

Cultural Daily

Independent Voices, New Perspectives

Chad Grant: “Midlife Reflection”

Chad Grant · Tuesday, February 14th, 2023

Midlife Reflection

If my lot in life seems revolting it's only because I've lived the life of the mind, taking a page from Bukowski, I carry the pity of my peers like a notebook full of poems in a rucksack full of books. There's no money for would-be writers like me, but the sheer pleasure I get from a piece is payment enough. Perhaps I should let my passions go—but isn't pleasure something that you love? “Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune. . .” is all Hamlet to me. The realities of life are my ever-growing furrows of adulthood.

But why do we play such games? To tie our sanity to the bootstraps of someone else's narrative of normality—a wife, some kids, a dog, and all of the etceteras which go into it? But when you love. . . who am I to say that I'd be fitter or happier with a “normal” life?

On New Year's day I ended up rewatching an old *Twilight Zone* episode of a young couple bound by their superstitions when their car breaks down, and they go into a diner in this small town only to spend what I assume was the majority of their lives there feeding a fortune telling machine pennies in fear of what was next.

Well, what's next? My life is not some cheap facsimile.

*

The Emperor's New Clothes

Sown from a thought
a tapestry of rhyme
designed line by line in ink
in a corner of my mind.

I disguise my fear
behind a cloud of smoke
and a mirror
The perfumes from the leaves
vanish in a breeze.

Threading the words with a pen
I begin to rehearse

A verse that I've spun
with the tip of my tongue.

Posted in [Poetry, Prose](#) | [No Comments »](#)

Piercings in Queer Culture

Clay Johnson · Tuesday, February 14th, 2023

Piercings in Queer Culture

Piercings have been popular in queer cultures for longer than I have been alive, and have been an important part of my life for about as long as I have known I am queer. As soon as I started interacting with other queer people in my life more and became a part of the community, I noticed that piercings were very common to see in queer groups and loved them at first sight. The freedom to express oneself in whatever way makes you feel most comfortable in your own body is something that I heavily appreciate the existence of, and that is what I see piercings doing for people.

Gender affirmation is a big reason piercings intertwine with queer culture, which will generally be most noticeable in transgender communities, but can apply to cisgender individuals as well. For cis women, a pair of nipple piercings or a clitoral hood piercing might make her feel connected to her womanhood, and give her another way to express an appreciation for the body she has. For a transgender person, nipple piercings may give the pierced person a reason to find beauty in the breasts, or lack thereof, that they have, leading to less discomfort and dysphoria around that part of their body. Another important consideration is that nipple piercings can be a challenge for someone who intends to get top surgery, due to the nipples being removed and reattached during the procedure.



Unusual piercings by [Nadja Robot](#); used under [CC BY-NC 2.0](#)

For a transgender person, however, the reason for the piercings may get more in depth in terms of functionality. A transgender woman with a penis might get a prince albert piercing, “a piercing that enters at the base of the head, about the space where the head connects to the shaft. It exits into the urethra, and typically jewelry sits outside the urethral opening” (Loheide, “Prince Albert 101”). This piercing can alter the function of the penis slightly. As the jewelry goes through the urethra, it can cause troubles with urinating while standing, making the urine leak and drip onto places it was not intended to go. This may make the pierced person sit down to urinate, so as to avoid the leakage. This functional need to sit while urinating emulates the traditional way that a woman would be positioned for the same activity, therefore providing gender affirmation. In a similar vein, there is a modern myth that the Prince Albert piercing was named such because Prince Albert himself would use the piercing in ring form to tie down his penis and decrease the bulge in his pants. This could be a very interesting way for a transgender woman to tuck her penis and give the illusion of a flatter surface with certain clothes.

In a similar context, transgender men may seek out paired labia piercings at a larger gauge. Large gauge piercings are piercings that have been done to have a bigger hole, fitting larger diameter and heavier jewelry. The weight of the jewelry in that area of the body, and the need to adjust it somewhat often, emulates the experience of having testicles to be aware of. In “HRT Experiences in Piercings,” having experienced these piercings himself, Tyler relays that “They are the most annoying, difficult, in the way piercings. I have to be aware of how I place my legs when I sit, of how my underwear hangs, of them getting tangled and pinched and caught. I’m often adjusting them to sit correctly, and when they snag it’s unpleasant- and I couldn’t be happier!” While this may not sound like a particularly pleasant experience, it is something similar to what a man with testicles would experience in their day to day life, something that can help a trans man feel more himself in his own body. The big things like pronouns and presentation are important, but those small details about one’s existence can make such a huge difference in how they feel about themselves.

Having such a small inconvenience added to your daily life via a piercing that impacts the function of your genitals may seem pointless, or even odd to want, but it is similar to that of a person born with the genitals that match their concept of self. When bottom surgery is such an invasive, expensive, and intense procedure to go through, it is not easily accessible to the general public. Most commonly, it is either unaffordable, or if they do have the money, they can't afford to take the time off of work for the healing process. Regardless of the reason, if bottom surgery is not an active option for a trans person, a piercing is a much more affordable and just generally more accessible way to gain comfort and a reinstated sense of self.

Another way that piercings exist with queer culture is with the "Gay Ear." Back when it was much less safe to be openly gay, it was often seen that people would use codes to signal to one another that they were gay. This is easily seen in the use of hanky code, in which different colored handkerchiefs in specific pant pockets would symbolize queerness and an interest in specific kinks, during the 80s. Of course, that was an inherently sexual signaling system, whereas the gay ear existed as a family friendly version. "Born from these codes is a phrase few now remember as familiar, 'Left is right and right is wrong' ('wrong' here meaning gay)" (Loheide and Dellaquilla, "Point 89"). That phrase, in a time where the piercing community was building itself up greatly and gaining in popularity, led to a large population coming to an understanding that a singular piercing in the right earlobe reflected people's identity as gay.

As the code gained popularity and became widespread, however, it ended up being too well known and compromised the safety of those who had it. Though the spread of information was inconsistent, and at some point few could agree on which ear was the gay ear. With such conflicting yet widespread information, many people with one ear pierced went and got their other ear pierced so as not to seem suspicious and end up being outed as gay to the general public when they are not ready to be, while others were unafraid and donned their single lobe piercing with pride.

The queer community also has many ties to the kink community, as seen with the aforementioned hanky code. Piercer of 11 years, Lynn Loheide, shares that "Early body piercing has been permanently shaped by LGBTQIA kink spaces, in particular the leather bdsm and bear scene." There is a portion of the kink community, especially within BDSM, that involves play piercings, which can be permanent or temporary piercings intended for entertainment or kink use. Some examples of play piercings are the use of piercings to use for suspension in the air, to lace through a series of hoops like a corset, to enforce chastity, and more. Suspension, in particular, can be described as almost meditative. For some, meditation on its own can be far too understimulating, and adding this extra element of an unchanging sensation to focus on, through the piercings they are hanging from, can help them get into that calm state. Piercings are such a wonderful way to express oneself, get an emotional release, or just straight up sexual pleasure, whichever suits the needs of the person receiving them. According to Palmer Haasch and Canela Lopezin in their "Kink at Pride" article, though there has been ongoing discourse regarding whether kink should be allowed at pride events, the kink community has been actively participating in queer events since the 1950s. During the Stonewall Riot, referred to in the queer community as the first Pride; transgender people, leather daddies, and BDSM enjoyers were a majority of those who fought back against discriminatory actions of the police. These communities have been, and continue to be, integral to the development of each other.

The way that the queer, kink, and piercing communities intersect has led to discrimination towards individuals, as well. Most notably in the medical community, doctors have been more interested in

removing piercings from a patient's body than they are in providing timely care, or even just being flat out unwilling to provide care. In his article, Henry Ferguson recounts that "Several of the staff had wanted to leave a badly injured patient to die on a trolley in the corridor because they were sure that as he was pierced and a motor cyclist he must be a gay sadomasochist and therefore likely to have AIDS. It was only the intervention of the surgeon that saved the patient's life. It was mine." This specific example of medical neglect is less likely outside of the AIDS epidemic, but personal biases like those creep into the medical field regularly at the cost of patient health as well as many other fields. For example, within the community of people with chronic illnesses, it's known that patients have to go to doctors appointments dressed a certain way for the best chance at being taken seriously. Simple forms of expression like having piercings, colored hair or alternative fashion sense (things common in queer and kink spaces) can encourage the inherent biases of a doctor and lead to lower quality medical care. If someone looks alternative, grunge, or disheveled, they may be labeled as drug seeking upon first impressions, but if they look too nice and dressed up they may be seen as not struggling enough to need help. In addition to that, it is common knowledge that it is much less likely for a person with multiple piercings to be able to get a job, despite those piercings having no substantial impact on their ability to complete their work. With piercings being such a strong and prevalent part of the queer community and other cultures, it feels as though this discrimination against piercings has more to do with the specific communities that have them rather than the piercings themselves.

Overall, piercings have such a large history, with so much meaning behind many of the possible piercing types. Whether it is through the lens of gender affirmation, the expresison of kink, or discrimination in important fields, piercings play a huge role in daily life and the treatment of people in society. These have all been a huge part of my life, being part of the queer, trans, and kink communities while having my own deep love for piercings.



The author, Clay Johnson

(Featured image from [Wikimedia Commons](#))

*

Works Cited

- Ferguson, Henry. "Body Piercing." *BMJ: British Medical Journal*, vol. 319, no. 7225, 1999, pp. 1627–29. *JSTOR*, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/25186687>. Accessed 10 Sep. 2022.
- Haasch, Palmer, and Canela Lopez. "The Debate over 'Kink at Pride' Divides the Internet, but the Kink Community Has Been Part of Queer Protest and Celebration since Stonewall." *Insider*, 7 June 2021, <https://www.insider.com/kink-at-pride-discourse-explained-kinks-role-in-lgbtq-history-2021-6>.
- Loheide, Lynn. "HRT & Trans, Non-Binary & Intersex Experiences in Relation to Body Piercing." *Lynn Loheide*, 19 Nov. 2021,

<https://www.lynnloheide.com/post/hrt-trans-non-binary-intersex-experiences-in-relation-to-body-piercing>.

- Loheide, Lynn. “Kink and Body Piercings.” *Lynn Loheide*, 28 June 2020, <https://www.lynnloheide.com/post/kink-and-body-piercings>.
- Loheide, Lynn. “Piercings and Gender Affirmation: A Transfemme Experience.” *Lynn Loheide*, 14 Jan. 2022, <https://www.lynnloheide.com/post/piercings-and-gender-affirmation-a-transfemme-experience>.
- Loheide, Lynn. “Play Piercings.” *Lynn Loheide*, 18 Mar. 2022, <https://www.lynnloheide.com/post/play-piercings>.
- Loheide, Lynn, and Margo Dellaquilla. “Point 89: The Gay Ear: The Point.” *The Point | Journal of Body Piercing* – APP, 18 Aug. 2020, <https://thepointjournal.org/2020/08/07/the-gay-ear/>.
- Loheide, Lynn. “Prince Albert (Pa) Piercing 101.” *Lynn Loheide*, 21 Jan. 2022, <https://www.lynnloheide.com/post/prince-albert-pa-piercing-101>.

Posted in [Essay](#), [Identity](#) | [No Comments](#) »

Zach Hannah: “A Body Tries to Tell the Truth”

Zach Hannah · Thursday, February 9th, 2023

A Body Tries to Tell the Truth

A boy walks into a surgery.
 Fires used to eat medical records.
 Doctors used to lie.
 I’m staring at birth certificate.
 It is a forgery.
 The State can lie.
 A boy declines a surgery,
 prays for less of himself instead.
 A man wishes his body was a forgery,
 blames the boy.
 Fire is how the present lies.
 A boy wishes to wear fire to school,
 settles for shame.
 A man requests medical records,
 is given an apology on behalf of fire.
 The State does not apologize.
 A boy wakes up during surgery,
 is anointed with lightning.
 A boy remembers more than is recounted.
 I’m staring at a birthmark
 or a scar
 or a correction.
 It is a forgery of memory.
 An apology can be a lie.

A man forgives the boy.
I'm staring at a surgery,
wishing fire could eat apologies.

Posted in [Poetry](#) | [No Comments »](#)

Looking for Love?

Ann Haskins · Wednesday, February 8th, 2023

Different love stories danced in downtown, at USC, in Hollywood, and in Northridge, contemporary dance festivals hits week 5 in West LA and debuts in Lincoln Heights, quartet variations in El Sereno, two-dimensional lithography goes live in Pasadena, a peek at next week, and more SoCal dance this week.

Live This Week

Taking A.I.M.

Two chances to experience the contemporary choreography from NY-based **Kyle Abraham/A.I.M.** in different works. First up at USC, the music of R&B legend D'Angelo provides the soundtrack for *An Untitled Love* considering self-love and Black love. Then, the dancing moves to Northridge where electronic music composed by Jlin's contemplation of Mozart's *Requiem* propels the West Coast premiere of *Requiem: Fire in the Air of the Earth*. Preview clip at the Soraya website. *An Untitled Love* at USC Bovard Auditorium, 3551 Trousdale Parkway, University Park; Wed., Feb. 15, 7:30 pm, free w/reservation at [Visions and Voices USC](#). Also *Requiem: Fire in the Air of the Earth* at the Soraya, Cal State University Northridge, 18111 Nordhoff St., Northridge; Sat., Feb. 18, 8 pm, \$39-94. [The Soraya](#).



Kyle Abraham/A.I.M. Photo courtesy of the artists.

She can't look away

Week 5 of the Odyssey Dance Festival brings choreographer Suchi Branfman in **Dancing Through Prison Walls** in *DATA or 7 ways to dance a dance through prison walls*. A deeply thoughtful activist for prison reform, Branfman's latest is drawn from notes she kept of the havoc and deaths Covid wreaked inside prison. Branfman is joined by dancers Marc Antoni Charcas, Ernst Fenelon Jr., Mokhtar Ferbrache, Selina Ho, Amy Oden, and Tom Tsai. Odyssey Theatre Ensemble, 2055 S. Sepulveda Blvd., West LA; Fri. Feb. 10, 8 pm, Sat. Feb. 11, 2 & 8 pm., \$25, \$15 student. [OvationTix](#). Complete list of festival performances and tickets at [Odyssey Theatre](#).



DATA or 7 ways to dance a dance through prison walls. Photo by [Ciro Hurtado](#)

New festival for new choreography

In addition to her choreography and directing her own troupe BrockusRED, another of Deborah Brockus' distinctive talents is her stamina giving visibility to LA-based dance companies, especially in performance series like the LA Dance Festival. Her latest effort is *Still Moving*, a seasonal series geared to developing and presenting new choreography. The debut of *Still Moving #1 (Winter)* presents new choreography over two evenings. Friday offers new works by Anthony Accedes (Akomi Dance), Jordan Saenz, Sean Greene, Brittany Delany, and Brockus. Saturday includes Janelle Burgess (Spectrum Dance Company), Charlotte Katherine (Charlotte Katherine & Co.), Ken Morris (Ken Morris Project), Maria Hoffman (Akomi Dance), Greene, Delany, and Brockus. At Brockus Project Studios, 618 B Moulton Ave, Lincoln Heights; Fri., Feb. 10, 8:30 pm, Sat., Feb. 11, 8 pm, \$10 cash or venmo at door. Information at [Brockus Project](#).



BrockusRED. Photo courtesy of the artists

Shall they dance?

Dance classics from Fred Astaire, Ginger Rogers and his other movie musical partners are reprised as **American Contemporary Ballet** returns with a new edition of *Astaire Dances*. The show offers cocktails and refreshment options, especially on Valentine's Day, along with the recreated dance numbers. Details at ACB Studios, Two California Plaza, 350 S. Grand Ave., 28th Flr., downtown; Fri., Feb 10, 17 & 24 8pm, Sat., Feb. 11, 18 & 25, 5 & 8 pm, Sun., 12, 19 & 26, 2 & 5 pm, Tues., Feb. 14, 8 pm, \$60-\$130. [ACB Dances](#).



American Contemporary Ballet. Photo by Mary Joyce

Four and more

New and remounted *Quartets* highlight this performance and gala from **RGWW (Rosanna Gamson/WorldWide)**. Gamson and her dancers have been previewing the works, but this event brings things together. Details at the website. Stomping Ground LA, 5453 Alhambra Ave., El Sereno; Sat., Feb. 11, 6 pm, \$25-\$100. [Eventbrite](#).



Rosanna Gamson/World Wide. Photo courtesy of the artists

Plus ça change?

In 2016, choreographer Christina Suarez created her fifth work exploring the concept of family. Inspired by stories from lesbian moms, gay dads, and LGBTQ parents, Suarez and her **Suarez Dance Theater** crafter *Mother. Father.* In an era with some expanded awareness, Suarez and her dancers reprise the work for a new generation. Los Angeles LGBT Center, 118 N. McCadden Pl., Hollywood; Tues., Feb. 14, 1 pm, free. [Suarez Dance](#).



Suarez Dance Theater. Photo courtesy of the artists

Rock, paper, scissors

In conjunction with the exhibition *Ink, Paper, Stone: Six Women Artists and the Language of Lithography*, **Nancy Evans Dance Theatre** performs *Imprint*. The work employs projection, props, fabric and costumes to bring two-dimensional lithography to life in three dimensions. Norton Simon Museum, Sat., Feb. 11, 5 pm, free w/registration and museum admission, tickets available at 4 pm. [Norton Simon Museum](#).



Nancy Evans Dance Theatre. Photo courtesy of the artists

Figaro Fandango

In Act III, when the singers finally work out the plot's antics to get to the actual *Marriage of Figaro*, choreographer Kitty McNamee unleashes the dancers for a wedding *fandango* and a flower dance. Often **LA Opera**'s go-to choreographer, including several of this season's operas, MacNamee recruited dancers Raymond Ejiofora, Katherine Highstrete, Jessica Gadzinski, and Nicholas Sipes to the stage for the six performances of *Figaro* over the next few weeks. Music Center, Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, 135. N. Grand Ave., downtown; Sat., Feb. 11, 7:30 pm, Thurs., Feb. 16 & 23, 7:30 p.m., Sun., Feb. 19 & 26, 2 p.m. \$39 to \$399. [LA Opera](#).



600 Highwaymen. Photo courtesy of the artists

Words on the last cards

The Obie award-winning duo Abigail Browde and Michael Silverstone aka **600 Highwaymen** bring the final weekend of immersive performance under the distinctively unwieldy title *A Thousand Ways (Part Three): An Assembly*. Described as experimental theater creations, each roughly one hour event draws on elements of dance, performance, and civic engagement as each audience of 16 people read from assigned cards before being drawn in further, becoming part of each singular performance. UCLA Royce Hall Rehearsal Room, Royce Hall, Sat.-Sun., Feb. 11-12, noon, 1:30, 3pm, 4:30, 6 & 7:30pm. \$29.97. [CAP UCLA](#).



Simone Forti. Photo courtesy of the artist

Post-Modern History, Live

Several of the notable figures who emerged from the Post Modern dance era centered at New York City's Judson Church in the 1960's left and came to SoCal. Rudy Perez and Simone Forti are among those NY transfers who became forces on the LA dance scene and now have *éminence grise* status here. Forti's oeuvre and the materials that fueled them are the focus of **Simone Forti**, the first museum exhibit to survey what she produced. The three-month exhibit includes live performances of *Dance Constructions*, one of her landmark works from 1961. Sarah Swenson, a known LA choreographer and long-time associate of Forti, acted as Performance Coordinator for this project and Forti's *Dance Constructions* presented throughout the exhibition, were staged by Carmela Hermann Dietrich. Hermann Dietrich and Forti have a relationship dating back to 1989 that includes improvised duets, the most recent of which, in 2017, was at Highways Performance Space. The exhibit also includes Forti's sculptures, videos, drawings, and notebooks. *Dance Constructions* at MOCA Grand Avenue (Museum of Contemporary Art), 250 S. Grand Ave., downtown; Exhibit runs to Sun., April 2. Performances of *Dance Constructions* performed Thurs., 3:30, 4:45, 6:00, & 7:15 pm, Sat. & Sun., 12:30, 1:45, 3:00, & 4:15 pm, throughout the exhibit run, free with timed museum admission. [MOCA](#).

A Peek at Next Week

Cincinnati Ballet and Hubbard Street Dance Chicago at *Laguna Dance Festival*, Laguna Playhouse, Thurs.-Sun., Feb. 23-26, different times & programs. Thurs. rehearsal is free, other programs \$60, \$30 students. Complete program line up plus workshops etc. at [Laguna Dance Festival](#).

Luminario Ballet at the Wallis, 9390 N. Santa Monica Blvd., Beverly Hills; Fri.-Sat., Feb. 17-18, 7:30 pm, Fri., \$10 or pay what you can; Sat. \$25-\$79. [The Wallis](#).



Luminario Ballet. Photo courtesy of the artists

LA Dance Project and Bobbi Jene Smith + Or Schraiber at LA Dance Project Studios, 2245 E. Washington Blvd., Arts District; Thurs.-Sat., Feb. 23-25, 8 pm, \$25-\$45. [OvationTix](#).

Pilobolus at Musco Center for the Arts, Chapman University, 415 N. Glassell St., Orange; Thurs., Feb. 23, 7:30 pm, \$25-\$58. [Musco Center](#).

Step Afrika! At Luckman Fine Arts Complex, Cal State University Los Angeles, 5151 State University Dr., East LA; Sat., Feb. 18, 8 pm, \$25-\$50. [Ticketmaster](#).



Step Afrika! Photo by Torrey Allen

Benita Bike's DanceArt at the Malibu Library, 23519 Civic Center Way, Malibu; Wed., Feb. 22, 7 pm, free w/reservation at [LA County Library](#).

UCI Dance Visions at the Irvine Barclay Theatre, 4242 Campus Dr., Irvine; Thurs.-Fri., Feb. 23-24, 8 pm, Sat., Feb. 25, 2 & 8 pm, \$22-\$26, \$13 students. [OvationTix](#).

Redondo Beach Ballet – *Snow Queen* at Redondo Beach Performing Arts Center, 1935 Manhattan Beach Blvd., Redondo Beach; Sat., Feb. 18, 6 pm Sun., Feb. 19 3 pm \$40-\$50, \$30 students. [Redondo Beach Ballet](#).

SoCal Dance Notes

Global Day of Dance for Freedom — This Friday is just the launch day of an effort to show support of Iranian woman. In addition to many participating dance organizations (long list at [Rumi With a View](#)) supporting Iranian women protesting the government's oppression and the killing of a young woman accused of improperly wearing her headscarf and the 10-1/2 year prison sentence for a couple for dancing in public (she did not wear a headscarf). Individuals and other dance groups are invited to join starting on Feb. 10 but continuing thereafter. Suggestions for posting short videos in support are at the website. View a short promo at [YouTube](#). Videos can be posted for Feb. 10 (and after) at @rumiwithaview on Instagram and @rumiwithview on Twitter.



The engaged Iranian couple sentenced to prison for 10 years for dancing without a headscarf

Max the access

A new Music Center program, *Dance Extension (DANCEx)*, offers dance students discounted tickets to Music Center dance performances, invitations to dress rehearsals, and talks with dance professionals. Details at [Music Center](#).

Posted in [Theatre](#), [Music](#), [Dance](#), [Visual Art](#) | [No Comments »](#)

Terrenos Houston Discusses Real Estate As An Investment: What Individuals Should Consider Before Purchasing

Our Friends · Wednesday, February 8th, 2023

Investing in real estate has long been a popular way to build wealth, but it is not without risk. As with any investment, experts like **Terrenos Houston** in New Caney, TX, know many factors need to be considered before you make a purchase. Understanding the potential risks and rewards of investing in real estate can help you make an informed decision about whether or not it is the right move for you.

Research the Market and Property Values

Terrenos Houston says before you decide to invest in any property, it is essential to research the local market. This includes understanding the current market trends and analyzing historical data on property values in the area. Knowing what properties are selling for and how prices have changed over time can help you determine if now is a good time to buy and how much you should

be willing to pay for a particular property. Additionally, [researching rental rates](#) can help you understand how much income your property may generate if you rent it out instead of selling it.

Understand Your Financing Options

Real estate investments usually require some form of financing or leverage, so it's essential to familiarize yourself with your options before diving into an asset. Different types of loans have additional requirements and interest rates, so understanding all of your options will help ensure that you get the best deal possible when financing your purchase. Additionally, prepayment penalties or other fees associated with early repayment must be considered before committing depending on the type of loan or financing option chosen.

Tax Implications and Legal Considerations

Terrenos Houston says before deciding whether or not to invest in real estate, it is essential to consider both the legal and tax implications of doing so. Depending on your particular situation, you may be subject to different taxes or laws than someone else regarding owning property. Understanding how these laws and regulations affect your ability to purchase and own property is essential before moving forward with any investment decisions. Furthermore, it is also necessary to understand the potential tax implications of owning rental properties and other investments before taking the plunge.

Potential Risks Associated With Investing In Real Estate

It is also essential for prospective investors to consider the potential risks associated with investing in real estate. While there is potential for great rewards from such investments, there are also some pitfalls that should be considered. For example, if you are investing in rental properties, you may face tenant issues such as late payments or damage caused by tenants that could reduce your profits or even put you at a loss if not managed properly. Economic conditions can also affect rental markets, leading to lower occupancy rates or fewer renters willing or able to pay higher rents. Furthermore, when purchasing properties as investments, it is essential not only to understand the current market conditions but also to anticipate future market trends so as not to find yourself stuck with a property that has depreciated significantly by the time you decide to sell it off.

Determine What Type of Investment You Are Making

Several types of [real estate investments](#) are available, including residential properties like single-family homes and multi-family units; commercial buildings; vacation rentals; land purchases; etc. Each type carries unique risks and rewards, so determining which type best fits your goals for investing is essential before making any purchases. For example, purchasing residential properties often requires more hands-on management than buying a commercial building; however, residential properties typically offer more significant potential for appreciation over time than commercial properties.

Determine Your Exit Strategy

Terrenos Houston says once you have decided which type of real estate investment best suits your needs and goals, it's essential to consider what kind of return on investment (ROI) you hope to achieve from this venture and what sort of timeline for those returns makes sense for your financial situation. This will help determine what kind of exit strategy (e.g., refinance or sale) makes sense

for each investor based on their individual goals and circumstance.

It's also important to remember that no matter what kind of strategy you choose there are no guarantees when investing in real estate and that profits are never guaranteed due to changing market conditions or unforeseen circumstances beyond our control such as natural disasters or economic downturns that could affect property values significantly over time.

Conclusion

Making smart decisions when investing in real estate requires careful research and analysis beforehand and ongoing monitoring throughout ownership to maximize returns while minimizing risk exposure during volatile market cycles.

Taking the time upfront to understand all available financing options; researching current market trends; determining which type(s) of real estate investments fit best with your financial goals; finding reliable partners/contractors/management companies who can assist with maintaining/renovating/renting/selling these investments – all these considerations should be taken into account prior starting down this path towards building wealth through real estate investments! With proper preparation and ongoing diligence, investors can increase their chances of achieving success in this industry!

Photo by Avi Waxman on Unsplash

Posted in [Sponsored](#) | [No Comments](#) »

Chad Grant: Don't Believe the Hype

Chad Grant · Tuesday, February 7th, 2023

As a writer, it is my job to persuade the reader. However, it is important to be aware that in life, there is always an element of inquiry. As a consumer, one can choose to invest their time and energy into different concepts, or they can choose to challenge them. This is applicable to life in general. The renowned hip-hop group, Public Enemy, has famously stated, "Don't Believe the Hype." This phrase serves as a reminder to have a healthy skepticism of authority, rather than blindly accepting its claims. It is important to be mindful of the potential for deception and manipulation.

For instance, I think that the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) was aware that the majority of domestic terrorism is perpetrated by far-right extremists and, as such, actively encouraged right-wing conspiracies against wearing masks. They were cognizant of the difficulties that would arise in identifying these extremists, yet they still chose to propagate such beliefs.

My thoughts may not be the absolute truth, yet I am acutely aware of the contentious history of the United States government in dismantling organizations that are perceived as a danger to national security, such as the notorious COINTELPRO. My ideas are based on my own critical thinking and a desire to comprehend the world in a more profound manner. Whether I am correct or wrong is

irrelevant; my opinions are my own, the purpose being to expose and confront the falsehoods.

*

The Process of Speech

The mouth is
 a Vesuvius of
 incessant whispers of dereliction.
 Thoughts simmer
 in the yawn of morning,
 The mind cradles what was
 written in the clouds.
 Dreams dissolve as the hands elapse,
 clasping a fading whisper like a pen,
 A tower of Babble
 hems the page
 and exits from my lips
 like a hiccup.

(Featured image from Flickr user [Thomas Ricker](#); used under CC BY 2.0)

Posted in [Essay](#), [Poetry](#) | [No Comments »](#)

Diana Rosen: Three Poems

Diana Rosen · Monday, February 6th, 2023

Spider Woman

She tats filaments for her web, delicate connections regally covering the corner until drones fly too close. *Snatch!* She folds it away, spins again, this time on the back of the sofa, against the fabric; gossamer threads stretched to the wall. *Wham!* Her web collapses under the indifferent mop of the cleaning lady, wiping away dust balls, dirt, the crumbs of life. Our heroine, carried in the confines of the mop out of the room onto the porch, hits the silk to safety. She spies the Next Perfect Place: the glowing porch light and weaves an architectural triumph, a filigreed camouflage over the golden lamp, a crackle-patterned scrim to deflect the ropy mop tentacles brushing against the porch ceiling like a painter eager to beat the oncoming rain.

**Hits the silk. A gentle, successful parachute landing.*

*

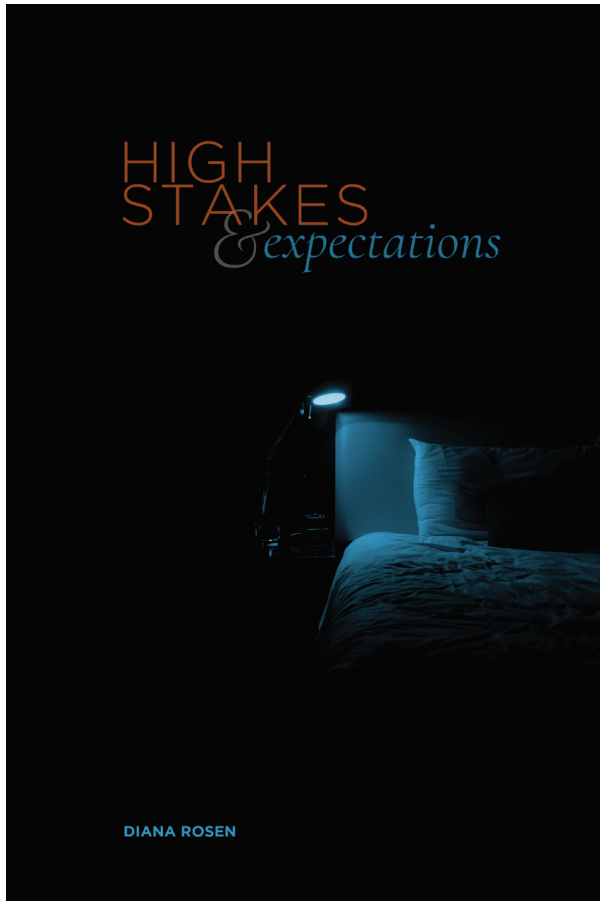
How to Love

Run
arms outstretched
to the edge of the high board.
Jump up,
thumbs touching.
Curve your body
downward
toward the sparkling aqua
gem of an inside sea
and dive right in.

*

Love After Love, After Derek Walcott

Tomorrow. Sooner.
You will release what was suppressed
From that dark place you lived
You will see her. Connect, and
You will feel hunger for life, for the moment.
Today, you will hug the fear, kiss the doubt.
Share wine, bread, your heart.
Be not afraid. Embrace. Weep happiness.
Step out of the costume of silence.
Put on the cloak of courage.
Read your story as if freshly inked; a coda
To this verse. Smile. Circle your arms around
You. Trust joy.



High Stakes & Expectations by Diana Rosen

Purchase *High Stakes & Expectations* by Diana Rosen

Posted in [Poetry](#) | [No Comments](#) »

Some Of The Popular Perfumes For 2023

Our Friends · Monday, February 6th, 2023

Everybody loves perfume and attempting various ones yet can never be so easy for everyone. However, paying such a lot of cash for perfumes can get you in good debt. So if you are actually tracking a budget-friendly brand of perfumes in which you can find all of your favorite scents then you need to look forward for Dossier [sauvage dior perfume](#). Their conviction is that everybody ought to have the option to manage the cost of extravagance perfumes. They make their perfumes reasonable by their efforts and their love for their consumers. Their perfumes are all veggie lover, free from harmful materials, and made with 100 percent clean items.

They have such countless scents that are roused by designer perfumes. Every one of the perfumes are \$29-\$39 so it saves you huge load of cash while purchasing fragrances. They even have a portion of some of the #1 scents on the site, you must be eager to the point that you will not compensate \$100 + for perfume now!

Each scent comes in own little box and also has a [card](#) with all the data about the perfume, alongside with one of a great sample and the perfume [bottle](#). Some people feel that it appears to be

hazardous to purchase perfumes on the web so they send you an example size perfume with every one you request. You can utilize that to ensure you like the scent. You can return any unopened perfume for 30 days no inquiries posed.

Oriental Cherry

Top Notes:

- Cherry
- Almond
- Cinnamon

Middle Notes:

- Cloves
- Rose
- Jasmine
- Plum

Base Notes:

- Peru Balsam
- Tonka Bean
- Vanilla

This perfume is inspired by Tom Fords Lost Cherry. This is a scent that I have been wanting to try for so long but couldn't justify the \$350 price tag. I like this scent because you get the floral/cherry and the vanilla. It's one of the most unique fragrances I have ever used.

Floral Honeysuckle

Top Notes:

- Green Leaves
- Orange Honeysuckle

Middle Notes:

- Jasmine Sambac
- Tuberose

Base Notes:

- Orris
- Sandalwood
- Vanilla

This is propelled by Gucci's Sprout perfume. This is a fragrance that I as of now love so I was truly eager to perceive how it contrasted with the genuine article. I showered the two perfumes on

me and my sister and you can't differentiate. It is an indistinguishable fragrance to Gucci Sprout. Assuming you like botanical fragrances you will adore this perfume!

Le Labo Santal 33

Woody Sandalwood honors the significant person of sandalwood, which is frequently ignored. This smell, which is many times viewed as an optional player in the perfume market, gains by the best grade sandalwood. The outcome is unmatched sandalwood that grandstands its smooth characteristics while immaculately fitting the brutality of different woods and giving a consistent congruity to rose flower bundles.

When joined with the charm of exemplary orris, woody musk, and sweet violet, Woodsy Sandalwood will immediately turn into another work of art. Woody Sandalwood is a subjective and straightforward perfume that inspires the comfort of a warm embrace while conveying an unmatched feeling of inward erotic nature.

Conclusion:

So, I was exceptionally dazzled with the nature of these perfumes. At the point when I use perfume I typically need to reapply over the course of the day yet when I utilize these I can smell them the entire day. I had my sister utilize some and they endured the entire day on her also! They arrive in an excellent glass bottle with a magnet top which I love! The main thing I don't cherish about the containers in the names began to strip right when I got them and they are somewhat slanted. Yet, that wouldn't prevent me from getting them. I simply needed to add that little note since I realize a many individuals show their perfume.

In the event that you are needing to attempt a few new perfumes I would energetically suggest evaluating Dossier! Tell me you're most loved scents in the remarks!

Photo by [Camille Paralisan](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Posted in [Sponsored](#) | [No Comments](#) »