heuristics

impossible

impossibility

made

easy
"Impossibility Made Easy"
produced by
the dB foundation
&
Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions
in conjunction with
"aporia: aporia"
based on
"heuristics"
Heuristics
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&
the EFA
in conjunction with "aporia"
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visual adjustment by Annabel Dao
activities designed & executed by
Geoff & Sarah Seelinger
(with help from Donovan)

prize

Send your completed "Impossibility Made Easy"
Activity Book (or copies of it)
to: dB foundation
c/o limbic, inc.
131 Baerum Street, #2
Brooklyn, NY 11206
for your special, extra-grande prize!
"Every now and then it is possible to have absolutely nothing, the possibility of nothing."

"When a contradiction is impossible to resolve except by a lie, it is literally a door."

"Our poetry is the realization that we possess nothing, anything therefore is a delight (since we do not possess it...)

"Impossible is not a scientific term."

By striving to do the impossible, man has always achieved what those who have more than they believed possible have never taken a single step forward.

"We are an impossibility in an impossible universe."

"The impossible has a kind of integrity which the merely improbable lacks.

"All of us failed to make our discoveries of perfection. So I rate us on the basis of our splendid failure to do the impossible."

We were not looking for substance as an end but rather for a way to document the transition from idea to form, the way in which an artist succumbs to substance.

"I can't believe that!" said Alice.

"Can't you?" the Queen said in a pitying tone. "Try again: draw a long breath, and shut your eyes."

Alice laughed. "There's not use trying," she said; "one can't believe impossible things."

"I daresay you haven't had much practice," said the Queen. "When I was your age, I always did it for half-an-hour a day. Why, sometimes I've believed as many as six impossible things before breakfast."

"Nothing is permanent."

The question of nothingness is essential as an aspect of freedom. But what is the meaning of nothingness? The possibility to rebel against the impossible...

"We're realists, we want the impossible..."

For the listener, who listens in the snow,

And, nothing himself, beholds

Nothing that is not there and the nothing that is."

Maybe I'm crazy.

Maybe you're crazy.

Maybe we're crazy.
Sucker Fair Use Clause

taken from the

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Acknowledgements

In the seven hundred years that we have been working on this exhibition and this activity book we have amassed more debts to more people than we are capable of acknowledging. Many people both within and without the institution have contributed greatly to the conception, organization and infeasibility of this project.

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Our greatest debt of all is to Aporians, those in this show and those not, one and the same.
Aaisha

How Many Butterflies Are In My Country?

Not Included:
Five-inch net, 36"x36"x36" mesh box, pot of nectar. Thousands upon thousands of butterflies (millions!) follow yearly global migration patterns. Look at this diagram from the Global Satellite Network. How many butterflies do you see?

In this ultimate butterfly chase, you can use your virtual five-inch net. Pretend you're on a walk on a quiet country road in your country at the height of the butterfly migration season.

In the height of the migration, clandestine butterflies are out on exhibition! Detailed and colorful patterns hint at immanent mating performances. “Artists” wear veils, shawls, and jewels down the runway like beautiful women. Walk behind them, carrying a mesh box filled with butterflies. As you walk, remove the top of the box.

As you do so, dip your hand into pot of nectar and smear it on the box-top. Butterflies living in the box will alight on the nectar-coated lid and nourish themselves. Continue to walk, feeding butterflies as you catch them, until the box is full and there are butterflies fluttering all over and around you.

The butterflies

At this point, we must warn you: you will be facing grave danger, as they are inevitably exposed to oils on your hands which can inhibit flight. Research what is considered rare in your country: monarchs or callippe silverspots, Mitchell’s satyrs or... we request that you release endangered species. Share your videos or tell us what you found!

That way we can all accompany each other on our hunts!

Uncompahgre Fritillaries

Alternative: Circle all the butterflies in the diagram. Once you've caught them, count them!
Joan Banach

The Third Triangle, 2007

End of the World? Fly a kite!

This sketch uses equal triangles that you can cut out to establish a kite-like structure. Tie a key on for an extra charge. Here's a riddle for you: how was electricity discovered? Your father or mother knows. The End of the world, when it feels like should I fly my kite? Lose yourself in time: get a life...

Kids: We see you flying your kite in beautiful places: a green field, a snowy road with your father, mother or younger sister, a lot, deserted, with trees; by an old house. Learn twists and effects (it's not rocket science). The twist "moonrise"!

Paint your kite red- woods. Tie on a key, "Dream for a moment." No more melancholia! Three sides have never been so much fun!

Grown-ups: Flying a kite is like "a waking dream. Aspects of context, actuality, and temporal shifts time melt away. Stop doing things that only provide partial fun! When combined with a sunny day, kites recreate the hyperactivity you remember from childhood. Watch meaning return to your weekends! And may we suggest this possibility: a kite is a form of meditation, forever bringing you back to the present moment.

Carefully tear or cut on the dotted lines. Pleat accordion-style along the light pencil lines, use a sharp pencil to stick holes in the targeted circles. Use the straight folded piece to stick through the holes as a strut. The little holes on it act as slits to hold it in place.
Daniel Bozhkov

Gagarin Astronaut Honey, 2007

Not Included:
Commercial spacecraft, Melipona panamica honeybee colony, hives, frames,
wax, flowering plants, water, soil, beekeepers, gardeners, water, oxygen, dance shoes.

Developed by: Cosmonauts!
Manufactured by: Gagarin Enterprises LLC

A step called the
This dance map shows "honeybee company" to be performed as if you were in outer space. The "pony part" has nothing on The Honeybee! This dance uses wigles to present messages to viewers and other dancers. For example, in this diagram the dancer follows pulsed sounds to perform a "waggle dance," in which she runs up and down and shakes it all around to say: "It's sweet like honey!"

Her partner's steps counter clockwise
say: "the finicky language of bees gives me hope for
the space age. Your ability as a dancer is now irrelevant!"
Other species: do not share our cultural codes, so they shake it in totally new ways!

A spacecraft may seem an unlikely place for a dance step to be invented, but in fact, astronauts love to get down! Synergy between zero/gravity and scientific knowledge have shaped this dance. As in the days of Columbus, space travelers may act as cultural emissaries. The "Astronaut Honey" could be the most outlandish proposition since the creation of the Space Program itself - but if the Macanenta is anything to go by, Saturn's Enceladus, just like honeybees!

Pretty soon we'll all be getting down on
Color the **Ocean Pieces**, 2007

Add your own
Buoy, boats, seaweed, pilings, seagulls, selfies, wooden
dinghies, anchors, seawalls, ropes, and/or fish —
Or just color in the grid!

What color is water? Turn this boring abstract “ocean” into your own wonderland!

Get out your crayons! Attempt to bring wild and uncontrollable water-grid.

Jazz up geography by answering the age-old question “What color is the ocean?” The artist — you decide the look, square-by-square.

Make this ocean your own.

According to International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) guidelines set in 2000 and adopted almost everywhere, with the notable exception of the United States of America, all coastal waters are, officially, blue-green. But what color do you see? Each person has a different idea about colors. When taste has no boundaries, the “high seas” or “international waters” — approximately one-third of the world’s oceans — could be transformed. Until now, water has been so boringly blue!

Your method of delineating the squares by color is totally up to you! If anyone accuses you of artistic ignorance, tell them to get their own ocean. In questionable situations, you may choose a flag — just ask them who wrote the laws of taste?

Then remind them: These are your waters.
Rochelle Feinstein

I MADE A TERRIBLE MISTAKE/WhiteHouse©
2007 Boardgame!

Not included:
The White House, paintings, 5 TV sets, environmental "Garden" video, Barry White audio loop, 30 6-inch mirrored disco balls, 10 units hazer lights, "visitors" pieces.

for ages 12-112

In this board game, players lead visitors through a drastically altered National Landmark! You tour the WH's thirty public and private spaces, accumulating "visitors" as you go. The more "visitors" (up to max 24) that you lose in one hour, the more points.
The key is to make the tour as baffling and disorienting as possible.
Your tools include: a Barry White audio loop, and a rotating mirrored disco ball. Get rid of all your "visitors" and you the President, all up for grabs. Transform this site into folly, reworking the symbolic value of our national "big house" from the inside out. Whatever you want! George Bush, for example, is just one player who's use the big house as a squat. Mistakes are made, no apologies offered. And this is an ideal site for somerecreation (which G.B. does believe in).

The paintings and videos used in this boardgame are only starting points. Get creative—how would you make mistakes and battle "visitors"? Explore the structures of error and success using Barry White's music to present a "professionally confusing" experience for "visitors", known in-game as "citizens" or traditionally, pawns. Checkmate!
Carl Ferrero

(a.k.a Hangman!)

How to avoid being hanged

Hints:
Tailor, clothing dummy, college boy, paddle, bottle, scale, broom, pail of whitewash, public persona.

Re-published from the Kennebunkport Gazette Society Pages

This game asks you to find a simple and recognizable personality phrase used memorably by a public or figure. Using simple, old-fashioned language to create an assembly-line process to bolster his public persona, rendering himself most recognizably as a design of the "machine"—that is, the military-industrial Rockwellian (or Rockafellian) sensibility. The speaker's clever sequencing of materials and unwitting actors, in conjunction with his shrewd predictions of human behavior, created a spectacular display of American spirit.

Failed marriages, hunting accidents, natural disasters, bad fashion choices, corruption scandals: these are only a few of the troubles that our public figures face every day, and it only makes their jobs more difficult if they have to explain themselves to the public.

How did this figure manage to avoid drawing concern over his actions? The public seems ready to grant him singular power—without personal responsibility. His words ring out as failsafe protection for our national leaders, no matter what they do! Hang him? The people would rather hang him with laurels!
Extra Dimensional Space, 2007

You don't need a particle accelerator, special relativity set, computer/electronic systems, REAL glass, monitoring system, HeNe laser, digital clock, shielding! All you need is scissors and a piece of tape! Art work from the World of Science.

This cut out game gives us a starting point the claim of quantum physics that our universe contains many more dimensions than we are able to perceive. Because this notion is difficult to grasp, try this practice exercise: create a space that has 2.5 dimensions - multi-dimensional reality for yourself!

After decades of research and extensive modeling of multidimensional space, theoretical physicists have concluded that humans are not physiologically equipped to envision multidimensional reality. However, even if we cannot visualize infinite dimensions, we can nevertheless create an object that is between-dimensions!

Cut out the strip on the right hand side of the page. The end result is visible in the drawing at right. The loop shows you how it is! When it comes to experiencing true reality, believing is not seeing.

to twist the paper. Attach the two ends with tape. Can you believe the strip is inter-dimensional?
Tianna Kennedy

Mad Lib: "Eating ______ Back, 2007"

The word puzzle at right is made from sentences taken out of the text below. Try to guess what they could have been!

And yet,

Saltfish John licks his calluses, strums and begins Ti Yi Yippy. What we find here is a specimen kit Safe ear curettes Drawer 2 shrubbery. Drawer 3 Artaud, a kind of broadcast exorcism.

"my

kidneys are fine, ovaries, I'll find out about next week." This freedom undermines the expectations of the reception of "Donkeys!" and then "Sanitation!" dancing of any kind. Sante Sangre, Meaning becomes highly individuated and yet the broadcast is universal: bread puddings serves 8 hungry people resistance theory inadvertently establishes that system as a preestablished entity.

Let's try!

Anthropogenic sources of insomnia such as: war, Retarded Distribution of wealth, Linkages between direct and indirect property performance in Hong Kong, Environmental Degredation, Christian Radio, Rampant and Frightening Diseases, Americans, WITH nightly practices of NANOTECHNOLOGY, caressing it with the free hand before drifting off to sleep between five large men. I will say, Qayyum. I have nothing but good news. Uncontrolled language revitalizes meaning.
In this work, ________ performs a series of ________ to ________, knowing full well that there will always be more ________. The medium of ________ provides a framework for ________. A ________ becomes ________ because ________ it takes away from ________, ________ a ________ of the freedom of ________, ________. We hear it feels good to be a ________.
Karen Margolis
(Paint-by-Numbers)

Paint _my qualia_, 2007

Tip:
Customize the numbers by coding your emotional states!

Activity
designed for the Sigmunds Freund Museum Vienna

Because qualia are emotional auras which are invisible, this activity may seem like a contradiction in terms. Qualia seem invisible and private. But what would they look like if you could see them? New York would look as colorful as a psychedelic painting, in which visibility and invisibility melt together and erode into funky colors and shapes: wiggly spheres and wobbly orbs!

Just write a code using thirteen colors; each color represents an emotion attached to a number. For example, green and the number 3 correspond to a specific emotion, like love. Keep a chart that records how you feel all day.

When an emotion comes up, write down its number on the hand at right. Then paint a hue that corresponds to the emotion. For instance, someone who is angry might have a visible red aura; a happy person might have a yellow one.

Your qualia painting creates a realistic representation of your emotional state, making self-deception irrelevant.

Are you ready to see how you really feel?
The super-top-secret key at right is a visionary code for ultimate secrecy! It guarantees your message's originality, novelty and genius! Prove to everyone that you're a mad scientist! The code's inventors are applying for U.S. patents for as-yet unbreakable technologies: "Voxel Font Substitution Using Attributes Thereof," #6,144,389, for high-security randomized linguistic coding, and "Visual Object Generation," #5,807,449, for all kinds of printers.

The code's developers trace the origins of their work back to Plato, arguing that the symbols are the logical result of centuries of work on forms of representation. In that time, coders have moved from phonetic to pictorial representation, and from analogue to digital media, constantly inventing new working methods. This code, however, is one of the first to suggest that the encoding of an idea is itself the ultimate goal of the process.

The symbols, by their silliness, secure the writer's vision in two ways. First, they make tangible and yet inscrutable ideas that, previous to the event of the codes, were immaterial. Second, by bringing comic codes into the structure of code-making, also expand the context of secrecy so that everyday life, just like covert activity, spying and criminal communications, become materials for the code-breakers. "If you see something, say something" — in code, indeed.
Sarah Oppenheimer

What's different in the intersection? One out of (hundreds of thousands of) thousands, © 2007

Look at these 2 pictures of an urban intersection, pedestrians. What's changed?

(Picture: public domain)

This urban intersection seems to have a double - but look again!

Are they really doubles? Look again. The motion of pedestrians is recorded; then, the next day, a picture is made. Are these the previous day's pedestrians? Pedestrian motion is recorded again the next day. Movement looks the same. This is repeated ad infinitum.

The intersection seems to always look the same. How is this possible in an urban intersection? "Yesterday" happens again today, while today is also still happening? How can

To the casual observer, the difference is virtually invisible.

However, there is one! - you may find that the difference is hard to spot at first - is exponential. For each day recorded, for example, there are 6 pedestrians wearing identical garments. Sharpen your eyes to see how the intersection changes along with them.

Eventually, you should be able to see the difference easily; at this point, though, we recommend you eat some carrots!

Hint: think about the structure of time (repetition) to study space (motion), and vice versa. What's the relationship between space & time?

Ask your mom & dad!
Did you know you can fabricate a box using nothing but a piece of paper? Just follow the instructions at right. No implements necessary! A "Hands-on" activity, Dimensions vary according to size of paper you start with. Here's an idea: Put a diamond in your diamond-box! Your loved one will be amazed by your cunning.

Distribution by Diamond Dimensions Folding Theater could be called "This Origami project a feat of "reverse engineering." The components of a diamond box start out dismantled, flat as a pancake. Remember learning how to shuffle cards? The unwieldiness of paper became inverted seemingly effortless, once you learned. And you'll find that origami is much the same.

Your new hobby will give all your hard work a point (diamond-folded points!) Pretty soon you'll have an audience (a mass).

The artifacts you fold with great difficulty, In each stage of folding (assembly, disassembly) The folds of the masters are replicated. In the paper's "dormant state," it becomes the locus of infinite potential, and the center of a future "folding performance": Once you master the diamond-box manual dexterity will be much improved. You'll be able to ask the object, "No limit!"

Once you are an origami master, there are endless possibilities. Folding - elements are continually recombined in different configurations. At some point, you will find that the enormity of the operation itself becomes central - and endless, just like a diamond.
Allyson Spellacy

You make the ∧ Call, 2007 ∧
Word Match!

This may look like a crazy tumble of words, but you can make the connections!
Match these 33.3 words from Pat Benatar’s “Heartbreaker” with the bibliography from Roland Barthes’ “A Lover’s Discourse.” Make the “love connections”—draw arrows between the concepts and the names!

U-Tell it!

and bigger feelings,
A cry of the soul in a jumble of big names ∧ this sprawling, Baroque word match pushes the boundaries of meaning. What does “synonymous” mean to you? Make a series of decisions about words—match them together to make sense of the dramatic malaise familiar to us from disastrous Romantic periods of our lives!

This complex word ∧ is more for adults than kids as kids may not have the personal experience necessary to understand this jumbled outpouring of thoughts and objects. Kids may enjoy matching up words for their sounds. But in the end, the game is a way to ∧ the sheer accumulation of every last thought, passion, and misery that comprise the experience of dramatic love.

You may find this ∧ a cathartic ∧ of emotion and expressions ∧ as you ponder the equal ∧ ponderous significance of the words;
as rock ‘n’ roll about failed love reverberates ∧ the clash of ∧ the words of French theory, until finally—mercifully—∧ you ∧ are able to purge yourself of both columns!
Goethe ("gur-ter"): The Sorrows of Young Werther
Wagner ("wagner"): Tristan and Isolde
Baudelaire ("bow-del-air"): La Morts des Amants
Ruysbroeck ("reus-brook"): The Adornment of the Spiritual Marriage of the Desire to Know the Bridegroom in his Nature (specifically The Repose of the Abyss)
Keats (pronounced "Keets" okay i'm joking): Ode to a Nightingale
Satre (real dublin: "sart" as in "i'll sart yes out"): Existentialism and Human Emotions
Dostoevsky: The Brothers Karamazov
Racine ("racing"): Phaedra ("faydra")
Hugo: Les Miserables
Plato: Cratylus 420a

Diderot: Le Neveu de Rameau
Winnicott: Hate in the Counter-transference
Balzac: The Human Comedy
Lacan: The Language of the Self
Proust: Cities of the Plain
Nietzsche: The Gay Science
Flaubert: Bouvard et Pechuchet/The Dictionary of Accepted Ideas
Mann: The Magic Mountain
Bataille ("Bat Eye"): The Eye
Descartes ("Day Cart"): Meditations
Freud: The Interpretation of Dreams
Blake: The Marriage of Heaven and Hell
Proust: The Captive
Brecht: Mother Courage and her Children
de Sade ("de Sad"): Justine
St. Augustine: City of God
Ronsard: Les Amours de Cassandre
Schubert: Letzte Hoffnung
Grimm: Journal for Hermits
Stendhal: Armance
Debussy: Pelleas et Melisande

Column B

love
spinnin
ways
tidal
heartbreaker
fire
promises
drownin
sinner
release
fantasy
around
dream
inner
taker
mess
right
soul
kind
desire me
burnin
maker
control
heartbreaker
invincible
better
winner
unsaid
born
NO NO NO
heartbreaker
toll
wave
Peter Wegner

Maze

The Other Way You Can't Go, 2007

Kids: Come with us! You set a course—Interstate! 1200 ways

to hit a dead end, you'll have to use your brain!

If you hit a wall, double-back and try again. Pretend it's an existing wall, existing room, existing building, not just a reproduction of "heuristic" maze on an page within an activity book with this reprinted on opposing page.

The "maze" concept ("failure," "roadblock," "impossible," "getting lost," etc.) will help you confront real-life constraints "without constraint": you'll be able to solve all kinds of puzzles. The solution might get missed again and missed again; various small epiphanies regarding fanciful directions a choices that just don't pan out; reluctant acceptance of the difficulty of the maze finally will lead you to the real solution.

(Maze based on topiary at the dB foundation's Traditional Aporian Gardens.)

Grown-ups: will be

Your work is a testament to process as much as to product. You may wander for days in search of the center only to return as you started:

totally baffled. The essential emptiness of emptiness becomes evident in the labyrinth. Use this exercise in futility as a Zen koan:

"impossibility — emptiness is form ."

Thus the maze offers a contradictory and yet plausible way to realize your potential for enlightenment!
Treva Wurmfeld

Everything Here? Connect-the-dots

In the picture:
  Aporia, Aporian, camera, mirror, window, door.
  an

We lost the focus-button on this camera!

Please Connect the dots to give us something to look at!
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