

tidying up  
messes

sophia lucero

片散  
付け  
か  
を



(recreated mess)





tidying up is  
like *information*  
*architecture*

except the mess  
is *intangible*



but don't  
take my  
word for it.

**HOW  
TO  
MAKE  
SENSE  
OF ANY  
MESS**

**Abby Covert**

*chapters*

**Identify** the Mess

**State** Your Intent

**Face** Reality

**Choose** a Direction

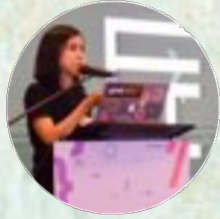
**Measure** the Distance

**Play** with Structure

**Prepare** to Adjust







 **GF#E** @sofimi · Feb 17



free talk or article idea: konmari method x information architecture 🤔

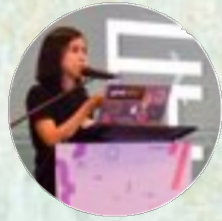
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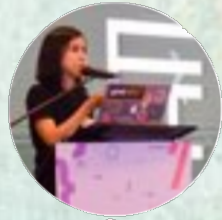
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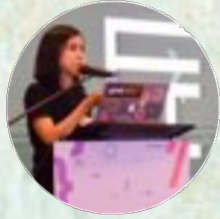
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but let's be real 2019 will be the year of inserting "does this spark joy" into every ~thought leader keynote~ so free drinking game

7:42 PM - 17 Feb 2019





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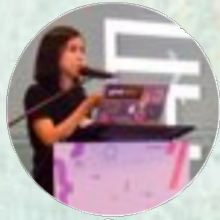
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## Analytical Engine

JANUARY 1817

This science constitutes the language through which alone we can adequately express the great facts of the natural world, and those unceasing changes of mutual relationship which, visibly or invisibly, consciously or unconsciously to our immediate physical perceptions, are interminably going on in the agencies of the creation we live amidst.

A new, a vast, and a powerful language is developed for the future use of analysis, in which to wield its truths so that these may become of more speedy



My name is Augusta King, but you may call me Ada. Welcome to my aspirations, discourse, and affections. About me ...



## How to emphasize things on the internet

As told in the time-honored tradition of the Listicle format, with GIFs. Although you may not take this seriously, as a citizen of the Internet I like keeping tabs on [Read more >](#)

# hi, i'm ia

# & i like meta things





konmari

*kondo marie*

こんまり



reflect on each  
part's role in the  
greater whole

1.



“Tidying in the end is just a physical act. The work involved can be broadly divided into two kinds:

Deciding whether or not to dispose of something and deciding where to put it.”



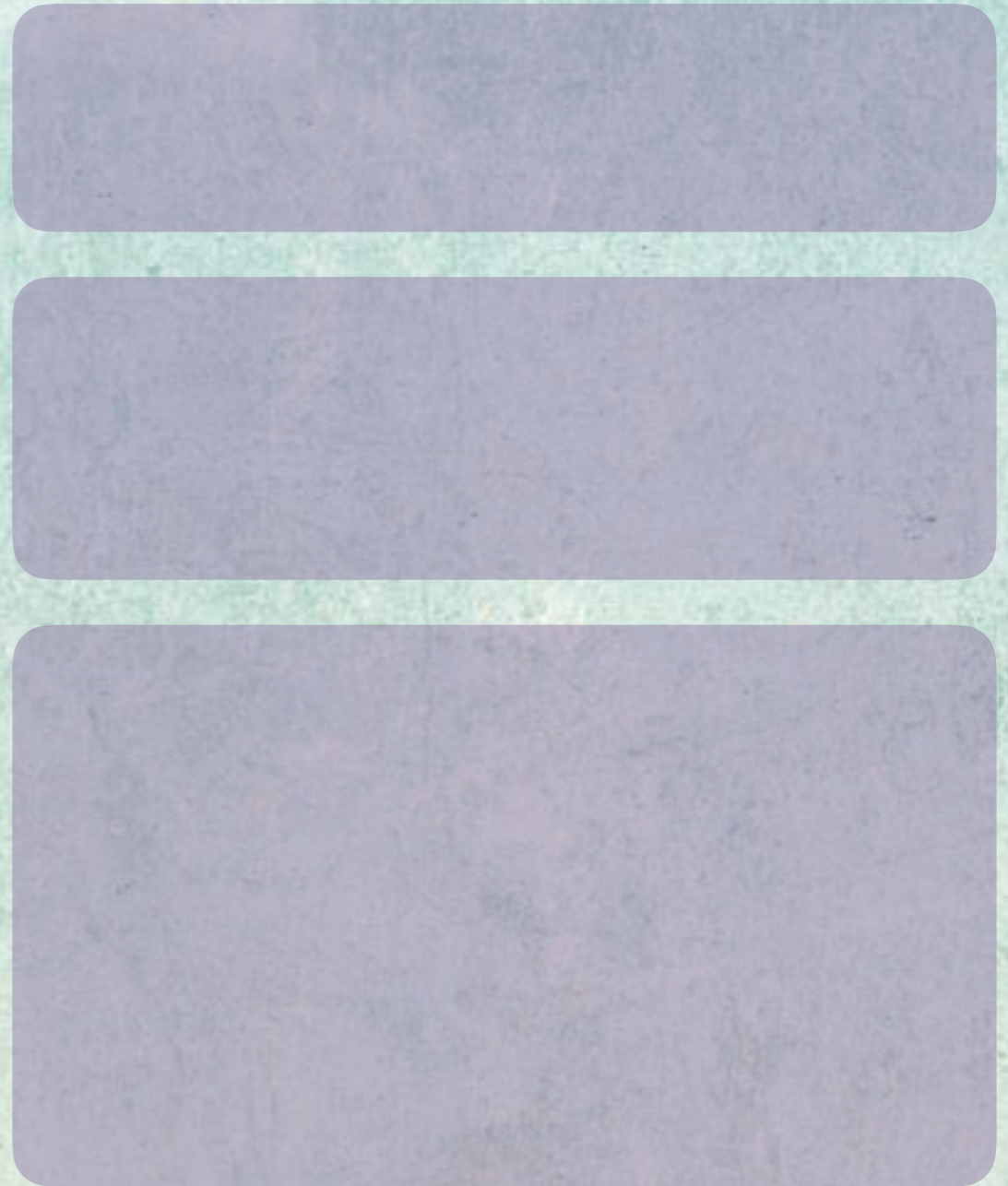


discard



A vertical stack of six identical, empty, rounded rectangular boxes in a medium green color. These boxes are positioned below the 'discard' header and are intended for users to list items to be discarded.

organize



A vertical stack of three identical, empty, rounded rectangular boxes in a dark purple color. These boxes are positioned below the 'organize' header and are intended for users to list items to be organized.



# discard

1. Commit to tidying everything
2. Visualize your ideal lifestyle
3. Finish discarding first
4. Tidy by category, not location
5. Follow the right order  
(clothes, books, papers, miscellany,  
sentimental items)
6. Ask yourself if it sparks joy



# organize

- ❖ Visible mess helps distract us from the *true source* of the disorder.
- ❖ The point in deciding specific places to keep things is to *designate a spot for every thing*.
- ❖ Clutter is caused by a failure to return things to where they belong. Therefore, storage should *reduce the effort* needed to put things away, not the effort needed to get them out.



*we should be choosing what  
we want to keep, not what  
we want to get rid of.*

what is the purpose of each  
artifact in the grander scheme?

is everything serving its purpose?  
is everything in its right place?

are there meaningful or  
underlying reasons when  
choosing to discard or keep?



Dick Buchanan back in CMU Design School talked about designing from a point of love (agape):

“We need to make products that are respectful, sustainable, so that working with the product makes us something more, something more than selfish.”

– Dan Saffer



“When we design products and services, it's not about what we want them to be—*it's what we want the people using them to be: generous, helpful, thoughtful, useful, beautiful, respectful, kind. This is good design.*”

– Dan Saffer



be open  
*to the*  
unfamiliar

2.



tokimeku

(to) flutter, “spark joy”, kilig

ときめく



**DOES IT...**



**SPARK JOY?**



“If things had feelings,  
they would certainly not  
be happy. Free them from  
the prison to which you  
have relegated them. Help  
them leave that deserted  
isle to which you have  
exiled them. *Let them go,  
with gratitude.*”







# shinto 神道





My dad used to say, “The Japanese do everything backward.” Even when I was little, the phrasing bugged me, though I couldn’t articulate why. Now I know. It meant that the Japanese were the wrong ones, the “other.” Westerners were at the center of his universe, just as Western values are at the center of the memes disparaging the KonMari method.

– *What White, Western Audiences Don’t Understand About Marie Kondo’s ‘Tidying Up’ by Margaret Dilloway*



what else  
could we be  
learning?



inspiration or  
appropriation?



...did i just  
make things  
messier?



# things to try

- ❖ read both books and try to draw parallels
- ❖ how would you incorporate the ideas from konmari into something you're working on?
- ❖ what is it about your work as a designer that gives you the most joy?



thank you!

you can find me at  
[@sofimi](#) & [stellify.net](#)

ありがとうございます！