

ART GUIDE

METAMORPHOSES

A Burning Man Wristband Art Project

D O N O R S

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THANK YOU

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of this year's wristband:

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Sven Kräupl

Denise Winkler

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Tomas Loewy

I want to thank all my donors who helped me to raise the funds for
this project and the many volunteers who help realizing it.

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THE IDEA

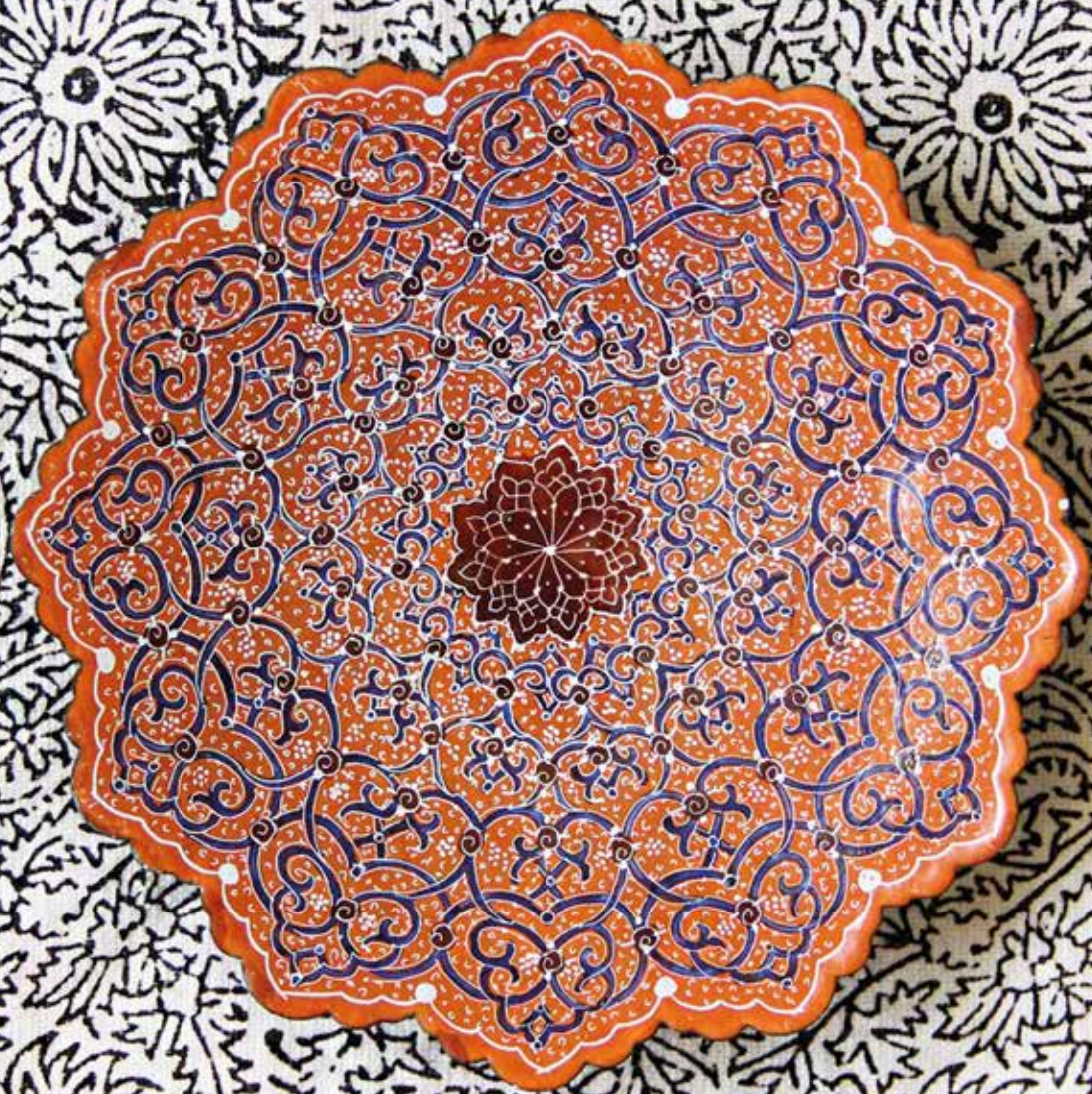
This year's theme "Metamorphoses" is all about transformation. About a miraculous process that creates magnificent artworks and life-changing encounters in an entropic kaleidoscope co-created by thousands of Burners.

Individual transformations happen at all the time at Burning Man but what I feel is symbolic for the transformational power of the Burn is our collective gathering at Burn Night.

"How does the Burn look at night when seen from high above?" I wondered.

- 1** I started researching satellite images and drone footage of the Burn and became inspired by the structures and visual patterns in these images.
- 2** Also the artwork "Love is a Riot" from Android Jones came to my mind with its masterful interplay between macro- and microcosm.
- 3** It became clear to me that I wanted the design to tell a story about the things that happen during Burn Night.

I envisioned how the metamorphoses of the Burn would form a giant mesmerizing structure - a mandala stretching from the Effigy burn all the way to the deep playa.



SHAMSEH MANDALAS

When I was researching the design of Mandalas I started out with the well-known Indian Mandala patterns but then discovered something I had not known before.

Mandalas were also used in ancient Persia where they were called Shamseh.

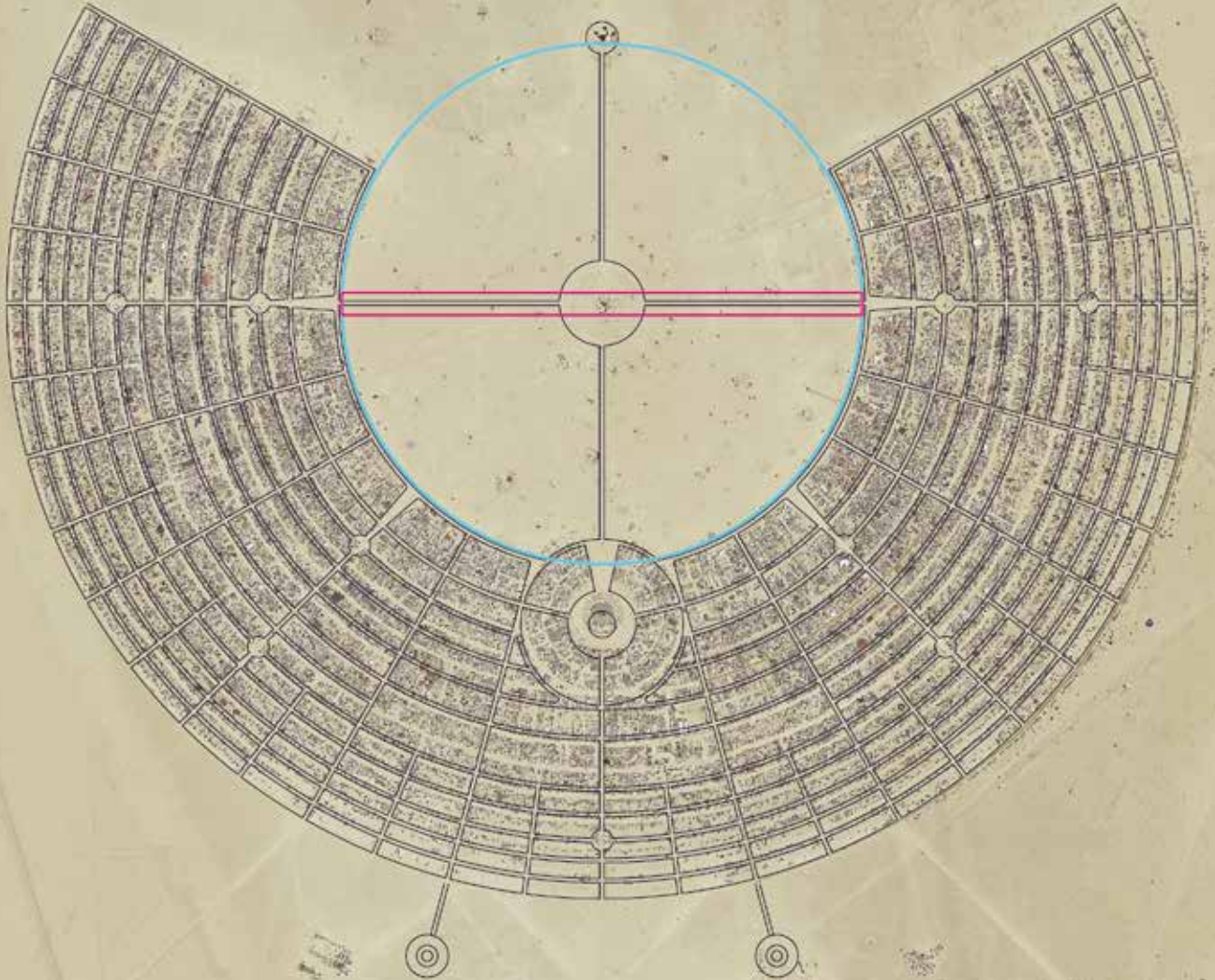
What is common in every Shamseh motif is many rays around a center. The rays symbolize every creature in the universe, and the center symbolizes god. It means that there are many creatures at different levels of closeness to God in the universe which have an innate tendency to reach God. It is also the meaning of unity which is an essential concept in Islamic philosophy. When the creatures reach the center, they become one with God. Therefore, Shamseh has the same meaning as a mandala meaning unity and harmony.

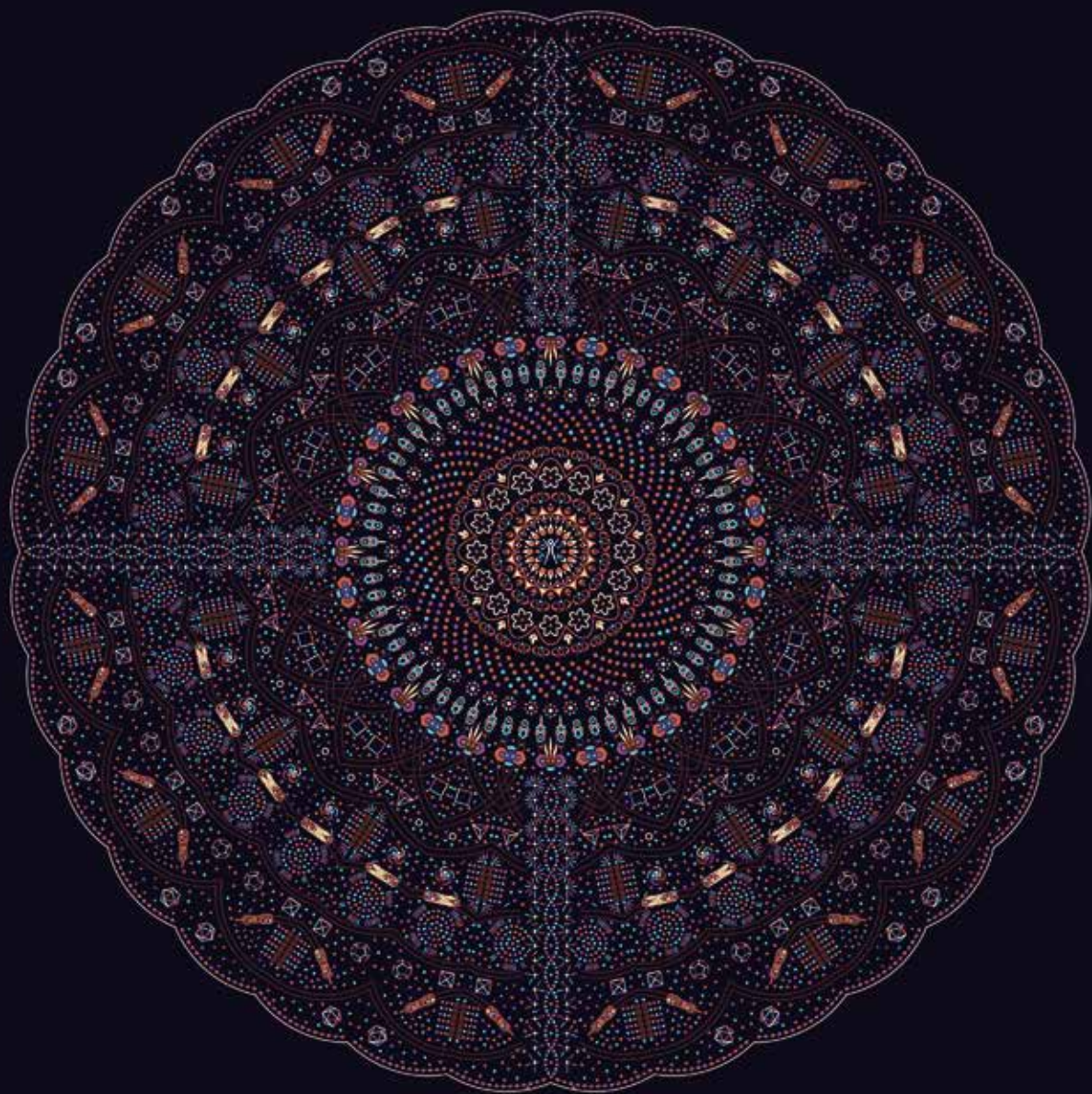
I want to dedicate this year's wristband artwork to this philosophical concept. I believe we all seek something out here on the playa. There are as many paths as there are people. It is an individual, spiritual quest but all these paths eventually unite when we come together for the Burn. The center around everybody is revolving here at Burning Man and that is at the center of our culture as well is the Man.

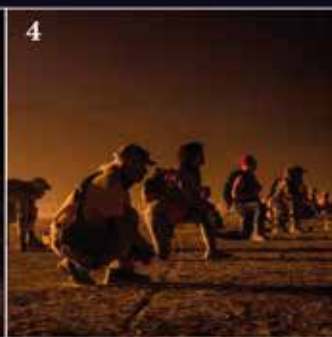
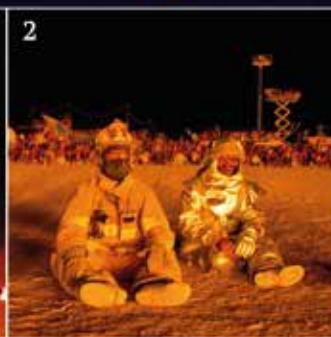
SETTING THE STAGE

The Mandala covers the inside of Black Rock City from the Esplanade to the Effigy in the center. The wristband I am gifting is a cross section of this Mandala.

The following pages explain the meaning of the Mandala's elements.



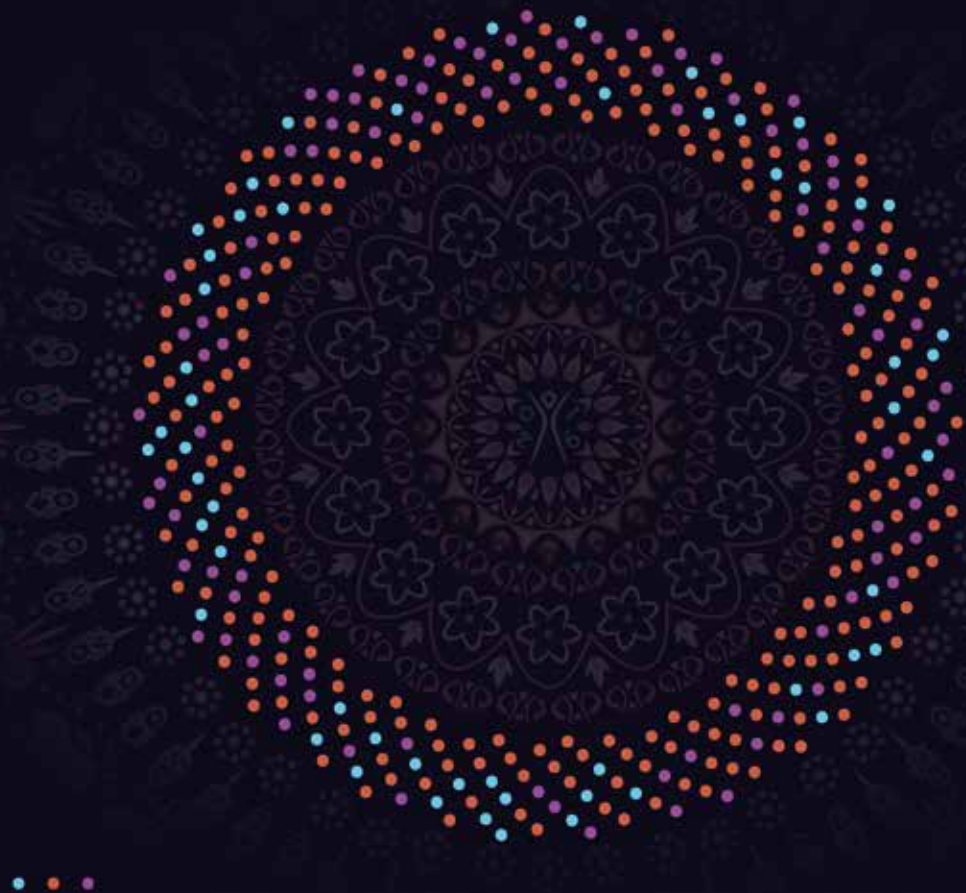




INSIDE THE BURN PERIMETER

The center of the Mandala is dedicated to the pinnacle of Burning Man - the Effigy Burn on Burn night. The design captures the things that are going on inside of the Burn perimeter.

- 1** The Man is always the centerpiece of my Burning Man wristbands. Since it is so beautifully illuminated by Smoke Daddy each year it is woven with a white glow-in-the-night yarn on the wristband. This year's Man base will be built by Hybycozo and for the Man Base I mimicked the interplay between light and shadow in radial light patterns around the Man. The current year - 2019 - is also integrated when you read it clockwise.
- 2** The Fire Art Safety Team makes sure the Man burns the way it should. The firefighters are covered in protective gear since the flames are so blazing hot. In the Mandala they are symbolized by a ring of firefighter's hats facing the Man.
- 3** The Fire Conclave performs prior to the Burn. It is spectacular to watch hundreds of fire artist in their elegant and mesmerizing performance. The fiery rings their spinning toys create is captured in the design accompanied by small fires to light their equipment.
- 4** The Black Rock Rangers safeguard the Burn. They form two rings facing the crowd - one in the inner Burn perimeter and one in front of the crowd. They are symbolized by the Ranger logo. The head of which is colored blue because they often wear a headlight on Burn night.



WATCHING THE BURN

It is always remarkable to witness the moment when thousands of people are gathered for the Burn. It was this moment that resonated with me when I thought about this year's theme - this moment of collective metamorphoses.

Visually I wanted to capture the crowd's circular movement around the perimeter in the final stage of the Burn. A mesmerizing natural pattern came to my mind - the phyllotactic spiral. It is found in many flowers, most notably the sunflower. It is the most efficient way of distributing objects within a circle and it is based on the Fibonacci sequence: 0, 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21, 34, 55, 89, 144, 233, 377, As the values increase, the fractions tend to a definite limit - the Golden Number ϕ , which was discovered by the ancient Greeks. It is also known as the Golden Ratio.

- 1 Following this ratio the Burner crowd is made up by 377 single dots. The majority has their lights turned off (233 brown dots) while some of them still have their blinkies on (144 blue and purple dots).

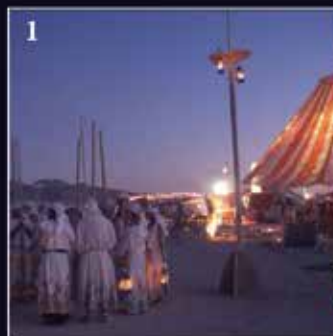
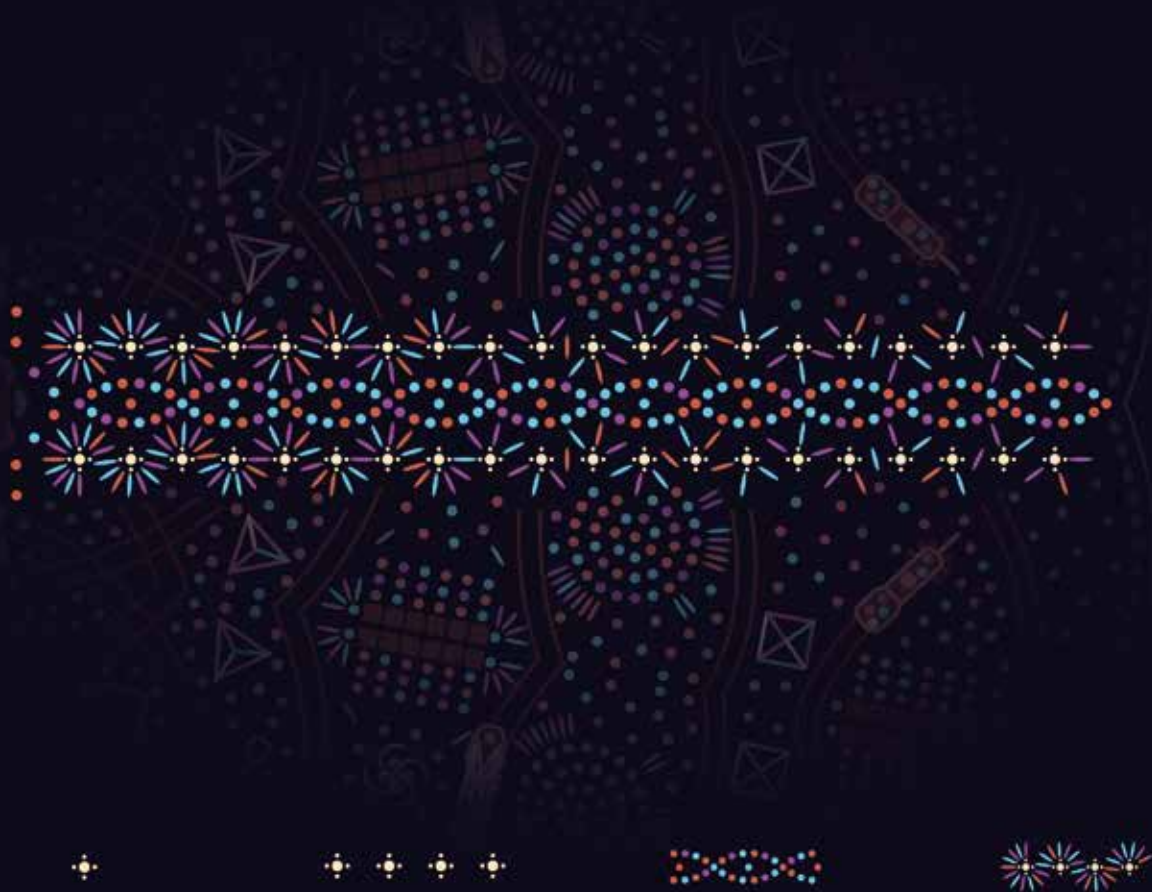




THE OUTER RIM

When you step out of the crowd and walk along the rim you come across a lot interesting gatherings - spontaneous drum circles, a magician performing, fire spinners or a cacao ceremony to only name a few examples.

- 1** People usually gather around a light source or a carriage and form small circles. In the design of the wristband these gatherings are symbolized by a circle of dots with a light in the middle.
- 2** There are also a lot smaller art cars parked around the perimeter where people throw a party or just use it as an elevated point to watch the Burn. Some of them also shoot fire.
- 3** The larger art cars line up behind the smaller art cars and form a continuous ring around the outer perimeter. Some are quite remarkably constructed and can even elevate a platform high in the air.
- 4** Some of them can shoot giant flames to cheer the Burner crowd.

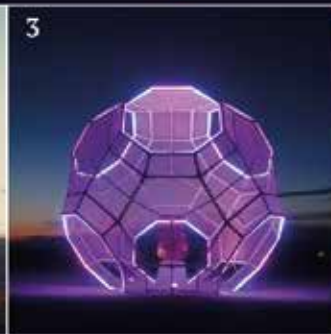
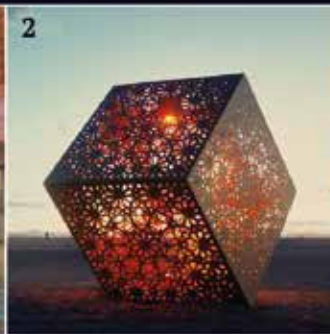
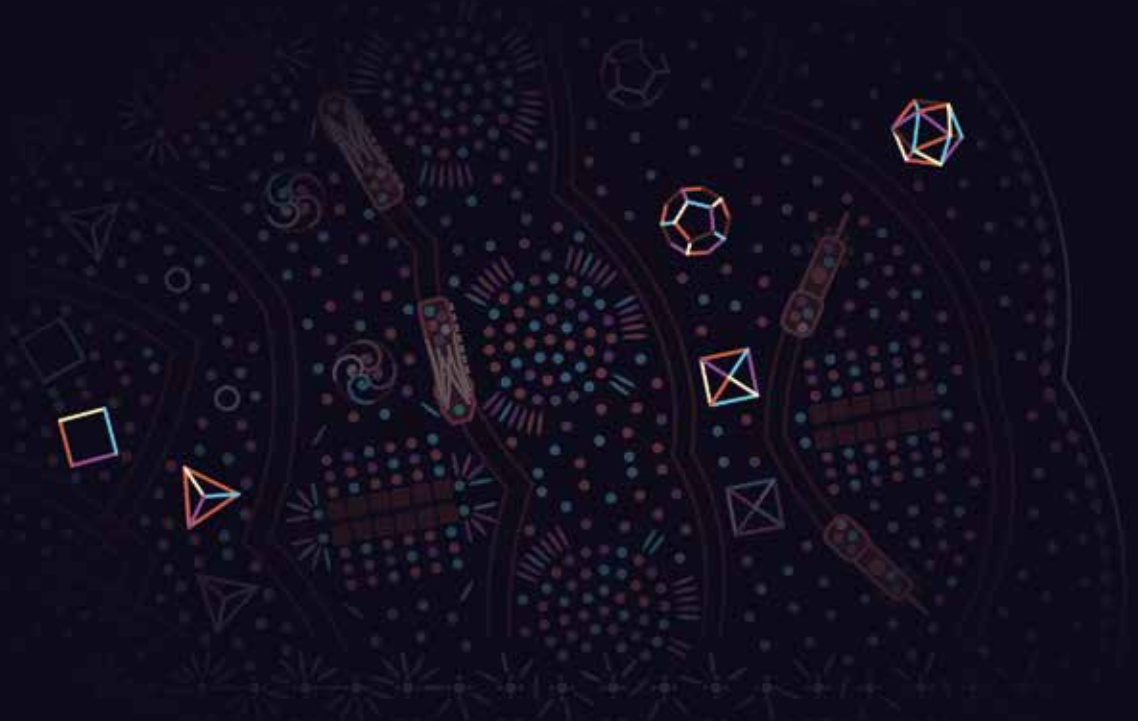


ALL AVENUES LEAD TO THE BURN

The Mandala features all the main avenues that are part of the Black Rock City design - the 3, 6 and 9 o'clock avenues and the one that connects the Man with the Temple. Twenty lamp posts line these avenues and some of them have four oil lanterns while others have only two.

- 1** Every evening at dusk the oil lanterns are lit by the wonderful volunteers of the Lamplighters camp. The lamp posts are symbolized by a bright circle with 4 dots surrounding it.
- 2** The lit avenues provide orientation and a sense of direction while being one of the most recognizable visual landmarks of the nightly city skyline.
- 3** When people are streaming towards the Effigy Burn it is the 3, 6 and 9 o'clock avenues that are usually pretty crowded. Occasionally groups walk the playa looking for people that seem lonely and give them a group hug. It has happened to me when I was feeling lonely at night during my first Burn and it is one the memories I treasure because it let me experience what this community is about. For the design of the Mandala I was imagining people streaming towards the Burn would form a intertwining pattern of dots similar to a helix.
- 4** One of the things that really suck is when you can't find your bike at night. At Burn night the lamp posts become cluttered with bikes of all sorts. This is also part of the design of the avenues. The closer you get to the Burn the more bikes, symbolized by colored lines, gather around the lamp posts.

These elements are not part of the wristband's design, only of the Mandala

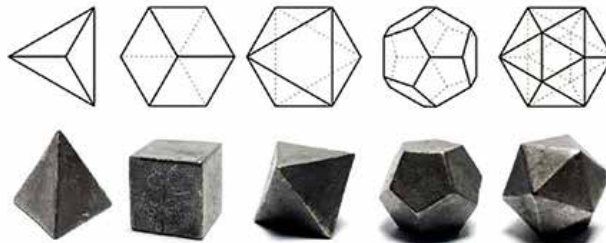


PLAYA NIGHTS

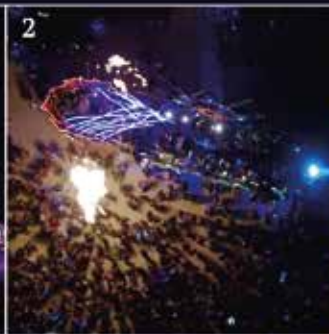
The playa at night is truly a magical place. Large scale interactive light sculptures and artworks provide a giant playground. It does not take much to get lost in the endless opportunities and encounters of the night. Especially on A Friday night ;)

- 1-3 When I started researching inspiring artworks I came across the work of Hybycozo. They create large scale installations and artworks that investigate geometric exploration through light and shadow. Hybycozo will also build the Man base this year and I wanted to give a reference to their work in my design.
- 4 I was also inspired by the art works of the FoldHaus Collective, especially their project of last year – RadiaLumia.

When I looked at the geometric beauty of these installations the five platonic bodies came to my mind. Plato was mightily impressed by these five definite shapes that constitute the only perfectly symmetrical arrangements of a set of (non-planar) points in space.



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DANCING THE NIGHT AWAY

One of my favorite places to dance is the deep playa, especially the parties of the Mayan Warrior. In 2015 we had a magical moment when me and my friends heard the mysterious deep drum anthem of the Mayan Warrior for the first time.

- 1-2** We jumped on our bikes and followed the Mayan Warrior to the deep playa.
- 3** We we arrived at the art installation “The Pool” from Jen Lewin and everybody jumped around happily on the light pads. Then Acid Pauli, a DJ from Germany, started his set and the crowd went crazy. It was such an incredible playa moment.
- 4** Maybe it is just me but finding porta potties at night can be a real challenge, especially when you are far out in the deep playa. Thank god there are these solar powered tiny blue lights to guide you. But sometimes it is just too much lights and no porta potties. And when you find them there is usually quite a line and patience is the dictate of the moment. So all you can do is park your bike and get social while standing patiently in line.

I laughed to myself when I had the idea but I think the porter potties are an essential element of the playa. Now they are part of this year's wristband design too.

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COMING HOME IN STYLE

When the morning dawns and you are tired sometimes you can hitch a ride back on one of the large art cars. Our friends from Camp Gallavant harbor the Pirates of the Playa and their Mutant Vehicle, the USS Nevada.

- 1** The USS Nevada has been the Mutant Vehicle for Gallavant since 2001 and as far it is known it is the longest tenured Pirate Ship on the playa.
- 2** But even when you are back on Esplanade there are still so many distractions.
- 3** Myriads of bars offer a nightcap and there is always a tune playing that keeps you from going to sleep just yet.
- 4** And there is Pink Heart with its cozy dome and seducing fluffy couches. With all my drinks gone it is usually when I remember the mantra "stay hydrated" and go for a final sip of their delicious cucumber water before I really go home.

FIN

