

# SHIT WE LIKE



## ***Tropic of Cancer* by Henry Miller**

There's nothing quite like picking up Henry Miller's *Tropic of Cancer* for the first time, or second or third for that matter. The 1930's classic is the perfect respite for any urban-dwelling twenty-something who's confused, anxious, and seeking something to soothe the soul or curb a lovesick bout with insomnia. The pseudo-fictional/autobiographical book is about being a young American

writer in Paris who's in love, broke, full sex and opinions. There's no real plot in the traditional sense of the word, and character development is skeletal at best, but somehow Miller manages to weave each of his tangential rants about drinking, thinking and sex into one fluid book about everything and nothing at all.

## **The Anti-Advertising Agency**

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

When New York-based artist Steve Lambert isn't coding Firefox add-ons that replace Internet ads with images of contemporary art, or distributing fake copies of the New York Times with the Yes Men, he's online tracking the disturbing and often illegal practices of the outdoor-advertising industry. With help from other like-minded rabble-rousers such as Chicago's "unbrandable" Anne Elizabeth Moore, the *Anti-Advertising Agency* amplifies and exposes the pervasive abuses of outdoor advertising in public space. The site serves as a lonely soapbox for those who still think community areas should be cherished, and our visual environment kept free from obtrusive and gaudy advertising.

## **The Downtown Sound Music Series**

Edible Audible Picnic

There are a ton of reasons to love summertime in Chicago, but one big reason just keeps getting better. Ever since Chicago's most well-connected jazz musician, Mike Reed, was tasked with programming the *Downtown Sound*: New Music Mondays series, and the weekly Monday afternoon music set, Edible Audible Picnic, Chicagoans have been starting their workweek with some of the best acts in popular music. Reed has kept a hometown-focus

to the scheduling by featuring some of Chicago's best emerging acts, like Icy Demons and Kid Sister, in combination with some of our more established and reclusive groups like Wilco, Andrew Bird, and Red Red Meat. Once again, Reed has one-upped himself with this summer's lineup, which includes indie darlings She and Him, The Books, Caribou, Kid Sister, The Cool Kids, El Guincho, and Hum—just to name a few.

## ***Designing Obama***

[www.designing-obama.com](http://www.designing-obama.com)

At this point everyone knows what happened—Barack Obama was elected America's first African-American President. Art played such a role in the campaign that Shepard Fairey's iconic *HOPE* poster is hanging in the Smithsonian. Obama's campaign used new media in ways politics has never conceived before. The lesser-known story, however, is how that all happened. To fill in the gaps, Chicago designer and Post Family member, Scott Thomas, has put together *Designing Obama*, a stunningly beautiful 300-page book that Thomas hopes will be a cultural artifact on the scope, process, and range of artistic detail that went into developing the visual impression of the Obama campaign. Thomas raised nearly \$90,000 for the book on the micro-funding site Kickstarter.com, and spared no personal expense to get it done. The book is finally printed and shipped. Check it out.