

ABSTRACT

There's an old story about a young person who finds something magical in the woods. They return to it again and again. Each visit bringing joy to their felt-sense of being alive. Eventually as people do, they tell someone else. The good news spreads and others start to visit. Then crowds gather, which need to be organized. It isn't long before the original gift needs protecting. In time the protection grows and becomes ornate. Eventually few people remember the actual thing anymore. Until finally magical accounts take the place of direct experience. One day what was found there disappears, taking form elsewhere as the simple, luminous, and uncelebrated.

Ted SOMOGYI
San Francisco, CA
2021
e: somogyi.wpp@gmail.com

Origin: The World Peace Project (*wpp*) began in the early 1970's by addressing a growing concern over the rapid institutionalization of art and culture. As a clandestine engagement it uses cultural, corporate, and religious settings to explore the space that remains after personal experience is turned into private property.

Practice: The *wpp* is a series of individual and group performances involving ancient rites used traditionally for enlivening life-supporting changes in the individual, communal, and natural environments. Procedures include oral recitation, yogic flying and meditation.

Design: Nothing about the *wpp* was ever documented. There are no photos, and no films; nothing to be otherwise enshrined. There is nothing for sale. With no formal value, it holds only the value given it by another. This project is an ongoing engagement that has been performed worldwide for 48 years.

Below is a chronology of *wpp* events.

Note: Unless otherwise indicated (*), the entities listed here were unaware of my/our presence, and neither granted their permission to perform, nor otherwise supported the World Peace Project.

Chronology:

2018 - present

- Solo private performance / ongoing: ICCID Proximity Study. Various locations determined by GPS coordinates.

2017

- Solo private performance / 1-day: James Turrell: *Three Gems*, de Young Museum, Golden Gate Park, 50 Hagiwara Tea Garden Drive, San Francisco, CA / 37.771466, -122.468665

2015-'16

- Solo private performance / 1-day: Facebook MPK 20, 1 Hacker Way, Menlo Park, CA / 37.484575, -122.147924
- Solo public performance / Tuesday evenings aboard L-Taraval / SFMTA / MUNI: San Francisco, CA / 37.7742503, -122.419550 (west bound to) 37.7357653, -122.5035838

2012-'14

- Daily practice in various locations.

2010-'11

- Solo private performance / 1-year, (*performed in tribute to Tehching Hsieh*): San Francisco, CA / 37.779280, 122.419442*

2010

- Solo performance / 7-days: Sawtooth Wilderness, Stanley Basin ID. / 44.277154, -114.846884*

2004-'09

- Daily practice in various locations.

2004

- Solo public performance / 1-day: Newport Visual Arts Center, 777 NW Beach Dr., Newport, OR. / 44.638726, -124.062142

1999-'03

- Daily practice in various locations.

1998

- Solo public performance / 1-day: San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, 151 Third Street, San Francisco, CA / 37.785936, -122.400761

1996-'97

- Daily practice in various locations.

1993-'95

- Solo public performance Thursday evening / 2-years: St. Dominic's Catholic Church, 2390 Bush St San Francisco, CA / 37.787048, -122.435501*
- Solo public performance / 1-day: The Iris & B. Gerald Cantor Center for Visual Arts at Stanford University, 328 Lomita Drive, Stanford, CA / 37.432979, -122.170483
- Solo public performance / 1-day: The San Jose Museum of Art, 110 South Market Street, San Jose, CA / 37.333565, -121.890321

1992

- Solo public performance / 1-day: Los Angeles County Museum of Art, 5905 Wilshire Blvd, Los Angeles, CA / 34.063377, -118.358477.

1991

- Private group performance / 2-participants / 3-days: The Lightning Field, Catron U.S. 60, Quemado, NM / 34.340327, -108.514509*
- Solo public performance / 1-day: The Walker Art Center, 1750 Hennepin Avenue, Minneapolis, MN / 44.968436, -93.288541

1990

- Daily practice in various locations.

1989

- Solo public performance / 1-day: Di Rosa, 5200 Sonoma Hwy, Napa, CA / 38.257975, -122.352834

1987-'88

- Daily practice in various locations.

1986

- Solo private performance / 3-days: UCSF Labs, EEG / Brain Wave Coherence Study, 1550 Bryant Street, Francisco, CA / 37.778160 -122.399230

1985

- Solo public performance / 1-day: The Berkeley Art Museum, 2626 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, CA / 37.868879, -122.25562

1983-'84

- Collaborative private performance / 12 participants / 1-day: West Coast broadcast on KTVU – TV, Berkeley, CA. Post-performance interview with KTVU reporter Bob Mackenzie. / 37.861933, -122.25271*
- Solo public performance / 2-years (intermittent): San Francisco Academy of Art, 620 Sutter Street, San Francisco, CA / 37.789140, -122.410799*
- Solo public performance / 1-day: San Francisco Art Institute, 800 Chestnut St, San Francisco, CA / 37.803384, -122.417206*

1981-'83

- Public performance / 4 participants / 3-days: Hyde Park - London, UK / 51.507268, -0.161450
- Solo public performance / 1-day: The Royal Academy of Arts, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London, W1J 0BD UK / 51.507673, -0.140964
- Public performance / 4 participants / 1-day: University of Iowa Museum of Art, 1375 Highway 1, Iowa City, IA / 41.641237, -91.556333*
- Private performance / 7000 participants / 14-days: MIU, 1000 N 4th St. Fairfield, IA / 41.017824, -91.967291*
- Private performance / various participants / 1.5-years: American Conservatory Theater, 456 Geary St, San Francisco, CA / 37.787062, -122.410731*

1981

- Public performance / 27 participants / 1-day: Charles De Gaul Airport, 95700 Roissy-en-France, Paris, FR / 49.004270, 2.488930
- Private performance / 3000 participants / 29-days: Plains of Kurukshetra (*Tradition holds that the great 18-day battle between the Pandavas and Kauravas in the Mahabharata, was fought on the plains of Kurukshetra.*) New Delhi, IN / 29.969512, 76.878282 (approximate location)*

1980

- *10 years & One Day after Terry Fox - Act of human levitation* / Solo public performance / 1-day: La Mamelle Inc. 70 12th St San Francisco, CA / 37.773487, -122.419215*
- Solo public performance / 1-day: San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, 401 Van Ness Ave San Francisco, CA / 37.778584, -122.42071.

1979-'82

- Nightly private performance / 6-88 participants in various locations / 3+ years: San Francisco, CA / 37.782519, -122.469966 / 37.780092, -122.48299 / 37.778524, -122.405634*
- Public group performance / 2-participants / 1-day: Alcatraz Island, San Francisco Bay, CA / 37.826977, -122.422956

1978

- Public group performance / 2 participants / 1-day: The Denver Art Museum (North Building) 100 W 14th Ave Pkwy, Denver, CO / 39.737176, -104.989258
- Private group performance / 2-participants / 5-days: Fern Lake / Continental Divide, Rocky Mountain National Park, CO / 40.336217, -105.676813
- Solo public performance / 1-day: The Yale Golf Course, (*Performed in tribute to the PULSA Group*) 200 Conrad Dr., New Haven, CT / 41.320844, -72.979634
- Public group performance / 2-participants / 1-day: The Yale University Art Gallery, 1111 Chapel St, New Haven, CT 41.308342, -72.930622
- Private group performance / 65 participants / 6 months: MERU / Grand Hotel / Leysin American School in Switzerland, 1854 Leysin Switzerland, Leysin, CH / 46.354730, 7.007362*

1976-'78

- Daily practice in various locations.

1973-'76

- Public group performance / 2 participants / 1-day: United Nations Headquarters, New York, NY. / 40.748876, -73.968009*
- Solo public performance / 1-day: Museum of Modern Art, 11 W 53rd St, New York, NY / 40.761415, -73.977619
- Solo public performance / 1-day: The Whitney Museum of American Art, 945 Madison Ave New York, NY / 40.773431, -73.963796
- Solo public performance / 1-day: St. Mark's Church in-the-Bowery, 131 E 10th St, New York, NY / 40.730301, -73.987144*
- Solo public performance / Thursday evenings, 2-years: St. Bartholomew's Church, 325 Park Ave. New York, NY / 40.757423, -73.973308*
- Solo performance / 2-years: YMCA, 850 Park Ave, Bridgeport, CT / 41.173254, -73.197248
- Solo public performance / 1-day: Bleecker Street Cinema, 144 Bleecker Street, New York, NY / 40.728042, -73.999362*
- Solo public performance / 1-year (intermittent): The Laundromat, artist-founded conclave, 167 Ludlow St. New York, NY / 40.721650, -73.987813*
- Solo public performance / 3-months in summer: Alice in Wonderland Statue, Central Park (*Performed in tribute to Art Students League of New York instructor José de Creeft*) East Side at 75th Street. / 40.778168, -73.974532

1973

- Begin daily practice in various locations.

Other sites:

In between were countless unaccredited works referred to here as, "Daily practice in various locations." These took place on buses, trains and planes. Churches. City parks... and park benches. Cars. Tents... almost anywhere. These I consider prototypes, like a sketch or snapshot.

Future Sites

Art:

- Simon Rodia: Watts Towers - 1765 E 107th St, Los Angeles, CA, US / 33.938627 -118.241426
- Niki de Saint Phalle: The Tarot Garden - 58011 Capalbio, Province of Grosseto, IT / 42.453387 -11.423700
- Noah Purifoy: Outdoor Desert Art Museum - Blair Lane, Joshua Tree, CA, US / 34.195147 -116.289749
- Mark Rothko: Rothlo Chapel - 3900 Yupon at Sul Ross, Houston, Texas, US / 29.737822 -95.395724
- Postman Cheval's Ideal Palace: 8 Rue du Palais, 26390 Hauterives, FR / 45.255889 -5.027794
- Roden Crater: Coconino County, Arizona, US / 35.425909 -111.258776

World:

- Haleakalā Volcano: Haleakala Hwy, Kula, HI, US / 20.720383 -156.155152
- Tintern Abbey: Tintern, Monmouthshire, Wales, UK / 51.698037 -2.681380
- Mount Rushmore National Memorial: 13000 SD-244, Keystone, SD, US / 43.876480 -103.454837
- Tuttle Creek Ashram: Lone Pine, CA, US / 36.564934 -118.126199
- Bighorn Medicine Wheel: Big Horn County, WY, US / 44.826159 -107.921592
- Monastery in Skellig Michael: County Kerry, IE / 51.770662 -10.540524
- Bristlecone Pine, Patriarch Grove: Unnamed Rd, Bishop, CA, US / 37.385610, -118.178878

Institutional:

- St. Bartholomew's Church: 325 Park Ave, New York, NY, US / 40.757423, -73.973308 (2023)
- The Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela: Galicia, ES / 42.880596 -8.544641
- The Bauhaus Building: Dessau-Roßlau, DE / 51.838879 - 12.245160
- Bureau of Indian Affairs: 1849 C Street, N.W. Washington, D.C., US / 38.907192 -77.036873
- Large Hadron Collider: (CERN) Meyrin, CH / 46.203812 6.139970
- Biosphere 2: Oracle, AZ, US / 32.571880 -110.853880
- The Sistine Chapel: Vatican City, Rome, IT / 41.902947 -12.454484
- Prem Mandir Vrindavan: Uttar Pradesh, IN / 27.139759 -80.86753