

Some Cut Flowers



Intimate Bureacracies: Art and the Mail

January 25 -
March 26, 2011

Art Exchange
University of Essex

- 2 SUMMER DAISY / DAVID HORVITZ
- 7 DETAINED FLOWERS / ED STECK
- 10 E-MAILS TO ZANNA GILBERT



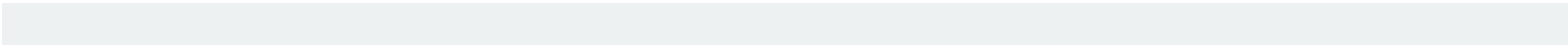
kxlu0o-b78603528z.120100209183726000gdImf7kf.2.jpg

I've had this file on my computer since Saturday, June 26, 2010 10:49PM. It was from an article dated February 9, 2010, "Taking time to inspect the roses," from The Orange County Register. On the article's web-page the caption to the image reads: "U.S. Customs and Border Protection agricultural specialist Julie Nowicki examines imported roses. With the Valentine's Day rush near, customs has been inspecting millions of imported roses."



istockphoto_8098153-summer-daisy.jpg

I've had this file on my computer since Saturday, June 26, 2010 10:54PM, 5 minutes after I saved a copy of the photograph of agricultural specialist Julie Nowicki. It is a stock photograph titled, "Summer Daisy," with the description, "Daisy in the morning dew." It is for sale in four file sizes, from 126.21 KB to 10MB, with various licensing options. The six key words the file is tagged with are Dew, Daisy, Summer, Single Flower, Flower, and Nature. The copyright is dated 12-24-08. I found the image in a search for "Julie Nowicki," the name of the person the photograph's copyright is attributed to.



A purely imaginative narrative is formed based on the coincidental linking of a name (data) to these images. I imagine that daisies are in transit to a destination inside the United States. They were sent from somewhere abroad. On the way to their recipient, they are detained briefly at customs in the Los Angeles Airport. Agricultural specialist Julie Nowicki opens up the package and pulls out the flowers. They are cold for preservation purposes and covered in drops of condensation. She looks closely at the white petals and yellow stamen. Turning them upside down, she gently taps them to see if any bugs fall out. They seem fine and she puts them down. For a second, she is distracted by their simple beauty. With no one else around, she holds them up with her left hand and photographs them. The flowers are put back in their box and sent on their way. At home, Nowicki looks at the photograph and imagines it to be of daisies in the morning dew. She uploads it to a stock photography database, intending to sell the photograph's rights. As the real flowers continue in transit to their intended destination, this photograph - a photograph of the flower's brief moment in detainment - begins its own circulation with no known end.

- *David Horvitz*
February 2011

DETAINED FLOWERS

Ed Steck

COULD YOU PLEASE PROVIDE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR IMPORTING QUARANTINE POLICIES FOR HUMAN, ANIMAL, AND PLANT MATERIAL TO COUNTERMEASURE CLOCK-CATCHING MARKET COMPETITORS? YOUR ASSISTANCE WILL BE GREATLY APPRECIATED AND APPROPRIATELY COMPENSATED. THANK YOU AND HAVE A NICE DAY. FEBRUARY 2011.

Please return. Includes those cuttings, rooted plants and trees that are not prohibited, bulbs, most fruits, certain seeds and some cut flowers. Carry a pest; always retain beauty.

The controls are laid down. Agree that it is impossible to predict all forms of damage.

The number of stems, as a true copy of an identity check, lacks credibility. Region is singular. Only the divisions of region stipulate external existences. Divisions of bloom vector flowering warmly.

Growing medium, travel atrophy, and stagnancy in motion foresee bordered escalation.

Landed consignment agreements are listed in numbered packing lists and invoices. A monthly phytosanitary bulletin is distributed to importers. Please return. A certificate stating that plants are free of infectious diseases – amber traffic light systems await inspection.

Commonly the subject of still life: a floral formula's data pre-separation systematically indicates the undeveloped characteristics of a flower's overall structure. Components, separate, blend and change floating island-like segments into throat-full fused parts of picturesque adnation.

Flower subject categories.

LIVING PLANTS, INCLUDING FUNGI AND SHRUBS, OR A LIVING PART OF A PLANT, AT ANY STAGE OF GROWTH BUT EXCLUDING FOREST TREES OR FOREST SHRUBS, INCLUDING, LIVE POLLEN, BULBS, CUTTINGS, SEEDS AND ALL OTHER VEGETATIVE PROPAGATING MATERIAL, INCLUDING SEED POTATOES BUT EXCLUDING POTATOES FOR CONSUMPTION.

Loose soil is controlled. The following applies. Please return.

Outside material must be accompanied by a proper recyclable media certificate at all times to ensure entry into specific transient zones. Protected zones are plasmatic. Avoid typical usage. Sometimes, cut flowers are worn in the hair. Anyways, live quickly. Sometimes, cut flowers are worn in the hair. Diving headfirst into post-harvest treatment. Chemical drench.

Fill out the form. Indicate contents.

Primary instrument: personal computer. Foliage is perfect for decorating office, dining, and lodging interiors. Geraniums are beautiful. Perennial lifestyle habits induce uncontrollable flowering. Unnatural methods of extraction dominate relentlessly. When, in nature, in synthetic zones, construct floral arrangement-like patterns from non-existent material.

A parcel of cut flowers is in transit.

Inside the garden below the transient zone: eject matters into the palm of the ruling hand; see what happens next. Please return the ejected matters into the palm of the ruling hand.

An ode is illogical - *Fresh flowers; while the sun shines warm* – when restrictions apply.

THE DELUXE EDITION OF STANDING UNDER THE FAN IN THE ORCHID ROOM – MOIST, EXCLUSIVE, AND ALL NEW – WHERE ALL PARTIES ARE VISIBLY HAPPY. AMONGST FLOWERS IN WISHY-WASHY INTERNATIONAL REDOUBT, NO LONGER AVAILABLE: A COMPUTER SITS ON A TABLE IN THE AMAZON ROOM; IT LACKS A KEYBOARD AND IS SLIGHTLY WETTENED.

And if by chance, beauty – for all parties – is just now revealing the excess attributes of previous secured regions, then beauty is a mediated progression away from hospitable standardization. Likened to lush episodic seclusions, better times divorce themselves from actual dialogue.

I can't dispute resolutions. Please return.

Just now, a faux-waterfall rear-wall installation lightly mists two seated figures.

A moment wasn't arbitrary at its point of occurrence.

An opening of miniature transportation systems – rails, cleared paths, and obstacles – elevated structural lines of downward trivialization: plastic circuitry of absentee industry.

A controlled and staffed institution open to the public: under the opening in open air conditioned centrally located in the current display encompassing self-contained solitary growth, a figure shed complicated (over-wrought) systems of self-manufacture. That was all.

Acquiring growth.

A COMBATIVE COORDINATION OF PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO CAPTURE, REFLECT, AND REACT TO THE ABSENCE OR PRESENCE OF AN HONORARY INDUCTION OF INTERIOR DESIGN: 'I SLEPT UNDER, SHOULD HAVE THOUGHT, EVERYWHERE – THEY RIOT FOR SIX DAYS, FULL-THROTTLED, AROUND THE DOWNWARD MARCH OF DEBRIS.' HERE IS A FLOWER FOR YOU.

A flower.

Prohibited. Phytosanitary certificate required for shipment.

A style of delivery: motions between parcel, packing material, and content construct and restrict fluctuation; motions between parcel, packing material, and content expend the durability of the flowers – a compression of the natural and material in transit, a bedfellow of limiting spaces within a synthetic circulatory system. One region produces one culture.

Please return. Ebb and flow.

Plant passporting.

The movement of protected zones into one continuous region required imported inspections from segmented regional vectors. Inspection deadlines culminated in one annual report from a single region. The region unification was instantly recognized and annulled.

Privacy of care packaging: a flower wrapped in tissue paper accompanied by a ceramic vase protected by newspaper to avoid chipping. Please return.

★ David Horvitz to Zanna

[show details](#) Feb 14 (6 days ago)

[Reply](#)

Hi Zanna,

It's Valentine's Day. I mailed the first flower today around 4pm from the post office in Williamsburg (on South 4th Street). The flower was a red rose, from a bodega on 14th Street called Stuyvesant Convenience Str. I mailed it in a 1L Glaceau smartwater bottle. Let see if it arrives.

The custom's form tracking # is LC946505225US

We might be able to follow it.

Attached is a photograph I made inside the post office.

- David



2-14-2011.png

580K [View](#) [Download](#)

★ ● David Horvitz to Zanna

[show details](#) Feb 15 (6 days ago)

[Reply](#)

Hi Zanna,

Attached is a photograph of today's flower.

It is another red rose from the same place as yesterday's. This one was sent at the 11205 post office in Clinton Hill, Brooklyn. It was a mobile post office in a truck because the building is under renovation. The winds are strong today, and there was a man arguing with the post office employee because his \$20 bill had blown away as he tried to pay to ship a package.

Today's Custom's number is: LC946505234US

The rose was mailed in a 1 Liter Mayim Chaim seltzer bottle that I found in the Hasidic Jewish part of South Williamsburg yesterday.

- David



2-15-2011.png

958K [View](#) [Download](#)

★ David Horvitz to Zanna

[show details](#) Feb 16 (4 days ago)

[Reply](#)

Hi Zanna,

A red rose from 1-800-flowers.com in Howard Beach on Cross Bay Blvd., and mailed in a 1L (the bottle doesn't actually state its size) Key Food (quality) Sparkling Seltzer (Sodium Free, Original) bottle, was sent today from the post office in the Far Rockaways in Queens.

I went to the Far Rockaways with a friend to find a road known as "the road to nowhere." This road was built for a Robert Moses project, which would have created an expressway through the Rockaways to the Hamptons. We had to ask around to find it. And we did find it.

LC9456505248US

- D



2-16-2011 1.png

892K [View](#) [Download](#)

★ David Horvitz to Zanna

[show details](#) Feb 17 (3 days ago)

[Reply](#)

Hi Zanna,

Pink chrysanthemums were mailed today from a mailbox on Varick and Broome in Manhattan. They were sent in a 1L Glaceau bottle.

LC946505251US

- David



2-17-2011.png

1029K [View](#) [Download](#)

★ David Horvitz to Zanna

[show details](#) Feb 18 (2 days ago)

[Reply](#)

Hi Zanna,

Here is today's flower. A small white chrysanthemum in a small 330 mL Fuji bottle. It was sent from a mailbox on Park and Flushing near my house in Brooklyn. The flower was from an office in Tribeca, where I am currently in an exhibition.

LC946505265US.

Hope you are well,

- D



2-18-2011.png

1000K [View](#) [Download](#)

★ David Horvitz to Zanna

[show details](#) Feb 20 (1 day ago)

[Reply](#)

Hi Zanna,

Today's flower was a red rose from the same office in Tribeca. I took it out of a vase that was decorating the office. I don't think anyone will know it is missing. It was mailed in a 20fl oz Aquafina bottle from a mailbox on Spencer and Myrtle.

LC946505279US

- David



2-19-2011.png

595K [View](#) [Download](#)

★ David Horvitz to Zanna

[show details](#) 5:50 PM (0 minutes ago)

[Reply](#)

Hi Z -

Today's flower is a yellow Chrysanthemum from the florist I went to on the way to the Far Rockaways last week.

I sent it in a 1L:

Crystal Geyser
Natural
Alpine Spring Water
BY CG Roxane
(bottled at the source)

bottle.

LC946505282US

Hope You Are Well,

- D



2-22-2011.png

1105K [View](#) [Download](#)

★ David Horvitz to Zanna

[show details](#) 6:10 PM (6 hours ago)

[Reply](#)

Hi Z,

Here is today's flower sent in a mailbox on Hanson and Ashland in Brooklyn. It's a white chrysanthemum from the same florist as yesterday's. It was inserted in a 500 mL Keeper Springs (natural spring water) bottle.

LC946505296US

Hope you are well,

- D



2-23-2011.png

830K [View](#) [Download](#)

★ David Horvitz to Zanna

[show details](#) 5:45 PM (1 minute ago)

[Reply](#)

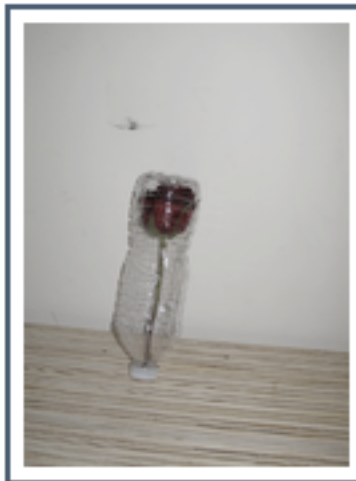
Hi Z -

A red rose from Tribeca, mailed at a mailbox on Throop and Myrtle in Brooklyn, sent in a 1 PT Deer Park bottle.

LC946505305US

Hope you are well,

- D



2-24-2011.png

549K [View](#) [Download](#)