Diego Rivera, 1931 company my son decame familiar with decause of their 81 The Making of a Fresco Showing the Building of a City, also be read as an attitude of love in the face of hate. meant to imply that envy is a motivation factor could while wearing his DGK 'I 🕶 Haters!' hat. The statemen 80 Artist's son inadvertently making a Jesus hand signal 79 Bobby and the artist's son in Hollenbeck Park, 2012 78 Portrait of the artist's son by Shawn Mortensen, 2005. Bitches ain't shit but hos and tricks'. 1992 album The Chronic, in which Snoop Dogg sings 77 Internet meme originating from a song on Dr. Dre's

East Los Angeles in March, 2007.

76 Photo of Bobby's best friend, now deceased, appearing was shot and killed in Los Angeles. Shawn Mortensen on March 8, 1997, the day before he Christopher George Latore Wallace, b. 1972) taken by 75 Portrait of Biggie Smalls, aka Notorious B.I.G. (née

Gutta, was shot four times by a rival gang member in

as screensaver. 18 year old Jonathan Hurtado, aka J.

of the year. announced he'd be leaving the music business at the end 74 DJ Quik headlined the 'West Coast Fest' 3/21/13 and Carrying the Cross, 1446, Biagio d'Antonio 75 Saint Veronica ('true icon') seen in a detail from Christ 72 Photo of Bobby and the artist's son taken in her studio.

being the projected hit. b-side or flipside of vinyl single releases, the A-side 70 The term 'b/w' means 'backed with' and resers to the 69 USC mascot Tommy Trojan in victory pose.

School of Art at USC's commencement ceremony.

68 Professor Frances Stark serving as Marshall for Roski high school. He took his own life 2009. rap legends appear here, was a triend of the artist since

66 Ad for Dirty Chetto Kids, or DGK, a clothing CUSTAVE COUTDEL

Mayle, 'The facts of life without any nonsense and with

book Where Did I Come From? written by Peter

59 Illustration by Arthur Robins taken from the 1977

son's Montessori school in Echo Park in 2005.

this inexpensive form of cocaine.

shot and killed at age 15 directly in front of the artist's

The speech also can come across as an infomercial for

neant to garner support for the nation's war on drugs.

presenting a dag of crack cocaine as a prop in a speech

(former director of the C.I.A.) appeared on television

54 Snapshot of Bobby with lil Mikey, aka Ghost, who was

Magdalena [57] is purely coincidental.

for a popular annual music festival. 2Pac-deceased 65 L'Origine du Monde (The Origin of the World), 1866 Document showing technique used to 'resurrect' 2Pac Bobby his first Job as an errand boy at age 15. El Lazarillo de Tormes is the name of a Spanish picaoullet like a Job. Founder and director Father 'U' gave 49 The motto of Homeboy Industries is 'Nothing stops a 64 El Lazarillo de Tormes, 1808-1812 by Francisco Goya.

Shawn Mortensen

63 Christ Giving His Blessing, Hans Memling 1478 48 Bobby assisting in the artist's studio. 62 DJ Quik, nee David Blake (b. 1970) (photo credit

or who has no understanding of them. one who is hostile or indifferent to culture and the arts, posted on the free online dating site OK Cupid. Philistine warrior Goliath. Today, 'philistine' means 61 Image taken from a blog poking fun at a guy who 46 The bible tells of the shepherd David slaying the giant 60 1992 Portrait of Dr. Dre (née Andre Young, b. 1965) by 45 Cupid Making His Arch, c. 1533-1535, Parmigianino

51 Edith Clifford, 'Champion Sword Swallower'

[S+] 99S L+

since '96-performed Tive onstage in the form of a

44 Form signed by patient, Frances Stark, declining per-45 Three ostensible gangbangers being arrested by а

the doctor performs her routine gynecological exam.

mission for USC medical students to be present while

58 Portrait of Bobby by the artist, 2012. The likeness to per, re-named himself after the legendary figure. Ross, a former correctional facilities officer-turned-rap- 57 Magdalena, by Cheorghe Tattarescu, 19th c. tor his role in the evolution of cocaine into crack. Rick both the Nicuaraguan Contras and the CIA, best known 56 The Murder of Christ by Wilhelm Reich, 1953. 2 Ricky Ross was a drug kingpin with connections to 55 Portrait of Frances Stark by Shawn Mortensen, 1994.

correge stadium. sparking controversy about having their name on a corporations gave money to the University of Florida 41 GEO GROUP, one of the largest for-profit prison World', lived 1886-1942

40 Edith Clifford, 'Champion Sword Swallower of the adding the singular article la changes the meaning to 53 On September 5, 1989 president George H. W. Bush neaning 'holy shit' or 'motherfucker'. In some regions,

эмтэлфхэ нь штог уэш тэшээрэг : тэшэош хивэн

petter harden up and stop acting like a lil soft cake since intency is Beanie): 'beans, you a need now so you 38 Message from Bobby to the artist (whose nickname

Bobby and his childhood friend Mr. Martin. Back while modeling for her drawing class at USC with 37 Frances Stark reads Flannery O'Conner's Parker's overlooking The LA County Jail, aka Twin Towers.

spray-painting on cardboard in my studio parking lot

36 Photo of Bobby, my son, and his two best friends holes to be used in a collage. 12 Illustration of a scene in Cervantes' novel Don Quixote 22 Etching by Anton Lehmden, Colosseum, 1959–61, from 35 Bobby assisting in the artist's studio, cutting out bulle

autobiography of Dick Gregory. founding member of N.W.N pictured reading the 54 Shawn Mortensen's 1994 portrait of Ice Cube (a

in Los Angeles, talking with a homie. 55 Father Gregory Boyle, founder of Homeboy Industries 52 Matisse and his Model, by Brassaï, 1930

Angeles-based artist, DJ Quik, released by Mad Science 31 The Book of David is the 8th studio album by Los Photo by Nadya Wasylko

featuring Skerrit Bwoy with the artist Frances Stark.

30 Poster for 2011 performance Put a Song in your Thing 'head' or the mainstream. E.g. the Kardashians (head) scribes a distribution model in contradistinction to the 31, 2009 (Photo: Mark Blower). The 'Long Tail' de-Institute of Contemporary Arts, London, on January which is written her son's name with a note to *TALK 29 Mark Leckey in the Long Tail, a performance at the

Caravaggio (Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna) 28 David with the Head of Goliath, 1597-98, Amerighi

an acronym for 'The Hate U Give Little Infants Fucks Mortensen in 1993. Tupac's tattoo, 'THUG LIFE', is 27 Iconic portrait of Tupac Shakur taken by Shawn

side of the road. She brings it home, nurses it back to 16 Parable: An old lady discovers a snake mangled on the Conquistadors. Photo by DeWayne Stark.

14 From The Book of Genesis Illustrated by R. Crumb, 2009. and Redemption. Massachusets: Beacon Press, 2012. What Gangs Taught Me About Violence, Drugs, Love, reproduced for the cover of jorda leads sumper in: ession in Prof. Stark's intermediate drawing class at USC. 13 Sketch of Bobby made by a student during a live modeling 25 Mi Madre de los Angeles by Fabian Debora, 2009

24 A Crip fights a Blood on a Los Angeles street. the victim of exploitation, Andres is still no angel.

Memoriai Conseum.

'Traveler' at USC's home stadium, the Los Angeles

is Tommy Trojan scene here atop his horse named

The Grunwald Collection, The Hammer Museum

spould be done, unhindered by administrative worries

torum to seriously consider what we want our schools

to be, and do; an opportunity to freely imagine what

York studio, 1960. Photo: Alexander Liberman.

June/July. 2013: p. 51. Caption: Martin in her New

ners in the company that sells Beats by Dre headphones

Innovation.' lovine and Young (aka Dr. Dre) are part-

Young Academy for Arts, Technology and Business of

TO PARENTS*. Inside the bag is contraband (purloined

17 Evidence presented to the artist by a camp counselor

did you do that!?' and he answers 'Lady, I'm a snake.'

a pet. Once recovered he bites her and she cries out 'Why

health, grows quite fond of the snake and treats him like

million gift to create 'The Jimmy lovine and Andre

18 Page from USC's magazine announcing the \$70

19 From: Schiff, Karen L. 'Slow Reveal.' Art in America.

artist, poster designed with Stuart Bailey.

panish picaresque illerary tradition, while blatantly ouce the knight is out of sight. Like all poor boys in the gob his beating, and he complies, only to start up again by his master. Quixote exhorts the master to be fair and 25 The mascot of the University of Southern California picaro (young rogue), strapped to a tree being beaten mous with toolish idealism) encounters young Andres, (1605), in which the titular protagonist (now synony-

ine seven icons will be hidden, by Bihzad in process of turning cocaine into crack 11 A glass Pyrex measuring cup is a well-known tool used 21 Building of Castle Khawarnaq, wherein the

rom General Hospital and USC Medical Center. about what can't possibly be done. Organized by the of his grandmother's house in East Los Angeles, across O Photograph of the artist's son taken by Bobby in front

the near extermination of the native population. while extracting great riches. They were responsible for YO A symposium offering artists, students and educators a nized the americas with hopes of winning souls for God

9 Conquistadors ('conquerors') were soldiers who colokilled in the Roman Coliseum.

8 Illustration showing Christians being tortured and medicai marijuana ciinic.

6 Bobby, in the studio, ready for a job interview at a

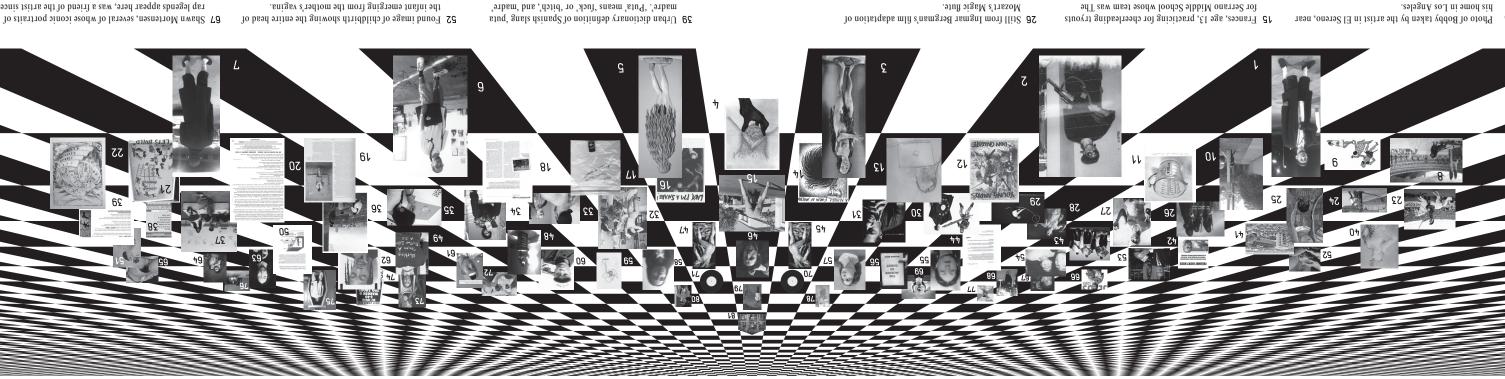
moment in childbirth when the head first appears. 4 An augmented found drawing depicting 'crowning, the

5 Saint Mary Magdalene by Gregor Erhart, c. 1515-20. nome operating within the juvenile justice system. home trips' allowed during an 18 month stay in a boy's

2 Photo taken by Lil Mikey, aka Ghost (now deceased)

his home in Los Angeles.

sid to ono on /4-AA ar Alta gaired, cl age, yddod' to



The iconic partraits of Tupac, Ice Cube, Dr. Dre, and Biggie, as well as partraits of me and my son, were all taken by the artist Shawn Mortensen, a friend since high school, who tragically took his own life with a gun in 2009. I'm continually moved by his fearlessness and his romantic idealism embodied in the work. A collection of his photographs, Shawn Mortensen: Out of Mind, was published by Abrams Image in 2007 with a fareward by Glenn O'Brien and an afterward by Richard Prince. My copy bears this inscription: 'For Frances & Arla! Oh My Beanie! We've been friends for 23 years of full om LIFE! Let's look farward to 50 wanderful years!

A note on the music: DJ Quik is a legendary west coast artist out of Compton, California whose music career took off in 1991. The two songs sampled here are: <u>Catch-22</u>, from his 2005 album Trauma, and Fire and Brimstone, from his 2011 album The Book of David. Twice omstage in the last year I've seen him announce that he's retiring at the end of the year. Enarmous fan that I am, I hope he changes his mind about that, yet at the same time I eagerly await the results of whatever transformation he may have umderway. It doesn't seem possible to stop being an artist.

All quotes attributed to Father G are taken from Father Gregary Boyle's book, Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion, published by Free Press, a division of Simon & Schuster. Boyle, a Jesuit, is the founder of Hameboy Industries—an organization that serves high-risk, formerly gang-involved men and women with a continuum of free services and programs, and operates seven social enterprises that serve as jab-training sites. He is affectionately and ironically—referred to as Father G ('G' being slang for 'Gangster').

Jonathan Hurtado, 18, described by police as Latino and by medical examiners as black, was shot in a park at 127 South Pecan St. in Boyle Heights, and died at 7:29 p.m. March 2, 2007. Hurtada's attacker, another Latina youth who walked or bicycled up to him, said, 'Hey, hamie, what's up?' then shot him four times. Jonathan, aka J Gutta was the best friend of Bobby, aka G Business.

Bobby Jesus's Alma Mater b/w Reading The Book of David and/or Paying Attention is Free, Frances Stark, 2013

Designed by Frances Stark and Chris Svensson with the assistance of Andrew La Costa and Sydney Schrader, and the generous encouragement of Daniel Bauman and the Carnegie Museum of Art.

Printed by GHP Media, West Haven, Connecticut.



work has taught me process can go on again and with their patient guidance, that God has greater again, hopefully forever, in to worship Christ as He comfort with inverting cate ever more profitable forms. egories than I do. What is Marshall Berman, All That is success and what is failure? Solid Melts Into Air (1982) What is good and what is bad? Setback or progress? Great stock these days [...] is placed in evidence-based outcomes. People, funders ward to, and money provides plexin particular, want to know him with an eternal, nevif what you do 'works.' Are er-ending goal: Just think you, in the end, success- what you could do with 80 ful? Naturally, I find my-trillion dollars—Inself heartened by Mother vest it! And in three Teresa's take: 'We are not years time you'd called to be successful but have 300 trillion faithful.' This distinction is dollars!!! helpful. [...] Salivating for V a l e r i e success keeps you from be- Solanas, ing faithful, keeps you from The SCUM truly seeing whoever's sit- Manifesto ting in front of you. Father G.

AWW MUTHA-FUCKAS DONE WENT AND DID,

he real source of trouthe fullble is the bourgeois ness of life. claim to be the 'Party That is the of Order' in modern politics Jesus I seek. and culture. The immense He neither amounts of money and ener- was nor gy put into building, and the is a miraself-consciously monumental cle worker. character of so much of this He did not building, testify to the sin- walk on wacerity and seriousness of this ter, heal the claim. And yet, the truth of sick, or raise the matter, as Marx sees, is the that everything that bour- Rather, geois society builds, is built his radical huto be torn down. 'All that is manity, he lived solid'—from the clothes on out the meaning our backs to the looms and of God and caused mills that weave them, to the those who glimpsed his and corporations that exploit in you and in me. cities and whole regions and the Non-Religious even nations that embrace them all—all these are made to be broken tomorrow, smashed or shredded or pulverized or dissolved, so they can be recycled or replaced

er-

haps if we

break

out

from

can

Jesus

gion, him

creeds

n Africa they say 'a person becomes a person through other people.' There can be no doubt that the homies have returned can poet Jack Gilbert writes, Father G

— wenty years of this next week, and the whole me to myself. I've learned, 'The pregnant heart is driven to hopes that are the lives in them.

he tyranny of suc-

bothered

cess often can't be

wrong size for this world.'

Jesus was consistent in that

I ncapable of enjoying the moment, the male needs I something to look for- with com-

doctrines again hear his invitation to enter the God experience | known men and women who work life or felt his power to exthe machines, to the hous- claim, 'God was in Christ,' es and neighborhoods the and thus God, the gospel ity. workers live in, to the firms writers assert, can also be The tote the workers, to the towns and John Shelby Spong, Jesus for

Lustroam Ingly buol board matters little struggle to figure out who which the world insisted: he was in the world... Suc- good-evil, success-failure, Andy Warhol cess and failure ultimately pure-impure. Surely, He was have little to do with living an equal-opportunity 'pissthe gospel. [...] The Ameri- er-off-er' in this regard.

then I thought that when held up alongside with the world. Jesus de- if somebody was willing to pay [R.I.P.]'s intricate, tragic fied all the categories upon that much for my it, I should try to figure out what it is.

Common Orchestra Layout

t a certain point I opted to climb in- This was my faith. side and try to grasp Mother F

ome company recently a useful understanding of was interested in buying the misogyny that I had my 'aura.' They didn't been joyously and shame-The strategy and stance of want my product. They kept lessly consuming. My son saying, 'we want your aura.' was consuming it alongside

it was always out of step I never figured out what they me and consequently I was wanted. But they were will- continually struggling to ing to pay a lot answer precisely why I alfor lowed so many appropriateness boundaries to be crossed. The recurring rationale was that my son was fundamentally an aes-

> myself) and, well, I never went around saying it but there it. So was no denying that I believed on some level that an aesthete (and/or potential artist) is some kind of supra-moral being... in the beyond good and evil sense, exempt, somehow, from society's definition of failure.

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