- WELCOME TO -
SPRING 2024 CONVOCATION
FRIDAY, MAY 10, 2024 • 2PM - 4PM
EMBASSY SUITES BALLROOM

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO

Original artwork by Anna Rotty, “Coyote Willow (Spring/Summer).” Pigment Print Photograph. 2024.
Program Cover Artwork

Title: “Coyote Willow (Spring/Summer)”
Artist: Anna Rotty
Medium: Pigment Print Photograph
Size: 15 x 10 in.
Date created: 2024

The photograph “Coyote Willow (Spring/Summer)” comes from Anna’s 2024 MFA thesis series “How We Hold the Sun” exploring the relationship between light and water. With her camera, she searches for places where light and shadow come together in the depths or hover on surfaces to illuminate sediment, rephotographing prints within the environment. A printed photograph of the river is submerged in moving water and rephotographed as a portrait, combining the print, light, shadows, and water into a single frame. The light of the sun glistens on the wet print, reflecting and obscuring the original photograph into something tactile and intimate, creating a more complex and abstract portrait of the river, and treating landscape as active rather than as a single fixed moment. Anna investigates the cycles of water, seasonally, and as a result of drought, getting to know the river by recording images with this ever-changing body of water. This work owes deep gratitude to the Tiwa people who have been caring for and communing with the land and water represented in this work since time immemorial.

For more information, please visit: www.annarotty.com
Dear Graduates, Supporters, and Colleagues,

Welcome to the UNM College of Fine Arts Spring 2024 Convocation Ceremony! As the Dean of the College of Fine Arts, it is my privilege to be the first to congratulate you on your arrival at this pivotal moment in your lives: your graduation. On this day of celebration and joy, we recognize those friends, family members, and mentors who saw your potential and your pathway and encouraged you to trust the process, to keep going, even when you felt discouraged. If you are one of these amazing supporters of a graduate, please know you are integral to this celebration and deserve a round of applause. They could not have made it this far without your support, and for that, we thank you.

As a steward of the students of UNM Fine Arts, it is also my duty to thank the countless others who have come before us, who have laid the foundation and cut the pathway for where we now flourish as creative professionals, and to honor those people with a deep sense of gratitude. Our Distinguished Alumnus and guest speaker Col. Keene, who will be retiring from the U.S. Army after 30 years of service, most recently led the Grammy Award winning U.S. Army Field Band, and the UNM Symphony Orchestra at a performance. Please join me in congratulating Col. Jim Keene, who was also recently honored as one of the first recipients of the College of Fine Arts Distinguished Alumni Awards.

Graduates, our last challenge for you is to enjoy the celebration today. You’ve put in the hard work over the years. Today, we join you in celebrating that hard work. Graduates as you cross the stage, we invite you to consider showing your supporters and doubters what you are made of. We invite you to dance across the stage, to share a special handshake, to own the moment, and to create memories with your supporters.

Congratulations graduates, this is only the beginning.
ORDER OF THE CEREMONY

**Processional**
Musical performance by Abraham Franck String Quartet:
Olivia Maia, violin; Natalie Cohen, violin;
Michael Anderson, viola; Lucas Santiago Da Silva, cello

**Introduction**
Harris D. Smith, Dean, MFA, College of Fine Arts

**Distinguished Alumnus Guest Speaker**
Col. Jim Keene, 1988

**Theatre Performance**
“On The Right Track” from *Pippin*:
Nicholas Laemmer, LauraLove Tode

**Student Speaker**
Manuel López-Aínza, BA Candidate
Department of Theatre & Dance

**Presentation of the McRae Award & Outstanding Seniors**
Beth Elkin, Academic Advising Manager
for the College of Fine Arts, MALS, MS

**Presentation of Departmental & Baccalaureate Honors**
Scott Ney, Interim Associate Dean, MA

**Presentation of Candidates in Course to the Dean**
**Art** Dr. Susanne Anderson-Riedel, Chair
**Film & Digital Arts** Dr. James Stone, Chair
**Music** Dr. Michael Hix, Chair
**Theatre & Dance** Donna Jewell, MFA, Chair
**Interdisciplinary Arts** Katie Dukes-Walker, MM, Director

**Introduction of Candidates for Degree**
Associate Deans Megan Gould, MFA, Amanda Hamp, MFA, and
Interim Associate Dean Scott Ney, MA

**Recessional**
UNM Mariachi Ensemble: María José García, violin; Marina Weideman, violin; Tyician Knight, violin; Denise Salas, violin;
Denilson Cisneros, violin; María Martínez, violin; Josue Ortega Bojorquez, trumpet; Mikaela Santisteven, guitarrón; Jorge Ortiz, guitarrón; Robert Lujan, armonía; Brissa García, armonía;
Shaw Jaramillo, armonía
COOPERATION REQUESTED
Family members and guests are encouraged to take photos of the ceremony and graduates. While taking photos, please be courteous and respectful of the students leaving stage. The audience may not enter the stage area at any time during the program.

DIPLOMAS
The Office of the University Registrar will mail diplomas (unless the graduate has specified that it be held for pickup) after grades have been received and recorded, which is usually mid-July for Spring graduates. Please direct any diploma-related questions to the UNM Office of the Registrar at (505) 277-8900 or by emailing degrees@unm.edu.

FOLLOW
unmfinearts on Instagram and at UNM Fine Arts on Facebook for event highlights and to stay connected with upcoming events in your creative community.
ABOUT OUR
DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI GUEST SPEAKER
- COL. JIM R. KEENE -

Col. Jim R. Keen is an alumnus of The University of New Mexico ‘88, and is a native of Albuquerque. Jim Keene has led thousands of performances in 47 states and seven countries including for six U.S. Presidents. He led multiple televised productions, most recently earning a New York Emmy Award for a CBS production, “Songs of Service” and a Grammy Award for “Best Immersive Album” in 2022 as conductor of the United States Army Field Band. Col. Jim R. Keene was the leader of the US Army Field Band, the US Military Academy Band; Commandant of the Army School of Music and served the United States Army Band “Pershing’s Own,” as director of The Army Chorus, The Army Strings and the Army Orchestra, the U.S. Army Europe Band and Chorus in Heidelberg, Germany, and the Ground Forces Band in Atlanta. He led the Joint Forces Chorus at G.H.W. Bush’s memorial service, and music for the interments of Presidents Ronald Reagan and Gerald R. Ford. He has conducted the New York Philharmonic, The Detroit Symphony, the New York Philharmonic, The Boston Pops, the Japan Central Band, and the Dallas Winds. He has performed with numerous artists including Ray Charles.

ABOUT OUR
STUDENT SPEAKER
- MANUEL LÓPEZ-AÍNZA -

Manuel (Manny) López-Aínza is receiving a Bachelor of Arts in Theater. He was a 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 Fine Arts Student Ambassador for Theatre & Dance. Manny has performed in six stage productions, Polaroid Stories, Letters to a Dead Poet, The Season of La Llorona, Below Sea Level, Pippin, and The Imaginary Invalid. He has also participated in six student films including Tying On, A Prism in Shadow, The Bridge, Bread, and Infinity. Manny has been acting for film since 2015 and has worked on AMC’s Better Call Saul, EPIX’s Perpetual Grace, LTD, and Amazon’s The Graceful Path, among other film and tv projects. He plans to continue working in film and television. Manny also teaches acting for film and NM film industry classes in the community.
The Covington-Rhode Senior Prize in Art at The University of New Mexico recognizes outstanding achievement of our undergraduate art students during their senior year, to promote professionalism and excellence in the visual arts, and motivate and encourage all art students to achieve their fullest potential throughout their years in the program. It’s a competitive award for graduating seniors earning a degree in Art exhibiting their artwork and participating in a professional evaluation. The Covington-Rhode Prize was established in 2018 by Patricia Covington and Shari Rhode. Dr. Covington earned two degrees, a BA in Art and a BA in Anthropology from the University of New Mexico in 1968.

IN MEMORIUM
Patricia “Pat” Covington
June 21, 1946 – July 19, 2023

Pat Covington studied art and earned her Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology in 1968 from The University of New Mexico. She ultimately earned her M.S. in Education and a Ph.D. from Southern Illinois University – Carbondale. While inspiring countless students as a Professor of Art and Assistant Director of the School of Art at SIU-C, she also maintained memberships in more than a dozen councils and associations, including the Illinois Board of Higher Education Art Association, where she served as Chairman for ten years. In 2018, along with her partner, Shari Rhode, Pat established the Covington-Rhode Senior Prize in Art at the University of New Mexico.

The Covington-Rhode Senior Prize in Art has proven to be a transformative gift to the UNM Department of Art by motivating our undergraduate students, helping with recruitment and retention, thus increasing the visibility and esteem of the Department. The project helps students acquire the skills that will enhance their capacity for creative and professional success. They develop the tools they will need in professional practice, giving them a hands-on experience in creating an application, as well as planning and preparing for an exhibition. Additionally, the prize money provides funding for our students who win as they matriculate from UNM and go out in the world to make their way as artists, giving them funds to take the next steps in their burgeoning careers.
AWARDS & HONORS

Covington-Rhode Senior Prize
- Liz Courts -

Liz Courts is an interdisciplinary artist who works with multiple mediums to craft narrative works that embrace emotional catharsis and community. Curiosity and experimentation with materials and fabrication methods are at the heart of her practice, allowing her to choose the right approach for her storytelling. She is graduating with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Art Studio, with a minor in Arts Leadership and Business. Following graduation, she will be attending Rochester Institute of Technology in New York to pursue an MFA in Fine Arts, with an eye to pursue the possibilities of combining art, design, and technology.

Covington-Rhode Senior Prize
- Lauren Reddington -

Lauren Reddington is a visual artist born and raised in New Mexico. She is in her last semester at the University of New Mexico, graduating with a BFA in Studio Art with a concentration in photography. Through photography, Lauren became obsessed with the fear of forgetting and became reliant on the mediums’ role as a memory collector. She finds documentary photography appealing because it unearths self-discovery and provides educational tools to better understand the land she grew up on. Her practice currently focuses on uranium contamination in her hometown of Grants, New Mexico where she challenges the normalcy herself and her community have adopted to the land contamination and steady cancer rates through visual art such as video installation, immersive exhibitions, and photographs. After graduating, Lauren plans to further explore her personal practice through collaborating with other artists and furthering her research on uranium contamination in New Mexico.

Covington-Rhode Senior Prize
- Andrew Roibal -

Andrew Roibal is a Native American artist based in the Southwest. After spending many years doing artwork as a hobby, he pursued art in college to develop his skills across a variety of mediums, specifically photography. His preferred subject matter includes portraits, landscapes, and miniatures, portrayed in vivid circumstances through a lens of indigeneity.
AWARDS & HONORS

Department of Film & Digital Arts

Gus Blaisdell Memorial Award in Critical and Creative Writing

- WILLIAM MARTINEZ -

Beloved faculty member Gus Blaisdell encouraged and appreciated original and incisive prose, and the prize that bears his name is awarded to a student whose writing meets his high standards.

Will Martinez is graduating summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts in Film and Digital Arts, concentrating in Film History and Criticism with a second major in English Studies. During their time at UNM they have acted as the Assistant Editor to the Mentoring Institute and worked as a staff member for Conceptions Southwest. Will also participated in study abroad at The University of Sussex where they discovered their love of public transit. Following graduation, they intend to take a year off to continue editing for the Chronicle of Mentoring & Coaching before they pursue post-graduate studies related to critical theory and political identity in film and literature. From their time in the film department, Will has learned that film art should build cultures of resistance that reveal injustice and defend the existence of the oppressed.

Michael Costello Memorial Award for Service

- MATTHEW BACHER -

In tribute to alumnus and employee Michael Costello, this award is presented to a student who exemplifies the spirit of service to other students, faculty, and staff.

Matthew Bacher is from Conifer, Colorado, and is completing his senior year in Film and Digital Arts. He plans to continue with digital utilities. His goals are to create stories with a powerful and emotional message. At the age of 12, Bacher was inspired by the series “Band of Brothers,” and cried at the end. He realized that films don’t just have the power to tell a story, but they also have the power to affect someone’s emotions and that hit him to the core. He wants to create movies that have an emotional impact on people and carry them away. Bacher also interned on a film for Disney that was shot in Albuquerque. Matt finished his schooling at UNM by creating a capstone film entitled Silent Courage.
Theodore Presser Scholarship

- AMETHYST GALLEGOS -

The Presser Undergraduate Scholar Award is awarded annually to an outstanding music major at or near the end of his or her junior year. The award is based on merit and achievement and is intended to recognize excellence.

Born and raised in Albuquerque, NM, Amethyst Gallegos is a first-generation student graduating with a Bachelor of Music Education. During their time at UNM, they served as president of both the Gamma Iota chapter of Kappa Kappa Psi organizations, and as president of UNM’s chapter of the National Association for Music Education (NAME). They have been a member of several ensembles at the university including the Spirit Marching Band, Symphonic Band, Soundpack, Wind Symphony, and the Symphony Orchestra. Amethyst would like to thank their family, friends, girlfriend, and cat for supporting them through college. They plan on staying in Albuquerque to teach music and are honored to be the 2024 Presser Scholar.

Outstanding Senior in Music Education

- JORDYN TATUM -

This year’s Outstanding Senior in Music Education is Jordyn Tatum. Born and raised in Albuquerque, New Mexico, Tatum is proud to be graduating from UNM with a Bachelor of Music Education. Having joined the chorister program at the age of six, she continues to sing and work at the Cathedral of St. John as the chorister assistant and soprano section leader. As a church musician, she has had the opportunity to make music in cathedrals like The Washington National Cathedral, and Westminster Abbey. Jordyn believes that every child should have equal access to high quality music education regardless of their circumstances. As a music educator, she hopes to build music programs that foster inclusivity, accessibility, and create safe spaces for students to be their authentic selves. Teachers have a profound impact on our lives, and she would not be where she is today without the guidance and support of her professors, past music teachers, and friends and family. Thank you for being with her on this journey.
The Donald McRae Award for Outstanding Senior

Donald McRae was Dean of the College of Fine Arts from 1978 to 1986. The award recognizes one outstanding senior student from each department, and selects one winner from these candidates for the McRae Award. Students are selected based on academics, service to the college and university, contributions to the arts, and an interview process. The award has continued to recognize outstanding students with support from the McRae family.

- Outstanding Senior, Dept. of Art, **MAYA CHACON**
- Outstanding Senior, Dept. of Film & Digital Arts, **RYLEE NORMAN**
- Outstanding Senior, Dept. of Music, **JORDYN TATUM**
- Outstanding Senior, Dept. of Theatre & Dance, **MANUEL LÓPEZ-AÍNZA**
- Outstanding Senior, Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Arts, **MEGAN JOHNSON**

Outstanding Senior
DEPARTMENT OF ART
- **MAYA CHACON**

Maya Chacon was born and raised in Veguita, New Mexico and currently lives and works in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Chacon graduated in December 2023 with a Bachelor in Fine Arts in Studio Art with a focus in painting and drawing. Her work, which is primarily painting, focuses on trying to create a bridge between people. She strives to explore the intricate layers of emotions, thoughts, and experiences that make up the essence of who we are as individuals and as a collective. By bringing together abstract ideas and the human condition, her art seeks to evoke a sense of introspection, understanding, and connection.
**The Donald McRae Award for Outstanding Senior**

**Outstanding Senior**
DEPARTMENT OF FILM & DIGITAL ARTS  
- RYLEE NORMAN -

Rylee Norman is receiving a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Film and Digital Arts and minoring in Honors Interdisciplinary Arts. She is the current Executive Director of ASUNM Southwest Film Center which hosts The Cherry Reel Film Festival, the biggest student film festival in the state of New Mexico. After graduating, Rylee will be pursuing her M.A. in Directing Fiction at Queen Mary’s University of London in hopes of becoming a Director and Screenwriter.

**Outstanding Senior**
DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC  
- JORDYN TATUM -

Jordyn Tatum was born and raised in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and is proud to be graduating with her Bachelor of Music Education. Having joined the chorister program at the age of six, Jordyn continues to sing at the Cathedral of St. John. She has extensive experience in ensemble and solo singing and has had the opportunity to make music in cathedrals like The Washington National Cathedral, and Westminster Abbey. She plans to stay local and teach music before pursuing a master’s degree. Jordyn wishes to thank all of her past music teachers for shaping her into who she is today.
The Donald McRae Award for Outstanding Senior

Manuel López-Aínza

DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE & DANCE

Manuel López-Aínza is receiving a Bachelor of Arts in Theater. He was a 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 Fine Arts Student Ambassador for Theatre & Dance. Manuel has performed in six stage productions, Polaroid Stories, Letters to a Dead Poet, The Season of La Llorona, Below Sea Level, Pippin, and The Imaginary Invalid. He has also participated in six student films including Tying On, A Prism in Shadow, The Bridge, Bread, and Infinity. Manuel has been acting for film since 2015 and has worked on AMC’s Better Call Saul, EPIX’s Perpetual Grace, LTD, and Amazon’s The Graceful Path, among other film and tv projects. He plans to continue working in film and television. Manuel also teaches acting for film and NM film industry classes in the community.

Megan Johnson

DEPARTMENT OF INTERDISCIPLINARY ARTS

Megan Johnson is an interdisciplinary creative whose disciplines include photography, videography, content creation, graphic design, and screen printing. Megan is receiving a Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Arts. Rooted in a bright, warm aesthetic, her artistic style is deeply inspired by people, with a particular passion for documenting stories, vision and capturing authentic moments. As she continues her journey in the realm of interdisciplinary arts after university, her aspirations extend beyond the artistic, encompassing a desire to create impactful narratives, contribute to her community, and explore the boundless possibilities of entrepreneurship.
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Major</th>
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<tr>
<td>Rocio Aguilar</td>
<td>BA Art Studio</td>
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<td>Raquel E. Anaya</td>
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<td>Devonna M. Billy</td>
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<td>Kacie R. Carpenter</td>
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<td>Tamaron Chee</td>
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<td>Jocelyn Ibarra</td>
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<td>Adrian Alexander Jones</td>
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<td>Matthew J. Jones</td>
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<td>Estefania G. Medrano</td>
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<td>Ashlyn Olsofsky</td>
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<td>Camilla V. Parker</td>
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<td>Nancy K. Perea</td>
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</table>
Jhoana A. Perez Lopez  
BA Art Studio  
Second Major: Chicana & Chicano Studies

Sarah E. Perkison  
BFA Art Studio  
**Suma Cum Laude

Lauren E. Reddington  
BFA Art Studio  
**Suma Cum Laude

Ted T. Rivera  
BA Art Studio  
Minor: Arts Leadership & Business

Ariana L. Robinson  
BA Art Education

Andrew S. Roibal  
BFA Art Studio  
**Suma Cum Laude

Ryan C. Romine  
BFA Art Studio

Elba C. Rudolfo  
BA Art Studio

Eva C. Sanchez  
BFA Art Studio  
**Cum Laude

Rebecca B. Shalliker  
BA Art History

Keila V. Suazo  
BFA Art Studio

Melanie E. Tharnish  
BFA Art Studio

Sierra R. Trujillo  
BA Art Education

Elisabeth G. Williams  
BFA Art Studio  
**Cum Laude

Brittany-Ann Webster  
BA Art Studio

James P. West  
BFA Art Studio

Audrey R. Wilkins  
BA Art Studio  
Minor: Film Production

Leo L. Wines  
BFA Art Studio

Dylan Zinn  
BA Art Studio
DEPARTMENT OF FILM & DIGITAL ARTS

Matthias J. Abasumoh  
BA Film & Digital Arts  
Concentration: Gaming & Animation

Gilbert L. Burkman  
BA Film & Digital Arts  
Concentration: Film Production

Fatima A. Adawee  
BFA Film & Digital Arts

Sophie F. Carlberg  
BFA Film & Digital Arts

Alexander C. Atencio  
BA Film & Digital Arts  
Concentration: Gaming

Courtney. Chomycia  
BA Film & Digital Arts  
Concentration: Film Production

Frederico G. Austin  
BA Film & Digital Arts  
Concentration: Animation

Kyle C. Crist  
BFA Film & Digital Arts

Matthew R. Bacher  
BFA Film & Digital Arts

Christopher D. DeBonis  
BA Film & Digital Arts  
Concentration: Gaming

Daniela Basista  
BA Film & Digital Arts  
Concentration: Animation

Christie Dobson  
BA Film & Digital Arts  
Concentration: Film Production

Nadia Y. Benchbana  
BA Film & Digital Arts  
Concentration: Film Production  
Minor: Psychology

Julia M. Doke  
BA Film & Digital Arts  
Concentration: Animation

Marcus A. Bratton  
BFA Film & Digital Arts

Maya X. Dominguez  
BFA Film & Digital Arts

Edder A. Bravo-Lozano  
BA Film & Digital Arts  
Concentration: Animation  
Minor: Art History

Katherine J. Dunworth  
BA Film & Digital Arts  
Concentration: Animation

Jack J. Brown  
BFA Film & Digital Arts
DEPARTMENT OF FILM & DIGITAL ARTS

Jose Elguezabal
BA Film & Digital Arts

Katrina F. Estrada
BA Film & Digital Arts
Concentration: Film Production

Corey S. Fong
BA Film & Digital Arts
Concentration: Animation
Minor: Art

Dominic Fraire
BA Film & Digital Arts
Concentration: Film Production

Isabella J. Frasco
BA Film & Digital Arts
Concentration: Film Production

Mariana García
BA Film & Digital Arts
Concentration: Animation

Eric A. George
BFA Film & Digital Arts

Elijah M. Gonzales
BA Film & Digital Arts
Concentration: Gaming

Chase A. Hartley
BA Film & Digital Arts
Concentration: Gaming
Minor: Art

Anna B. Hawkins
BFA Film & Digital Arts

Philip S. Henshaw
BFA Film & Digital Arts

Henry A. Hidalgo
BFA Film & Digital Arts

Jackson J. Higgins
BFA Film & Digital Arts

Dante E. Holguin
BFA Film & Digital Arts
Minor: Architecture

Sadie J. Hopkins
BA Film & Digital Arts
Concentration: Film Hist. & Critic

Julia S. Kaskiewicz
BA Film & Digital Arts
Concentration: Film Production

Davin Lee
BFA Film & Digital Arts

Ellisif V. Leishman
BFA Film & Digital Arts

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<td>Anderson S. Lovell</td>
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<td>Trung V. Luu</td>
<td>BA Film &amp; Digital Arts</td>
<td>Concentration: Animation 1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; Minor: Computer Science</td>
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<td>William T. Martinez</td>
<td>BA Film &amp; Digital Arts</td>
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