

**Almeida Paroubek**

**Touch(screen)**

**May 3, 2020**

**Bard College**

**Documentation of this show can be found on my website:**

[almeidaparoubek.com](http://almeidaparoubek.com)

## **TOUCH (SCREEN)**

How do you maintain a relationship with someone who lives 3,639 miles away? Last spring I collaborated with my partner, who lives in Germany, on one of my final art projects. I wanted to find a way for us to be able to work together despite the distance. This evolved into a larger body of artwork and became the focus of my senior project. The project as a whole became an examination of how my partner and I established a relationship and how it has lasted for two and a half years; despite a heavy reliance on technology--often seen as something that divides us. Originally, the focus of this work was on the obsessiveness, the amount of effort and time put into maintaining a type of relationship that most people avoid. This has completely changed. The world is now forced into technologically based long distance relationships as a result of the COVID-19 global pandemic and has become the thread connecting people to the same feelings, struggles and joys I have experienced over the past two years. Everyone is being forced to adapt to long distance relationships. As a result of COVID this entire body of work is installed in my bedroom where I maintain all of my socially distant relationships. I hope now that this work can be a reminder that we can find creative ways to stay together, no matter how far away someone might be.

### **Here and There and Back and Forth:**

Our first project was a series of photographs that were sent back and forth between where I live in Upstate New York and my partner in North-Rhine Westphalia, Germany. I would take a photo in New York, email it to them, and they would print it out and photograph it in Germany, then email it back to me. This was the process, back and forth, for several weeks. We always held the paper in the same spot so it looks as though our hands are touching. I wanted to bridge the distance, and create a sense of shared space.

### Fingerprints:

The second project was about obsession and resulted in an accumulation of visual data.

Between January 1, 2018 and April 29, 2019 I sent 130,301 text messages through Discord, the primary messaging app we've used during our relationship. I found the number of messages I sent them each day since the beginning of our relationship up to now. I charted all of the messages I sent in one day on individual pieces of paper--one paper representing one day. I used my fingerprints to create each dot on a page, mimicking the touch screens we use for texting.

### Snuggle:

The third project was a recreation of a gift they gave me, on a much larger scale. The first time I visited them after our relationship began, we went to an amusement park in Denmark, and they gave me a teddy bear from one of the rigged carnival booths they have. I recreated this bear twice at a five foot and three foot scale. The physical element is the most noticeably missing aspect of a long distance relationship, so this project was born from a feeling of longing.

### Roots:

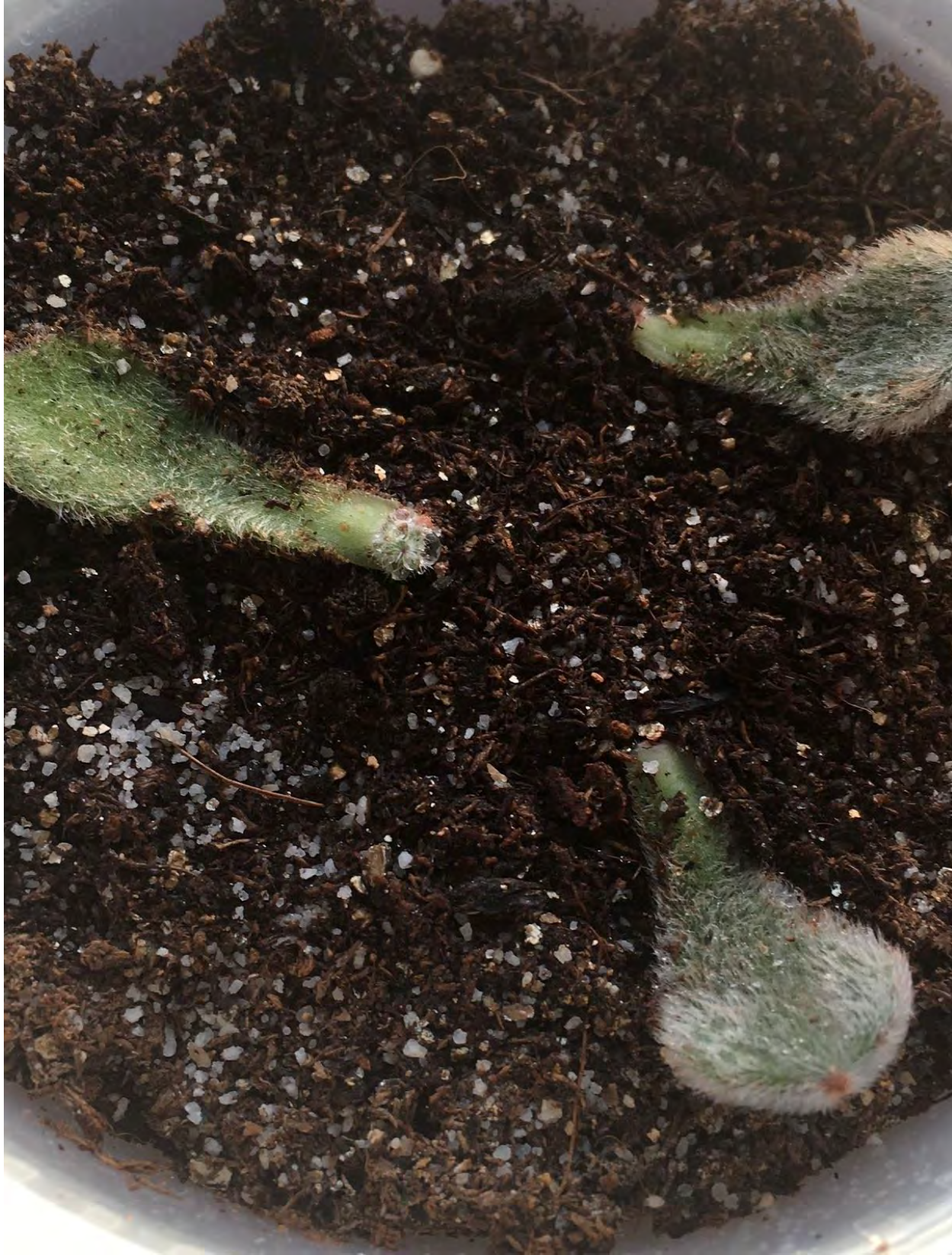
The fourth project is a succulent that I've been trying to grow as a cutting from one that my partner has. I visited them in person once during this project, and we bought a succulent plant that I took some leaves from to grow in New York. This plant is apparently very slow growing.

For a long time I didn't think it survived the trip back over the Atlantic Ocean. Now the tiniest leaf buds have started appearing, and I'm not sure it's made any roots yet, but I am hopeful that it will continue to grow.











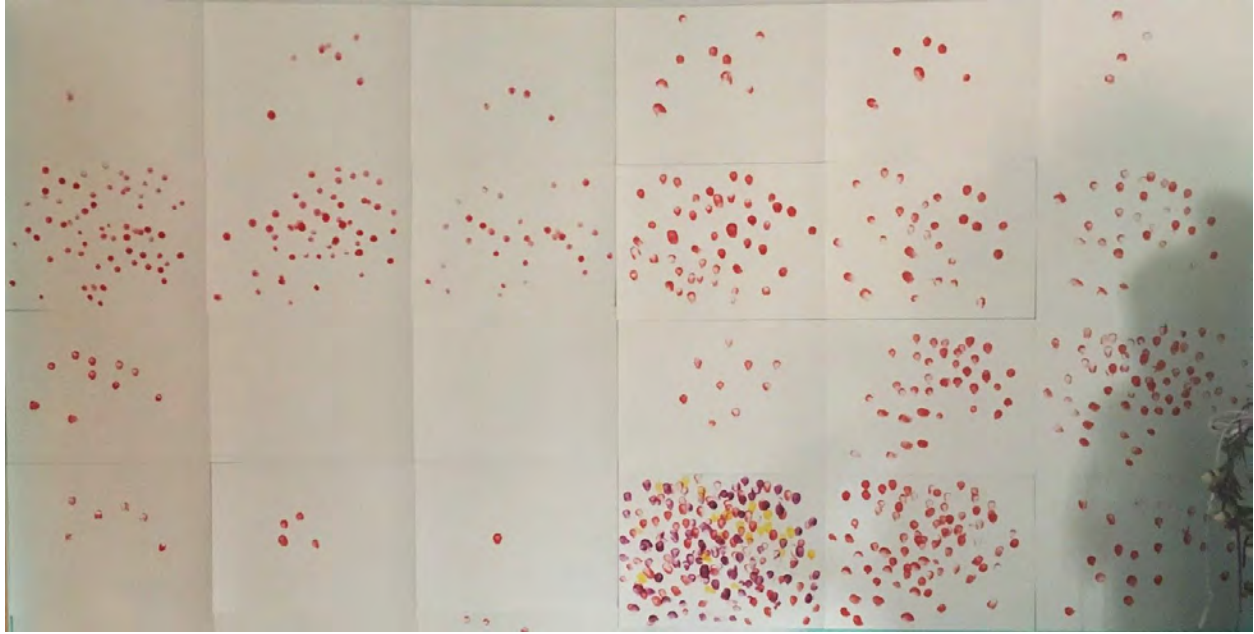


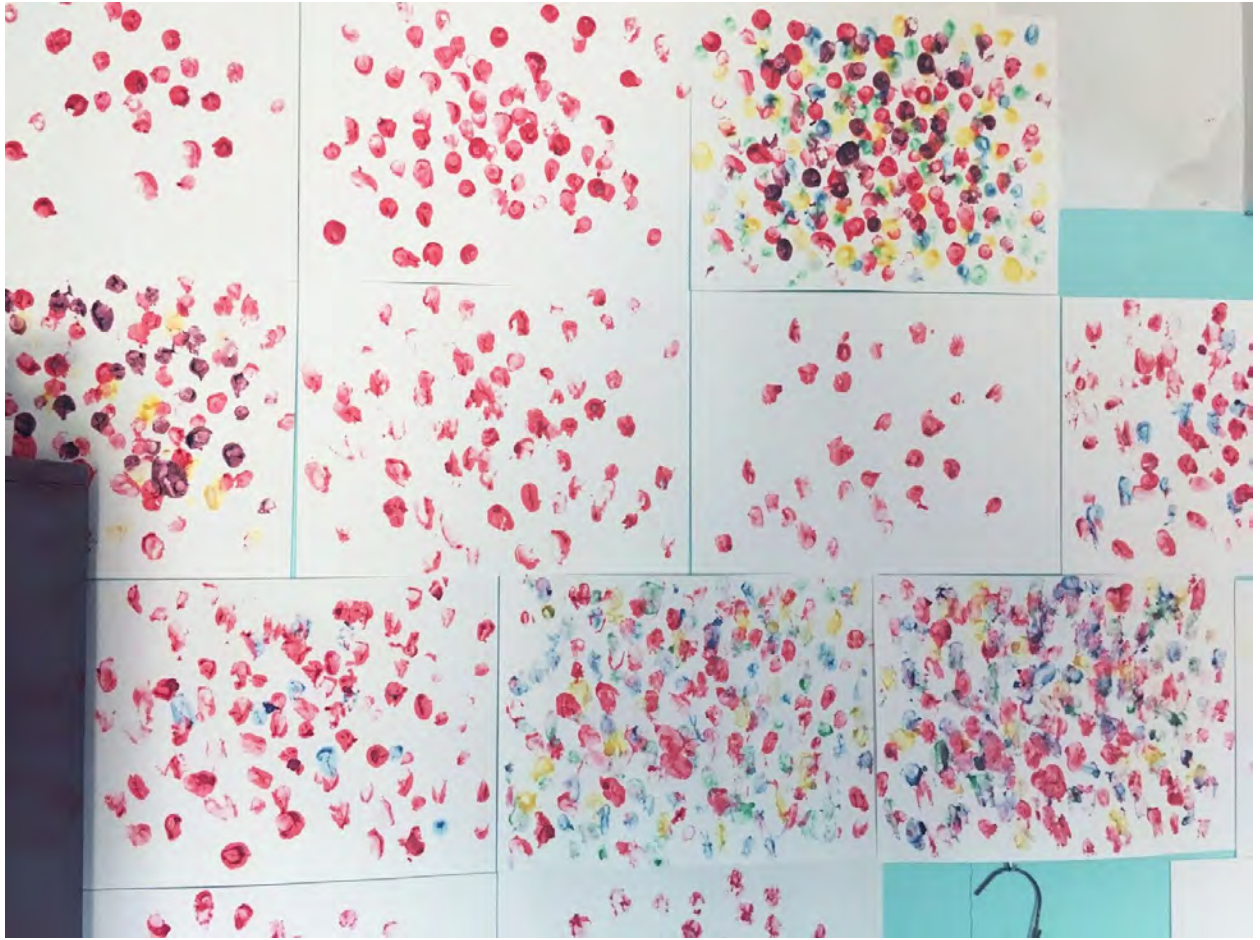


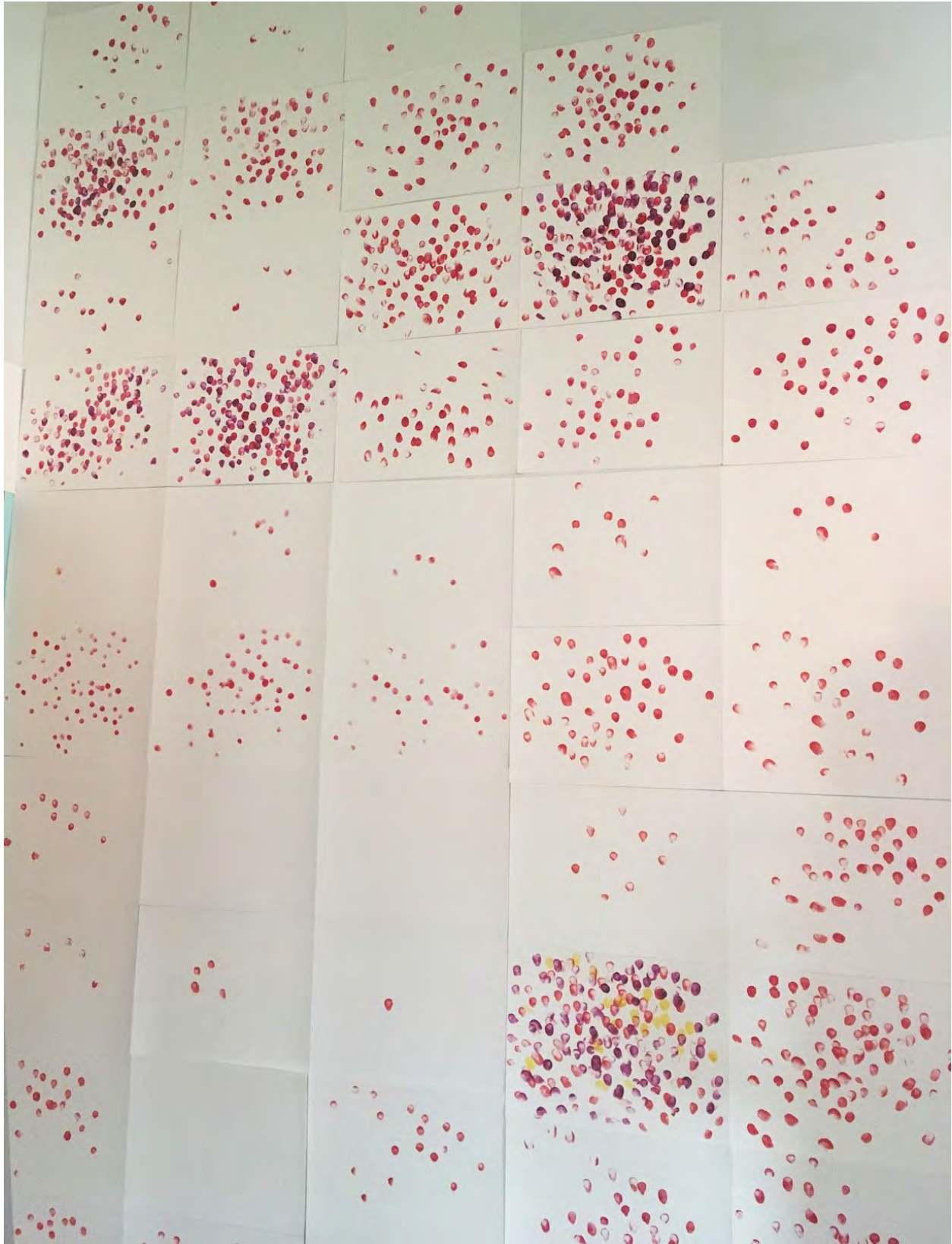












Small  
prints

Solips

Path

Jan 1, 18: ~~06~~  
 J 2, 18: ~~19~~  
 J 3, 18: 0  
 J 4, 18: ~~6~~  
 5, 18: 3  
 6, 18: 11  
 7, 18: 11 -  
 8, 18: 5 -  
 9, 18: 55 -  
 10, 18: 1 -  
 11, 18: 18 -  
 12, 18: 29 -  
 13, 18: 2 -  
 14, 18: 0 -  
 15, 18: 24 -  
 16, 18: 17 -  
 17, 18: 0 ✓  
 18, 18: 0 -  
 19, 18: 0 -  
 20, 18: 59 ✓  
 21, 18: 77 ✓  
 22, 18: 36 ✓  
 23, 18: 9 -  
 24, 18: 0 ?  
 25, 18: 36 -  
 26, 18: 38 -  
 27, 18: 8 -  
 28, 18: 44 ✓  
 29, 18: 2 -  
 30, 18: 19  
 31, 18: 8

Feb 1 18: 17  
 F 2 18: 17  
 F 3 18: 24  
 F 4 18: 89  
 F 5 18: 51  
 6 18: 7  
 7 18: 59  
 8 18: 40  
 9 18: 128  
 10 18: 13  
 11 18: 0  
 12 18: 61  
 13 18: 9  
 14 18: 40  
 15 18: 21  
 16 18: 206  
 17 18: 0  
 18 18: 0  
 19 18: 43  
 20 18: 8  
 21 18: 29  
 22 18: 0  
 23 18: 8  
 24 18: 56  
 25 18: 34  
 26 18: 17  
 27 18: 68  
 28 18: 0  
 29

Mar. 1, 18: 15  
 2 18: 4  
 3 18: 29  
 4 18: 6  
 5 18: 8  
 6 18: 56  
 7 18: 1  
 8 18: 20  
 9 18: 11  
 10 18: 0  
 11 18: 244  
 12 18: 109  
 13 18: 43  
 14 18: 20  
 15 18: 13  
 16 18: 8  
 17 18: 43  
 18 18: 39  
 19 18: 26  
 20 18: 15  
 21 18: 6  
 22 18: 154  
 23 18: 80  
 24 18: 8  
 25 18: 18  
 26 18: 69  
 27 18: 5  
 28 18: 76  
 29 18: 82  
 30 18: 2  
 31 18: 63



Jan 2019: 89	Feb: 121	Mar: 137	Apr: 1346	May: 192	Jun: 243
2: 27	2: 221	2: 196	2: 319	2: 296	2: 234
3: 26	3: 326	3: 293	3: 17	3: 148	3: 86
4: 8	4: 136	4: 143	4: 154	4: 46	4: 382
5: 25	5: 113	5: 230	5: 226	5: 84	5: 196
6: 11	6: 99	6: 186	6: 178	6: 192	6: 147
7: 29	7: 26	7: 93	7: 245	7: 166	7: 130
8: 68	8: 228	8: 179	8: 233	8: 152	8: 106
9: 25	9: 20	9: 474	9: 218	9: 235	9: 78
10: 32	10: 227	10: 526	10: 179	10: 95	10: 39
11: 93	11: 138	11: 380	11: 191	11: 185	11: 199
12: 109	12: 195	12: 397	12: 112	12: 89	12: 138
13: 21	13: 234	13: 442	13: 214	13: 69	13: 152
14: 331	14: 77	14: 89	14: 107	14: 138	14: 133
15: 252	15: 289	15: 222	15: 200	15: 93	15: 123
16: 319	16: 269	16: 123	16: 101	16: 149	16: 21
17: 165	17: 297	17: 256	17: 324	17: 158	17: 148
18: 63	18: 179	18: 341	18: 201	18: 131	18: 336
19: 126	19: 224	19: 279	19: 330	19: 267	19: 260
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21: 107	21: 176	21: 279	21: 138	21: 179	21: 183
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23: 112	23: 71	23: 381	23: 246	23: 61	23: 289
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30: 162		30: 201	30: 148	30: 255	30: 337
31: 147		31: 300	<del>31: 148</del>	31: 119	

October 1 <sup>st</sup> : 174 110	74	Nov 1: <del>174</del> <sup>946</sup>	Dec 1: <del>546</del> 311
October 2 <sup>nd</sup> : 42 42		2: <del>744</del> 500	2: <del>244</del> 123
October 3 <sup>rd</sup> : 543 100 100		3: <del>780</del> 694	3: <del>408</del> 220
October 4 <sup>th</sup> : 504		4: <del>732</del> 226	4: <del>178</del> 74
October 5: 349		5: <del>538</del> 289	5: <del>502</del> 153
October 6: 52		6: <del>764</del> 568	6: <del>746</del> 90
October 7: 340		7: <del>775</del> 397	7: <del>174</del> 55
October 8: 357		8: <del>704</del> 481	8: 0
October 9: 299		9: <del>296</del> 164	9: 0
October 10: 54		10: <del>620</del> 327	10: <del>486</del> 279
October 11: 0		11: <del>462</del> 261	11: <del>75</del> 406
October 12: 6		12: <del>854</del> 452	12: <del>420</del> 252
October 13: 490		13: <del>593</del> 334	13: <del>58</del> 33
Oct 14: <del>1315</del> 591		14: <del>536</del> 307	14: <del>12</del> 8
Oct 15: <del>944</del> 483		15: <del>960</del> 235	15: <del>326</del> 188
Oct 16: <del>553</del> 263		16: <del>1080</del> 620	16: <del>68</del> 41
Oct 17: <del>371</del> 178		17: <del>314</del> 141	17: <del>205</del> 123
Oct 18: <del>776</del> 242		18: <del>215</del> 114	18: <del>180</del> 53
Oct 19: <del>762</del> 425		19: <del>301</del> 159	19: <del>12</del> 8
Oct 20: <del>324</del> 161		20: 48	20: <del>186</del> 66
Oct 21: <del>725</del> 353		21: <del>206</del> 399	21: <del>1392</del> 71
Oct 22: <del>31</del> 17		22: <del>873</del> 534	22: <del>1413</del> 754
Oct 23: <del>164</del> 92		23: <del>563</del> 272	23: <del>288</del> 146
Oct 24: <del>287</del> 140		24: <del>612</del> 308	24: <del>377</del> 218
Oct 25: <del>89</del> 51		25: <del>152</del> 82	25: <del>18</del> 12
Oct 26: <del>677</del> 419		26: <del>829</del> 373	26: <del>735</del> 552
Oct 27: <del>1567</del> 782		27: <del>524</del> 293	27: <del>429</del> 532
Oct 28: <del>886</del> 488		28: <del>205</del> 114	28: <del>608</del> 386
Oct 29: <del>554</del> 280		29: <del>72</del> 39	29: <del>58</del> 31
Oct 30: <del>371</del> 354		30: <del>291</del> 124	30: <del>215</del> 125
Oct 31: <del>966</del> 491			31: <del>26</del> 16