
XX
II

INTRODUCTION

In 2007, a symbol appeared on the streets somewhere between Cologne & Bremen. Two crosses, two bars – or XXII, as the crazy Romans wrote it. The Twenty-Two. For the love of a mystic number.

Eight years later, the sign grew a character: a yellow smiley head under a bowler hat. A cigar, a halo, a chicken *Frikadelle* stuck to one ear. A talking parrot on its shoulder. A rocket launch on a dress. What a metaphor overload. But then it went quiet. Until 2026.

Early that year, we received a folder with the original sign, the collage, a handful of references and a USB stick full of beats and loops. The task: build a world around them. A world for a mixtape called **THE SEARCH FOR THE MYSTIC NUMBER**. 22 tracks, mixed into a 22-minute journey by Grzly Adams from Berlin.

This book is part archive, part making-of. Some of it was found online. Some of it was drawn by hand. Some of it was generated and then wrestled with until it felt right. All of it as real as your dreams. The world is still growing. Or, as someone once said:

"Keep searching for the mystic number, baby!"



P.S. Best experienced with the mixtape playing while you dig through these pages. You'll find the link and QR code on the right.

SOUNDCLOUD

bc

SUBVERT





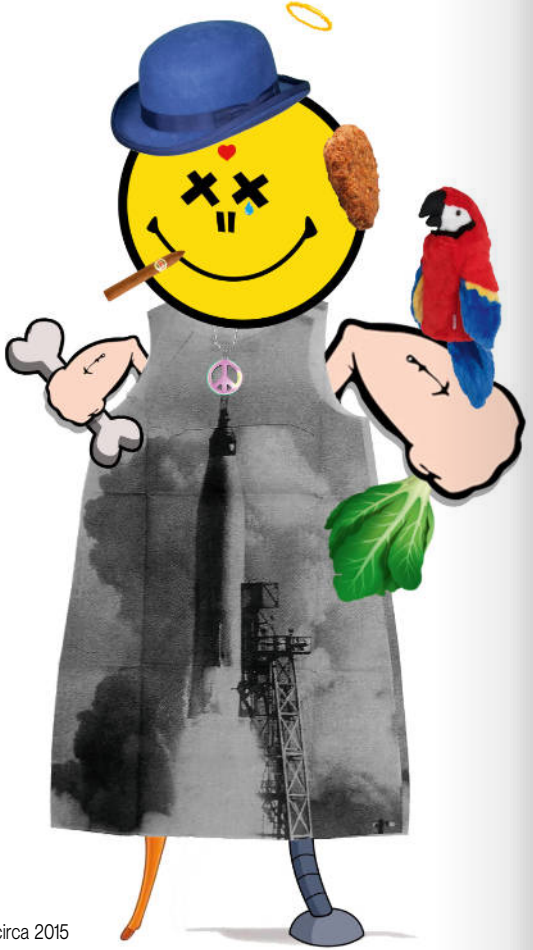




The heart-shaped third eye and the teardrop were added around 2012/13.







Digital Collage, circa 2015



A 3D update of the original collage, built mainly with FLUX.2 by Black Forest Labs and upscaled with NB2.



Additional character studies.

THE CREW: The Magic Twenty-Two





Studies with a new prop: the torch. On the right: the first finished artwork, which became the first of three covers for **THE SEARCH FOR THE MYSTIC NUMBER**.





THE CHARACTERS OF THE MAGIC TWENTY-TWO WORLD



The Magic Twenty-Two
The face of The Magic Twenty-Two – or one of its many forms. Likes dusty beats and loops, samples from Absurdistan and all kinds of wicked visuals. Has never said a single word. All you can go by is the art.



The Anti-Muse
Good at heart, weird in her ways. Torn between sweet and trash talk. Motivating and brutally honest at once. Co-host of the **THE SEARCH FOR THE MYSTIC NUMBER** mixtape.



Mrs. Vogel
The talking parrot. Some people think she's the master-mind behind the magic world. Favorite statement: "Fuck gravity, bitches!"



The Wizard
Mysterious, and it's unclear which side he's on. Also known as the King of Sarcasm. Rumors say that he's live on tour with his band. Main-host of the **THE SEARCH FOR THE MYSTIC NUMBER** mixtape.



?
The great unknown. Some call him Azuro. Appears out of no-where from time to time to bring chaos. Beware when you hear a deep, echoing giggle. Will be revealed soon.

Starting point: an oil painting, painted by an unknown artist, privately owned.



Procreate drawing as main input for FLUX.2. Final result on the right.

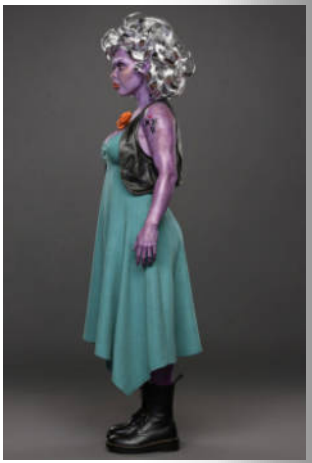






Additional character studies.














THE MAGIC TWENTY-TWO
THE SEARCH FOR THE MYSTIC NUMBER



Starting point: this iconic photo of Screamin' Jay Hawkins – meant as pure homage.



To give him an otherworldly vibe, we did a rough digital redraw. FLUX.2 responds beautifully to illustrated input.





Additional character studies.




The
WIZARD
and
Company

THE STAGES

The stages offer a glimpse of where The Magic Twenty-Two exists – somewhere between a half-remembered dream and an alternate reality. A car ride through a mystic jungle. Ancient ruins with a retro-futuristic machine. A throne room carved from crystal, guarded by a tower of speakers. A neon-lit mystic shop in the rain.

Every stage is built like a miniature set: smooth surfaces, toy-like figures, practical light from torches, neon and old CRT screens. Found objects from the ’80s and ’90s – an ALF figurine, a pro-nuclear button (wait, what?), an MPC – sit next to ancient busts and amethyst clusters. None of it was simply generated. We used FLUX.2 to build the individual elements, assembled them into collages, then ran each finished collage back through FLUX.2 to relight it as one coherent scene. Cut, paste, relight.

The palette sticks to violet, burnt orange and neon blue, finished with film grain and the worn texture of an old print. Surreal, slightly haunted. And there’s a lot more to come – in the past future.


















THE MAGIC
TWENTY TWO
SUPER MAGIC
SEARCH DEVICE


ATOMKRAFT?
ABER JA DOCH!
ALF


THE MAGIC
MYSTIC SHOP
OUTATIME
X-FILES



THE STAGES: Elements

Collage elements for the different world stages.









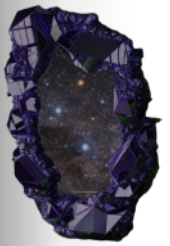
























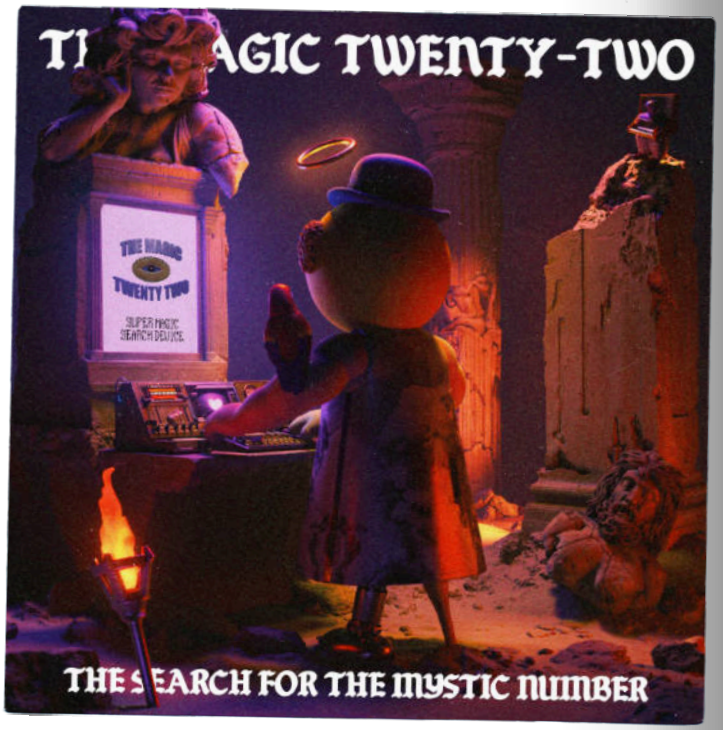




Bandcamp Edition



Back Cover



Subvert Edition



SoundCloud Edition


THE MAGIC
TWENTY TWO


THE MAGIC
TWENTY TWO


THE MAGIC
TWENTY TWO

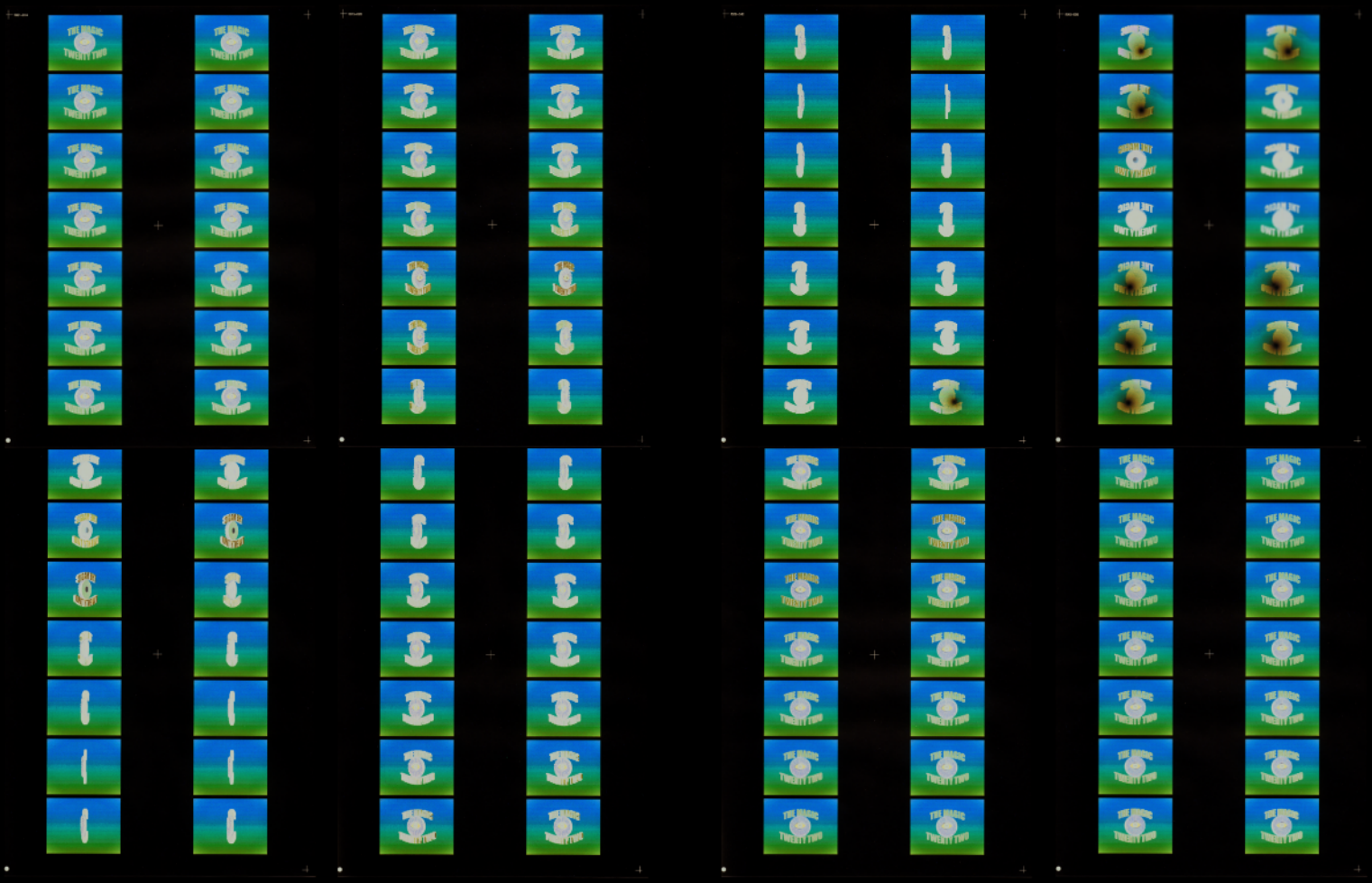

THE MAGIC
TWENTY TWO


THE MAGIC
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THE MAGIC
TWENTY TWO





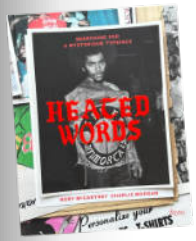
THE ARTWORK: Title Font

For the final artwork, we used the Grandmaster Clash font. It's a digital revival of the felt iron-on letters reportedly cut in a Brooklyn T-shirt shop in the '70s and '80s. This simplified blackletter was worn by Grandmaster Flash, the Rocksteady Crew, Biz Markie and even Joe Strummer. It became such a defining mark of early hip-hop and street culture that an entire book is dedicated to it: Heated Words: Searching for a Mysterious Typeface (Rory McCartney & Charlie Morgan, Rizzoli 2023).The font carries exactly the raw, analog outsider aesthetic this work draws on.'Searching' and 'mystery' in both titles? Pure coincidence. Or magic.

THE SEARCH FOR
THE MYSTIC NUMBER

THE MAGIC TWENTY-TWO
THE SEARCH FOR THE MYSTIC NUMBER

THE SEARCH FOR
THE MYSTIC NUMBER





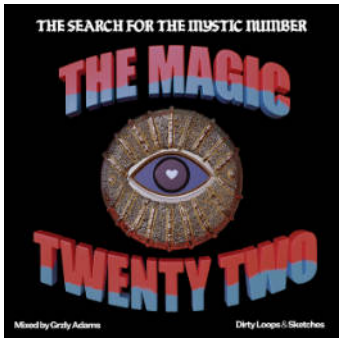
GRANDMASTER
CLASH

OPENTYPE DISPLAY FONT

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THE MAGIC 22
THE SEARCH FOR THE MYSTIC NUMBER


THE MAGIC 22
THE SEARCH FOR THE MYSTIC NUMBER


THE SEARCH FOR THE MYSTIC NUMBER
THE MAGIC
TWENTY TWO
Mixed by Grzly Adams
Dirty Loops & Sketches


THE SEARCH FOR THE MYSTIC NUMBER
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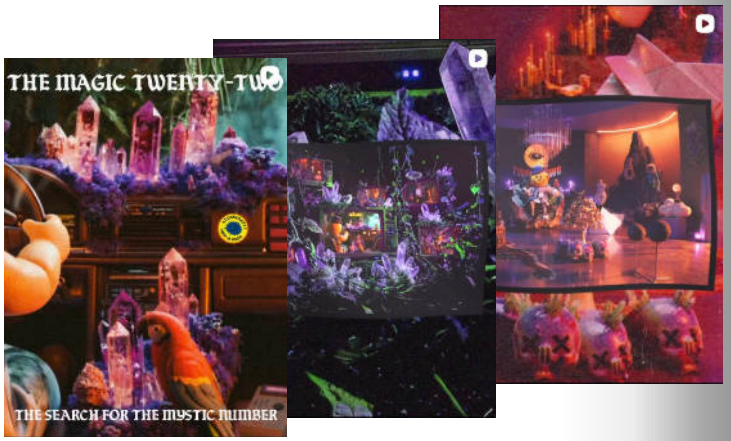

THE MAGIC 22
Mixed by Grzly Adams
Dirty Loops & Sketches
THE SEARCH FOR
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THE MAGIC 22
Mixed by Grzly Adams
Dirty Loops & Sketches
THE SEARCH FOR
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THE MAGIC 22
THE SEARCH FOR
THE MYSTIC NUMBER

THE ARTWORK: Promo Material











For nearly two decades, The Magic Twenty-Two has existed primarily as a visual presence – rooted somewhere between Cologne and Bremen. A signature. A recurring symbol. But there were always rumors of something else. An unreleased tape with rough but vibey material. Beats that never surfaced. Now they do. **THE SEARCH FOR THE MYSTIC NUMBER**: 22 raw beats & dirty loops with mystic samples and obscure sound worlds – combined in a haunting 22-minutes mixtape, created by Grzly Adams from Berlin. Mastered by Jari at Baumstudio Bremen. In the spirit of DJ Muggs, RZA & Dilla.





CREDITS

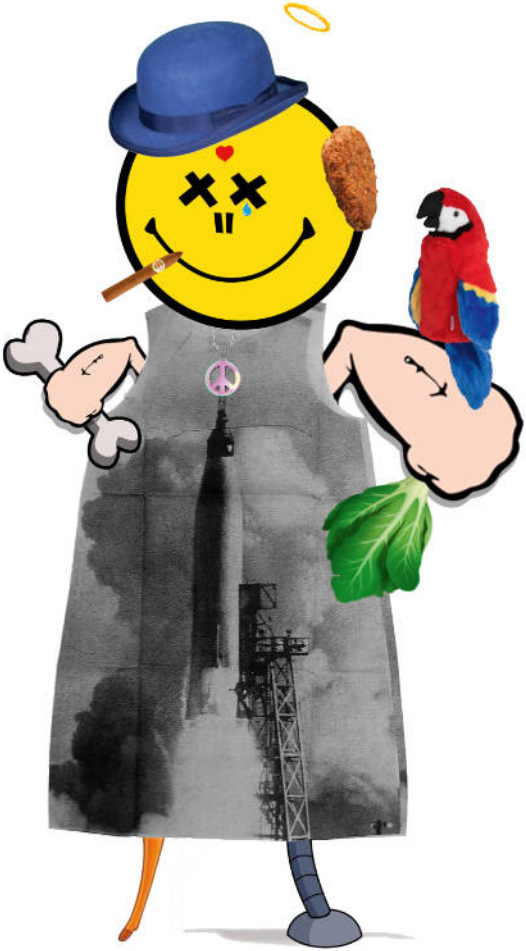
Concept, Art Direction & World Building: Bjearn Rausch
Music: The Magic Twenty-Two
Mixtape: Grzly Adams, Berlin
Mastering: Jari, Baumstudio Bremen
Title Font: Grandmaster Clash by World Famous Original
Original Symbol (2007) & Character Collage (2015):
The Magic Twenty-Two

TOOLS

Procreate, Affinity Publisher, Blender (w/ Claude), Nomad Sculpt, FLUX.2 by Black Forest Labs & NB2 via Artlist.

A NOTE ON FLUX.2

Much of this world was build with FLUX.2 by Black Forest Labs, an AI lab based in Freiburg, Germany. We chose it because it treats hand-drawn input as a starting point, not something to overwrite – and the results turned us into true fans. Worth a try: bfl.ai



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