

Curious Markings Vol. V



**Essential
Paperback
Notebook**

Carnet Ligné à
Couverture Souple

- Charcoal grey cover
- 5½" x 8"
- 48 lined pages
- 120 gsm paper



MADE IN CHINA

How I use the Healing Marking

Aug 21, 2018

~~I~~ I am often paranoid about my health. I will get a slight discomfort somewhere in my body and immediately assume I have something far fetched like 'cancerous space ebola', or ~~if~~ if it's something like heartburn, I'm obviously having a heart attack and will die in seconds.

Healing can come in many forms, not just the body ~~re~~ repairing itself. It can come ^{or apoloizing to} changing a perspective, forgiving someone, transforming the way you live, or simply letting go of something that isn't working for you.

By focusing my will on the Healing marking, I am changing my perspective of the discomfort that I'm having from "I'm going to die" to "This is a slight discomfort that will pass." And the comfort does pass quickly after that. If ~~it~~ it doesn't, and eventually becomes tangible pain, I know that it verifiably is something more serious that needs to be addressed.

Question authority

Aug 21, 2018

It is my opinion that to submit to the knowledge of an authority is to put implicit trust into someone who is just as baffled by the world, the universe, and everything else in our existence. We are the embodiment of unknowing.

I would even go so far as to say that God (whatever you perceive God to be) is right here with us in this unknowing. Sure, God may know more than us (according to most religions), but I believe God is just another construct of this universe reacting to the ebbs and flows of existence.

In this regard, I believe the absolute truth with all things reacting to existence is, "I don't know." By all means, take advice. No one, nothing, ~~is~~ ~~has~~ an authority.

How I use the Warning marking

Aug 21, 2018

A warning at its core is a presentation of choice. One choice may not be liked, but will end with little consequence. The other choice is presented with a consequence that greatly outweighs the benefits. A simple concept with considerable implications.

Sometimes, I am presented with very real threats. These threats are not products of paranoia or delusion; they are products of unkind people with often ~~selfish or harmful~~ motivations.

By focusing my will on the warning marking on these occasions, I am sending what I feel like is a non-verbal message to my potential assailants that things will not go well for them if they continue on their path of harm. This creates a sense of safety and empowerment in myself when those feelings can feel all but absent in such occasions.

How I use the Gratitude marking

Aug 21, 2018

When I look at the Gratitude marking, I often confuse it with the Healing marking. I find this quite appropriate given that being grateful can create a feeling of Healing.

When I've had an intense or 2-dimensional day, I often feel drained, discontent, and ungrateful. This can send me down a spiral of more days that are draining, full of discontent, and lack of awareness for the things I should be grateful for.

By focusing my will on the Gratitude marking, I begin to collect the pieces of my humanity back together and become a more complete, present, and grateful person.

~~How I use~~

Create/Find/Utilize Truth

Aug 21, 2018

Previously, I wrote how the absolute truth I know is "I don't know." That doesn't mean we can't make best efforts to create, find, and utilize what we know as truth.

<h2>Create Truth</h2>

Create truth by writing, making art, taking words or images and putting them in a new light. Create experiences, ideas, ~~and~~

<h2>Find Truth</h2>

Find truth by hypothesizing, testing, learning, verifying, testing again, ~~questioning~~ the supposed authority.

<h2>Utilize Truth</h2>

Use truth to empower yourself and others.
Use truth to expose harm.
Use truth to accept the uncontrollable.
Use truth to understand that ~~even the words you're reading are written by someone who is probably more clueless than a 10 year old.~~ The only truth in what you're reading is what you accept as truth.

How I use the
Innovation marking Aug 28, 2018

When I think of innovation, I think of the idea of rejecting the status quo. The idea of upending our traditional systems to improve everyone's lives in a meaningful way.

For me, I have an endless amount of ideas, and sticking ~~to~~ with the ideas I've already started working on can be challenging at times. I am fiercely loyal in my relationships, but with my ideas, I am a relentless philanderer. Ideas, however, are a dime a dozen; true ~~innovation~~ happens when ideas are seen through to fruition.

By ~~using~~ focusing my will on the Innovation marking, I hone my motivation and creativity to my existing ideas. By doing this, I am able to put forth new ideas and expanded effort towards what I truly believe can make meaningful change in my life and the lives of others.

How I use the
Protection marking Aug 28, 2018

When I think of protection, I think of a barrier. On one side is a world of chaos, swirling about destructively and unpredictably. On the other, a fragile being that is completely aware of the perils it faces. In ~~an~~ feat of ingenuity, the being has constructed the barrier; protection.

In a sense, I use the protection marking similar to how I use the warning marking. However, there are often times that the potential for a violent reaction is exactly what the threat wants. In these cases, a more passive approach is needed.

By focusing my will on the protection marking, I feel as if my body (and the bodies of those I am protecting, if any) turns to an unbreakable stone. Attacking such a thing would be an act in futility. Much like ~~the~~ the warning marking, it creates a sense of safety and empowerment.

Note: Using the protection marking as a contraceptive is not advised.

I often struggle with the concept of an all-powerful, omnipotent, all-seeing, all-hearing, all-doing being that has so much presence in our lives, yet we cannot scientifically prove its existence.

And yet, those of us who have experienced ~~first hand~~ this divine connection can say, not from a place of thought or belief, but from a first-hand account beyond a shadow of a doubt; it exists.

~~There are~~ There are two things I know for sure (as of the date of publication):

1. We have not yet scientifically proven God's existence
2. We have not yet fully mapped out the intricacies of how thoughts in the brain function. (Research this to cite where you heard this, and use more appropriate wording.)

I have a theory that at a quantum level, our brains have a power that we are only beginning to understand. This power, I believe, can create an emotional and intellectual understanding of ourselves and our universe, ~~and~~ This experience has been only ever explained as what our caveman culture calls God.

When I think of growth, I think of life, sprawling into every crevice of what will sustain it. I think of overcoming, pausing, healing, spreading, sharing, and nurturing the growth of others, even in death.

For many people, the necessity to grow out of one's shortcomings are not always obvious. For me, in the context of my schizophrenia, I had some serious challenges to face ~~at a~~ very beginning in my early teens. The beautiful thing about growth is that one can never stop growing.

By focusing my will on the growth marking, I begin to step outside myself and my inner conventions. Whether it be conscious or intuitive, I bring my thoughts and way of being to a place of listening, understanding, and self-reflection.

How I use the Aug 29, 2018
Zephyr marking

When I think of a calm, relaxing day. A day so serene that even the weather, a phenomena with such potential for mayhem and destruction, is gentle and soothing.

As a schizophrenic person, irritability is an everyday symptom. Prolonged irritability turns to anger, and prolonged anger can turn into bouts of rage.

By focusing ~~my~~ my will on the Zephyr marking, I am reminded of ~~the~~ the ~~latent~~ potential ~~for~~ in humanity to be brutal, impatient and unkind, and how beautiful it is that a being with this potential can grow leaps and bounds toward being gentle, understanding, and generous. By doing this, it brings out these qualities within me and, in my mind, takes me to that calm, relaxing, serene day.

God is a State of Aug 29, 2018
Being, Pt. 2

With the potential for our minds to find God, to be God, surely it must be some kind of physiological trait. Just like some people are more easily able to grow muscle or solve problems, it may be easier for some to reach God than others.

Regardless of the trait ~~the~~ being more developed in others or not, it very much seems like something that can be exercised and developed. In some religions, this could be the difference between being normal, enlightened, and self-realized.

That being said, I think it's very well possible that developing this part of the brain can do more than achieve enlightenment or self-realization. What more that may be, I don't know. Unless science can meaningfully pursue and measure this state of God, no one may ever know. Then again, these ideas being presented may just be ignorant, psychotic babblings.

How I use the Leading while Following marking

Aug. 29, 2018

When I think of a leader in a subordinate position, I think of a rebel whose sole purpose is to challenge authority without actively attempting to de-legitimize said authority. A ~~rebel~~ 'polite' rebel, perhaps. A Canadian rebel, using constructive criticism warfare.

I am a natural leader in the sense that if I am in a group setting, and there is no sense of leadership structure, I will instinctively assume this position. There are times or situations where this structure is already established, and I often submit to that leadership implicitly; to a fault.

By focusing my will on the leading while following marking, I re-establish my natural leader within me. I am then able to act like a true team member by questioning problematic choices, providing honest feedback, and being unafraid of the ~~the~~ potential social consequences of my questioning and feedback.

~~How~~ You, Yourself; Critic, Advocate

Aug 29, 2018

Two ~~one~~ of the most profound changes in my life happened when I ~~started~~ learned two things:

1. How to criticize myself
2. How to advocate for myself.

Criticizing myself on a regular basis not only created a deep understanding of my illness, my sense of self, but made it tremendously easier to understand others and putting myself in their shoes. Putting yourself in others' shoes, I've found, creates a quantum leap in patience with people. It's a powerful anger management tool.

Advocating for myself came about when criticizing myself ran amok, and myself and others began to lose credibility in me. I realized that my needs and successes must be communicated to create a healthy balance of my self-criticisms. Not only that, ~~but~~ from self-advocation comes ~~a~~ boosted confidence which, in turn, can create more reasons for self-advocation.

Reducing Stress

Aug. 31, 2018

One of the things I've done in my life that has freed me in a lot of ways was letting go of things I cannot control. Letting go of the actions of politicians, letting go of people not doing what I want them to, and letting go of the past.

It's an ongoing practice. ~~but~~ As soon as I became good at it, a tremendous amount of ~~extra~~ mental real-estate freed itself for things like learning, socializing, and figuring out what the hell I'm doing with my life. I regained an unimaginable amount of time and energy.

Now, I am exposed to so little stress, that I am able to physically feel when something is being stressful. In turn, this has helped me identify other lesser known stressors and become even more effective of stress management.

Seeing through others' eyes

15

Aug. 31, 2018

I am known among my family and friends as being exceedingly patient. I believe the main reason for this is that I never immediately judge someone's words. I continue to listen objectively and often disregard my own biases, ego, and when I can, preconceptions.

I originally did this because I lacked confidence, and didn't fully understand that some people can speak from a place of ignorance or bias. As I began to understand those things, I had already realized that by ignoring the possibility of the speaker's ignorance and bias, I also removed my ignorance and bias. In this way, I was better able to see through their eyes.

The most important part of this listening is to take a moment by myself to reflect on the conversation. I need to adjust certain parts ~~of~~ their beliefs before I add them to my own. Generally, a good rule of thumb is to check if the words are coming from a place of ~~empathy~~ compassion and learning, or a place of fear and exclusion.

Attraction vs. Coping Aug. 31, 2018

I often encounter people who preach ~~something~~ what I've heard called the 'Law of attraction'. The idea of adjusting your thoughts and behaviors to attract a desired outcome in your life. I think this has a lot of merit, but I believe in ~~going~~ about life in a way that ~~mitigates the things you're trying not to attract~~ mitigates the things you're trying not to attract.

As I move through my life, I often fail to ~~remember~~ come up with a comprehensive list of my failures. This is certainly not due to a lack of them, but possibly more due to the fact that ~~through~~ I have filled my life with an endless succession of... successes!

I once started a business around a mobile/web application. It was a monstrous failure, as far as I'm concerned. However, the path to failing was filled with literally hundreds of successes I celebrated along the way. When you ~~spend 99% of celebrate 99%~~ of your actions and admit spend most of your time celebrating, being grateful for your accomplishments; your failures barely leave a scratch. In this sense, I am certainly not attracting failure.

What next? Aug. 31, 2018

The page to the left marks the completion of Curious Markings Vol. 1 as I've laid out for myself. The book will be about 150 pages after I've composed an outro. I suppose the fact that I don't have an outro yet means I'm not technically finished, but I want to see all the other components laid out before I come up with some kind of conclusion.

With that in mind, what's next?

Phase 3:

- Outro
- Transcribing
- Self-editing
- Scanning collective-markings
 - > While you're at it, isolate the markings in `<g>` tags after svg export
- Layout (Book)
- Submit to mom for editing
- Submit to 100+ publishers

How many collective-markings are needed?

18 > I have at least 200 lying around, looks like I'll need to take inventory.

54 > I think that's a really solid foundation for the Collective app... maybe?

$\frac{x3}{54}$
324

The "God" letter.

Sept. 3, 2018

After an elaborate daydream, I came up with an idea. This idea is based on a story my friend once told ~~me~~ me about how he once asked God to give him a sign that God existed. In the story, he described a series of events that seemed to be crafted in a way that, at the time, ~~se~~ were mundane or inexplicable, but ultimately led him to a woman that was also looking for a sign from God.

This could be an anecdote of God's existence, or it could have been a monumental coincidence. ~~But~~ I thought to myself, what if this experiment could be played out on a larger scale, with systems of verification put in place? What if this experiment could be supported by the Curious Markings framework?

When I log into my online bank, they ask me a question to prove who I am. ~~When~~ When I supply a correct answer, they then supply me with a key that proves who they are (and not a spoof website).

Cont'd...

Sept. 3, 2018

What if this system of verification could be used to prove that in some way, God or some cosmic or quantum phenomenon that we mistake for God is pulling universal strings.

My idea is for people to sign up for what I call "the 'God' letter."

1. Subscribe with:
 - Name
 - Address
 - The name of someone or something meaningful to you
 - A random 4-digit number
2. The name ~~and number~~ must be confidential. Only you should know this name is related to the God letter.
3. A complete stranger must approach you and mention the secret name.
4. Ask the stranger for a 4-digit number that's meaningful to them. Don't ask why it's meaningful, because it could be something private like a... matches the one provided. ...bank pin or the date of their still-born child.
5. If the number is confirmed, perhaps this is a sign.

Actions without love ~~at~~ its ~~seed~~ seed
risks entangling with the roots of evil.

Be careful what you choose to fear.
Fear damages intellect, and intellect is
the best tool to fight fear.

Fear damages intellect.
Love resists fear.

Sept. 7, 2018

~~Therefore~~ To love is to be intelligent.

Seeing the best in everyone makes
the world a magical place. Go ahead,
cast a spell every once in a while.

One of my many shackles
was regretting my struggles.
One day I broke that shackle ^{for the my}
by being grateful ^{struggles} instead.

Imagine all the energy you put into anger, spite
and hatred, and instead put it toward work,
activism, relationships.

Imagine how rich you'd be. ^{your community}
Imagine how ~~the world~~ better ~~the world~~ would be.
Imagine how loved you'd be.

Short poems

Sept. 7, 2018 21

Maliciously
~~Intentionally~~ proving another's inferiority
is self-harm disguised as pleasure.

Okay, NOW I'm done the
book! I'm basically back to where
I was on page 15, except transcribing
and self-editing is mostly done.
Also, it's looking like I won't need
more than ~250 scanned markings.

I can't wait for mom's feedback! And
I especially can't wait to start
submitting to publishers and see what
happens there. Maybe I won't get
published at all, maybe I'll get
multiple offers (a lot less likely). I
think I'm prepared for both possible
outcomes.

If I don't get any offers, that
will definitely complicate things as I'm
not really interested in or preparing for
self-publishing. One step at a time,
though! Time to start scanning some
markings.

This is a little more technical than I normally get in these writings, but I'm contemplating word searching options for Collective. At this point it seems to be a regular ol' SQL style search query vs. using something like Elasticsearch. One is pretty basic and reduces the complexity of the application quite a bit, and may not necessarily hinder what I'm trying to accomplish. On the other hand, Elast. search creates a foundation for a massively expanded possible feature set. Additionally, having this on my toolbelt would make me more employable (though when have I cared about that?). With all that being said, I do have the ability to easily provision a server with this capability and probably never need to worry about the complexity again. (I do not yet have a provisioning script, though, but this could give me some motivation to finally write one. I think this really boils down to the question of wanting an immensely more solid codebase/technology stack, or do I want to do a quick and easy solution?

Sept. 12, 2018



25
~~curious~~ curiousmarkings.com
provisioning script Sept. 12, 2018

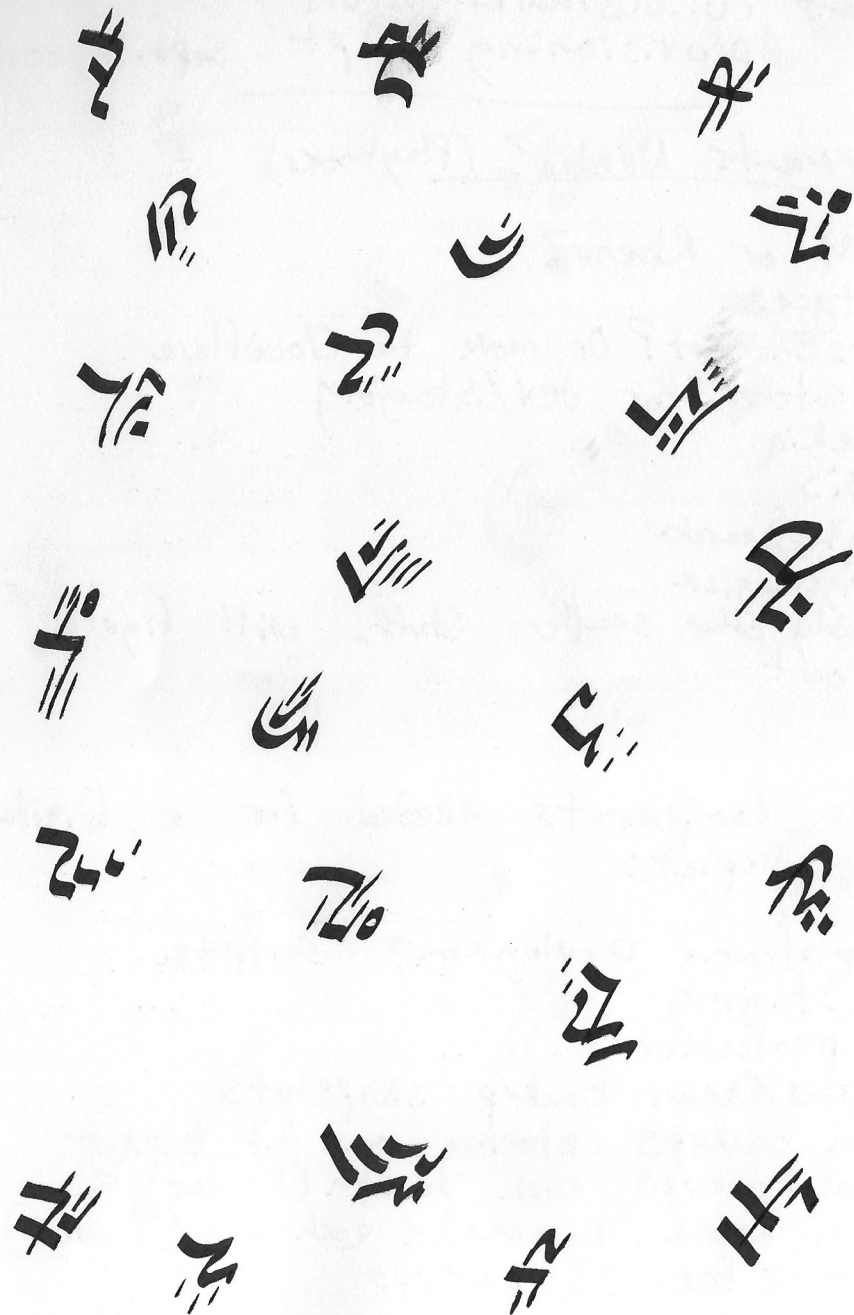
Components Needed? (Playbooks)

- RVM or Rbenv?
- Postgres
- LetsEncrypt? Or move to Cloudflare
- Mailcatcher for dev/staging
- Sidekiq
- Redis
- Elasticsearch
- Imagemagick
- probably other smaller stuff, will figure it out

Other components needed for a Digital Ocean droplet:

- Capistrano Deployment scripts
 - > Staging
 - > production
- Digital Ocean backup snapshots
- Cron backups storing on S3 Bucket
- Local backups, each month (1 year) & each week (4 weeks) & each day (7 days)
 - > Same for S3 backups

Sept. 12, 2018

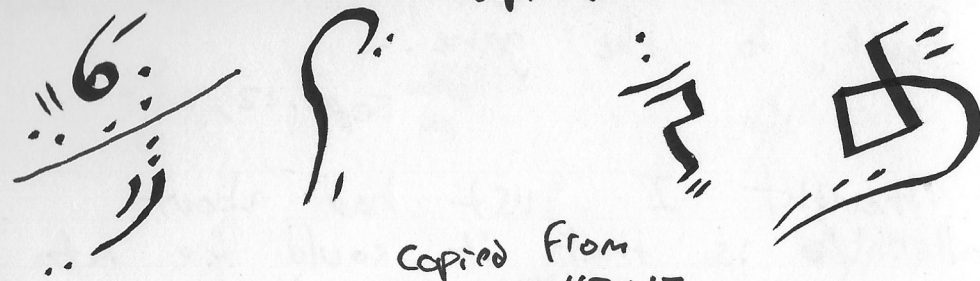


Back to the game...

Sept. 12, 2018

A thought I just had about collective is that it could tie into the mobile app by giving the users the ability to 'power' their home marking by translating words. The more words they've translated, the more power their home marking gets. The more power it has, the more of a higher score on the scoreboard they get. Home markings are more powerful with more people with that marking as their home marking.

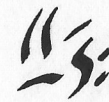
I think it may be a good idea for scores to be incremented based on the amount of active users. There might be the potential for super early adopters to acquire massively high scores that no one could possibly catch up with. Then again, maybe that's where seasons start to come in.



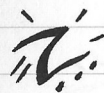
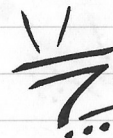
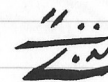
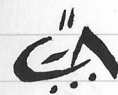
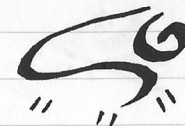
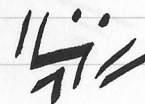
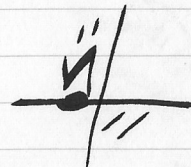
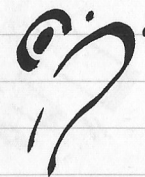
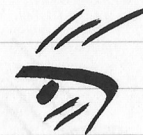
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On this page, I focused on the concept of chemistry (chemicals, not relationships) Sept. 18, 2018

Random Memory...

Sept. 17, 2018

I just remembered that when I was age 6 or 7 I would speak the gibberish language to my friend. I would pepper in English curse words as a joke with my friend. That's all...

Mobile Ideas

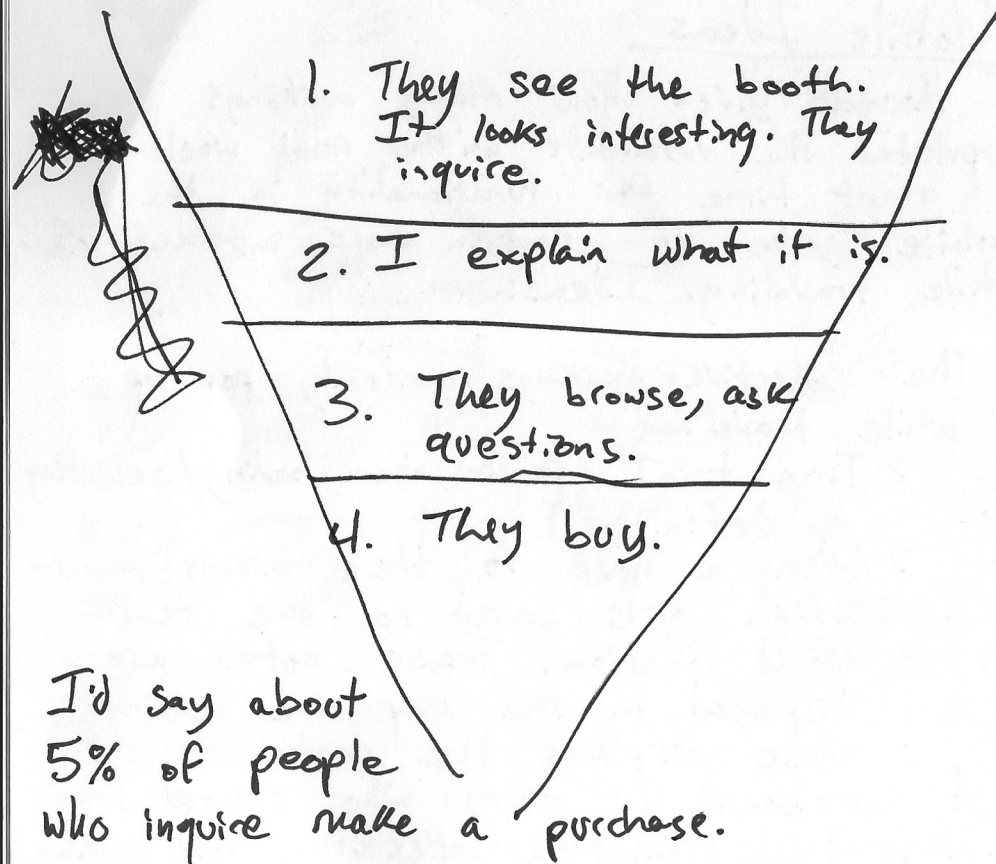
I thought given how many markings I've populated the database with, now would be a great time for functionality in the mobile game to create more interactions while traveling. Ideas:

- The collective markings randomly pop up while traveling
 - > Time trial (paused when loading/selecting a definition)
 - > Adding a note to the marking translation gets saved to the real-world location. These notes are displayed on the map and getting close displays the contents.
- A scoreboard for users who succeed in time-trial translations, collections, and adding photos.

Stuck.

Sept. 22, 2018

Plain and simple, I'm not making any sales from Curious Markings except for when I go to markets. When I do make a sale at markets, it goes as follows:



Another problem.

Sept. 22 2018

35

What if I'm not making sales because no one has space on their walls? They have no use for a notebook/sketchbook? Rob was telling me I should be putting the markings on as many products as possible. With companies like Pritful, this should be possible.

Yet another problem.

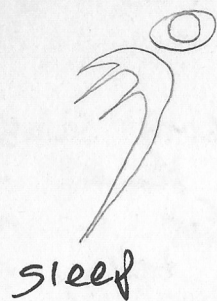
People aren't going to buy the markings if they don't know what they are. But how can I affordably show people what they are? Initial thoughts:

• Make a video → show as ads on:

- FB
- Insta
- Pinterest?
- Twitter?

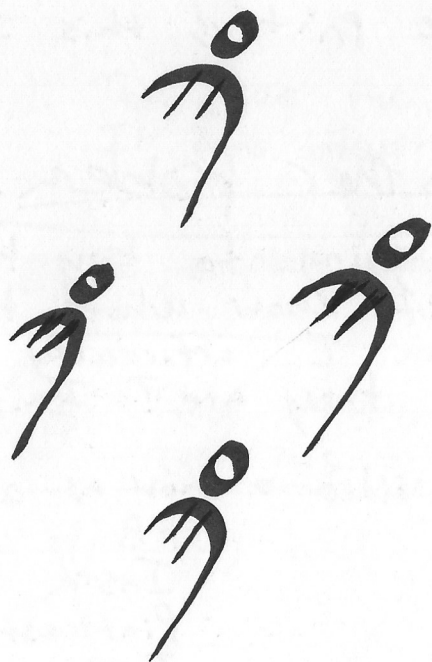
• Contact content hungry outlets:

- BuzzFeed
- ViralThread
- Traditional news sites



sleep

isotex



curiousmarkings.com is an ongoing experiment in language, typography, art, and the human mind. If what I said piques your curiosity, please check it out.

Curious shackles
(video?)

Sept. 25, 2018

At the core of Curious Markings is the acknowledgement of the absurdity of language as a method of communication. The universe is chaos, our lives are chaos, the world is chaos. Communication is also chaos and language attempts to bring order. But humans are beings of the universe which means we are beings of chaos, and to bring order to chaotic beings is to shackle ~~me~~ them. Bringing order to language shackles communication and by doing that, language becomes a liar's form of communication. Yes, the markings and the unknown language are like any other language; lies attempting to communicate truth, but they are always with the acknowledgement that this truth is a quantum variable — once it is measured, it changes to something else, something different. A new truth. A truth that is always changing. One day, ^{the way} a protection may mean a seat belt in a car. Another day it means a contraceptive. And another it means saying words you know are not true. The Curious Markings acknowledge the lie of putting order to chaos.

What's ahead?

Oct. 20, 2018

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- Create onboarding email campaign
 - ↳ Once complete, switch to ongoing camp.
- Integrate Simplex API to sync mailing list
- Complete building Printful API integration
- New marketing video template
- Tuesday marketing email template

↑
indefinitely postponed

PENDING AUDIO EQUIPMENT

- Record/Upload gibberish words
 - ↳ merge audio-v1 branch to master
- ~~Reaper Rundown from Alex - done~~
- Record gibberish long-recordings
- Record intro marketing video
 - 30 sec • 60 sec
 - 120 sec • 300(ish) sec

Oct. 19, 2018

Quick & Easy Game
Enhancement (S)

Oct. 22, 2018

My immediate thought was a simple leaderboard that incentivizes user actions like collecting markings, making translations, and adding photos. Super easy to implement and can be built on later.

Ideally, I'd like to find a way that makes people identify with certain markings. Perhaps the first marking they place is their 'home' marking. I've mentioned this once before, now that I think about it. Perhaps some notes review is in order.

I really like the idea ~~of~~ I had of leaving notes and being able to read/collect them. Perhaps that functionality should be revisited. I think I already have it partially built.

Hmm. I'm not sure I'm going to get too many answers on the 'quick & easy' premise. I just keep adding to my list, though. I never give myself a break. How does that quote go? Something like, "What's the bare minimum I can do to acquire the learning I seek?"

Stop staying up all night. You're getting very unhealthy.



A collection of 24 stylized, abstract black and white symbols arranged in a grid-like pattern on a white background. The symbols are highly stylized, resembling calligraphic or geometric forms, and are scattered across the page.

Oct. 24, 2008

[illegible]

Nov. 1, 2018



THE POWER SUDO OF PSEUDO-SCIENCE

Nov. 1, 2018

The thing I like about pseudo science is that even though it almost always turns out to be bullshit, there's this fantastic air of whimsical day dreams made "real." There's no factual evidence of it working, its powers seem to come from the promises it brings. I very much feel like that's what Curious Markings are. They certainly work in my own uses, but they are unproven — and likely always will be. I have a certain disdain for pseudo science, which makes selling the markings really hard to 'sell'. I think they would be a lot easier to sell with the full acknowledgment that it is pseudo-science and to do it in a tongue-in-cheek kind of way. Curious Markings has been severely lacking my sense of humor in it and ~~so~~ I think it's time to finally change that.

Nov. 3, 2018



Nov. 3, 2018

There seems to be only two steps left until I can make a full-on marketing push... the explainer video and coming up with a painful integration and implementing it. If Thomas works on it, it could take at least another month or more. But, depending on what he chooses it could be a collaborative process. I've already built out a big chunk of it on the Rails backend, but the WP Woocommerce alternative does seem appealing, simplicity-wise. I think a big ~~positive~~ ^{negative} ~~waster~~ would be re-roding a frontend. That being said, woocommerce comes with a lot of useful tools and probably other plugins that extend its functionality. Anyway, my point is I think I should just accept the fact that things likely won't start gaining momentum until January. Either way, just press on and be patient...

Nov. 3, 2018

