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Sunnylands Center and Gardens, Rancho Mirage, California, *Douglas E. Welch*

For the weekend...

from Douglas E. Welch

Issue #7: **January 21, 2022**

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Hammond B3 Keyboard, Douglas E. Welch

Revisit Your Creations and Give Them New Life!

As you may know, I started using TikTok a few months ago. I have been having a fine time there sharing my garden and other projects, but it got me to think again about all of my content from the past -- my podcasts, my photography, my writing, and more. I had found success with re-publishing clips from Rosanne's speaking engagements to her TikTok and it seemed a good idea to look through my videos and see what I might resurface to an almost entirely new audience. Sure enough, the videos are receiving hundreds of views from people that had probably never heard of me or my career talks before.

Art doesn't sell itself in the drawer or on the easel

Perhaps you have some old "content" hidden about on your hard drive that would be appreciated by a new set of people. You could share it any number of ways. Blogs are great for sharing writing, art, and photographs. The same writing could be adapted into a video series or podcast. You could create a TikTok/Instagram Reels series based on concepts you created years ago. Like me, you don't have to follow and participate in all the TikTok trends, but simply do your own thing and let the audience find it.

That has always been one of my goals, of course. ***I take care of the quantity and the audience decides if it has value to them.*** Too often (perhaps always) we underestimate our skills, creativity, and art. We are too close to them. We need to let them fly on their own and see who notices. It costs us nothing but our time. We

don't have to pay for each artwork we post or each poem we share. We only have to make it available somewhere, somehow, on a regular basis.

Our goal is to put it somewhere that an audience may stumble upon it through serendipity or "the algorithm" of their favorite social media site. There is a Bible quote about "*not hiding your light under a bushel*" and I urge you to take that to heart. No one can appreciate your art if no one knows about it. As I often remind Rosanne and her students, screenplays don't sell themselves in the drawer. They must be seen and read. If not, you have exactly 0% chance of ever having them produced. Raising your chances even by 1%-2% should certainly feel like an action worth taking.

Sell It Now!

If you create art of any form -- photographs, illustrations, character design, whatever -- I highly recommend Redbubble as a way of turning your art into dollars. Again, $1 is is more than you would have made otherwise, and selling a product can greatly boost your self-confidence in yourself and your art. I have now sold items on nearly every continent in the world and I love it when an order comes in from Europe, Asia, Australia, and beyond. No matter how small the sale, it makes me so happy to see others enjoying my work.

Even better, Redbubble creates all the products for you, handles all payment, and delivers it directly to your customer. Once each month they deposit your earnings into PayPal. There is no capital outlay required by you. You don't end up with a garage full of products you can't sell and you don't have to navigate the vagaries of local and international shipping.

As another reinforcement about exposing your artwork to the world, the 2 best-selling designs on my Redbubble store are photos of a Hammond B3 keyboard taken at my friend's recording studio. I had no idea at the time that I might turn these into products. I was taking the photos for myself. **Once I shared them with the world, though, an unexpected audience found them (through a little marketing on my part), and those photos spread around the world.** There was no way I could have known that would happen, but through a little effort and time, it did happen. Why not try it yourself?!

I hope these words have encouraged you to revisit your past work and help it find a new life online and IRL people's homes and offices. You can work as much or as little as you want. You can try to sell items or not. Do whatever makes you feel happiest.

Do anything but hide your light, and your art, under a bushel.

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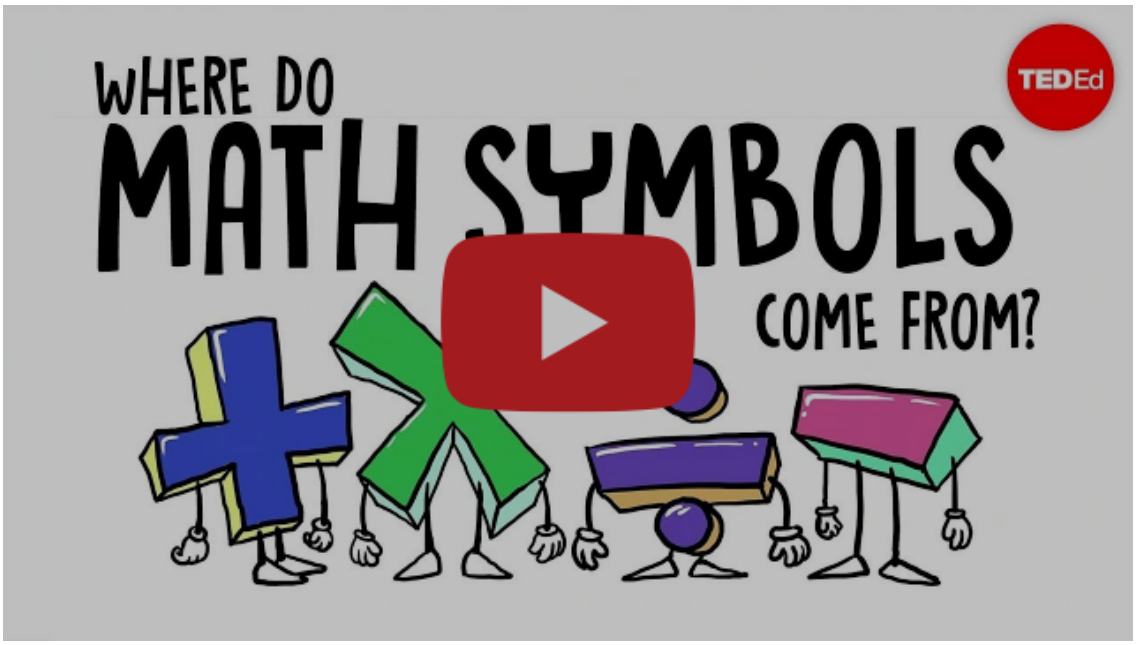
1 Video, 3 Links, and a Book!

Where Do Math Symbols Come From? - TEDEd



Where did =, +, -, x, and other symbols come from?
Learn their history in this video!

3 of the Best Lenses for Bird Photography as Tested by Us

via Phoblographer

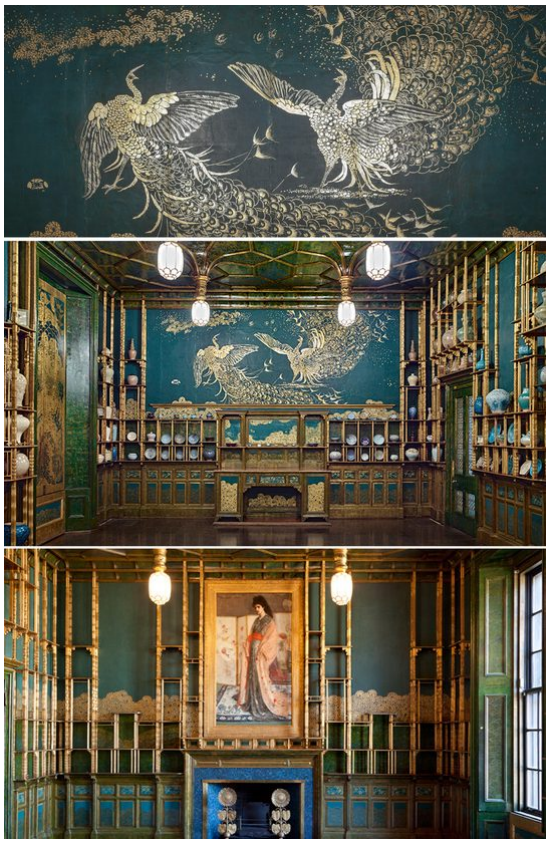
If you went and got into bird photography during the pandemic, then this roundup is for you. In fact, lots of folks suddenly got into birding when there was little to nothing to do. And it's pretty easy to really enjoy this hobby. The thrill of capturing a woodpecker eating something or a sparrow in its nest is wonderful. The best lenses for bird photography take us into worlds we're not always able to see with our naked eyes. We've reviewed tons of lenses, and we dove into our Reviews Index to bring you this special list. We think you'll love it!

Read More!

The Peacock Room

via The Smithsonian

I visited here about 23 years ago and was amazed by the gorgeous room. While it certainly not be to everyone's taste, the workmanship and design are quite striking. I highly recommend taking a few minutes to



enjoy it whenever you might be in Washington, DC.

Originally designed by architect Thomas Jeckyll, the Peacock Room was once the dining room in the London home of Frederick R. Leyland, a wealthy shipowner from Liverpool, England. Although the architect merely asked artist James McNeill Whistler (1834–1903) for advice about what color to paint the shutters and doors, Whistler transformed the entire room, much to the surprise of the room's owner. Between 1876 and 1877, he enhanced the space with golden peacocks, painting every inch of the ceiling and walls to create an elegant setting in which Leyland could display his ceramic collection as well as Whistler's painting *The Princess from the Land of Porcelain*. Leyland was far from pleased with the transformation—and with the artist's requested fee—but he kept the room intact. Whistler never saw the Peacock Room again. Purchased by Charles Lang Freer in 1904 and installed in the Freer Gallery of Art after his death, the Peacock Room is on permanent display.

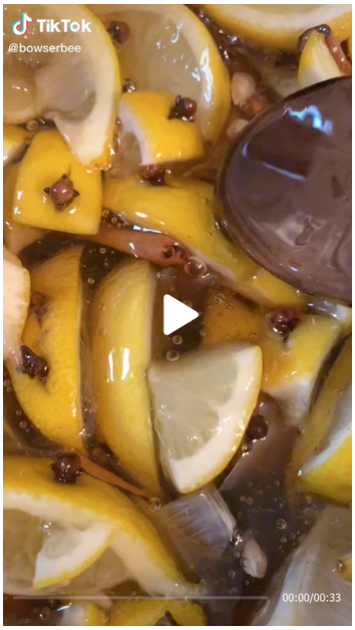
Make It Today!

Spiced Honey

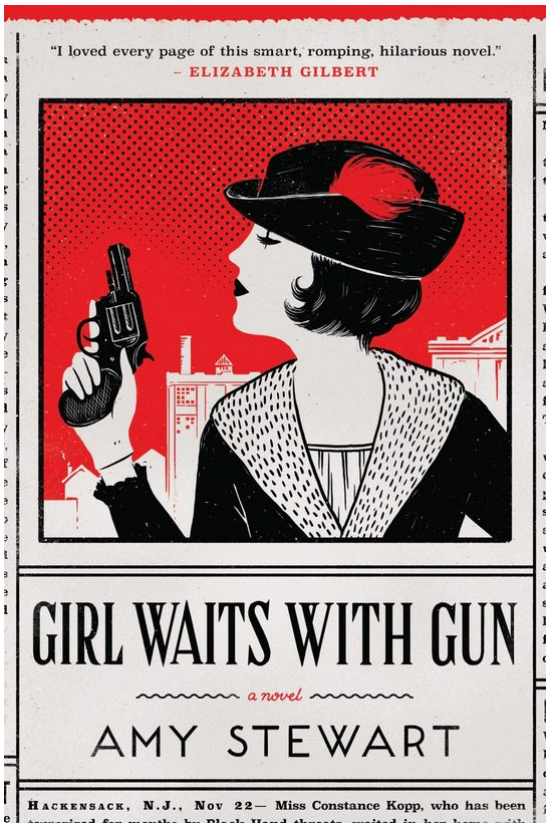
via bowserbee on TikTok

A neat, sweet, treat to take your honey to another level…and also use up some of those extra lemons you might be harvesting.

Watch It Now!



Girl Waits With Gun (A Kopp



Sisters Novel Book 1)

I loved Amy Stewart's previous nonfiction books on "wicked" plants and bugs, and Flower Confidential, her detailed account of the workings of the cut flower industry. When I saw that she had a mystery series, I requested it immediately requested it — and devoured it. — Douglas

Constance Kopp doesn't quite fit the mold. She towers over most men, has no interest in marriage or domestic affairs, and has been isolated from the world since a family secret sent her and her sisters into hiding fifteen years ago. One day a belligerent and powerful silk factory owner runs down their buggy, and a dispute over damages turns into a war of bricks, bullets, and threats as he unleashes his gang on their family farm. When the sheriff enlists her help in convicting the men, Constance is forced to confront her past and defend her family ??—?? and she does it in a way that few women of 1914 would have dared.

Amazon

Check it out from the LA Public Library

Euryops Daisies, Sunnylands Center and Gardens, Rancho Mirage, California

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