

2023

ANNUAL REPORT

CRAFTS
COUNCIL
OF THE NT

TRADING AS

TACTILE ARTS

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CHAIR AND GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Dear members,

Welcome to the 2023 Annual Report for Tactile Arts.

2023 was the 50th Anniversary of Tactile Arts, an exciting year that opened doors to new ventures, and celebrated historic moments; the exhibition and short film 'Reflections', that celebrated 50 years of Tactile Arts. With 130 people in attendance at the opening night, the stories shared through the short film, should make us all proud of our commitment and support for this tremendous organisation.

Moving forward 2023 saw Tactile Arts receive funding from Arts NT to fulfil the prestigious Portrait of a Senior Territorian Art Award, a remarkable event to be part of and to support for the forthcoming 5 years.

Another highlight was the hugely successful Christmas Makers Market, that brought in \$15,000 of fundraising for Tactile Arts, with over 12,000 members of the general public in attendance.

In this report, we provide a comprehensive overview of our financial performance, strategic initiatives, and sustainability efforts. We highlight achievements in areas of exhibitions, workshops, artist residencies, retail, and three successful makers markets. We also evaluate the challenges we faced and the lessons we learned.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to the extensive amount of work undertaken by the Board, employees, and our amazing volunteers. We thank the community for their unwavering support for our organisation, their participation in the workshops and community events, and our artist membership, however, specifically, a huge thank you to you, our valuable membership.

Thank you for your continued commitment in Tactile Arts.

Sincerely,

Jeannie Bennett **CHAIR**

Aneka Truman
GENERAL MANAGER

TREASURER'S REPORT

The auditor's report has been received and is available to members.

INCOME

The organisation's income for 2023 was \$519,702 (\$699,215 - \$179,513 non cash in kind support), including grant funding from Arts NT of \$68,591 and the Community Benefit Fund of \$133,063.

Other key areas of income that contributed to overall income include:

INCOME STREAM	2023	2022
Workshop Fees	\$83,098	\$77,400
Makers Market Fees	\$59,341	\$72,784
Membership Fees	\$26,793	\$19,833
Studio, Kiln, Equipment Hire	\$37,531	\$36,203
Exhibition Commission	\$13,430	\$8,425
Exhibition Fees	\$2,779	\$5,100
Parliament House Shop Commission	\$10,925	\$10,570
Fundraising and Donations	\$18,056	\$6,972

TREASURER'S REPORT

EXPENDITURE

Staff wages and superannuation continue to be Tactile Arts' main expenditure in 2023, the total being \$226,437 (40% higher than \$160,632 in 2022). This covered staff in the roles of General Manager, Admin, Events and Programs Coordinator, and the Retail Manager.

Key areas of overall expenditure include:

EXPENDITURE	2023	2022
Workshop costs (tutor & materials)	\$57,96	\$38,595
Minor equipment	\$7,206	\$4,660
Makers Market hire fee	\$23,493	\$77,210
Advertising & marketing	\$49,353	\$49,266

Over the past few years Tactile Arts has upgraded their studio equipment via capital grant funding. Depreciation for the 2023 financial year was \$26,986, leaving a closing written down value of total assets of \$32,509. This will continue to depreciate over the coming years.

Overall Profit/Loss 31 December 2023 -\$2,545 (\$11,585 2022)

Sue Hunt TREASURER 04 April 2024

MISSION, VISION AND VALUES

Tactile Arts acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we live, meet, exhibit and celebrate art and craft. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and future.

MISSION

Promoting and supporting a vibrant and sustainable arts and crafts community in the Top End, facilitating the development of emerging and established artists, craftspeople and designers to encourage the highest standards of workmanship.

VISION

A world in which the handmade is valued and art is appreciated in everyday life

VALUES

- Inclusive and welcoming
- Creative
- Ethical and transparent
- Acting with integrity
- Sustainable
- Encouraging, collaborative, supportive
- Inspirational and of quality



2023 SNAPSHOT

MAKERS MARKETS

Income \$59,341

ALL THE MOTHER'S

Stall Holders	91
Visitors	3,500
Stallholder Sales	\$115,000
Income	\$7.545

DRAGONFLY

Stall Holders	96
Visitors	3,500
Stallholder Sales	\$140,000
Income	\$8,760

CHRISTMAS

Stall Holders	150
Visitors	12,400
Stallholder Sales	\$750,000
Income	\$43,036
Makers Market income excludes f	fundraising and donations

EXHIBITIONS

No. of Exhibitions	10
Exhibiting Artists	111
Visitors	19,400
Works Sold	157
Artist Sales	\$49,507
Income	\$16,209

TACTILE ARTS SHOP

Shop Stockists	30
Visitors	3,672
Works Sold	2,440
Artist Sales	\$39,725
Income	\$10,925

WORKSHOPS

Tutors	25
Participants	471
Workshops	50+
New Workshops	23
Tutor Fees	\$40,648
Income	\$83,098

TOTAL

Participating Artis	ts503
Visitors	42,472
Works Sold*	2,597
Member Sales	\$1,094,232
Income	\$169,573
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*excluding makers market artwork sales

MEMBERSHIP & SUBSCRIBERS	2023	2022	INCREASE
Members	466	302	54%
Website Visitors	37,241	31,074	20%
E-News Subscribers	2,711	2,682	1%
Facebook Followers	5400	5000	8%
Facebook Reach	12859	1892	579%
Instagram Followers	3002	2,739	9%

MAKERS MARKETS

2023 was an exciting year for Tactile Arts 'Craft Fairs'; involving elements of change that contributed to impressive results.

Tactile Arts fulfilled a comprehensive program of three major events in 2023, generating over \$1 million for Darwin's creative economy.

'All the Mother's' Makers Market (Waterfront) Dragonfly Makers Market (MAGNT) Christmas Makers Market (Territory Netball)

The Craft Fairs were re-branded to Makers Markets at the start of 2023; to increase the awareness for the quality of goods produced and sole by local artists and craftspeople.

The Makers Markets are designed to support and promote artists and craftspeople in the Top End; providing small business owners with a direct sales opportunity, to connect with the end consumer.

The 2023 calendar of events saw a continuation of Tactile Arts partnership with Darwin Waterfront, for the delivery of the re-branded 'All the Mother's' Makers Market on Saturday 6th May, and the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory for the Dragonfly Craft Fair on Sunday 16th July.

Both events saw an increase in participation numbers (compared to 2022); especially the May event (50% increase), that featured Covid19 restrictions in 2022.

With a record number of stallholders in attendance, community participation was consistent with prior years; approximately 3,500 individuals per event.

The Dragonfly Makers Market in July, featured the popular open studio visitor experience at Tactile Arts. This allowed attendees to engage with artist demonstrations in the ceramics, printmaking and glass & jewellery studios.

The finale is the weekend-long Christmas Makers Market, which incorporated a venue change from the Darwin Convention Centre to the Territory Netball Stadium in Marrara.







CRAFT FAIRS







This decision was based on consumer feedback from previous years, and associated costing.

The change of venue for the Christmas Makers Market was a highly successful decision. Attendee numbers saw a 182% increase, from 4,400 in 2022 to 12,400 in 2023.

Tactile Arts also made the decision to not charge an entry fee (a requirement in previous years, due to the associated event costs).

Attendees could enter with an optional gold coin donation, this provided Tactile Arts with close to \$15,000 in fundraising revenue.

However, the main highlight is the benefit these changes made to stallholders income, estimated to be approximately \$750,000 in 2023. A 230% increase from 2022.

It is estimated (based on surveys) that over \$1 million was taken by stallholders throughout the three events in 2023. A huge contribution to Darwin's creative economy.

EXHIBITIONS

The Tactile Arts gallery presented ten exhibitions in 2023, showcasing four Artists in Residence (Winsome Jobling, Em Frank & Tarzan JungleQueen, Suzanne Knight & Cheryl Galpin), one aboriginal art centre (Injalak) and two member exhibitions. The highlight of the annual program was 'Reflections' an exhibition that celebrate 50 years of Tactile Arts, over 130 individuals attended the opening night.



LIFE

Life by Tania Malkin, was the gallery opening for 2023. The exhibition investigated the dynamics of landscape and fine art photography through the concept of Life. Magnificent aerial photography took the audience on a visual arts journey from above, exploring relationships between the elements of nature and the life it creates and nurtures.

UNDERSTORY

Understory captured the internal energy and rhythm of the Top End landscape, through large multi-panel prints. Created by Artist in Residence, Winsome Jobling, the exhibition showed how the natural world touches us through a multi-sensory space, reminding us that the reciprocal relationships of all living and non-living things is an elaborate and all-encompassing mesh of networks.





PORTRAITS

Portraits was the first member exhibition of 2023, designed to take place in conjunction with Archie100 at the Museum & Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, which celebrated the 100th anniversary of the Archibald Prize. In this exhibition talented local artists explored the theme of Portraits through a variety of mediums.

MUTANTS: A BLUE LOBSTER COLLABORATION

Em Frank and Tarzan JungleQueen collaborated, working with collage, perspex, printing and ceramics to pay homage to the strange, abnormal and freaky among us, who question convention, embrace queerness and fluidity and carve out space for the so-called monsters and mutants that dwell in the shadowy underbelly of mainstream society.



EXHIBITIONS



YIRRIDJDJA

Yirridjdja was a solo exhibition by renowned stone country artist Glen Namundja, presented by Injalak Arts. Glen's intricate style of painting signals his connection to the Yirridjdja moiety and his clan estate. His artwork dazzled viewers with his knowledge about the anatomy and spiritual identity of animals and the ineffable life forces that enmesh us together.

TOP END TAPESTRY

Top End Tapestry featured a collection of fine hand-crafted ceramic pieces by well-known Katherine artist Danny Murphy. A tapestry is often described as an intricate and complex piece of art, which perfectly reflects the depth of an Australian landscape that Danny portrays in his pieces using patterns, brushwork, sgraffito, carving, stamping and terra sigillata.





SHORT SHELF LIFE

Short Shelf Life was presented by Artist in Residence, Suzanne Knight. The exhibition featured a collection of her most recent works, exploring the domestic and wild, where the natural world is dominated and restricted by waste; single-use plastics which seep into our environment, in landfill and into our waterways, destroying habitat and the creatures that lived there.

REFLECTIONS

Reflections: Celebrating 50 Years of Tactile Arts was a celebratory exhibition that showcased the organisations successful history, demonstrating the importance of supporting and promoting local members and artists. The exhibition contained a carefully selected range of works from great artists that Tactile Arts has had the privilege of supporting, alongside a feature film that interviewed individuals that impacted the growth and development of the organisation.



2023 Exhibition List:

Life (Tania Malkin) | Understory (Winsome Jobling) | Portraits (Members) | Mutants: A Blue Lobster Collaboration (Em Frank & Tarzan JungleQueen) | Yirridjdja (Injalak Arts presents Glen Namundja) | Top End Tapestry: A Ceramic Collection (Danny Murphy) | Short Shelf Life (Suzanne Knight) | Reflections: Celebrating 50 Years of Tactile Arts | The Best of Tactile Arts (Members Exhibition) | Cheryl Galpin (In Stitches) presented at Tactile Arts Christmas Makers Market















RETAIL SHOP

The retail shop received a 50% increase in total sales in 2023, party due to the implementation of a second retail space.

Tactile Arts now operates with a retail shop at Parliament House, as well as a retail outlet at 19 Conacher Street; the perfect accompaniment for visitors exploring the Tactile Arts Gallery, or attending workshops.

This has led to a 20% increase in the number of works sold; a huge benefit for the local artists and crafts practitioners stocking in Tactile Arts retail outlets.

A Retail Manager was employed in 2023, to support the running and growth of the Tactile Arts shop. However, limited budget and available staffing resulted in the Retail Manager overseeing the shop, alongside a number of other projects.

It is important to note that the retail outlets would not exist, or perform as well, without the support and hard work of key volunteers who operate the shop at Parliament House and support the Tactile Arts staff with administrative duties.

The success of the retail shop can be solely attributed to their passion for Tactile Arts, the creative community and supporting local arts and crafts practitioners.

2023 resulted in a steady number of stockists for the shop, currently 30. Work has been made to increase this figure, and will continue into 2024.

The Retail Shop has an exciting future in 2024, with many forthcoming opportunities that will hopefully bolster the success of the shop for both stockists and Tactile Arts as an organisation.





WORKSHOPS

The 2023 workshop program continued the growth of the 2022 program, with a 8% increase in turnover (\$77,000 in 2022 to \$83,098 in 2023), and a similar number of participants (462 in 2022, 471 in 2023).

More than 50 workshops took place throughout 2023 with 23 new workshops scheduled.

471 participants attended; including 207 children during the Kids School Holidays Arts and Crafts workshops, an increase of 11% from 2022.

Highlights of the 2023 program include:

Hammered Silver Earrings. Frances Ricketts taught a number of these workshops during 2023, after initial success at the All the Mother's Makers Market.

During a one hour class, participants new to jewellery making have the opportunity to learn basic skills to hammer, manipulate and create silver earrings. A simple, stylish and functional creation.

Beginners Ceramic Design and Wheel Throwing | Hand building. Ceramic classes at Tactile Arts are hugely successful, constantly selling out.

In design and wheel throwing beginners learn the basics of wheel throwing, design, trimming and glazing. Intermediate students are challenged with refining skills, new ideas and forms.

Hand building workshops are shorter workshops, designed to provide participants with a taste of

ceramics. During a 1.5-2 hour class students are guided through simple techniques of hand building to create their own ceramic vessel.

Indonesian Batik Workshop. A collaborative workshop with the Indonesian Consultant, initially held during the Dragonfly Makers Market open studio at Tactile Arts.

Participants were taught batik-making techniques, alongside the philosophy of batik, highlighting the richness and diversity of the Indonesian archipelago. (Batik is a resist-dyeing technique of patterning cloth through application of wax. It is embedded in local traditions, with motifs linked to the philosophy and world view of Indonesians for centuries. As an identity of Indonesian fashion, batik has been recognised as a UNESCO Intangible Heritage in 2009.)

Tapestry Weaving and the Joy of Colour.

Tapestry artist and artist-in-residence Suzanne Knight offered a workshop in tapestry weaving, using brightly coloured yarns to explore colour mixing and blending techniques on the loom. Participants learned tapestry techniques such as warping a loom, using the bobbin, weaving shapes, interlocking edges, knotting and tufting, soumak and finishing off.







ORGANISATIONAL

Staff and Board Members as at 31 December 2023.

STAFF

Aneka Truman, General Manager from January 2023

Ekaterini Veloudos, Retail Manager from February 2023

Millie Hunter, Admin, Events and Programs Coordinator from June 2023



CHAIRPERSON
Jeannie Bennett
Appointed May 2022

Jeannie Bennett is a lifetime Territorian who has worked in NT schools for over 30 years as a teacher, and for the last 12 years as Principal of the Darwin Languages Centre. As principal, Jeannie managed a staff of 65, with a substantial budget, equipping her with significant experience for her role with Tactile Arts.

In the final two years of her principalship Jeannie assumed management of the Casuarina Night Classes, which was redeveloped as the Adult Short Courses, with a viable and economically sound business model providing recreational short courses to the community in arts, languages, and other interests nominated by the community. Her leadership experience includes skills in governance, strategic planning, HR, finance, community engagement and events.

Jeannie has an undergraduate degree in arts and education, a Grad Dip in Educational Admin, Master of Education and a PhD.

Jeannie is also a hobby ceramicist and has been a member of Tactile Arts for five years with involvement in many of the craft fairs.



VICE CHAIRPERSON

Catherine Buckley Appointed May 2022

Catherine Buckley has lived in the Territory for more than 40 years and has been a member of Tactile Arts for the last 15, having volunteered extensively, particularly in the areas of graphic design and photography.

Tertiary education includes courses in Adobe programs together with art, design, photography, drawing, sculpture, screen printing and typography. She also holds a law degree from Adelaide University, and a Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice.

Given her enduring interest in the creative world, Catherine is honoured to be further involved, and plans, to make a difference in a positive way.

ORGANISATIONAL



TREASURERSue Hunt
Elected May 2022

Sue Hunt is a long-term Darwin resident who enjoys gardening and handicrafts. Her latest project is creating handbags and floor mats by crocheting recycled linen.

Sue has extensive experience as a bookkeeper, running a family business and working in a locally owned business.

Serving as treasurer of Tactile Arts gives Sue the opportunity to combine her interests in the arts, with her finance experience in a multicultural organisation, whilst providing value to the community.



SECRETARY Tracey Campbell *Elected May* 2023

Tracey Campbell has recently retired from the regular workforce. Pottery and associated parts of the art and craft world have now become her focus; with the time and interest to contribute actively to Tactile Arts.

Tracey worked for years in the NT Public Service as well as in non-government agencies and small business, with a background in Occupational Therapy.



GENERAL MEMBERKatherine Bradley
Appointed May 2023

Katherine Bradley is an artist and teacher with a career spanning more than 25 years and a broad experience of being a part of the Northern Australian educational and arts community.

She currently works for Australian Catholic University as an Academic Mentor in the Teach for Australia program. Katherine has exhibited regularly and is a founding member of the Rapid Creek Artist Collective.



GENERAL MEMBERKathryn Carter
Appointed May 2023

Kathryn Carter's passion for crafting unique recycled paper and paper sculptures spans over three decades, and in 2015, she joined Tactile Arts to further explore her artistic talents. Having retired from the Northern Territory Government's public service, where she spent 20 years working across various departments in administration, communication, and media roles, Kathryn decided to pursue her creative calling with Tactile Arts.

MARKETING

MAKERS MARKETS







GENERAL ORGANISATIONAL



EXHIBITIONS









MEDIA









The festive season is just around the corner and it's time to get crackin' on that to-do list. Head along to Tactile Arts Christmas Makers' Market and peruse over 150 stalls of unique, hand-crafted gifts

SAT 11 & SUN 12 NOV, 9-4PM | TERRITORY NETBALL STADIUM, MARRARA | GOLD COIN





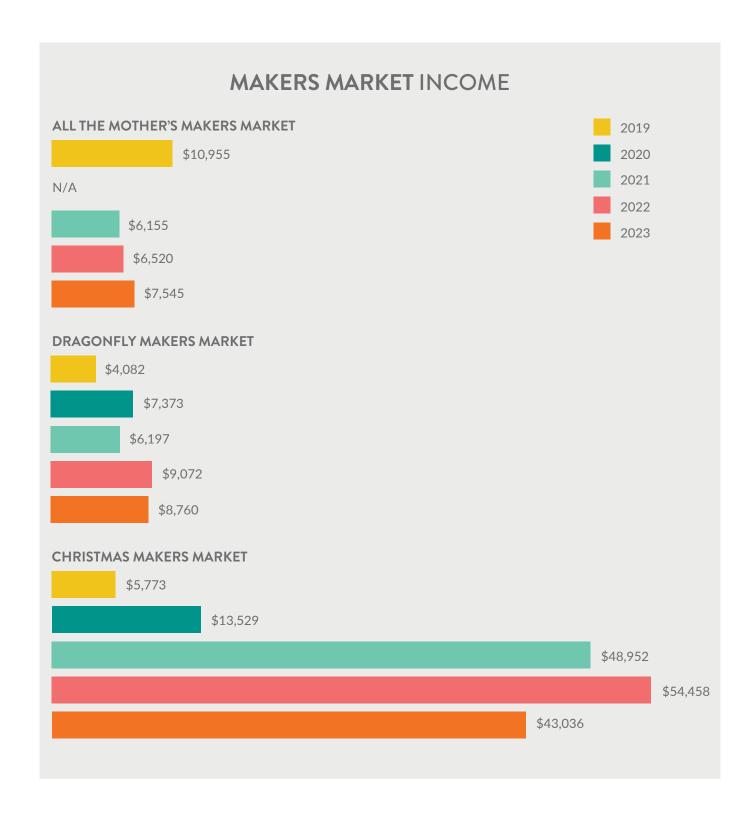






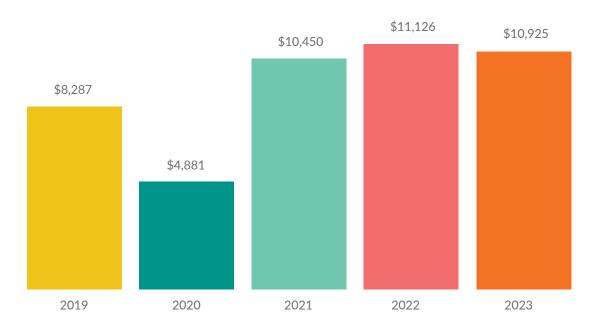


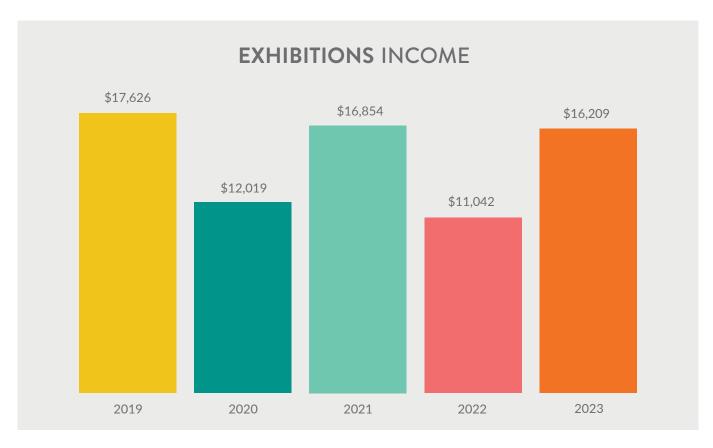
FINANCIAL SUMMARY



FINANCIAL SUMMARY

RETAIL SHOP INCOME





FINANCIAL SUMMARY

WORKSHOPS INCOME



IMAGE CREDITS

COVER PAGE:

Tactile Arts, unknown, photograph.

PAGE 7:

Geri Barr, Silent, Be Still 1 & 2 and Listen, Hear 1 & 2, 2022, silk, natural dye, silk and copper threads, copper rod.

PAGE 8:

Glen Namundja, Yingarna (Creation Mother), 2022, Ochre on arches paper.

PAGE 9 (TOP TO BOTTOM):

All the Mother's Makers Market 2023, photographed by Catherine Buckley;

Dragonfly Makers Market 2023, Ekaterini Veloudos of Art by Ekat, photographed by Catherine Buckley;

All the Mother's Makers Market 2023, photographed by Catherine Buckley.

PAGE 10 (TOP TO BOTTOM):

Christmas Makers Market 2023, Artist Demonstration, Annie Gastin;

Dragonfly Makers Market 2023, Clair Parkinson Pottery, photographed by Catherine Buckley;

Christmas Makers Market 2023, Cheryl Galpin exhibition.

PAGE 11 (TOP TO BOTTOM):

Tania Malkin, OceanLife, 2022, photograph;

Winsome Jobling, Understory, 2023, Handmade papers, drypoints and stitching;

Ingrid Gersmanis, Domestic Goddess, 2020, sculpture, mixed medium, found objects;

Tarzan JungleQueen, Flesh, 2023, digital image.

PAGE 12 (TOP TO BOTTOM):

Glen Namundja, Yingarna (Creation Mother), 2022, Ochre on arches paper;

Danny Murphy, Dry Season Whirly Whirl, 2023, Stoneware;

Suzanne Knight, Universal Language of Plastic, 2021, tapestry weaving, wool and cotton;

Tactile Arts, unknown, photograph.

PAGE 13 (CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT):

Em Frank & Tarzan JungleQueen, Mutants, 2023, A3 collage;

Winsome Jobling, Understory, Handmade papers, drypoints and stitching;

Tania Malkin, Connected, 2022, photograph;

Danny Murphy, Growth, 2022, terracotta;

Suzanne Knight, Imagine an Australian Garden I-IV, 2022, tapestry weaving, wool, cotton and bamboo.

PAGE 15 (LEFT TO RIGHT):

Beginners Ceramic Design and Wheel Throwing; Workshop

Indonesian Consultant Batik Workshop;

Hammered Silver Earrings Workshop.

SPONSORS & PARTNERS









TACTILE ARTS

GALLERY • STUDIOS • WORKSHOPS • CRAFT FAIRS • SHOP • ARTIST IN RESIDENCE

TACTILE ARTS GALLERY AND STUDIOS

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TACTILE ARTS SHOP

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