

The '100 Great Icons'

SNOWDOME – Storm in a Teacup

CONTEMPORARY CULTURE'S MOST POPULAR PIECE OF COLLECTIBLE KITSCH HAS ITS ORIGINS IN FRANCE AS A HIGH-END OBJECT OF BEAUTY AND REFINEMENT.

For Charles Foster Kane in Orson Welles' landmark film Citizen Kane, the small, water-filled dome he clutches at the moment of his death housed much more than a mere snowy landscape. It symbolised lost innocence and encapsulated a lifetime of regret perhaps not the felling Joseph Garaja of Pittsburgh hoped to invoke when he perfected the item as an inexpensive, mass-market souvenir in the late 1920s. Although it was Garaja who patented the idea of the modern snowdome and revolutionised the manufacturing process of the aquatic artworks, artisans in France had been making solid glass globes for use as paperweights since the early 1800s. At the Paris World's Fair of 1878 the first globes depicting a snowstorm went on show, but their expensive price tags and artwork status meant they were mainly purchased by wealthy Victorians as souvenirs and paperweights. It was not until the Paris World's Fair of 1889, celebrating the centenary of the French Revolution, that snowdomes really raised a storm. An entrepreneurial manufacturer encased tiny ceramic models of the Eiffel Tower, which had also been built for the Exhibition, in a palm-sized sphere filled with water and fake snow. The inexpensive mementos were a hit, and suddenly snowdomes became travel souvenirs. Perhaps unsurprisingly, it was an American who turned the delicate, hand-crafted snowdome into tacky kitsch. Garaja's manufacturing method, in which a glass globe would be screwed into a base whilst underwater, shook up the industry. In 1931 Garaja's first snowdomes were advertised as a 'new and clever novelty'. Once manufacturers began using plastic instead of glass, the mini-landscapes spread far and wide. The Germans are responsible for the oval plastic dome with the blue background that is synonymous with snowdomes today. It's said to have been inspired by the view of a snow setting from the back window of Volkswagen. Known around the world as snowglobes, snow shakers, snowstorms, waterglobes, waterballs, blizzard, weights, shakies and snowies, the wintry worlds in a bubble add cool cred any mantelpiece.

FAST FACTS:

- 1889:** Snowdomes housing Lilliputian replicas of the Eiffel Tower cause a flurry of attention at the Paris World's Fair. The snow inside the original globes is made from bone chips, porcelain, sand and sometimes sawdust. It's now made from white plastic.
- 1929:** American Joseph Garaja is granted a patent for the mass production of glass water globes of 'artistic attractiveness and novel ornamentation'.
- 1930s:** Snowdomes are sold as advertising gimmicks. One promotes a product called 'Naction' which, it is claimed, will 'turn off excess secretion of gastric acid'.
- 1941:** Charles Foster Kane, played by Orson Welles utters his dying word, 'Rosebud', as a snowdome falls from his hand in the opening scene of Citizen Kane.
- 1960s:** A storm in a snowdome erupts when Hong Kong-manufactured domes are banned in the USA after it is revealed the domes are filled with polluted water from the city's harbour.
- 2002:** A snowdome becomes a murder weapon during a crime of passion in Unfaithful, starring Richard Gere and Diane Lane.

From Chris Sheedy & Jenny Bond

"The RULES of LIFE"

Learn to see your community as part of a bigger picture

We all know about the nature of ripples. We throw a stone and it causes ripples. We say something and it causes ripples. We take action and it causes ripples. We belong to a community - small or large - and our behaviour in that community - small or large - and our behaviour in that community causes ripples. All those ripples affect other people. All those other people are throwing their stones as well, and their ripples are affecting us. Sometimes we need to stand back and look at all the stone throwing and the ripples and see it from the outside.

Your community has an impact on other communities and it is up to you - partly - what that impact is and how it affects other people. We have to take individual responsibility for our community. If behaving badly, adversely affecting other people, swamping folk with its ripples, we have to stand up and say so. We have to do something when we feel our community is overwhelming another one with its ripples. It's no good pretending it isn't happening or thinking we have no power to make change. We have no power to make change. We have power all right. It's no good waiting for someone else to stand up and be counted. We have to do the standing and the counting. It's no good trusting others to make all the decisions for us and hoping they are going to be the right ones. We have to get involved, be part of the process, be proactive. If others are making the decisions for us, chances are we are being led like sheep.

Everything our community does - and by this I mean from tiny village to town to city right up to entire country - has a ripple effect that changes others' lives. If we want to shut our eyes to the plight of others caused by our own community's actions, we are fooling no one and will reap a bitter harvest. We have to take responsibility and see the bigger picture. We have to get involved and be a part of the process. We have to be part of the solution and not part of the problem.

From Richard Templar

'Snippets'

Quotes Steven Wright (Part 1) Whenever I think of the past, it brings back so many memories. There's a fine line between fishing and just standing on the shore like an idiot. I'm writing a book. I've got the page numbers done. Everywhere is within walking distance if you have the time. A lot of people are afraid of heights. Not me, I'm afraid of widths. What's another word for Thesaurus? I installed a skylight in my apartment... the people who live above me are furious! I was walking down the street wearing glasses when the prescription ran out. What a nice night for an evening. Right now I'm having amnesia and deja vu at the same time... I think I've forgotten this before. I intend to live forever. So far, so good. I busted a mirror and got seven years bad luck, but my lawyer thinks he can get me five. Babies don't need a vacation, but I still see them at the beach... it p***es me off! I'll go over to a little baby and say 'What are you doing here? You haven't worked a day in your life!' I went to a restaurant that serves 'breakfast at any time'. So I ordered French Toast during the Renaissance. Someone asked me, if I were stranded on a desert island what book would I bring... 'How to Build a Boat.' I remember when the candle shop burned down. Everyone stood around singing 'Happy Birthday.' I had to stop driving my car for a while... the tires got dizzy. Curiosity killed the cat, but for a while I was a suspect. I think it's wrong that only one company makes the game Monopoly. Experience is something you don't get until just after you need it.

FROM THE EDITOR

A new year and new hope for a bigger and better one. Well, it is up to everyone to focus and create your own luck. The new Air Timor flights to and from Kupang have started and that is another plus for both locals and promoting tourism. A Chinese Hospital ship visited spreading good will and coming to the aid of lots of patients in need of sophisticated medical care. The Hospital had a graduation ceremony for nursing and another farewell which are all in the social pages. We were unable to publish the tides in January but they are back in this month together with all the other regular items of interest. Unfortunately, we publish yet another obituary for a friend of Timor Leste. We have been publishing obituaries with monotonous regularity last year and there is no sadder occasion than final goodbyes to friends and loved ones. On a lighter note, we publish an early preliminary advert for 17th of March better known as St Patrick's Day. Always a big, fun night at Nautilus and this year falling on a very convenient Saturday night. Just for the record, when the Irish Embassy closed, Bruce from Nautilus and I made a commitment to the outgoing Ambassador that we would jointly perpetuate this significant celebration. This will be our 6th year and they just keep getting bigger and better. Come join the fun. Like always, if you're going somewhere, safe travelling. Till next time. **Cheers! Leith Carroll**

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From "Comedians Quote Book"

It's almost impossible to refuse second helpings of food from an Italian lady like my mom. I used to brief my friends: "If you want a lot more food, smile at her. If you want just a little more, say 'No, I can't eat a thing.' If you don't want any more . . . you'll have to shoot her."

Ray Romano

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