

HOPE

IS
THE
GREATEST
WHORE

BON TON MAIS NON



A 74.5-kg (164-lb), 5.2-m (17-ft) Burmese python was discovered in the Everglades, carrying 87 eggs. The eggs weighed a total of 40 kilos. Adapted to the Floridian ecosystem, the Burmese species is reproducing at an alarming rate. It was once said that the Greek Gorgons had 100 snakes in their hair; eventually, a single snake in Florida will be able to carry 100 eggs. As temperatures rise, the climate will soon allow the pythons to move inland, colonizing the continental United States, ushering in a new Gorgonic age.

Excuse me.

Sorry.

I beg your pardon.

(Polite) art is polite.

It asks for permission,
so it does not have to
apologize later.

Polite art can be visited.
You can go to polite art,
and return from it,
like a tourist.

Museums are, by
nature, very polite
places.

Polite art addresses life's
extremes, even death, in
a very polite way.

Polite art creates
needs that are satisfied
immediately.

Polite art does not
pursue you eternally.

Sirens

Antonín Dvorák
Rusalka, Op. 114 (1900)

She returns to her place in the depths
as a demon of death.

VOICES

Siren Rusalka, Princess,
Wood Sprite I and II
(sopranos)

Wood Sprite III
(mezzo-soprano)

Witch, Duchess
(contraltos)

Cookie
(boy soprano)

The Prince
(tenor)

Gamekeeper, Hunter
(baritones)

Water Goblin
(bass)

Chorus

ORCHESTRA

Woodwinds

2 flutes, 2 oboes, piccolo, English horn,
2 clarinets, brass clarinet, 2 bassoons

Brass

4 horns, 3 trumpets, 3 trombones, tuba

Percussion

timpani, bass drum, cymbals, tam-tam,
triangle

Strings

harp, harmonium, violins I, violins II,
violas, cellos, double basses

Polite art points.

It points at things that
stand out.

Hasn't your mother
taught you that it's rude
to point?

Pointing is only good
for assassinations or
picking groceries.

Which one?
Which one?
This one?

Are you
sure?

That one.
This one.
The one to
the right.

Yes.

Polite art sterilizes.
It does not infect.
It's like a
mind-scale autoclave.

Polite art looks at you
quizzically, surprised by
your presence, like
a deer in the headlights.

Polite art is a present.
Everyone likes presents,
don't you?

Polite art is something
you need,
like toilet paper.

Sometimes polite art is
about the limits
of the body. It is about
duration and waiting.

Waiting in line is
quite strenuous on your
feet, and very polite.

Waiting for
medicine, bread, and oil,
people piss themselves
to keep their place in line.

Ketchup — shit is very
polite.

Polite art is
as revolutionary as an
annual budget.

Word revolution is
as political as wedding
planning.

Polite art can be all
games at once:
volleyball, basketball,
football, baseball,
handball, tennis, rugby,
bowling, billiards,
cricket, golf, hockey.

Polite art can be
tossed back and forth,
like a ball.

Polite art is like a dog,
fetching a stick
for the master to throw
again. Cats are
another matter entirely.

A cat kills a mouse,
chews its head into a
bloody stump,
and presents it to the
master.

You can't throw that.

Polite art is a thing.
Not a nothing.

Polite art does not burn.

Polite art does not let
you fall into pieces.

Polite art takes credit
for causing suffering
only when that
suffering makes more
polite art.

Polite art is
emphatically included.

The making of this
world is predicated upon
this inclusion.

Polite art
attended History's first
dinner parties.¹

The problem with History is that it rarely admits those who are not invited, or late to dinner—whatever the circumstance. History has a secret sense of bon ton. If you do arrive late, you have to know exactly what History likes, its sweet teeth, and sensibilities. You must bring History a most exquisite dessert, one it will enjoy without having ever tasted it before. Bring the dessert to an open window at the dinner party. Once History smells it, the door will swing wide open.

Koh

DOUGH

- 6 eggs
- 4 spoons of sugar
- 1 vanilla bean (scrape the pulp out)
- 12 spoons of fine grits
- 1 lemon's zest

MILK

- 13 dl of milk
- 4 spoons of honey
- 1 vanilla bean (scrape the pulp out)

Preheat the oven to 200°C. Separate the egg whites and whip them until stiff peaks form. Keep whipping as you add sugar spoon by spoon, and vanilla pulp. Reduce the mixing speed and add the yolks, one by one, the lemon zest, and lastly grits spoon by spoon. Butter the baking dish and sprinkle evenly with flour. Pour the whipped mass into an baking dish approximately 42 x 24 x 6 cm in size. Bake the koh until it browns.

While the koh is baking, heat the milk, honey, and vanilla pulp until the milk dissolves the honey completely. You may add any extra spices at this point (ground nutmeg, tea leaves, espresso). Pour over the koh after it is done baking and cool in the fridge for at least 12 hours.

Koh should be fully submerged and have the time to absorb the liquid completely. It is best to make koh one day in advance. Serve it cold in shallow bowls, cut into cubes, with some of the remaining milk over it.

A giant eye is riding a
bicycle, its optical
nerves holding the
handlebar and turning
the pedals. Follow it to
the cliffs by the seaside.

There are sirens
hibernating in the caves
under the cliffs.

They cannot hear the
roar of the waves.

The smell of rotting
scorched flesh has been
thoroughly washed
out by the sea.

Cleaning

CLEANING SOLUTION

- 1 part white vinegar
- 2 parts cold water

RINSING SOLUTION

- 2-6 drops of non-alkaline dish detergent
- 1 cup cold water

ADDITIONAL SUPPLIES

- 12 clean white towels
- cold water
- 3 spray bottles

Pour the cleaning solution, the water and the rinsing solution into the spray bottles. Be sure to blot the blood stain, not rub it, as this will only push the stain further into the carpet fibers. Spray the stain with cold water. Blot again to remove as much of the stain as possible. Spray a small amount of cleaning solution on the stain. Blot with a clean towel until the stain no longer stays on the cloth. Change your towel often or use a clean section of the towel to be sure not to spread the stain. Repeat until the stain is no longer noticeable. Spray with rinsing solution. Blot with a clean towel to remove. Spray with water. Blot with clean towel. Repeat to be sure all cleaning solution has been removed. Cover the stain with a clean towel and place a heavy weight on top. Leave for several hours so that towels can absorb any remaining liquid. Remove weights and towels to let the area air dry. When spot has dried completely, vacuum thoroughly to restore the texture of your oriental carpet.

Polite art wants to live,
multiply, and grow.

Plus not minus.

Once something grows
too big
it's no longer agile.

Growth takes up space.

Growth has coordinates,
but no position.

Growth has an address.
It can be stalked, and
hunted down.

Polite art does not grant
freedoms.

Polite art's life does not
depend on it.

Polite art is never
abandoned to its own
devices.

Polite art is not a
deserter.

Polite art is a prisoner
of war.

Polite art is not an
impostor.

Polite art is a traitor.

Polite art is not
corrosive.

It looks corrupt, but it
does not corrupt.

Polite art takes bribes.
It is an amateur
at corruption.

Polite art can be bought,
over and over.

Keep your money.
Its tint comes from real
blood and sweat.

Polite art provides a
fantasy of access.

Polite art does not
implicate.

Polite art integrates.

Polite art grants
no power.

Digging

SUPPLIES

- 1 crate of ripe tangerines
- 1 bowl or pot for the tangerines

Clean your hands and place the tangerines in the bowl. Organize the top layer of tangerines to form a human face. Make sure that two tangerines are where the eye sockets should be. Those are the eyes. Lift the bowl by the sides with both hands placing the thumbs on the “eye” tangerines. Hold the bowl and dig into the tangerines with your thumbs as hard as you can. Once you have pierced them through, inspect your work and juice them.

Polite art does not
believe
in the supernatural
origin of sin.

Polite art does not perform
extraordinary crime to
recover lost knowledge.

Polite art is vulnerable
because it believes
it already knows.

Polite art cannot
revise the notion of
what a man is.

Polite art has no
experimental rights.

Polite art does not take
pleasure in
the right to return evil.

Polite art does not
believe that guilt is the
price of being alive.

Polite art causes guilt
followed by
a desire to do good.

Polite art wishes good
and does evil.

Polite art does not
wish evil and does good.

Polite art is not
a supreme
being of wickedness.

Polite art hits you, but it
doesn't tie you up.

It ties you up,
but it doesn't cut you.

It cuts you, but it
doesn't enviscerate you.

It enviscerates you, but
it doesn't massacre you.

It massacres you,
but it doesn't
necrosodomize you.

It necrosodomizes you,
but it doesn't
cannibalize you.

It does not
cannibalize you.

Only sirens cannibalize.
They know things
about you, things you
will never know.

Sirens
blot out your soul.

Their song is a quarry,
pulling all the metals in
your body with a giant,
merciless magnet.

Hear that sound.

PS. Event Instructions

Like every intimate dinner party, Bon Ton Mais Non requires one symphony orchestra, a pastry chef, a large mirror, and the fact of cannibal sirens.

Top Liste Surréaliste
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To the West

When you say that we are a cultured people, you actually mean that we understand the subtleties and complexities of your culture. You mean that we should dream your dreams, since you do not have or acknowledge any others, but that we should live our own lives, since we cannot have yours.

From Ivo Andrić's *Black Notebook*,
Belgrade, 1948