stop-motion…the guy I'm wokring with is completely "gone with the wind". Wonder if he will ever pop up again!
Have a nice day Mike…
Susan

Da: Mike Koppa [mailto:viroquacreative@gmail.com] **Inviato:** martedì 2 aprile 2013 13:29 **A:** filipa.sottomayor@facebook.com **Cc:** Susan Legind **Oggetto:** book invitation/Susan Legind

Dear Filipa,

I am attaching an image I received from our mutual friend, Susan Legind in Rome.

Susan has contributed a few collages to a book project I am working on, titled Thawing. Information about the project is on my website.

http://heavydutypress.com/thawing/

In an email exchange with Susan, she gave me your name and the news clipping, as a suggestion that we might work together on this project, if I needed more content. Because the material in this book is of a time-sensitive nature (collaborative work done as the seasons changed), I could not invite you to send a contribution to this book. However, the book is about more than just collaborative collages, it's really more about making connections and being pro-active about networking in a physical way, rather than through the sometimes shallow networking of Facebook.

I think there is a good reason to think we might collaborate on something in the future… if you are interested, of course. For now, I am wondering if you will give me permission to print this news clipping in the Thawing book, to help illustrate the development of this network through my correspondence with Susan regarding this book.

Please let me know as soon as you can. I will be very busy with my day job for a few months, but intend to begin designing this book in June.

Thank you for sharing your beautiful work,

Bestly,

Mike

Mike Koppa, organizer
Viroqua Creative Workshop LLC
DBA Viroqua Stone Lettering & The Heavy Duty Press

"Short Stories" by Filipa Sottomayor

Filipa Sottomayor was born in Lisbon in 1968.

Having worked for several years in the film industry and travelled extensively, Filipa developed a passion for art as a means of self-expression and an outlet for her creativity

Since 1998 she has dedicated her time exclusively to producing a series of mixed-media pieces using bold colours that tell her stories, finding inspiration in mythology, literature, music and episodes from daily life.

Her artwork has been exhibited in several galleries across Portugal and has generated interest amongst critics worldwide in countries as far afield as the UK and the USA. Filipa Sottomayor's upcoming exhibition "Short Stories" will be on display at the Centro Cultural de Cascais from 1 to 16 September, 2012. For more information on Filipa Sottomayor's work: http://rasgo.wordpress.com



From: Filipa Sottomayor <filipa.sottomayor@facebook.com>
Date: Saturday, April 6, 2013 7:26 AM
To: Koppa <viroquacreative@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: book invitation/Susan Legind

:)

On April 6, 2013 5:03:16 AM PDT, Mike Koppa wrote:
So excellent. Thank you!

Um beijo,

Mike

From: Filipa Sottomayor <filipa.sottomayor@facebook.com>
Date: Saturday, April 6, 2013 6:53 AM
To: Koppa <viroquacreative@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: book invitation/Susan Legind

Thank you so much Mike for your kind words. Yes you have permission to use it.
This is the image I have, hope it meets your requirements. This work was bought and I have no other way to get more images of it.
Um beijo
Filipa

On April 5, 2013 11:39:53 AM PDT, Mike Koppa wrote:
Dear Filipa,

I am having a thought here that it might be a better fit for the book if it would include one

of your collages rather than the news clipping. Or maybe both. This is entirely up to you. I took some time to explore the work on your website, to see if there was something there that might complement the existing content nicely. The work titled “Define Pleasure” might work well as a closing image. If you would give me permission to use it, I will need a high resolution image, something approximately 7 x 10 inches at 300 dpi…usually a 1 or 2 MB file works.

Please let me know how you feel about this.

Thank you!

(all of your work is very beautiful, by the way)

Best regards,

Mike

http://rasgo.wordpress.com/2011/06/03/define-pleasure/

From: Filipa Sottomayor <filipa.sottomayor@facebook.com>
Date: Thursday, April 4, 2013 8:48 AM
To: Koppa <viroquacreative@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: book invitation/Susan Legind

Filipa de Sottomayor
Pcta. Outeiro da Vela, 191, P1-A
2750-455 CASCAIS
PORTUGAL

On April 4, 2013 6:39:46 AM PDT, Mike Koppa wrote:
Filipa,

Thank you, I’ll include the clipping.

Please reply with a postal address.

Best,

Mike

From: Filipa Sottomayor <filipa.sottomayor@facebook.com>
Date: Wednesday, April 3, 2013 4:01 AM
To: Susan Legind <sussielegind@gmail.com>, Koppa <viroquacreative@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: book invitation/Susan Legind

Hi Mike,

Sorry for taking so long to answer, because we are not fb friends it went to “Other messages” and I wasn’t aware of it.

Thank you for your request, it sounds very interesting and creative, I sure do give my permission for you to use the clipping. Keep me informed on the development of this project.

I admire Susan’s works very much and I like the idea of being a part of project Thawing.

My email: filipasottomayor@mail.com and site http://rasgo.wordpress.com

All the best and keep in touch
Filipa

http://rasgo.wordpress.com/

On April 2, 2013 4:29:13 AM PDT, Mike Koppa wrote:
Dear Filipa,

I am attaching an image I received from our mutual friend, Susan Legind in Rome.

Susan has contributed a few collages to a book project I am working on, titled Thawing. Information about the project is on my website.

http://heavydutypress.com/thawing/

In an email exchange with Susan, she gave me your name and the news clipping, as a suggestion that we might work together on this project, if I needed more content. Because the material in this book is of a time-sensitive nature (collaborative work done as the seasons changed), I could not invite you to send a contribution to this book. However, the book is about more than just collaborative collages, it's really more about making connections and being pro-active about networking in a physical way, rather than through the sometimes shallow networking of Facebook.

I think there is a good reason to think we might collaborate on something in the future… if you are interested, of course. For now, I am wondering if you will give me permission to print this news clipping in the Thawing book, to help illustrate the development of this network through my correspondence with Susan regarding this book.

Please let me know as soon as you can. I will be very busy with my day job for a few months, but intend to begin designing this book in June.

Thank you for sharing your beautiful work,

Bestly,

Mike

Mike Koppa, organizer
Viroqua Creative Workshop LLC
DBA Viroqua Stone Lettering & The Heavy Duty Press

THIS YEAR SPRING IS SO SLOW TO SETTLE IN

PART II

She is moving towards something.
Moving without moving. It looks like
She is sitting still but really
she is secretly nurturing
a white lotus in a
dark and watery garden.
Her heart
is right now
but won't always be
floating in a dark pool
rooting in the mud
ready to open
but not quite opening
ready to know itself
as a sovereign kind of love
yet waiting for the right signs,
for spring to settle into its warm skin,
for a palpable reassurance.

Today it is so bright and warm,
tomorrow it might snow again.

Still, while she sleeps, she can sense
what's inside her unfurling.
White petals
pushing through
pushing through her clenched and
darkened heart.



From: Koppa <viroquacreative@gmail.com>
Date: Sunday, April 7, 2013 10:34 AM
To: Lisa Chun <lisa@lisachun.com>
Subject: Re: mail

A theme or something to focus on: winter into spring, new growth, networks, relationships, spontaneous creativity and execution of ideas…

To incorporate things I sent…in collage, yes. Or no. In poetry, as a guide or reference, I suppose.

I'll take whatever you can give!

Thank you!

From: Lisa Chun <lisa@lisachun.com>
Date: Saturday, April 6, 2013 11:10 AM
To: Koppa <viroquacreative@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: mail

i got it! i spent some time on this the other day and i've got my mind on it this morning.

i cannot remember if there is a theme or something i should be focusing on or do i need to incorporate the things you sent?

you might have already conveyed this but i can't remember!

i'm glad you keep going. being an affirmative force for these things (art, bookmkaing, an indie creative spirit) really do matter.

:) lisa

From: Helene de Winter <info@helenedewinter.nl>
Date: Monday, April 8, 2013 1:39 PM
To: Koppa <viroquacreative@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: to quick

Mike,
Today (monday) I had a good day of working.
I was able to work for 5 hours and now I have some some things nearing completion.
Tomorrow (tuesday) I hope to complete them into a state that I'll be happy to send to you before your workingday starts.
(Never been happier with different time-zones)

Wouldn't it be nice if I could still take part in the project.....

Greetings
Helene

www.helenedewinter.nl | 0031(0)651424258 | info@helenedewinter.nl

Op 7 apr. 2013, **om** 20:14 **heeft** Mike Koppa **het** volgende geschreven:

Yes, a 300 dpi jpg would be great.

Thanks.

From: Helene de Winter <info@helenedewinter.nl>
Date: Sunday, April 7, 2013 12:42 PM
To: Koppa <viroquacreative@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: to quick

Hi Mike,

At this moment I don't have anything that is 'ready for the world' yet.
Tomorrow I'll try to work again. And if I have anything ready I can send it to you by email.
In what format do you want the photo to be: jpeg/300 dpi ?

I was planning to ask you to think of me for future projects. So I glad you mention it.
I just hope you don't find me unreliable after the past few weeks. Normally I can respond in time.
It's just that the concussion is more severe than I thought.

Only one more thing: I am sooo curious about the work the others submitted. Can you send me some pics when you project is ready?

Hopefully I can send you something before tuesday. I send you what I've created anyway if it will be later.

Greetings
Helene

Op 6 apr. 2013, om 14:29 **heeft** Mike Koppa **het** volgende geschreven:

No pressure, just checking on progress.

If you have something ready to send by Tuesday, I'll hold a spot for it and include it.

I started designing the book a few days ago, and am getting a little excited to complete it.
I will have time to work on it next week, so unfortunately I need to give a solid deadline.
Let me know if I should expect anything, and if not, I would be happy to see whatever you do with it in the future, if anything. Maybe some collaboration on some other things some time down the road.

Thank you!

Mike

From: Helene de Winter <info@helenedewinter.nl>
Date: Tuesday, April 2, 2013 9:03 AM
To: Koppa <viroquacreative@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: to quick

Not yet. I'm in the studio today for a few hours for the first time in weeks.
I've scanned your photo's and am looking for matching images.
Feel free to start your book.
I'll be using your photo's anyway and will show you the results.
You can decide whatever you want to do with them.

By the way: is your winter thawing a bit yet? Our is still very cold with a polar wind in stead of a spring breeze.

Greetings
Helene

Op 2 apr. 2013, om 04:06 **heeft** Mike Koppa **het** volgende geschreven:

Nothing?

No thing?

Op 21 mar. 2013, om 04:06 **heeft** Mike Koppa **het** volgende geschreven:

Dear Helene,

I am reluctant to accept the news that you will not be able to participate.
How long before you can put something…ANYTHING…in the mail to ship back? Again it is single-digit temps here, and therefore the thawing we are anticipating and celebrating with this project is still very much in progress, regardless of the calendar's first day of spring

(yesterday). Please consider sending something soon…perhaps you can think about it in a different way…very simplistic, a la Da Da…you are in the land of "let the chips fall where they may," so-to-speak.

Thank you for considering, and I do hope to receive something in the mail from you in the next few weeks.

Slowly,

Mike

From: Helene de Winter <info@helenedewinter.nl>
Date: Thursday, March 21, 2013 5:23 AM
To: Koppa <viroquacreative@gmail.com>
Subject: to quick

hello Mike,
Yesterday (march 20) I received your letter with the second photo.
As you have put the deadline at the 20th it will not be possible for me to participate.
I am sorry about that. Really would have liked to join this project.

As for my health: it is not possible for me to work for a longer time as it will give a drop-back.
Therefore I can not go and work in my studio.
When I am better i will start working on a few collages and will include the photo's you send me.
When I am finished i will email you some pictures of the results.
If you like it and want them for some project I can send them to you.
I hope you'll enjoy your project and if you ever start such a project again: I'm interested.

Greetings
Helene de Winter

From: Koppa <viroquacreative@gmail.com>
Date: Tuesday, April 9, 2013 10:55 AM
To: Helene de Winter <info@helenedewinter.nl>
Subject: Re: ready nr.1

Uh…

WOW.

That is freaking awesome.

Thank you!

From: Helene de Winter <info@helenedewinter.nl>
Date: Tuesday, April 9, 2013 10:44 AM
To: Koppa <viroquacreative@gmail.com>
Subject: ready nr.1

Hi Mike,
Today i've managed to finish 3 collages. "The Mike Series" ;-)
I'm happy to say I finally could work with enough concentration.
So maybe i can return to my normal working habits :-)

I hope you like them.
Greetings
Helene

I'll send you the collages in 3 separate emails.
number 1 in this mail:



19 April 2013

5:55 a.m. Most of the book is laid out. This morning I added the forecasts I captured in the past. They were mostly very accurate. It has been quite the sustained thawing process this past sixty days and it feels good to be completing this project just two months after its conception and inception, one sixth of a year ago, on a 0° day in February. Fun to see the snowball roll, good to make new friends, to begin anew.

Thinking of adding a table of contents and/or index today. Write the colophon. Print it and review. Edit. Then write and design a prospectus and send it off to the printer/bindery. Maybe design a jacket, too. Publish in late June?

Icy precipitation last night. Maybe this will be the last day we dip into the 30s. Looks like we'll be hovering around 50 over here for another ten days or so. But I believe there will be light at the end of this tunnel.


Today
37° 23°
Details
Sat
46° 34°
Details
Sun
56° 45°
Details
Mon
60° 43°
Details
Tue
43° 31°
Details
Wed
50° 38°
Details
Thu
48° 35°
Details
Fri
54° 40°
Details
Sat
50° 37°
Details

Colophon

It is 7:30 in the morning on the 31st of December, 2013. I awoke at three a.m. and layed there for an hour, unable to sleep; too much unfinished business on my mind before the Gregorian year's end. Dandelion root tea, and in front of the computer screen twenty minutes later, the details are finally sorted and this is the finishing touch on a project that began a little more than ten lunar cycles ago on a 0° day in February.

The current temperature is -5°, with more of the same in the ten-day forecast. Many thanks to the patient contributors who took the time to participate in this slow media adventure, and have waited a full revolution around the sun to see their work in print, as promised.

Email correspondence in this book was set in Calibri; poems, prose, and the transcribed letter from Bill in Century Schoolbook; journal entries in Courier; and typed letters in whatever you want to call the factory face on the strikers of the pretty blue Signature typewriter behind me. This first edition of 50 copies is printed on 80 lb. White Finch opaque smooth paper and case bound by the helpful people at Bookmobile in Minneapolis, Minnesota.