

Greenspon Gallery is pleased to present a solo exhibition by Darren Bader.

A “brief” explanation of the show

I begin with a theme in mind, and then log in to Google Play or iTunes¹ to find some music. Let’s say the theme is: Hitchcock movies. *Marnie, Psycho, Vertigo, Rear Window... Torn Curtain, Frenzy, Family Plot, Topaz... Lifeboat, Under Capricorn, Jamaica Inn...* all exist as song titles and are ready to be purchased for download.² Unfortunately there’s *The Trouble with Harry. The Girl Was Young* is also trouble and *The Paradine Case* is irresolvable. There are no songs with these titles. A comprehensive catalog of songs-that-share-titles-with-Hitchcock-movies remains elusive.³

On to Shakespeare, I can’t find a track titled *Troilus and Cressida*, so my collection of the tragedies (I even found a *Timon of Athens*) remains incomplete.⁴ I’ll soon find out that the same goes for the comedies (never mind the histories, not even worth trying for). Theme abandoned.

How about the 20th Century? Yes, 100 songs found. And to be properly anal, all 100 titles contain *only* the four *sequential* digits of each of their titular years. What about the twelve apostles? Bingo, although Bartholomew isn’t easy to track down. An oxycodone molecule? 18 songs titled *Carbon*, 21 titled *Hydrogen*, 1 titled *Nitrogen*, and 4 titled *Oxygen*—complete. The project moves along...

Themes upon themes upon themes paired with themes and other themes (but not those themes unless these themes, etc.). Not all themes intend to be comprehensive, just thorough. I try to be as exacting as possible in finding a song that has the word(s), and *only* the word(s), I’m looking for. But I’ll make occasional exceptions. For instance, in the case of U2 (who didn’t make the final cut), if someone is looking for a song titled *Bono* or *The Edge*, it’s no problem.⁵ *Adam Clayton* or a *Larry Mullen Jr.*? No dice. But there are songs titled *Adam* and *Clayton, Larry, Mullen, and Jr.* So I may combine songs for amusing wordplay.

If there’s a song titled *The* or *About* or *Pickled Peppers*, I won’t use that same song again to complete a theme. I will have to find additional *Thes, Pickled Pepperses, etc.*

If you’re reading this while at 71 Morton St. during gallery hours, you’re hearing a lot of noise: this is the songs I bought.⁶ They’ve been mixed together by theme. You’ll notice you’re sometimes able to make out a voice or a genre, and maybe even recognize a song and/or an artist. You’ll also notice words written on the wall alongside nearly every speaker—these identify themes/rubrics.⁷ There are further words to be found in an exhibition booklet, which lists all songs in the show by

theme/rubric. The list of works should fill in any other blanks. If it doesn't, I'm sorry to be less thorough than I think I'm being.

There is also a work in the show which is meant for your nose.

–Darren Bader 5/17

1. With an occasional assist by Amazon download or a track ripped from an out-of-print CD shipped from an Amazon vendor.
2. They not only exist, but—and this is crucial for me—are not tracks from/of the Hitchcock movie score (nor can they be a cover version of a Hitchcock movie theme played by this or that orchestra/ensemble/etc.)
3. I use search engines like Allmusic and ASCAP to be as certain as I can be.
4. To be clear, no song that isn't part of an opera that shares the play's name/story/protagonists.
5. Not sure why so many of my examples hail from the British Isles.
6. Unless I already owned the song, which was too rarely the case.
7. One of the works in the show is a hodgepodge of themes, requiring a mix of mono and stereo.

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