

Dan Nelson  
81Glen Ave., Apt.100  
Oakland, CA 94611

Feb. 11, 2006

SkyDive Las Vegas  
1401 Airport Rd # 4  
Boulder City NV 89005

Dear SkyDive Las Vegas:

I am a photographer/artist currently engaged in a project called "140 Ways To Make a Tape Unlistenable." The idea is to find as many *different*--and hopefully spectacular--ways as possible. One of the ways that I've come up with is to drop a cassette tape out of an airplane.

I assure you that this is no joke. And you can see how easily you might fit in to this project, i.e. in helping me carry out number 102 on my list of ways. I reside in California, and could invite a local company, but I wanted to make this project inclusive of every state in the union, and have already secured the participation of individuals and companies in eighteen states. Furthermore, it seemed that your planes might well fly over relatively unpopulated areas, which would be appealing for obvious reasons.

If you are interested in participating in a project at the very cutting edge of the international art scene, all that I would need to represent this item in my catalog is a short letter, after the fact, stating when the cassette was dropped, by whom, from what height and over what area, and any other relevant or interesting details.

I realize you are busy, so I thank you for the time in answering this enquiry at the address stated above.

Best,

Dan Nelson

Dan Nelson  
81 Glen Ave., Apt.100  
Oakland, CA 94611

Feb. 11, 2006

Niagara Falls Tourism  
5515 Stanley Avenue  
Niagara Falls, Ontario  
Canada L2G 3X4

Dear Niagara Falls Tourism:

I am a photographer/artist currently engaged in a project called "140 Ways To Make a Tape Unlistenable." The idea is to find as many *different*--and hopefully spectacular--ways as possible. One of the ways that I've come up with is to send a cassette tape over a waterfall, and what falls more beautiful and resplendent than Niagara Falls?

You may, at this point, see how you might fit in to this project, i.e. in helping me carry out number 55 on my list of ways. Since I reside in California, and am unsure when my next visit to Niagara may occur (though God grant it be soon!), perhaps you employ someone who would be willing to throw caution to the wind in throwing a cassette into the mighty maw of Niagara!

If you are interested in participating in a project at the very cutting edge of the international art scene, all that I would need to represent this item in my catalog is a short letter stating when the cassette was launched over the falls, by whom, the weather, barometric pressure, and all other relevant details.

You may ask yourself: Why Niagara? Why us? But what falls has lent itself throughout history more to the imaginations of the hare-brained than Niagara?

I realize you are very busy, so I thank you for the time in answering this enquiry at the address stated above.

Best,

Dan Nelson

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81Glen Ave., Apt.100  
Oakland, CA 94611

Feb. 11, 2006

Saw Mill Auto Wreckers  
12 Worth Street  
Yonkers, NY 10701

Dear Saw Mill Auto Wreckers:

I am a photographer/artist currently engaged in a project called "140 Ways To Make a Tape Unlistenable." The idea is to find as many *different*--and hopefully spectacular--ways as possible. One of the ways that I've come up with is to have a cassette tape placed into an automobile that is about to be compacted.

You may, at this point, see how you might fit in to this project, i.e. in helping me carry out number 89 on my list of ways. I reside in California, and could easily invite a local company, but I wanted to make this project inclusive of every state in the union.

If you are interested in participating in a project at the very cutting edge of the international art scene, all that I would need to represent this item in my catalog is a short letter, after the fact, stating when the cassette and auto were compacted, by whom, and any other relevant or interesting details.

I realize you are very busy, so I thank you for the time in answering this enquiry at the address stated above.

Best,

Dan Nelson

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81 Glen Ave., Apt.100  
Oakland, CA 94611

Feb. 11, 2006

Public Inquiries Business Center  
NASA Headquarters  
Suite 1M32  
Washington, DC 20546-0001

Dear NASA:

I am a photographer/artist currently engaged in a project called "140 Ways To Make a Tape Unlistenable." The idea is to find as many *different*--and hopefully spectacular--ways as possible. Two of the ways that I've come up with are: a) to send one into orbit in a satellite, and b) to send one into a black hole.

All that I would need to represent these items in my catalog is a memorandum, after the fact, for each event, stating when cassette A was launched and a short description of its orbit; and when it is calculated that the gravitational pull of the black hole exceeded the escape velocity of cassette B, approximately where in the solar system this occurred, and any other relevant or interesting details. If it is found difficult to locate a suitable black hole, then propelling cassette B into a senescent supernova would prove satisfactory to the aims of the project.

I assure you that this is no joke. If you are interested in participating in a project at the very cutting edge of the international art scene, that combines several media in an exciting, relevant way, then we would welcome your input.

I realize that you are probably very busy, so I thank you for the time in answering this enquiry at the address stated above.

Best,

Dan Nelson

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81 Glen Ave., Apt.100  
Oakland, CA 94611

Feb. 11, 2006

Data Decimation  
47 Snellings Court  
Severna Park, MD. 21146

Dear Data Decimation:

I am an artist currently engaged in a project called "140 Ways To Make a Tape Unlistenable." One of the ways that I've come up with is to send the tape to a document destruction company. Now that you have a sense of how you might fit in to this project, I wondered what the fee would be to have Data Decimation destroy a single cassette tape.

It wouldn't behoove me financially, after all, to acquire, even secondhand, the industrial-grade IBM Tape Destroyer 380/500 with 120 liter waste volume capacity. It'd be overkill!

Since I realize you must deal normally with much higher-volume accounts, I thank you for the time in answering this enquiry.

Best,

Dan Nelson

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81Glen Ave., Apt.100  
Oakland, CA 94611

Feb. 11, 2006

Superior Demolition Co., Inc.  
1335 E. State Fair  
Detroit, MI 48203-1239

Dear Superior Demolition:

I am a photographer/artist currently engaged in a project called "140 Ways To Make a Tape Unlistenable." The idea is to find as many *different*--and hopefully spectacular--ways as possible. One of the ways that I've come up with is to have a cassette tape placed into a building scheduled to be demolished.

You may, at this point, see how you might fit in to this project, i.e. in helping me carry out number 89 on my list of ways. I reside in California, and could easily invite a local company, but I wanted to make this project inclusive of every state in the union, and have already secured the participation of companies in eighteen states.

If you are interested in participating in a project at the very cutting edge of the international art scene, all that I would need to represent this item in my catalog is a short letter, after the fact, stating when the building housing the cassette was demolished, by whom, and any other relevant or interesting details.

I realize you are very busy, so I thank you for the time in answering this enquiry at the address stated above.

Best,

Dan Nelson

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81 Glen Ave., Apt.100  
Oakland, CA 94611

Feb. 11, 2006

Cate Nelson  
Los Angeles, CA

Dear Cate:

I'm a photographer/artist currently engaged in a project called "140 Ways To Make a Tape Unlistenable." The idea is to find as many *different*--and hopefully spectacular--ways as possible. One of the ways that I've come up with is to throw a tape into the LaBrea Tar Pits.

So this is number 53 on the list, and if you are interested in participating in this project, all that I'll need is a short letter stating when the tape was thrown in, the weather, and any other relevant or interesting details. Proposals have been submitted to an auto wrecker, a building demolition company, and the Niagara Falls Tourism Board, among others; and the gallery showing of the project will take the form of photos, video, audio, sculpture, and letters from participants.

The raw material of this project is the large cassette collection of a Bay Area ex-hipster turned crack addict, whose cassettes far outnumber the ways I can find to destroy them. It's a sort of anti-homage, in the same sense as an anti-hero. I've skimmed maybe a dozen of the tapes, many of which are noise/experimental, and the tape you would receive would be picked at random.

I realize you are busy, so I thank you for the time in answering this enquiry at the address stated above.

Best,

Dan Nelson

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81 Glen Ave., Apt. 100  
Oakland, CA 94611

Feb. 11, 2006

Dynamic-Korea.com  
2370 Massachusetts Ave. NW  
Washington, D.C. 20008

Dear Korean Embassy:

I am an artist living in Oakland who is working on a project to bring about world peace, and good relations between all nations. Part of my project involves sending key world figures a cassette tape with a message and prayer for world peace.

So I wondered if you could help me. I want to send a tape to the honorable Kim Jong Il, and would like to know what postal address I could use, so that he could receive my tape. It is an ordinary cassette tape and I don't mind who listens to it: the more people the better! But I would like to reach out to him, especially as an American, to help relieve suffering for all mortal beings.

Thank you for your time.

Best,

Daniel Nelson



Dan Nelson  
81 Glen Ave., Apt.100  
Oakland, CA 94611

Feb. 11, 2006

Gagosian Gallery  
456 North Camden Drive  
Beverly Hills, CA 90210

Dear Gagosian Gallery:

I am a photographer/artist currently engaged in a project called "140 Ways To Make a Tape Unlistenable." The idea is to find as many *different*--and hopefully spectacular--ways as possible. One of the ways that I've come up with is to bury the tape with a dead body, specifically to sew it into a body that will then be buried.

You may, at this point, wonder how you might fit in to this project, i.e. in helping me carry out number 67 on my list of ways. Acutely aware of the difficulty in carrying out this item, perhaps the fourth most difficult on my list, I have been hesitant to approach funeral homes with such a request, and instead seek an individual willing to assure, post mortem, the eternal resting place of this particular cassette.

Ed Ruscha strikes me as someone who might intuit the purpose of this piece without explanation of it, since I am unable to furnish one.

If he is interested, all that I would need to represent this item in my project is a short letter, in his hand, stating his intent to be interred with the cassette in his person, and whatever details might lend themselves to the expressiveness of the event, e.g. where services might be held, what rituals might be attendant thereto, etc.

Please be assured that my request is in no way meant to imply the senility or frailty of Mr. Ruscha, for whom I bear the utmost regard.

I realize you are very busy, so I thank you for the time in answering this enquiry at the address stated above.

Best,

Dan Nelson

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81Glen Ave., Apt.100  
Oakland, CA 94611

Feb. 11, 2006

Piedmont Pyrotechnics  
1107 Manning Road  
Lawsonville, NC 27022

Dear Piedmont Pyrotechnics:

I am an artist currently engaged in a project called "140 Ways To Make a Tape Unlistenable." The idea is to find as many *different*--and hopefully spectacular--ways as possible. One of the ways that I've come up with is to strap the tape to a firework, and send it aloft on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Now that you have a sense of how you might fit in to this project, I wondered if you'd be interested in helping me carry out number 47 on my list of ways.

If you are, all that I need to represent this in my project is a short letter, after the fact, stating that a tape was fired into the air, when, where, etc.

I realize you are probably very busy, so I thank you for the time in answering this enquiry.

Best,

Dan Nelson

Dan Nelson  
81Glen Ave., Apt.100  
Oakland, CA 94611

Feb. 11, 2006

Peter Nelson  
881 Main St. S.  
Woodbury, CT 06798

Dear Peter:

I'm a photographer/artist currently engaged in a project called "140 Ways To Make a Tape Unlistenable." The idea is to find as many *different*--and hopefully spectacular--ways as possible. One of the ways that I've come up with is to blow one up with a cannon. Your name was recommended to me as one at the forefront of small-scale demolition.

So this is number 116 on the list, and if you are interested in participating in this project, all that I'll need is a short letter stating when the tape was blown up, the weather, and any other relevant or interesting details. Proposals have been submitted to an auto wrecker, a building demolition company, and the Niagara Falls Tourism Board, among others; and the gallery showing of the project will take the form of photos, video, audio, sculpture, and letters from participants. Some of the best minds in the art world have worked feverishly freezing, burning, shooting with arrows, and otherwise compromising the integrity of cassette tapes.

I realize you are busy, so I thank you for the time in answering this enquiry at the address stated above.

Best,

Dan Nelson

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81Glen Ave., Apt.100  
Oakland, CA 94611

Feb. 11, 2006

Diane Reed and Bruce Henrickson  
York, PA

Dear Mom and Bruce:

I'm a photographer/artist currently engaged in a project called "140 Ways To Make a Tape Unlistenable." The idea is to find as many *different*--and hopefully spectacular--ways as possible. One of the ways that I've come up with is to throw a cassette into a cooling tower at the Three Mile Island nuclear facility. As you reside near this facility, and the trip makes for a nice day outing, I hope you will agree to participate.

This item is number 90 on the list, and if you are interested in participating in this project, all that I'll need is a short letter stating when the tape was thrown into the tower, the weather, and any other relevant or interesting details. Proposals have been submitted to an auto wrecker, a building demolition company, NASA, and the Niagara Falls Tourism Board, among others; and the gallery showing of the project will take the form of photos, video, audio, sculpture, and letters from participants. Some of the best minds in the art world have worked feverishly freezing, burning, shooting with arrows, and otherwise compromising the integrity of these cassette tapes.

I realize you are busy, so I thank you for the time in answering this enquiry at the address stated above.

Best,

Dan Nelson

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81Glen Ave., Apt.100  
Oakland, CA 94611

Feb. 11, 2006

Kid 606  
c/o Tigerbeat  
3358 24th St.  
San Francisco, CA 94110

Dear Kid 606:

I'm a photographer/artist currently engaged in a project called "140 Ways To Make a Tape Unlistenable." The idea is to find as many *different*--and hopefully spectacular--ways as possible. One of the ways that I've come up with is, well how can I express this tactfully: to give a cassette to a musician to use as source material for their own work. With the understanding, on the part of myself, that the musician's work is, not to put too fine a point on it, unlistenable.

So this is number 101 on the list, and if you are interested in participating in this project, your participation could take either of two forms: an audio piece using the sound material on the cassette, that would be available for the showing of this project; or a short letter stating something about how you intend to use the material and any other relevant or interesting details. Proposals have been submitted to an auto wrecker, a building demolition company, and the Niagara Falls Tourism Board, among others; and the gallery showing of the project will take the form of photos, video, audio, sculpture, and letters from participants.

The raw material of this project is the large cassette collection of a Bay Area ex-hipster turned crack addict, whose cassettes far outnumber the ways I can find to destroy them. It's a sort of anti-homage, in the same sense as an anti-hero. I've skimmed maybe a dozen of the tapes, many of which are noise/experimental, and the tape you would receive would be picked at random.

I realize you are busy, so I thank you for the time in answering this enquiry at the address stated above.

Best,

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Oakland, CA 94611

Feb. 11, 2006

Erie Blacktop, Inc.  
P.O. Box 2308  
Sandusky, Ohio 44870

Dear Erie Blacktop:

I am a photographer/artist currently engaged in a project called "140 Ways To Make a Tape Unlistenable." The idea is to find as many *different*--and hopefully spectacular--ways as possible. One of the ways that I've come up with is to have a cassette paved over, preferably in someone's driveway, and preferably known only to the pavers.

You may, at this point, see how you might fit in to this project, i.e. in helping me carry out number 59 on my list of ways. I reside in California, and could easily invite a local company, but I wanted to make this project inclusive of every state in the union.

If you are interested in participating in a project at the very cutting edge of the international art scene, all that I would need to represent this item in my catalog is a short letter, after the fact, stating when the cassette was paved over, by whom, the street or highway and town where it is buried, and all other relevant details.

I realize you are very busy, so I thank you for the time in answering this enquiry at the address stated above.

Best,

Dan Nelson