



Trap
safety mirror, acrylic, wood
82 x 60 x 50 cm
2023



How soft your fields so green can whisper tales of gore
360 4K video with sound
6' 15"
2021

<https://vimeo.com/512520693/3cbf6c1b36>

From: Susan Bennett [redacted]
Subject: Re: Siri Scripts
Date: 13 June 2020 at 03:39
To: Asta Meldal Lyngre [redacted]



Hi Asta!

I had a moment this evening, so I thought I'd write and send you a few pages of the 2005 IVR (Interactive Voice Response) script that ultimately became Siri! As you'll see, I had to read a lot of nonsensical stuff, because the scripts were created for sound and not meaning.

I worked the whole month of July in 2005, 4 hours a day, 5 days a week to record the bulk of the Siri scripts. The actual script that I read at that time was about 2" thick, so it was a LOT to read!! It was kind of fun, in a waychallenging, because every phrase had to be read exactly the same way....the same pitch, tone, pacing. That's because everything needed to be consistent for the concatenation process. What that entailed was having technicians and computers go into the recordings and extract sounds....diphthongs, syllables, sometimes whole wordsand reforming these sounds into new phrases and sentences. These are what ended up in our devices as Siri's answers to our questions. IVR scripts are very different from most scripts, and all of the digital voices that you hear, whether it's Siri, Alexa, GPS voices, come from these types of recordings. It's been years now, so I'm sure the voice actors are no longer reading the nonsensical phrases ...They're probably reading actual sentences!! (Actually, for the updates I did in 2011 and 2012, I was reading street addresses, which ended up who knows where?....Certainly in a GPS, or the GPS part of Siri.)

I was told I was doing some generic phone messaging, which is what other original Siri voices said they were told as well. You have to remember that we were the first of our kind, so I think we were all kind of "feeling our way." I knew by how different the scripts were that we were doing something new, but I never imagined that my voice would become a virtual persona. My recordings were done mostly in 2005, but Siri didn't appear until 2011 on the iPhone 4s. The day Siri appeared, Oct. 4th 2011 (Yes, she's a Libra! Hahaha!) a fellow voice actor emailed me and said he was playing with the new iPhone app, and wasn't that me? I went to the Apple site and listened, and immediately recognized my voice! Quite the surprise, especially for something so big that I hadn't even been told about. So...I have no idea when or who chose my voice. Having done lots of IVR recordings for a company here in Atlanta, I'm sure my voice must have been part of a big voice bank, and it was chosen, for whatever reasons! It's all still a mystery, and Apple hasn't really divulged much information about the voices. My initial reaction was incredible surprise, followed by a feeling of having been ripped off! (As with other IVR voices, I was paid for the actual recording work, but not for usage on millions of devices.) In fact, I talked to lots of lawyers and tried to assess my situation...The biggest worry I had was that, if I revealed myself as the voice, I'd be typecast as Siri, or a generic robot voice! I was used to doing a lot of different types of voice work, so I was concerned that I'd now be limited and labeled as just Siri.

Unfortunately, I've gotten no royalties, and when my agent tried to get me paid for Apple's 12 national TV commercials in the US, Apple and their myriad lawyers got back to us, saying "she wasn't hired as talent, just as a piece of technology." Whew! Anyway, this is nothing new for corporations. Think of all the brilliant people who invented incredible things for their companies.... The companies made millions, and the inventor got a \$50 US Savings Bond or something comparable! So, I don't dwell on the fact that we didn't really get our due. It's just life! We all have to learn to accept things we can't change, and then try to spin them to the positive for ourselves....At least that's what I try to do! :)

If you have any questions, or if I haven't been clear in my explanation, please let me know. I'm happy to keep on emailing until you get what you need!!

Meanwhile, I hope you and yours are staying safe in these very unusual times! All the best to you!

Susan



Siri IVR
Scripts.PDF

On Jun 11, 2020, at 5:40 PM, Asta Meldal Lyngre <[redacted]> wrote:

Hi Susan,

Pleased to hear from you. What great news — yes a few pages from the 2005 script would be a great start, thank you!

It's very likely that this will prompt some questions, so I am happy to hear that you are open to talk further. 2005 is a while back now but I would be interested to learn more about the process of the recordings and how you feel about



Made of sunshine

2022

inkjet print on themed letter paper, glass

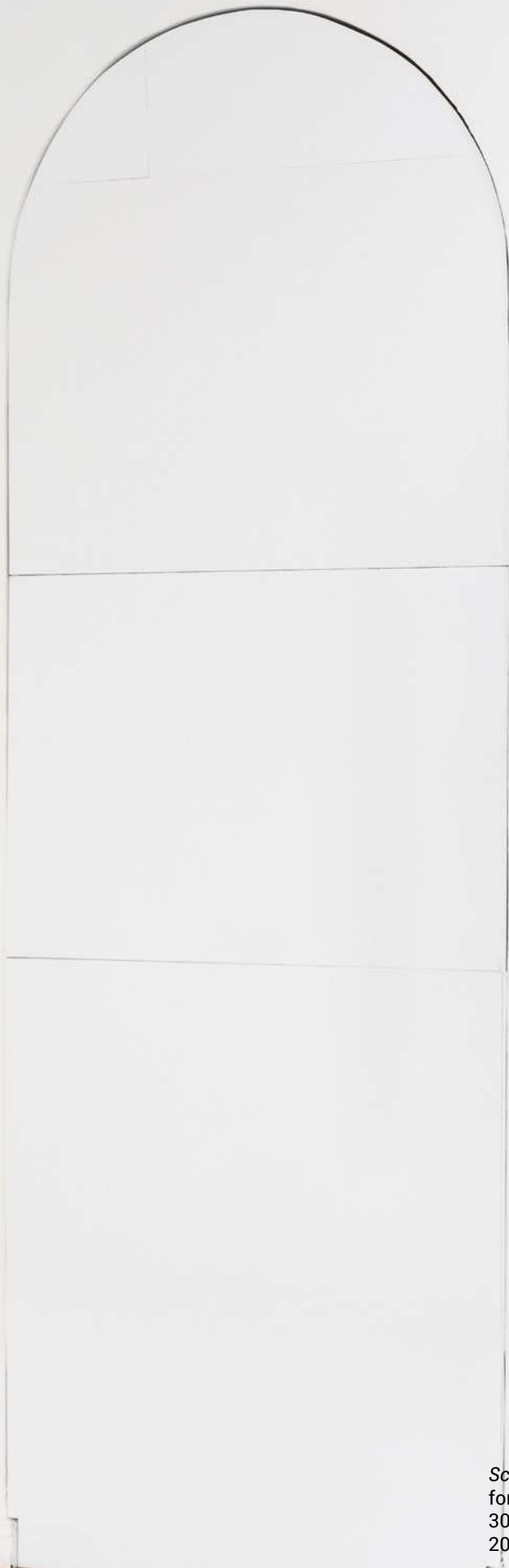
4,5 x 4,5 m

On

2022

foamboard, No More Nails, acetate, acrylic, bulb, cable

15 x 15 cm



Scepters
forkullet træ
30 x 90 x 20 cm
2021

skumpap indsats





Instrument
galvaniseret stål
250 x 198 x 22 cm
2021

Instrument
galvaniseret stål
250 x 198 x 22 cm
2021



Mains detalje



Mains
sandstøbt jern monteret på aluminium
50 x 70 cm
2019