



Excerpt from the Wiser Now blog A Cheering Word (www.ACheeringWord.com) About a Colorful Insurrection

Introduction

The name for this blog comes from the song:

I hear a bird, a Glocca Morra bird.
It well may be, he's bringing me a cheering word.

Those lines from the Finian's Rainbow song "How Are Things in Glocca Morra?" by E. Y. Harburg and Burton Lane precisely capture the goal of this blog - bringing you a cheering word.

Here you will find each week examples of what is good, fun and/or funny on this crazy Earth. . . . Watching the evening news can cause us to forget that the world is full of good people and lots of JOY and pure fun. Here you will find reminders.

Hear Ella Logan perform the original Broadway version of "How Are Things in Glocca Morra" here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dcPY-eG1Ano>.

Knitting Insurrection

I have always wanted to be subversive in a humorous way. Simple non-violence is noble, but often too serious and intense for me. However, so far I have not found my subversively humorous talent, so the best I can do is point it out in others.



A few years ago I read about Jesse Hemmon (pictured) of Ishknits yarnbombing the Rocky Statue in front of the Philadelphia Museum of Art. The movie boxer Rocky, played in multiple iterations by Sylvester Stallone, famously ran up and down the 72 art museum steps as part of his training, and for 30+ years now a larger-than-life-size statue in front of the museum has commemorated that scene. The problem – at least as some of us see it – is that more people seem to be interested in having their pictures taken with the statue than venturing inside the museum. Along came Ms. Hemmon with a hot pink knitted hooded vest for the statue bearing the message, "GO SEE THE ART." Perfect subversion.

"Yarnbombing" strikes me as a too-violent name for people with colorful skeins and skill with needles who feel the world has had enough of their sweaters. For years now, they have been

creating the most amazing – and happy – art by knitting and crocheting coral reefs, cozies for British phone booths and American parking meters and trees. They have, in fact, become sought after rather than subversive as an article about the recent public art project on the Andy Warhol Bridge in downtown Pittsburgh proved.

Furthermore, gorgeous crocheted coral reef projects have been the subject of dozens of exhibits around the world, often in conjunction with a marine science group concerned about the fragility of ocean reefs. It seems that we humans are much more likely to listen to messages conveyed with humor and eye appeal than a harangue.

A new form of subversive art is bound to come along soon, but in the meantime enjoy the many, many Internet examples of this one.

Some sources:

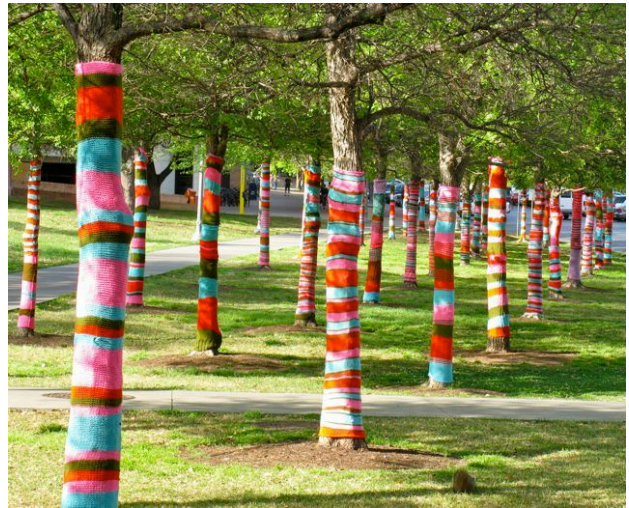
Pittsburgh bridge:



[gallery/](#) (includes video – or just go to “Google images” for this topic

A variety:

- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yarn_bombing
- <http://www.playcreateexplore.org/2011/08/happy-humpday-yarn-bombing.html>
- <http://artstormer.com/2012/05/20/yarn-bombing/>



<http://newsfeed.time.com/2013/08/13/pittsburgh-bridge-gets-a-yarn-bomb-makeover/>

Rocky statue:

<http://ifitshipitshere.blogspot.com/2011/06/yarn-bombing-guerilla-knitters-granny.html>

Crocheted Coral reefs:

<http://crochetcoralreef.org/about/> and [http://greenneonlight.wordpress.com/2010/04/06/hyperbolic-crochet-coral-reef-the-science-](http://greenneonlight.wordpress.com/2010/04/06/hyperbolic-crochet-coral-reef-the-science-gallery/)