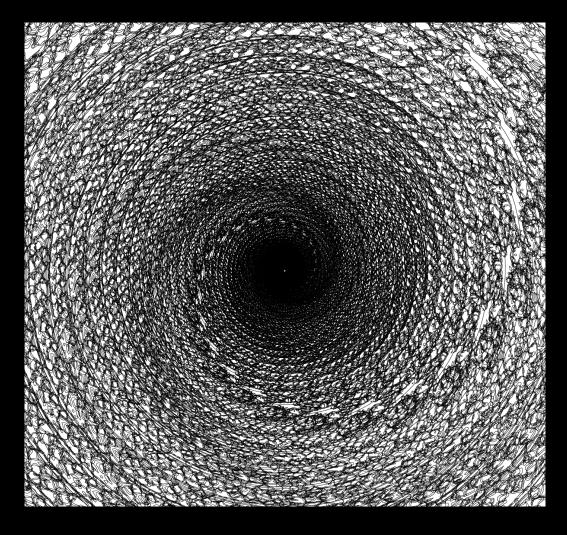
### **CULTURE HUB**

# THE SCAM COLLECTION



BLAIR SIMMONS & LINDSAY GILBERT

AUCTION CATALOG

### INTRODUCTION

Thank you for joining us at CultureHub for a live auction of the Scam Collection of Blair Simmons & Lindsay Gilbert. The Scam Collection celebrates works of recent and contemporary scams and those on the receiving end of said scams, and pays homage to these scam remnants. The unmistakable tension between scammer and scammed, chaos and order, is palpable in every piece. From mundane robo calls and phishing emails to absurd heartbreak stories, this is a collection of celebrated failures.

Auctioned by Hal Schulman Catalog by Maya Pollack

### Item Not Received case open.

Order date: Jan 16, 2024 • Order total: US \$270.00 • Order number: 04-11066-749



### Was estimated Wednesday Jan 24

Returns not accepted.

Item not received request opened. See request details

Evil Mad Scientist AxiDraw V3 Personal Writing and Drawing I US \$270.00

Sold by: sterlingsp 99

### 101. EVIL MAD SCIENTIST AXIDRAW V3 PERSONAL WRITING AND DRAWING MACHINE

#### David Murray

David Murray tried to buy a pen plotter from eBay. The seller made a label but never shipped anything, and now the dispute is in limbo because the shipping company has to confirm for eBay that the label was never used. The label has never been scanned.

LOST \$260, SOLD FOR \$10



richards...@eccrepair.org 6/19/2023 Hi Annika, We received your resume on Indeed and were impressed by



Annika Marthinuss 6/20/2023

Yes, I am interested in the position. Thank you for contacting me. Annika



Richard Smith HR ECCRepai... 6/21/2023 Hello Annika, Thank you for your prompt response. I am reaching out to inform you



Annika Marth... 6/21/2023 to Richard >

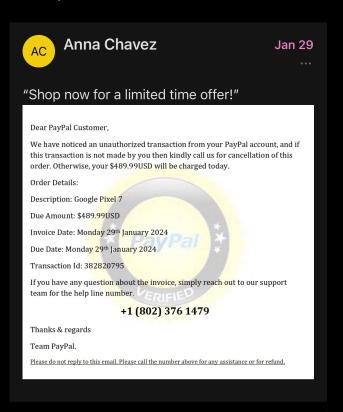


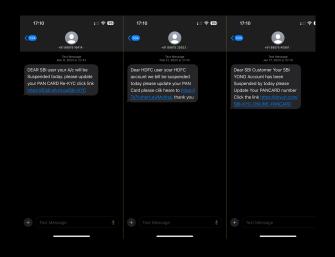


Dear Mr. Richard (or can I call you Dick) Smith,

Thank you for getting in touch.

"Shop now for a limited time offer!"







# 102. ARCHIVE OF ROBO CALLS, EMAILS, JOB LISTINGS, & BANK NOTICES, CONT.

#### Annika Marthinuss

I tried applying to many jobs on Indeed, but then all the texts and emails I got were people asking me to join them on telegram/fishy links which seemed fishy so I googled it and they said scam: (also all those texts and emails would be like you're gonna make so much money but I knew I wouldn't because they were gonna try to take my money if I clicked their fishy links. So Indeed sucks. Also I may have replied distastefully Did you lose money?

#### Suraj Barthy

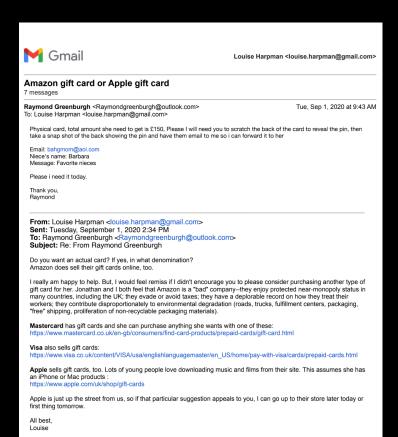
Messages from random numbers saying that my bank account will be suspended and I will need to click on a link to update details. Messages saying that the account has been suspended and I need to click on a link to reverse it.

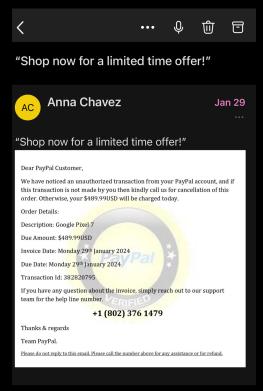
#### LiLi Jackson

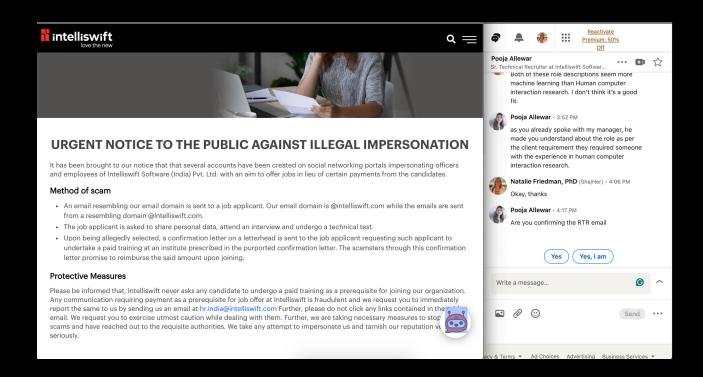
My whole life has been scam after scam I was on a weekend trip w/ my mother and met a pregnant woman while petting a dog. We started talking about set and production design and exchanged info. She hounded me to work on these plays with her, saying we'll split everything... we are just designing, no building/making, no schlepping materials... And that the pay was good. SCAMMMMMM!!!! NEVER AGAIN.

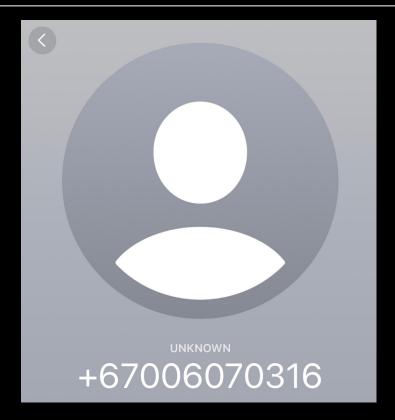
#### Louise Harpman

I was in London for a number of weeks during the pandemic and received an email from a much older British family friend, Raymond, whom I had talked to fairly recently. He asked for a favor. He said it was his niece's 16th birthday and he wanted to buy an Amazon gift card for her but no stores near him sold them AND he couldn't navigate the online website to buy one for her. This seemed plausible to me because he's over 85 years old, lives in the country, and he had asked me for computer help in the past. . We had several back and forth email exchanges, during which I told him why he shouldn't buy anything from Amazon and why I think it's such a bad company. So \*instead\* I suggested he buy a Mastercard, VISA, or Apple gift card for her. I sent him the websites to purchase these. I told him I wasn't available to go to an actual store for him until later. He asked if I could buy the gift cards for him and that he'd send me a check to cover the costs or give me cash next time we saw one another. Later that afternoon, he sent another email reminding me that he still needed the cards. I told him there was no way I could give him the actual gift cards but he replied (too readily, this should have tipped me off), that it was OK as long as I could give him the identification/activation numbers on the cards and add the contact information he supplied to me. And so I did. To the tune of 150 pounds! Two days later, Raymond emailed me to say that the niece's sister also needed a 150 pounds worth of gift cards. !!! That's when it hit me I'd been scammed. My next calls were to Apple, the Metropolitan Police, and to my credit card company. The gift cards had been used just moments after I bought them but, because of my swift reporting, the credit card company refunded the entire purchase price. Almost lost 150 pounds.









#### Yuhanxiao Ma

I picked it up without checking the number displayed on my screen. It was a male's voice, probably a white guy. He listed out information about me, including my name, and "quizzed" me on my birthday to verify I am myself. After that, he continues to say that I have a suspicious transaction happened in downtown Brooklyn with a Bank of America card. I freaked out. I did get a new debit card at Bank of America several days ago, at the downtown Brooklyn branch. I gently asked if I can call him back, but he replied to me with a serious voice, "Miss, this is an important issue. We might even need to be in contact with the police." Worried about my status here as an international student. It was suspected to be a drug-related expenditure. I did not have a second of doubt until he said the amount was around \$340. That was the moment I realized it was a scam call, because it was a new debit card and I never put more than 200 bucks in it. Angrily, I hung up the phone.

#### Natalie Friedman

I was told there was a job at Apple available, but they were really pushy. They called me from two numbers that looked the same in which the first time, no one spoke english, the second time he asked me to say specific words. When I looked up their company name, it said scam alert.

Mingyong Cheng I have been receiving scam emails and texts almost every day. For example, a scam email that stated I have a \$400 payment from PayPal, another one shows fake a bill from Apple Store, and I even received messages that try to pretend they are my graduate advisor. I think the major reason for all of those happening every day is because of the leakages of information. I do have one online shopping platform has been reported of this issue. However, once the data is leaked, we are unable to get away with those annoying scams. I lost some money! It's a pain...I hope no one else experiences this!

LOST TIME AND WAGES, SOLD FOR \$10

# LOT 103 - 104

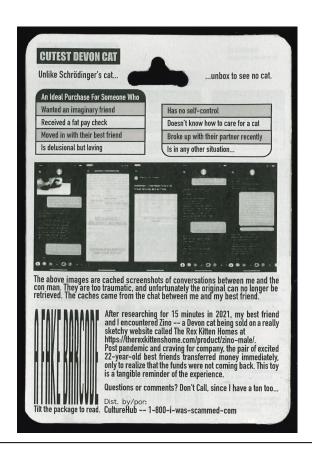


### 103. EBAY GIFT CARD

Yan Chen

When trying to sell my soccer shoes on eBay during COVID, an interested buyer reached out, mentioning they wanted the shoes as a present for their nephew. Alongside the purchase, they asked I buy a \$100 eBay gift card and share the code from the back, a request that deviated from the usual transaction process. The selling process was an auction, and the buyer made an irresistible offer, r so I choose to believe them. Typical eBay gift card scam, and I am a first time seller on eBay.

LOST \$100, SOLD FOR \$18



### 104. CAT

Shuang Cai

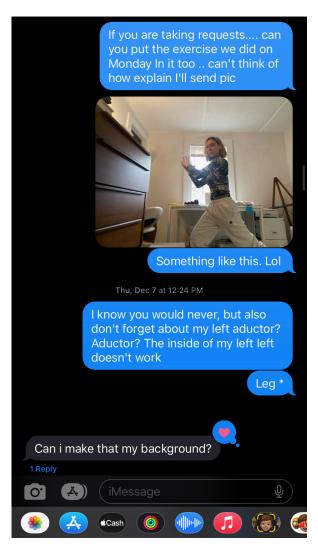
My best friend and I moved in together and wanted a cat, specifically a Devon cat. We found a website selling devon cats and this one named Zino caught our eye, So we immediately paid the con man and soon realized it was a scam.

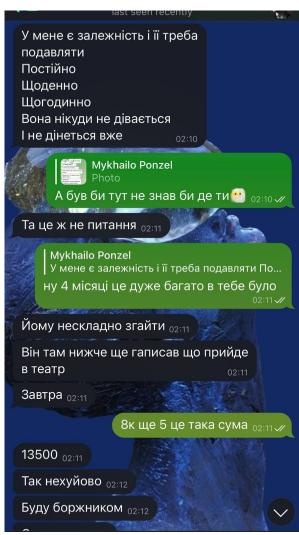
LOST \$850, SOLD FOR \$25

### 105. COLLECTION OF HEARTBREAKS

### Blair Simmons

We met on Hinge. He told me he loved me. He gave me his gold necklace to wear. We dated for 9 months until I was at a dinner party and found out he had dated another person for 1.5 years and we had 7 months of overlap. They had just broken up. So then I broke up with him, got my keys back and asked if he wanted the necklace back...he did not. It might be cursed?





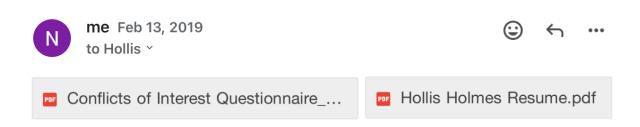
#### 105. COLLECTION OF HEARTBREAKS

#### Heather Craig

I hired a concussion coach to help me recover from my concussion. He opened my cold dead heart with his healing ways, planned a visit to NYC to spend the weekend with me after months of vibing. Only to in the last weeks leading up to the meetup, get back with his expartner.

#### Mariia

I met him during the Theater Laboratory in Lviv. He and I were very close during our work. We started a short-term relationship, and my trust in him was built on this. At what point did he write to me that he needed help, I offered moral help, and that was the beginning of a long journey, after which I lost all my savings and employment. It all started with a small request to help pay off the debt for the apartment. And then it continued for two months. Regular requests appeared for very good reasons. After that there was a lull. But he already owed me about 7,000 hryvnias, and we continued to talk. Against the background of this, I had romantic feelings that continued until November. He knew about it, but said that it would be even better if we were best friends. After this long pause, he told me that he has a gambling addiction, and that he is in danger of death because he has very large debts and, again, only I can save him. The debt was gaining momentum, but I was not at all surprised that something was going wrong. I hoped for love and received attention from him, but the laboratory ends and we continue to communicate at a distance again. I took out microloans, microcredits, and ended up completely in debt. He said that the money would be - the next day, this week, the next month, and every time he lied, and I did not understand this and waited for the money the next day and week. With him was always -"Where is the money?" I asked those close to me - in the theater - if there were similar situations? To which I received a lot of stories that I was not the first who suffered from him, and that I would never see my money again, because he would not return it. I can say that my eyes were opened, it was all false, it was all manipulation, and it was necessary to switch to another method. And I began to search on the Internet, whether the law of my country can somehow protect me, or somehow get money from him, I wanted to go immediately to the police, but I realized that I did not have any receipt from him, or at all do not have in mind this case I told him about it, he told me that I can go, that nothing will happen to him, since the evidence is insignificant, and that I am not the first person who wants to go to the police.



#### Najee H.F.

It's the day before New Years Eve, 2018 moving into 19, New York. I go to a queer party and lock eyes across the room with this person who I knew and had a crush from afar previous life. The gaze is as familiar, shy and flirty as it was when we were acquaintances living in the same town. He is with my former roommate from my new town. Everyone dances and plots. My former roommate plays match maker and by the end of the night we have a confession of mutual crush, a very hot second location makeout, a date and extremely fun New Years Eve sex the next night... in a much more rundown apartment than I expect for a Lawyer. Next morning, he says he knows a great place to get tacos, we go, he orders for us both and when it comes time to pay he runs outside. I pay. Flash forward to: more unfortunately mind-blowing sex, intense life stories, "meant to be's" "where have you beens" but also trying to steal my wallet in the night before I leave NY, way WAY too much alcohol AND months of emotional manipulation through the phone that includes: promises to come visit, begging me to move to NY but rain checking/backing out when in town, long drunk phone monologues with me as audience, me doing job-hunting secretarial work, me buying him takeout in NY from where I live in another state that culminates in him telling me out of nowhere he has a girlfriend and can't see me the next time I'm in NY.

LOST \$2,245 AND TIME, SOLD FOR \$150

Tass clean

A flat, sunlit, mossy, grass clearing in the dense woods. A 50-year old white woman with shoulder-length brown and gray hair is standing barefoot, facing away from us. She's wearing an oversized bright red t-shirt and long, She's wearing an oversized bright red t-shirt and long, loose denim shorts. Her right hand is covering her face loose denim shorts. Her right hand is covering her face and her left arm is hanging relaxed by her side. Her and her left arm is hanging relaxed by her side. Her and she's leaning forward slightly, shoulders are hunched and she's leaning forward slightly, shoulders. Environmental portraiture, 8k resolution crying. Environmental portraiture, 8k resolution are 3:2 --style raw --v 6.0

# LOT 106 - 110





### 106. RENTAL PROPERTY IN SOMERVILLE, NJ

Caitlin Servilio

I was searching for an apartment rental when I came across a promising ad on Craigslist. I contacted the owner, who pressured me for personal information such as date of birth and drivers' license number. She said it wouldn't be possible for me to view the rental since she had moved out of town, but that she would send me the keys in the mail once she received the down payment. At this point I was forced to terminate communication with her. One detail that has stuck with me, though, is that her email address was dreamvinehome@gmail.com. fantasize about living in a Dream Vine Home, but I am not sure it's in the cards for me.

LOST THE OPPORTUNITY TO LIVE IN A DREAM VINE HOME, SOLD FOR \$25

### 107. LOST MEMORIES

Sarah Hallacher

In 2009 my apartment was broken into by someone who came down the fire escape and crawled through the broken gate of the window. They stole my laptop, external hard drive, and several cameras. I lost hundreds (thousands?) of digital photos, artwork, and ephemera from my early 20's. I remember two lost photos very distinctly: one of my mom scattering her father's ashes in the woods of Pennsylvania, and another of my thenboyfriend's face after I slapped him at his request. I regenerated the photo of my Midjourney and have preserved a description of the memory in engraved acrylic.

LOST \$4,100 AND MEMORIA, SOLD FOR \$45



### 108. SOCIETAL CONSTRUCTIONS OF NORMATIVITY

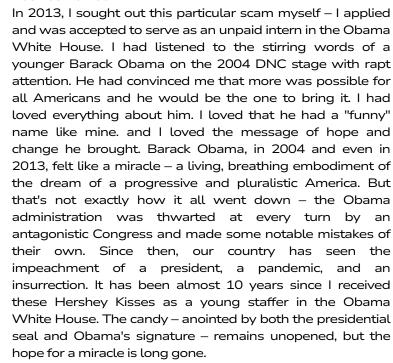
Andrew Samuel Harrison

Life is the expectation. A life gets scammed into normativity systems at birth, by socially constructed categorizations and scammed into engaging in self-reproducing, compulsory systems of normativity. A non-normative person gets scammed by the social norm. Embodied identity feeds power differentials. I was given life, the social world categorizes my body as disabled to keep itself temporarily able bodied. I've been scammed, and I want my life.

LOST IDENTITY, SOLD FOR \$30

### 109. OBAMA'S HOPE

Rashida Kamal



LOST TIME, SOLD FOR \$90

### 110. MISDIAGNOSIS

Maya Pollack

Held up for a doctor to diagnose via Zoom, my knotted hands disproportionately magnified, much like Carravagio's "Supper at Emmaus," the lens bending the depth of field.

UNSPECIFIED AMOUNT OF MONEY LOST, SOLD FOR \$30





# LOT III

### 111. FAMILY PHOTOS

Tong Wu

Well, I am the one who put together the scam. I created a small album of fake family photos that look like they were taken in the 1980s and 1990s, using a fine-tuned generative AI model that could generate pictures with the human figure in which have an appearance similar to mine. I then shared this fake digital album on family group chats and social media, pretending that I just discovered these long-lost photos of my "aunts" and "mother".

No money lost. Plenty of friends who never met my family fell for the ruse completely. My family members were so baffled they started debating if these were their own pictures they simply didn't remember. In the end, it stirred up a sense of nostalgia for the good old days.

LOST MEMORIES, SOLD FOR \$95



















### 112. TOILET PAPER ZINE

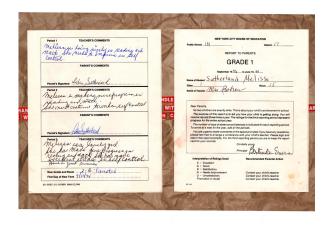
#### Sophia Edwards

People in positions of power (legislators, business owners, etc.) obstruct bathroom access as a form of punishment against houseless folks, transgender/gender non-conforming folks, and folks with varying levels of ability

LOST ACCESS, SOLD FOR \$60

# LOT 113 - 117





### 113. ASSORTMENT OF REJECTION LETTERS, KNIT

Nicole Yi Messier

In 2022 and 2023, I decided to start applying to residencies, grants, and fellowships to find opportunities to show my work. Over the course of roughly 12 months, I applied to 40+ grants and fellowships. I was mostly rejected, sometimes waitlisted, usually sent an email telling me they received 1000s of applications and can't provide feedback, twice emailed and told I ALMOST got it but sorry — "the jury did not choose you." Are these applications a scam? How much unpaid labor do artist do submitting to these things? Is it sustainable? Why do the applications cost money? Who is reading 1000s of application equitably (is that even possible?)

LOST TIME & APPLICATION FEES, SOLD FOR \$115

### 114. REPORT CARD COLLAGE

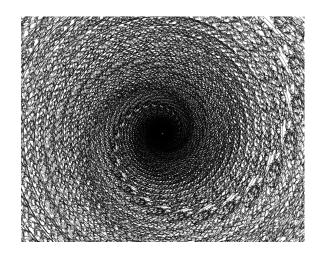
Melissa Sutherland Moss

SCAM LIKELY: The New York City Department of Education (NYCDOE), which is the administrative authority managing the city's vast public school system, has found itself at the heart of controversy. The primary issue under contention is its approach to teaching history in the city's inner city schools. Critics argue that the curriculum places a disproportionate emphasis on Western histories, a narrative that may not necessarily resonate with the diverse student population. The critics suggest that the stories and histories of other cultures, which are relevant to a large number of students, are being overlooked. This approach has consequently led to accusations of causing confusion among students, as well as a pronounced lack of awareness about their own cultural and historical backgrounds. This situation has highlighted the need for a more inclusive curriculum that reflects the multicultural makeup of New York City's student body.

LOST \$60,000, SOLD FOR \$60







### 115. MEMORIAL TO STUDENT LOANS

Ryan Swedenborg

To finish paying off student loans, I took out a private loan from a company my sister recommended. The goal was to reduce interest, but the company was shady with their wording, and I ended up paying more in interest than my initial student loan rate.

A small memorial I made my undergrad student loans and and poor understanding of the predatory field of loan sharks

LOST \$5,000, SOLD FOR \$20

### 116. BOWL

Julia Fernandez

Years ago, my close relative was scammed out of \$600 with the classic gift card scam. The caller claimed to be ConEdison and said she didn't pay the electric bill. The house, a three family complex, was home to several extended family members. From children to older grandparents. I remember the financial strain she was under at the time as she was the responsible party for getting everything paid on time. I wondered, really? How could you fall for that? But I understand now that all she was worried about was providing for all of these people who relied on her at the time. She worried about the kids not being able to do their homework or anyone just not being able to function in their daily lives. Anyway, it really sticks out to me now because while I still say that I would never fall for something like that, it's unfair to judge someone who was under an extreme amount of stress and pressure. This call was just the icing on the cake of built up stress.

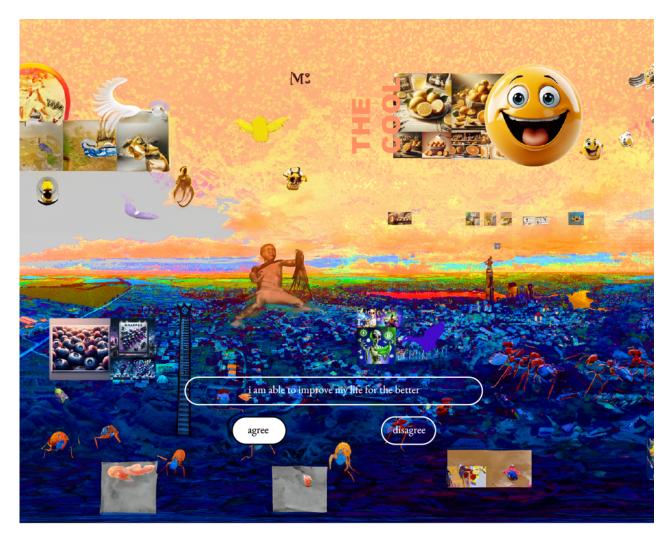
LOST \$600, SOLD FOR \$35

### 117. DAVID RIOS' MIXTAPE

**David Rios** 

The "check out my mixtape" scam where the person puts their cd in your hand and then tries to intimidate you into buying their cd because you are holding it so you "took it" from them. They look for anyone who seems vulnerable (young, tourist, etc). This was in the era when cd was a dominant form of consuming audio

NOTHING LOST, SOLD FOR \$30



### 118. MLM RECRUITMENT

Sam Heckle & Duncan Figurski

https://corpusof.gay/spam/

A two print series featuring the new HNGS. product line. HNGS. can be the product that elevates your life, imbibe in the latest in nano-technology and genetic analysis to put you on the path of a smarter, healthier future. Take HNGS. No more unfulfilled daydreams about which could be. Take HNGS. Our product matching quiz tarts with the same matching "I can improve my life for the better". Batter results of the latest in nano-technology and genetic analysis to put you on the path of a smarter, healthier future. Take HNGS. No more unfulfilled the country of the latest in nano-technology and genetic analysis to put you on the path of a smarter, healthier future. Take HNGS. Our product matching a smarter, healthier future. Take HNGS. No more unfulfilled to the latest in nano-technology and genetic analysis to put you on the path of a smarter, healthier future. Take HNGS. No more unfulfilled to the latest in nano-technology and genetic analysis to put you on the path of a smarter, healthier future. Take HNGS. No more unfulfilled to the latest in nano-technology and genetic analysis to put you on the path of a smarter, healthier future. Take HNGS. No more unfulfilled to the latest in nano-technology and genetic analysis to put you on the path of a smarter, healthier future. Take HNGS. Our product matching and the latest in nano-technology and genetic analysis to put you on the path of a smarter, healthier future. Take HNGS. Our product matching and the latest in nano-technology and genetic analysis to put you on the path of a smarter, healthier future. Take HNGS. Our product matching and the latest in nano-technology and genetic analysis to put you on the latest in nano-technology and genetic analysis to put you on the latest in nano-technology and genetic analysis to put you on the latest in nano-technology and genetic analysis to put you on the latest in nano-technology and genetic analysis to put you on the latest in nano-technology and genetic analysis to put you on the latest in nano-technology and genetic analy

NOTHING LOST, SOLD FOR \$30





### 119. ANALOG RANDOM NUMBER GENERATOR

Seda Anac

Aren't we all scammed? Perhaps, we have also scammed someone intentionally or unintentionally. But scamming someone is a creative work. It requires hard work to find a way and ensure that the person trusts you. I want to diversify the work here to become a scammer. We empathize with people we don't know, and they find our vulnerable moments.

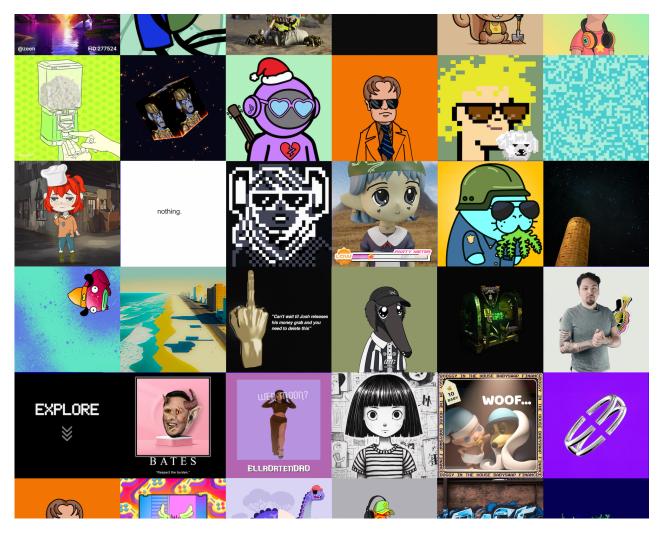
NOTHING LOST, SOLD FOR \$25



### 120. SCAM COLLECTION AUCTION, UNSANCTIONED MERCH

Priyanka Makin Scam Collection Merch

NOTHING LOST, SOLD FOR \$80



### 121. HIDDEN FOLDER, ONLINE ONLY

https://hidden-folder-auction.xyz

This 1 of 1 is a composite of the 36 NFTs sent to the address 0x50178BA32237cDb91584C7C2B92600Be52C0a8F8, deemed worthless by the original owners. It includes a URS, a DAO Turtle, a Non Fungible Ape, two Schroots, a KingFrog, a Goodboi, and more. The original tokens will be sent to a burn address at the conclusion of the auction.

LOST 2.632 ETH or \$7,619, SOLD FOR \$252.50 (at current exchange rate)



SCAN TO BID