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20 February 2024

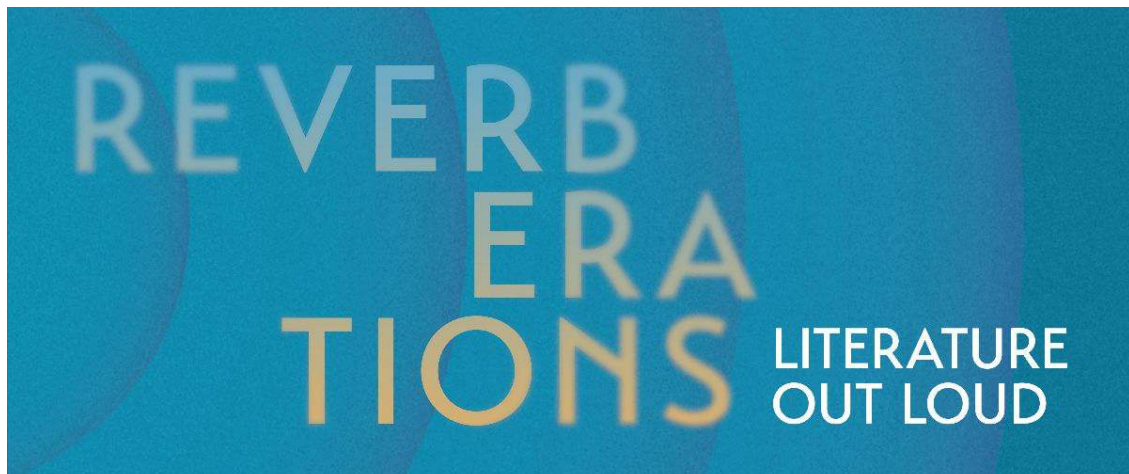
- [Reverberations: Literature Out Loud](#)
- [Meet our Winter 2024 Scholars of Note](#)
- [Emerging Filmmakers at Cannes](#)
- [Programs for Adults](#)
- [Children's and Teens' News](#)
- [How Can You Help the Library?](#)

In the event that this *e-Libris* is cut short by your email service, please click the link at the bottom of the email to see the newsletter in its entirety.

Editor: Carolyn Dubol

Reverberations: Literature Out Loud

March 6–26



The American Library in Paris, in partnership with the Opéra Comique and with the generous support of Festival Napa Valley and the Florence Gould Foundation, is delighted to announce Reverberations, a music festival celebrating literature out loud. Join us in March for a series of concerts, conversations, and workshops highlighting innovations in the musical arts.

We will explore literary history through musical performance, with a violinist's tribute to poet [John Ashbery](#). We will hear from poets including [Patricia Lockwood](#), Nobel Prize candidate [Dimitris Lyacos](#), and T.S. Eliot Prize-winner [Anthony Joseph](#), as they trace the role of musicality in their own work. Our inaugural Cultural Fellows, [Grammy-nominated composer Missy Mazzoli and Pulitzer Prize-winning librettist Royce Vavrek](#), will present a concert of their operatic works. Inaugural Composer-in-Residence [Nia Imani Franklin](#) will perform in the Florence Gould Reading Room.

Offsite events with the Opéra Comique, [celebrating French composer Maurice Ravel](#), open further avenues of artistic exploration. A capstone party at [La Coupole](#) will revive the musical legacy of 1920s Montparnasse—drinking and dancing included.

Visit our [website](#) to see the full program, and join us as we feature a diversity of voices working to realize sound, speech, and literature as symphony.



Reverberations partner the Opéra Comique is offering the Library community discounted tickets to three special Ravel-themed events at their beautiful Beaux-Arts theater in the 2nd arrondissement.

[Atelier de chant participatif: Voix en partage](#)

Friday 8 March at 10h00

Special ticket price for the Library community: 5€

[Nocturne Pulcinella & L'Heure Espagnole](#)

Friday 15 March at 22h30

Special ticket price for the Library community: 10€

[Voyage au pays de Maurice Ravel](#)

Saturday 23 March at 20h00

Special ticket price for the Library community: 15€

In order to receive these special rates, you must reserve using the link in the button below.

Exclusive Rates for Reverberations Events at the Opera Comique

Meet our winter 2024 Scholars of Note

The Library's [Visiting Fellowship program](#), which is currently accepting applications for the 2024/2025 cycle through 1 April, reviews a high number of outstanding candidates each year. In 2022 the Selection Committee created the Scholar of Note distinction to acknowledge particularly exceptional applicants. This winter we welcomes writer and poet Vanessa Onwuemezi and writer and translator Tess Lewis to the Library.

Vanessa Onwuemezi won *The White Review* Short Story Prize in 2019, and her work has appeared in literary and art magazines including *Granta*, *Frieze*, and *Prototype*. Her debut story collection, *Dark Neighbourhood*, was published in 2021 by Fitzcarraldo Editions and was named one of the *Guardian's* Best Books of 2021.



The Scottish Gaelic word for "translation" literally means "between tongues." During her month in Paris this winter, Onwuemezi is exploring the process of translation from this viewpoint, giving attention to both the oral and written forms of language. She is deepening her reading of Édouard Glissant, whose concept of "Creolization" is of particular interest to her as it applies to language and culture, and exploring the work of other Antillean poets. She continues her ongoing project of experimentation in English-language prose towards which the French language, in particular, has been influential.

Tonight, [20 February](#), Onwuemezi appears in the Reading Room with fellow Fitzcarraldo author Thea Lenarduzzi. On [13 March](#) she'll discuss her writing with acclaimed poet Dimitris Lyacos.



Tess Lewis is a writer and translator from French and German. Her translations include works by Montaigne, Philippe Jaccottet, Christine Angot, Peter Handke, Walter Benjamin, and Cécile Wajsbrot. She is the recipient of the 2017 PEN Translation Award for her translation of Maja Haderlap's novel *Angel of Oblivion*, two NEA Translation Fellowships, and a Guggenheim Fellowship. Her essays and reviews have appeared in a number of journals and newspapers including the *New Criterion*, the *Hudson Review*, *World Literature Today*, the *Wall Street Journal*, the *American Scholar*, and *Bookforum*.

While at the Library in February, Lewis worked on a study of literary style and how it survives the displacements of translation. A writer's style is as distinctive as a fingerprint; how does the translator navigate the gulfs that yawn between cultures, literary traditions, and languages to recreate the author's style in a different context? The tension between fidelity and betrayal offers a window on the ways in which a writer's style can collaborate with or resist translation, and occasionally even spur the translator, through the friction of resistance, to a more inventive, freer, yet also truer translation of the original.

Lewis appeared in the Reading Room on 14 February with fellow translator Daniel Levin Becker and writer Bill François for a Valentine's Day-themed translation slam. You can watch a recording of the event on our [YouTube channel](#).

The Visiting Fellowship and Scholar of Note programs are generously supported by The de Groot Foundation.

Emerging Filmmakers at Cannes



At the end of January, in partnership with the American Pavilion at Cannes and *Deadline*, the online entertainment magazine, we welcomed past winners of the [American Pavilion's Emerging Filmmaker Showcase](#). Popcorn in hand, we screened a selection of short films, followed by a Q&A with filmmakers appearing in-person and over Zoom.

Following the 2024 Cannes Film Festival this spring, we will again partner with the American Pavilion to host the winner of the 2024 Emerging Filmmaker Showcase at the Library on 28 May, for a screening and conversation. If you would like to attend this event, please stay tuned; we'll share signup information in this newsletter later this spring.

If you're a film enthusiast who would like to experience the Cannes Film Festival first-hand, the American Pavilion is offering a special six-night festival experience from 20 to 26 May that gives you access to the films, the press conferences, and the parties usually reserved only for the film industry and the press.

The American Pavilion is offering a 15% discount on the trip to American Library in Paris members. Use code LIBRARY15.

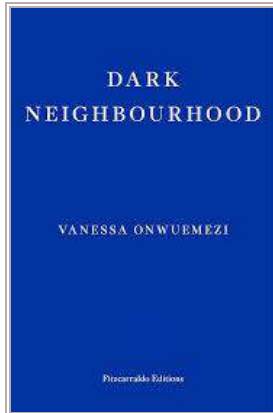
[American Pavilion Cannes Experience Information and Sign Up](#)

Programs for Adults

Evenings with an Author, sponsored by GRoW @ Annenberg

Evenings with an Author and other evening programs are free and open to the public, unless otherwise noted. You must RSVP to attend our programs, whether you join us in person or via Zoom.

We thank the following additional sponsors: the Florence Gould Foundation, The de Groot Foundation, and the American Center for Art & Culture.



TONIGHT

Writing Home

with Vanessa Onwuemezi and Thea Lenarduzzi

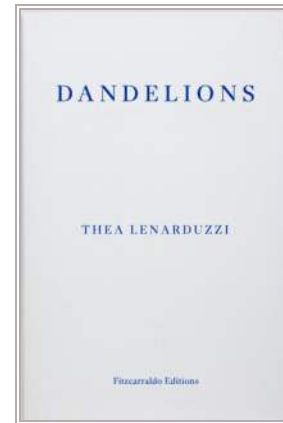
Hybrid Event: In Person at the Library; Live on Zoom

Tuesday 20 February at 19h30 CET

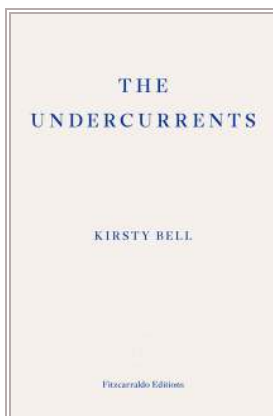
In her memoir *Dandelions*, Thea Lenarduzzi explores her family's journey from northern Italy to the UK. She meditates upon family history, migration, nationalism, and the meaning of "home" across generations and continents. Scholar of Note Vanessa Onwuemezi draws from Antillean poetry and philosophy to place translation and migration in conversation, and to reflect upon transit: between languages, places, and cultures; and across mediums, identities, and time.

Onwuemezi and Lenarduzzi join us for a rich dialogue on the poetics of memory, constructions of identity, and the universal search for belonging in a rapidly changing world.

This program is part of Fitzcarraldo February, a series of events featuring authors who have recently published books with the London-based independent publisher Fitzcarraldo Editions. The Scholar of Note and Visiting Fellowship programs are generously supported by The de Groot Foundation.



RSVP to attend in person or on Zoom



TOMORROW

How to Make Space with Kirsty Bell

Hybrid Event: In Person at the Library; Live on Zoom

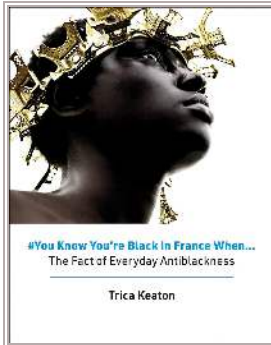
Wednesday 21 February at 19h30 CET

Told from the perspective of her Berlin apartment, writer and art critic Kirsty Bell's *Undercurrents* dives into the archives of the city: its marshy origins, urban experiments, wartime devastation, and disjointed efforts at rebuilding. Bell also uncovers the lives of her building's former inhabitants, vividly conjuring the experiences of people who shared the same urban topography across generations of historical change.

Join Bell at the Library to discuss the psychological, and architectural, structures we build around us.

This program is part of Fitzcarraldo February, a series of events featuring authors who have recently published books with the London-based independent publisher Fitzcarraldo Editions.

[RSVP to attend in person or on Zoom](#)



Everyday Antiracism in France with Tricia Keaton
Hybrid Event: In Person at the Library; Live on Zoom
Tuesday 27 February at 19h30 CET

How do Black people experience race and racism differently in the United States and in France? How do the distinct histories, cultures, and political systems of each country produce different versions of antiracism? What (and who) gets sidelined or pushed out of the picture in French notions of universalism and republicanism? And how do Black people in France, in their everyday lives and relationships, expose the cracks in the logic of French universalism?

Tricia Keaton's *#You Know You're Black in France When...* was shortlisted for the 2023 American Library in Paris Book Award. The author joins us, in conversation with Patrick Banks.

[RSVP to attend in person or on Zoom](#)



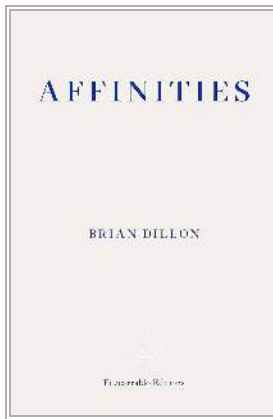
Magazine Launch: *Journal*
Hybrid Event: In Person at the Library; Live on Zoom
Wednesday 28 February at 19h30 CET

The Library is delighted to host the launch of the first issue of *Journal*, an international poetry magazine. Celebrating a wide spectrum of voices who are political, lyrical, conceptual, visual, comic, and more, the publication represents the liveliness of poetry today with a renewed sense of its vitality.

Join *Journal's* editors, Jim Dine and Vincent Broqua, along with fellow poets Hugo Pernet, Ghazal Mosadeq, Elke de Rijcke, and Dan Clarke for a reading and discussion of the need for poetry of the present.

This launch is organized in partnership with [Double Change](#), the Franco-American poetry association.

[RSVP to attend in person or on Zoom](#)



[Lessons from Language with Brian Dillon](#)

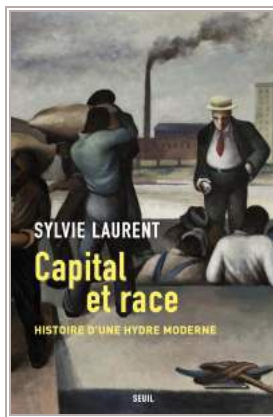
**Hybrid Event: In Person at the Library; Live on Zoom
Thursday 29 February at 19h30 CET**

Have you ever read a sentence that sticks with you, or seen a piece of art that lingers in the back of your mind years later? How do our encounters with literature and art become parts of us—features of our personal and collective cultural consciousness?

Writer, critic, and art-lover Brian Dillon has published four books with Fitzcarraldo Editions. Join us at the Library as he discusses his quest to understand and experiment with the pleasures of the written word.

This program is part of Fitzcarraldo February, a series of events featuring authors who have recently published books with the London-based independent publisher Fitzcarraldo Editions.

RSVP to attend in person or on Zoom



OFFSITE EVENT

[Capital et race en Amérique avec Sylvie Laurent](#)

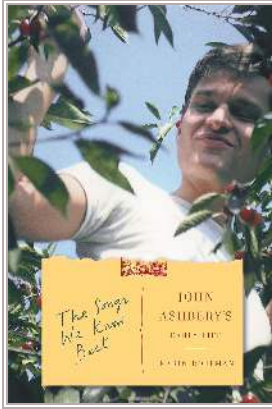
**In Person at [mk2 Bibliothèque](#)
Tuesday 5 March at 20h00 CET
Conversation in French**

Christopher Columbus's discovery of America in 1492 ushered in a new system of "racial capitalism," with the economy dependent on one race's domination over others.

Americanist Sophie Laurent is renowned for her analyses of the social and racial issues that run deep through the history of the United States. Her new book, *Capital et race*, explores how this political and financial system has permeated American culture and politics to this day.

The conversation will be moderated in French by Olivier Pascal-Moussellard (Télérama), followed by a sale and signing of Laurent's book.

In-person tickets 5,90€ to 25€



REVERBERATIONS: Literature Out Loud
[John Ashbery's Poetic World in Music: A Talk and Performance with Karin Roffman and Sharon Roffman](#)
In Person at the Library
Wednesday 6 March at 19h30 CET

Iconic American poet John Ashbery was well-known in Paris, where he lived while working as an art critic for the *International Herald Tribune* and publishing his first books of poetry. Music was essential to his writing process throughout his prolific career.

In this combination talk and performance, Karin Roffman (the poet's biographer) and Sharon Roffman (violin) will weave poetry, biography, and musical excerpts together to offer a tour of the soundscape of Ashbery's life and work.

[Reverberations](#) is organized in partnership with the Opéra Comique and with the generous support of Festival Napa Valley and the Florence Gould Foundation.

[RSVP to attend in person](#)



OFFSITE EVENT
REVERBERATIONS: Literature Out Loud
[Voix en Partage: Ravel's L'Heure espagnole](#)
In Person at the [Opéra Comique](#)
Friday 8 March at 10h00 CET
Ages 6+

From 9 to 19 March 2024, [Reverberations](#) partner the Opéra Comique is presenting a dual production of Stravinsky's *Pulcinella* and Ravel's *L'Heure espagnole*. If you'd like to get to know Ravel's opera more intimately, the Opera Comique is offering the Library community special 5€ tickets to a sing-along of music from *L'Heure espagnole*.

All ages (6+) are welcome. You do not have to be an accomplished singer to participate. To receive the discounted ticket price, you must reserve through the link in the button below.

[Reserve 5€ tickets to Voix en Partage](#)



[Mysteries, Secrets, and Lies with Karen McManus](#)

In Person at the Library

Sunday 10 March at 14h00 CET

Ages 12–adult

Karen McManus is a *New York Times* and international best-selling author of young adult thrillers. Her work includes the *One of Us...* series, which was turned into a television show on Peacock and Netflix, as well as the novels *Two Can Keep a Secret*, *The Cousins*, *You'll Be the Death of Me*, and *Nothing More to Tell*.

McManus will be interviewed by a panel of teen Library members who will address her writing process, her complex characters, and the importance of young adult literature. A Q&A, book sale, and signing will follow the conversation.

Book sale after the event, thanks to [Smith&Son](#).

Free for members; 15€ at the door for non-members. RSVP required.

RSVP to attend in person



REVERBERATIONS: Literature Out Loud

[A Performance by Composer-in-Residence Nia Imani Franklin](#)

In Person at the Library

Tuesday 12 March at 19h30 CET

Nia Imani Franklin is a classical composer and singer whose music has been performed by the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, Friction Quartet, Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra, Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, and many others. In 2019 she won the title of Miss America and devoted her year of service to arts education advocacy.

Franklin is the inaugural Composer-in-Residence at the American Library in Paris.

[Reverberations](#) is organized in partnership with the Opéra Comique and with the generous support of Festival Napa Valley and the Florence Gould Foundation.

RSVP to attend in person



REVERBERATIONS: Literature Out Loud

[Journeys in Sound and Sight](#)

[with Dimitris Lyacos and Vanessa Onwuemezi](#)

Hybrid Event: In Person at the Library; Live on Zoom

Wednesday 13 March at 19h30 CET

Join us for an evening of exchange between two contemporary poets: Dimitris Lyacos, author of the highly-esteemed *Poena Damni* trilogy and Vanessa Onwuemezi, Scholar of Note at the American Library in Paris.

The conversation, moderated by writer Nafkote Tamirat, will explore the overlaps and divergences between Lyacos and Onwuemezi's poetic approaches and will center upon topics such as style, rhythm, setting, and musicality.

Considered a front-runner for a Nobel Prize in literature, Lyacos is among the most-translated contemporary Greek writers. Onwuemezi is both a poet and a prose fiction writer. During her time as a Scholar of Note at the American Library in Paris, Onwuemezi is conducting research into Antillean poetry and philosophy.



[Reverberations](#) is organized in partnership with the Opéra Comique and with the generous support of Festival Napa Valley and the Florence Gould Foundation.

[RSVP to attend in person or on Zoom](#)



REVERBERATIONS: Literature Out Loud
[Strange Dreams: An Evening of Music](#)
[with Cultural Fellows Missy Mazzoli and Royce Vavrek](#)
In Person at the Library
Thursday 14 March at 19h30 CET

Following the success of their opera *Breaking the Waves*, which made its French debut at Opéra Comique last spring, Grammy-nominated composer Missy Mazzoli and Pulitzer Prize-winning librettist Royce Vavrek return to Paris as American Library in Paris Cultural Fellows.

In this exclusive preview concert, Mazzoli and Vavrek will present their compositions and speak about current projects. Soprano Amelia Watkins will perform arias from Mazzoli and Vavrek's last four operas, accompanied by Benjamin Alunni.

[Reverberations](#) is organized in partnership with the Opéra Comique and with the generous support of Festival Napa Valley and the Florence Gould Foundation.



[RSVP to attend in person](#)



OFFSITE EVENT
REVERBERATIONS: Literature Out Loud
[Ravel's L'Heure espagnole: Nocturne](#)
In Person at the [Opéra Comique](#)
Friday 15 March at 22h30 CET

From 9 to 19 March 2024, Reverberations partner the Opéra Comique is presenting a dual production of Stravinsky's *Pulcinella* and Ravel's *L'Heure espagnole*. The Opera Comique is offering the Library community special 10€ tickets to a *nocturne* performance of *L'Heure Espagnole* on

Friday 15 March.

To receive the discounted ticket price, you must reserve through the link in the button below.

[Reserve your 10€ tickets to L'Heure Espagnole: Nocturne](#)



REVERBERATIONS: Literature Out Loud
[An Opera Masterclass](#)
[with Cultural Fellows Missy Mazzoli and Royce Vavrek](#)
In Person at the Library
Saturday 16 March at 15h00 CET

CALLING ALL COMPOSERS, LYRICISTS AND LIBRETTISTS IN PARIS!

Join Grammy-nominated composer Missy Mazzoli and Pulitzer Prize-winning librettist Royce Vavrek for a two-hour masterclass exploring theatrical writing for the voice. Artists working in contemporary opera, musical theater, art song, and performance art are welcome to apply.

- Composers should submit a score and/or documentation of one or two works that include voice. Audio files, video, YouTube videos, and Soundcloud links will be accepted.
- Lyricists and Librettists should submit up to ten pages of a libretto, or a collection of up to five stand-alone lyrics.

Free of charge. Open to all ages and experience levels. Class will be conducted in English. You must receive an acceptance email to attend.

[Click to apply](#)



Find recordings of past programs on our [YouTube](#) channel:

- Translation Slam with Daniel Levin Becker, Tess Lewis, and Bill François
- Dickens in Appalachia with Barbara Kingsolver
- Dispatches from Insomnia with Marie Darrieussecq
- Changing the World for Women with Catharine A. MacKinnon and Kate Kirkpatrick

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Evenings with an Author are free and open to the public (with a 10€ suggested donation) thanks to support from GROW @ Annenberg, our members, and those who attend programs.



Children's and Teens' News

Children's Event Highlights

Open to Library members. Advance registration required.

[2024 Read-A-Thon](#) (0–18) Tuesday 20 February through Tuesday 27 February

[Story Hour: Music Makers](#) (ages 3–5) Wednesday 21 February at 14h30

[Saturday Series: Computer Crafting](#) (ages 6–12) Saturday 24 February at 11h00

[Story Hour: True Stories](#) (ages 3–5) Wednesday 28 February at 14h30

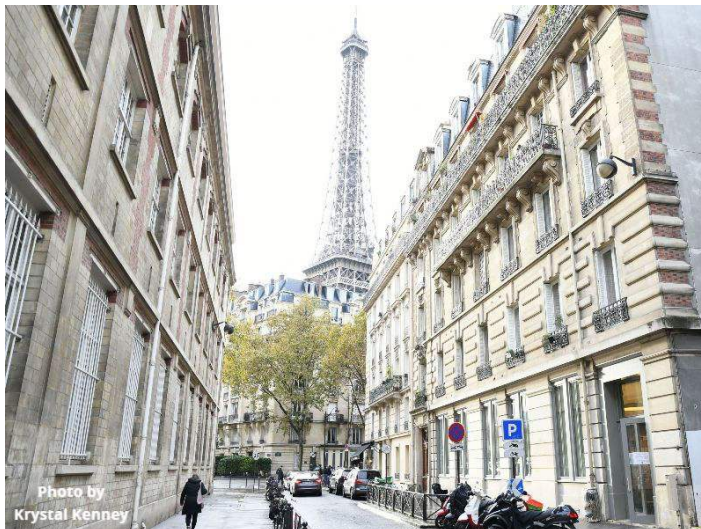
Event Highlights for Teens

Ages 12–18. Free for members. 15€ for non-members. Advance registration required.

[2024 Read-A-Thon](#) (0–18) Tuesday 20 February through Tuesday 27 February

[Karen McManus on Writing Thrillers](#) (ages 12–adult) Sunday 10 March at 14h00

How Can You Help the Library?



As an independent, non-profit institution, we rely on the support and generosity of our community. How can you help the American Library in Paris throughout the year? [Become a member](#) or [renew](#) your Library membership, make an online [donation](#), become a [volunteer](#), and tell your friends about the Library.



The American Library in Paris is an independent, non-profit institution that receives no regular government funding. Your generosity is essential in keeping the Library vibrant and creative.

All contributions are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.



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