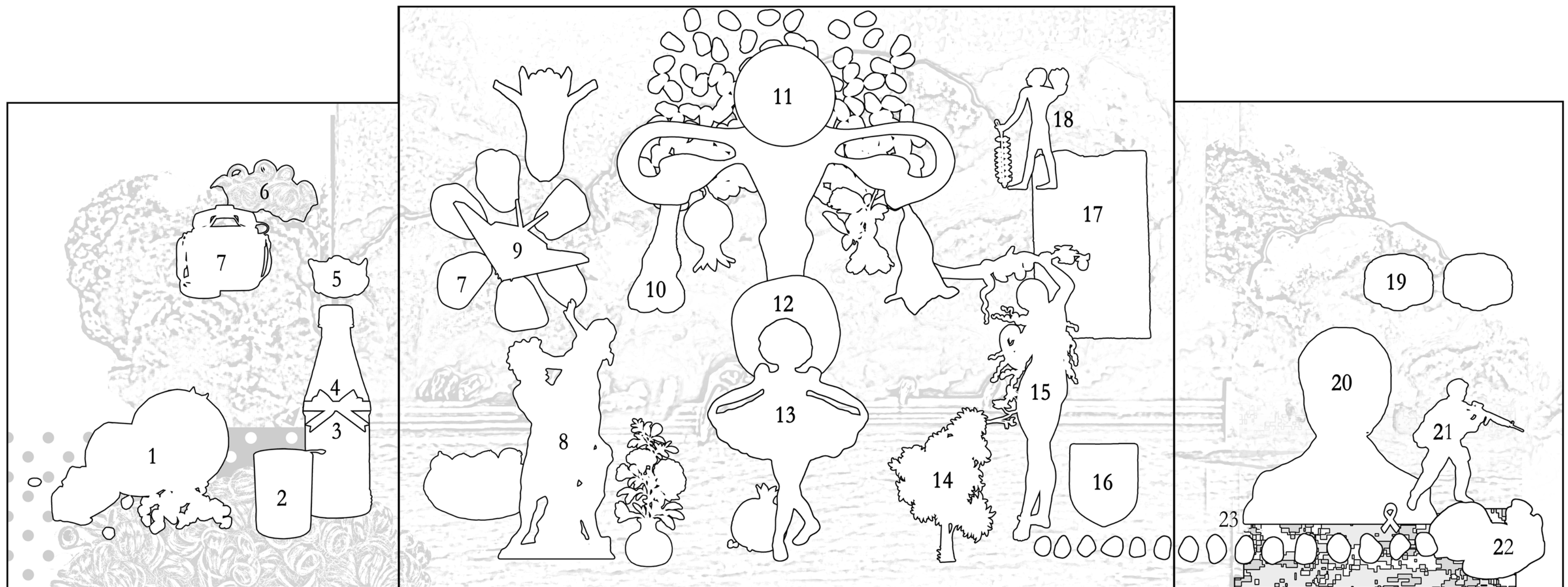


Grenadine (*Punica granatum* and *Geopolitics*), 2018



Left Panel: POM Wonderful

Center Panel: Middle East of Eden

Right Panel: Shirley Temple of Doom

1. **Grenades**
The pomegranate was long known as the “grenade,” from the Spanish “granata.” The explosive weapon is named from the “...many-seeded fruit suggested the powder-filled, fragmenting bomb.”
2. **Shirley Temple**
As a 20 year-old waitress, our bartender wouldn’t serve me. I’d have a Shirley Temple (Sprite + grenadine) with my coworkers post-shift.
3. **Grenadine**
The pomegranate syrup always behind the bar makes more than just Shirley Temples, but is almost always named Rose, like me.
4. **Cutting Ribbon**
When I was little, during the Gulf War, my mom made a yellow ribbon “Support Our Troops” flag to hang outside our house. I helped her paint some of those little foam balls for the end of the flag pole.
5. **Roasted Grill**
Child star Shirley Temple (namesake of the cocktail) was the subject of much body scrutiny. There were rumors her teeth were fake and that her she was actually a little person because of her stocky physique.
6. **Wigging Out**
Temple’s curly hair was also rumored to be a wig.
7. **Purse-phone**
A play-on-words of pomogrante-eating goddess Persephone. And Betsy Johnson actually makes this purse which I came across in a Marshalls.
7. **Seeds vs. seed**
The pomegranate’s birth control and abortifacient properties were known to the ancients and proven in contemporary rodent studies.
8. **Bernini’s *The Rape of Proserpina***
Critic Rudolf Wittkower noted that Bernini’s dynamic depiction of rape became the standard for depicting rapes for hundreds of years. It’s my dad’s favorite sculpture.
9. **Stealth Bomber**
The military breakthrough of the 1990s and an American icon of my childhood, years these bad boys need 47 hours of maintenance for every one hour of flight.
10. **Camel Toe**
Vagina joke!
11. **Lookin Like a Snack**
After abducting and raping Persephone, Hades gave her pomegranate seeds to eat, cursing her split her life between the earth and underworld, with winter occurring while the goddess of plants was below ground. It is hypothesized that this legend pomegranate seeds leading to barrenness was an allegory for their anti-fertility properties.
12. **Juicy Fruit**
Another vagina joke!
13. **Don’t Call Me Shirley**
Child star Shirley Temple’s first role, at age 3, was as an exotic dancer in an all-child spoof film called *War Babies*. In the film, she gets her first kiss.
14. **Unicorn**
The famous Unicorn tapestries feature a pomegranate tree
15. **Forbidden Fruit**
Eve’s Forbidden Fruit was likely originally a pomegranate rather than an apple, probably mistranslated over the centuries. Her mythology is likely tied to the Persephone’s before her.
16. **This Crest**
Has a pomegranate and was online. Doesn’t mean shit but it looks cool.
17. **Persian Rug**
Native to the near east, pomegranates are frequent motifs in persian rugs. My broke ass has a fake oriental rug from Marshalls that was only \$79.99. Really ties the room together.
18. **Walk Like and Egyptian**
“Eat a pomegranate and visit a bath; your youth will haste back.” -Ancient Egyptian proverb.
19. **Insane in the Membrane**
When soldiers came back from the Gulf War, many presented unexplained symptoms colloquially now known as Gulf War Syndrome. Brain scans show abnormalities, though 80% of claims are denied by the VA. According the VA website they “prefer not to use the term ‘Gulf War Syndrome’ and instead call them ‘unexplained illnesses’ and ‘chronic multisymptom illness.’”
20. **Temple Black Heart**
Shirley Temple married businessman and former spy Charles Alden Black at age 22. As an adult, Shirley Temple Black was known for her work as a conservative politician.
21. **Hinterland**
As a child of the 1990s, the Middle East has been a war zone my entire life; during my childhood, the enemy stopped being the Russians and terrorists stopped being white.
22. **Jordans**
The Air Jordan came out in 1990, the same year as Operation Desert Storm. In 2013, overpriced hypebeast company Supreme launched a Desert Storm Air Jordan in the operation’s actual camo print.
23. **Digital Camo**
My entire life, US military camo has been desert colored. In the early 2000’s, that camo took on a pixelated, digital look. To me, digital desert camo seems like the perfect symbol of America.