



MAGALI LEONARD



## *Openings: Worlds of Transparency and Flux*

Magali Leonard's "Openings" series of acrylic paintings are invitations. They propel us into pictorial universes in which the beholder is beckoned and beseeched to bear witness. In experiencing the artist's surfaces, her markings and ovoid shapes, what we sense and feel is flux, the very nature of beholding and of becoming, at once anticipated and then withdrawn. The principle that underpins Leonard's apparent fealty to exploring the dialectical fluctuations of appearance and dis-appearance, of integration and dis-integration, of ceasings and beginnings in her work is the principle of revelation. Leonard also skillfully pours her pigments to create veils of colors to, in her words, "stir and wake up the space and spacings of light" that permeate each painting. Transparency and opacity, through pouring, are mixed and matched by the artist, coloristically, to convey the presence of *prima materia*—the formative elemental condition leading to alchemical alteration, change, and ultimately, transformation.

In *Opening 8* (2011), Leonard creates an explosive dynamic field of interactive marks and forms that excite, mystify, and delight the eye in equal measure. Leonard's palette is unforgettable: she selects a wide range of ochers, yellows, and oranges to suggest radiant light in some areas of the canvas, while suggesting volcanic and subterranean terrains in others. The artist builds upon the advances of pioneer American color field painter Helen Frankenthaler, as well as those of Morris Louis and Clyfford Still, to create supercharged color-soaked and color streaked surfaces that compete for the eye's attention in an all-over manner.

Vitality and vibrancy permeates *Opening 8*. Leonard uses her natural acrylic pigments as dynamic agents in their own right; pouring them on her pictorial surfaces, some of these colors are allowed to soak into the canvas, while others build up in thicker consistencies, and still others manifest in the form of rivulets, splatters and dribbles. The composition consists of different coloristic scenarios where shapes and marks seem to erupt naturally from within, like emerging fields of energies spreading beyond the edges of the canvas.

Such a promise of transformation is manifest in, for example, *Opening 27* (2012). Leonard's painterly pours are used to create the suggestion of a floating nighttime world, of moody coronas and lunar eclipses. Leonard applies—or perhaps "choreographs" is a better term—a spectrum of thin and thick washes in her paintings to suggest a fluid dynamic between "emptiness and fullness" a term used by the French art historian Francois Cheng to describe the aesthetic principle in play in classic Chinese painting.

In Leonard's aesthetic vision, dynamic positive and negative spaces nestle and interchange within circular motifs, spheres and ovoid forms. These interactions, tinged with coloristic bravura if not ferocity, are tremulous with vitality. Their energies infer the realms of the natural and of the unnatural, of the earthly and of the cosmic. The results are painterly masterworks charged with resonant energy, drenched with transparency and flux.

-Dominique Nahas

*Dominique Nahas is an independent curator and critic based in Brooklyn.*

COVER: *OPENING 8* (DETAIL), ACRYLIC ON CANVAS, 31.5" X 31.5", 2011

RIGHT: *OPENING 28*, ACRYLIC ON CANVAS, 39.5" X 39.5", 2012

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- *Openings: Worlds of Transparency and Flux* -

DECEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup> - DECEMBER 26<sup>TH</sup>, 2015



**WALTER WICKISER GALLERY INC.**

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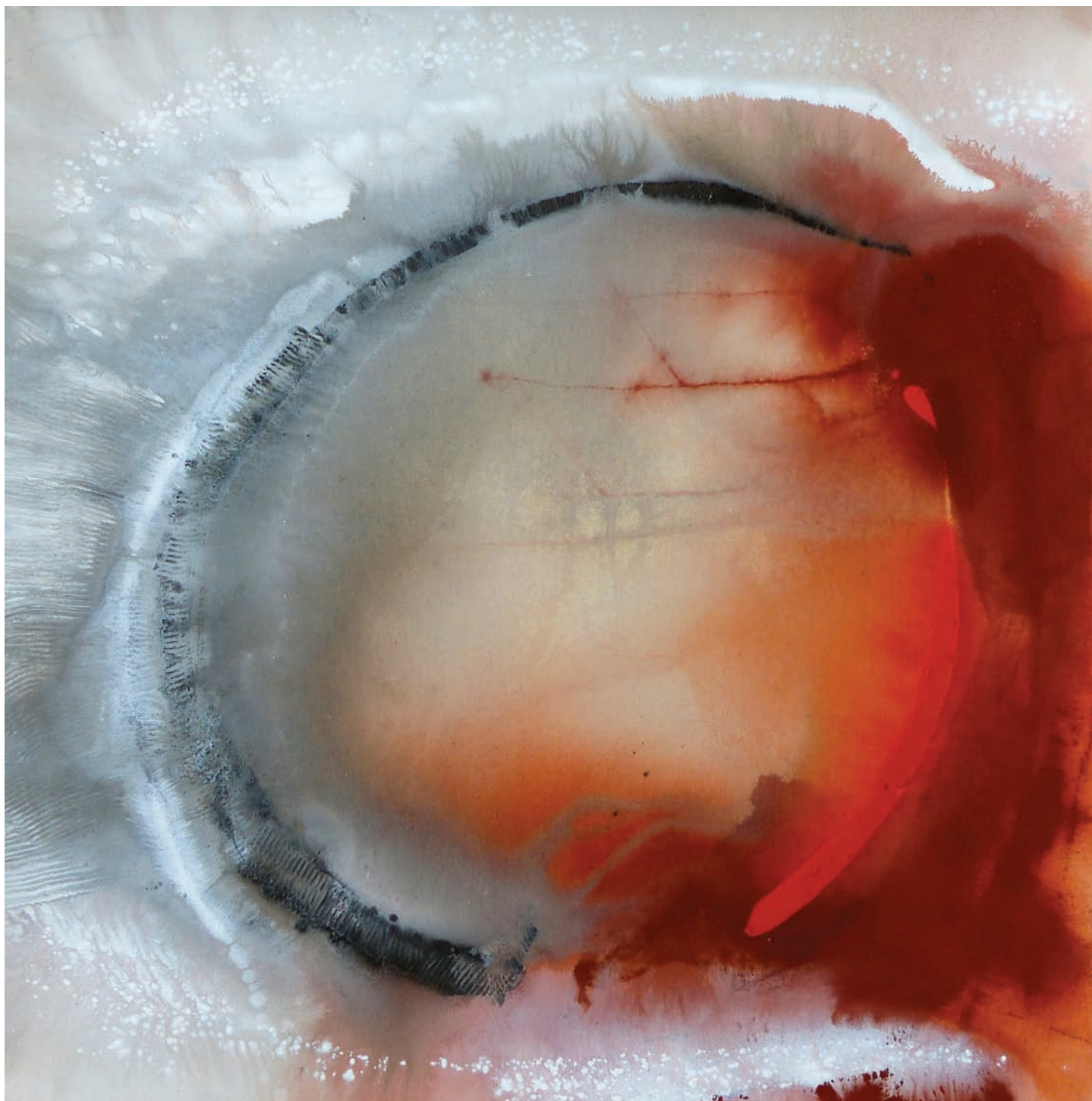
**OPENING 7**  
ACRYLIC ON CANVAS, 31.5" X 31.5", 2011







OPENING 25  
ACRYLIC ON CANVAS, 39.5" X 39.5", 2012



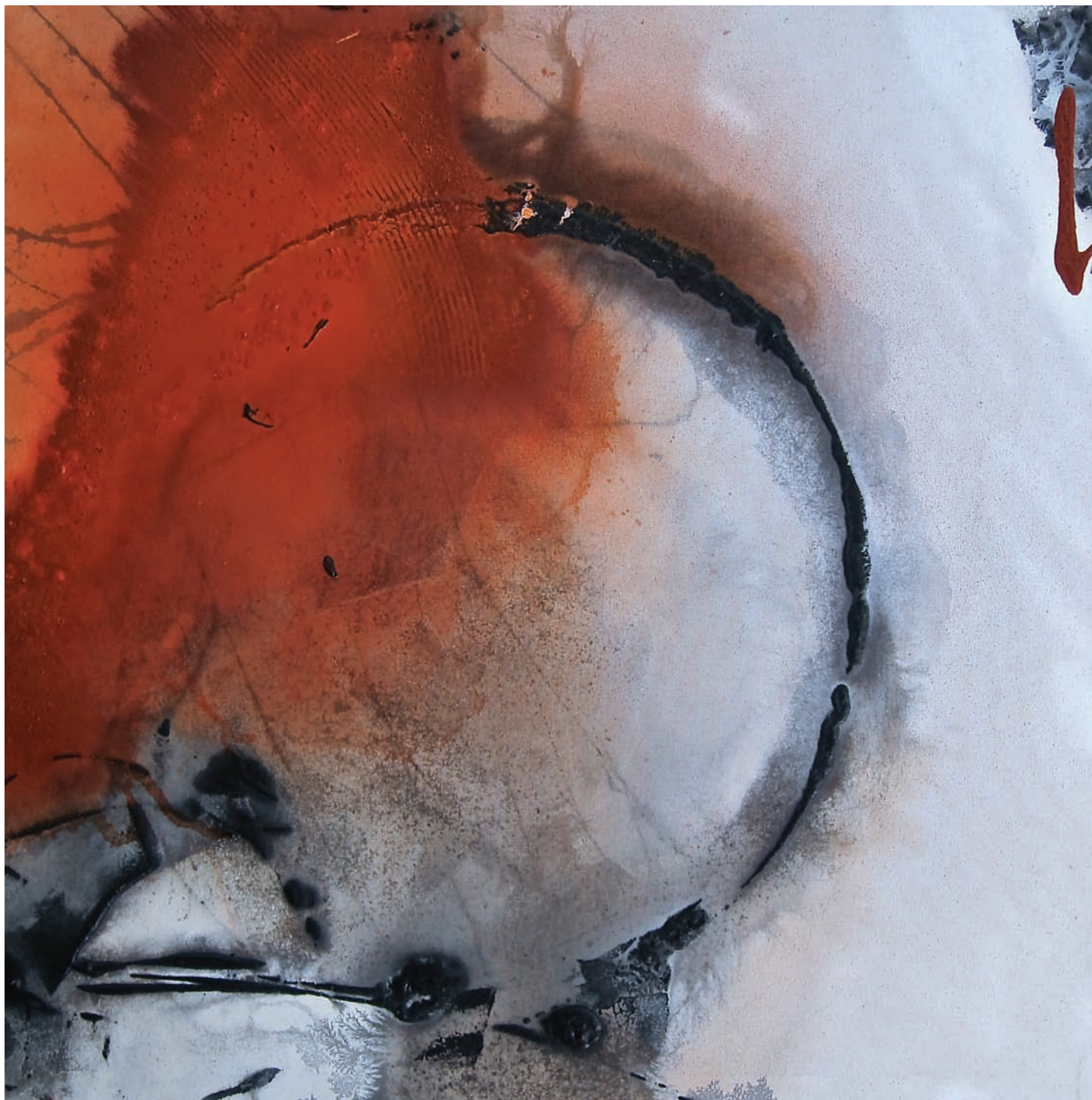
**OPENING 18**  
ACRYLIC ON CANVAS, 39.5" X 39.5", 2012

**OPENING 27**  
ACRYLIC ON CANVAS, 39.5" X 39.5", 2012









OPENING 22  
ACRYLIC ON CANVAS, 31.5" X 31.5", 2012



# MAGALI LEONARD

## SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2015 *Openings: Worlds of Transparency and Flux*, Walter Wickiser Gallery, New York, NY
- 2014 *Cosmogony*, Gallery Double S, Paris St. Germain  
*Cosmogony*, Contemporary Art Center 798 Art Gallery, Peking, China
- 2011 French Guest Artist, Rocchia Gallery, Montreal, Canada
- 2010 Arts Visual Center Albert Chanot, Clamart, France  
Workshops: Open Doors, Tourist Information Center, Clamart, France
- 2009 EMKA Gallery, Paris, France
- 2008 Amanado Gallery, Osaka, Japan
- 2007-08 Workshop: Open Door, Clamart, France
- 2006 *Bock de Bohême*, Paris, France
- 2004 Nova Gallery, Osaka, Japan

## SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2015 *Chronicle*, Bastille's Artists Group, Design Art Center, Paris, France  
Artibrak Gallery with Genie de la Bastille Group, Voorburg-La Haye, Holland, Netherlands
- 2014 *All in Fire, All in Flame*, Bastille's Artists Group, Design Art Center, Paris, France  
*Minis du Genie*, Gallery of the Bastille's Génie, Paris, France  
*Utopia*, International City of Arts, Paris, France
- 2013 *Gallery Aritsts Part X*, Walter Wickiser Gallery, New York, NY  
*No Pains !*, Design Center of Paris, Paris, France  
Photographs of Génie, Associations House, Paris, France  
French Institute with Genie of Bastille Group, WIEN, Austria  
AEAF, Nesle Gallery, Paris, France  
*Les minis du génie*, AaB Gallery, Belleville, Paris, France  
Espace Arts and Liberty, Salon 60th, Charenton, France
- 2012 *Cosmogonies*, EZAIR-BEGO Gallery, New York, NY  
AEAF, International Show of European Academy of Arts-France, Nesle Gallery, Paris
- 2011 *Non Objectivity*, Walter Wickiser Gallery, New York, NY
- 2010 *Photographs of Women / Photographs of Women*, Visual Arts Center Albert Chanot, Clamart, France
- 2009 Gora Gallery, Montreal, Canada  
Permanent Exhibition, Arte Bella Gallery, Midlothian, VA

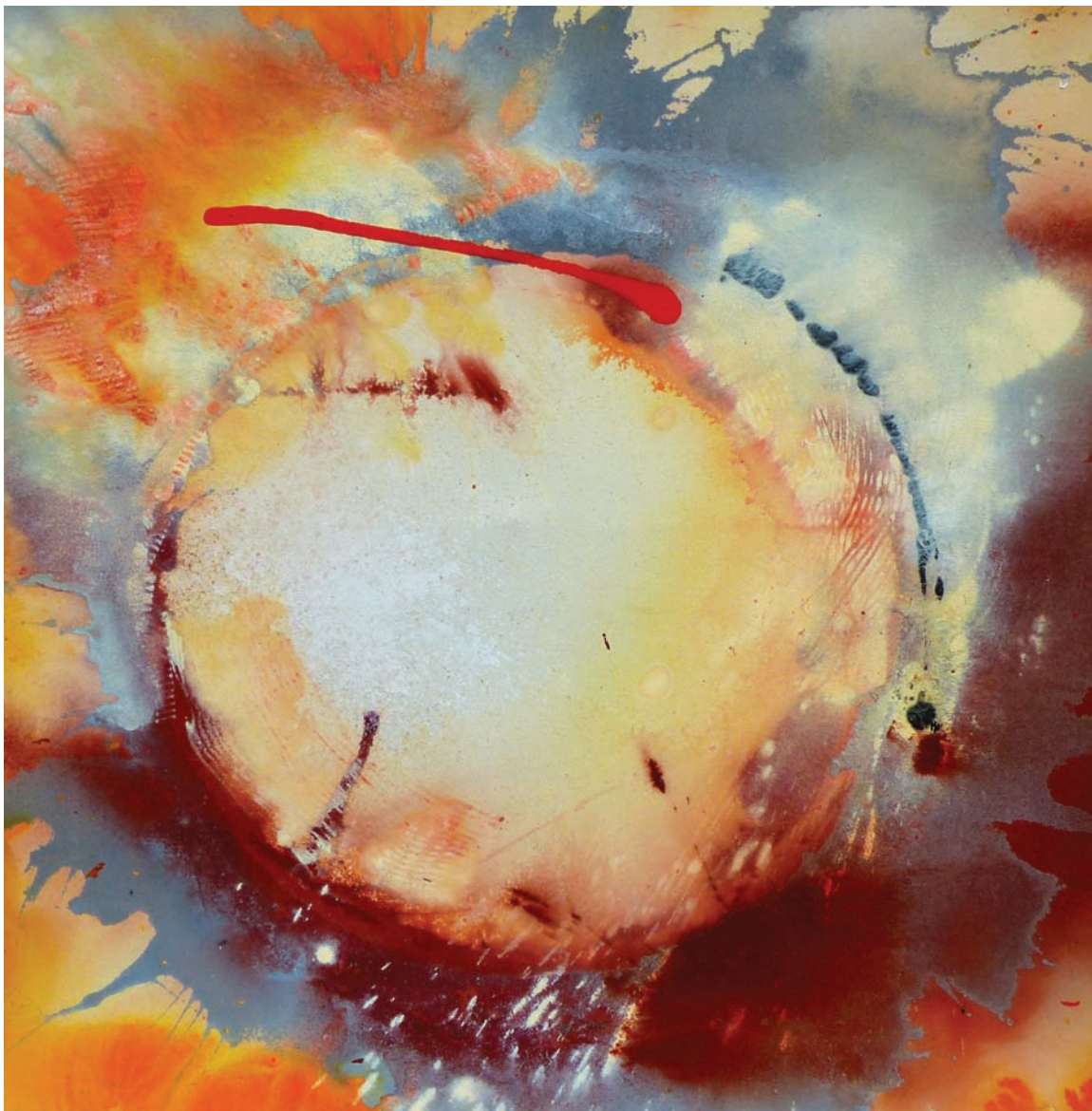
*Vibrations White and Black*, Fine Arts Society, Clamart, France

- 2008 *France's Colors and Japanese's Colors*, France-Japan Meeting, Le scribe-l'harmattan Space, Paris, France  
Photography Festival : *Metamorphosis*, The Bassin de la Villette (The Villette Basin), Paris, France  
*Surprises*, The Fine Arts Society, The White House's Garden, Clamart, France
- 2007 Contemporary Japanese Kakemono, Paris, France
- 2006 Contemporary Japanese Kakemono, Paris, France
- 2005 Hamazake Gallery, Ashiya, Japan  
Nunokini Gallery Municipal Park, Kobe, Japan
- 2004 Third Fine Arts Exhibition Latin America -Japan, San Salvador, Salvador  
*Winter Gardens... Secret Gardens*, Plastic Arts Centre Albert Chanot, Clamart, France
- 2001 *From the Unique to the Multiple*, Visual Arts Center Albert Chanot, Clamart, France

## EDUCATION

- 1991 Degree in Arts Plastiques
- 1992 Masters in Arts Plastiques, Le Pli
- 1996 Diplôme Degree under the supervision of Director Lancri to research du trait au retrait
- 1997 Agrégation Arts Plastiques





OPENING 5  
ACRYLIC ON CANVAS, 31.5" X 31.5", 2011

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