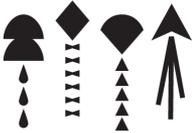




**dkf  
zine**

# submissions

detroit kite festival asked the folks of Michigan to submit their work centered around one theme: kites. From the physical appearance, to the ever-flowing movement by wind, to the word translated in several languages, we bring you the collection of work by writers, activists, engineers, artists, illustrators, screen printers, designers and all-around awesome human beings.



in order of appearance

1. letter from the kite queen, margo dalal
2. kite collage, kurt willy manuel
3. taut, michele oberholtzer
4. how to fly a kite, arthur bledose
5. kite-flying with friends, andrew price
6. me & the kites ain't friends, zech alcala
7. kite doodle, julie pedtke
- 8-9. kite strings, arthur bledose
10. K!TE, david pietrusa
11. color me page, alleah webb
12. belle isle kite meet-up, tanya jenay moutzalias
13. a poem about kites, andrew malcom dooley
14. watercolor, matthew mavens-moyer
15. 116. geometrically designed kites, matthew tait
17. around the world, eric james wilson
18. anatomy of a kite, arthur bledose

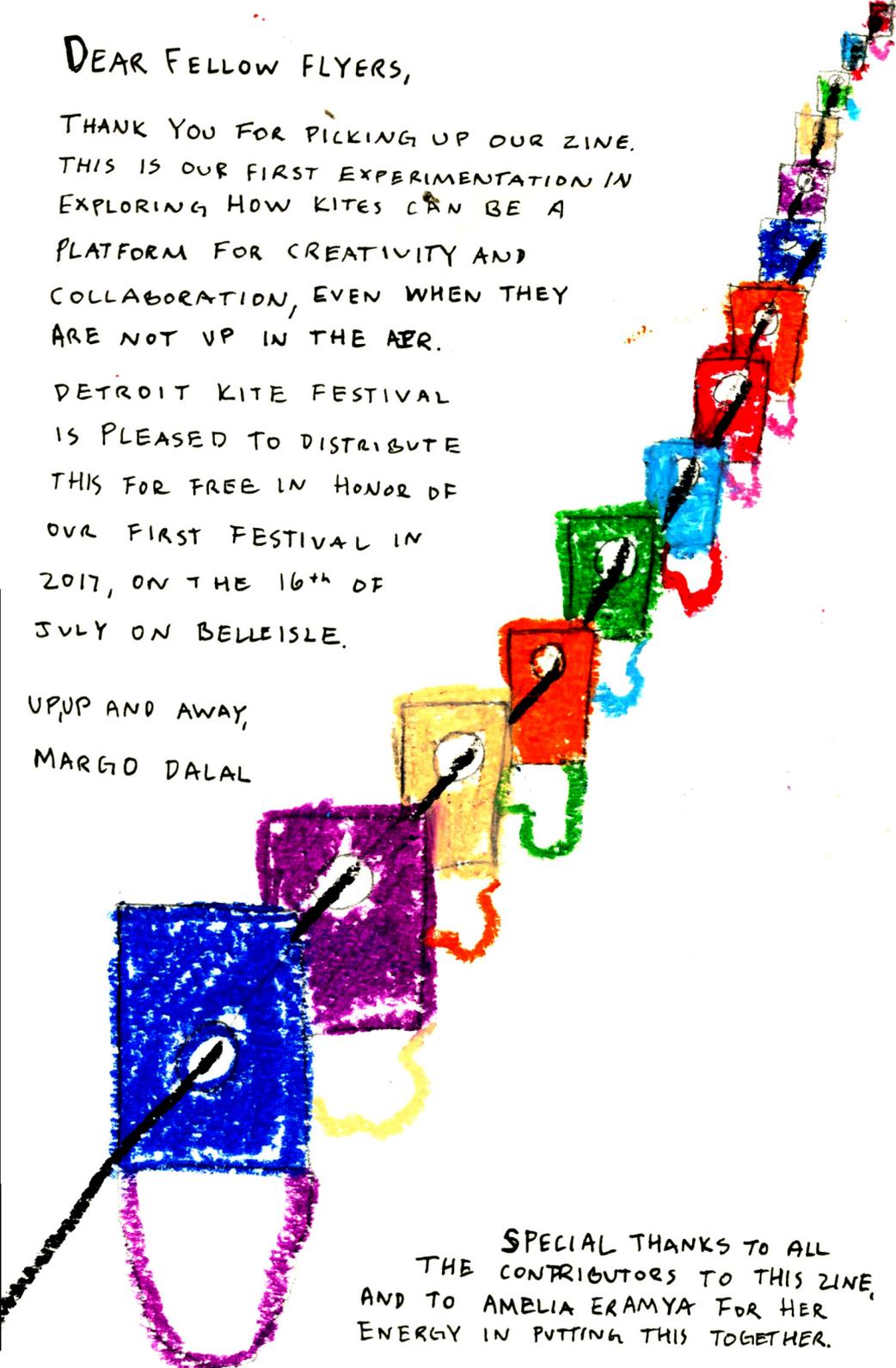
dkf was founded by margo dalal, matthew tait, arthur bledose, katie hearn and zoe minikes. cover design and layout by amelia eramy.

DEAR FELLOW FLYERS,

THANK YOU FOR PICKING UP OUR ZINE.  
THIS IS OUR FIRST EXPERIMENTATION IN  
EXPLORING HOW KITES CAN BE A  
PLATFORM FOR CREATIVITY AND  
COLLABORATION, EVEN WHEN THEY  
ARE NOT UP IN THE AIR.

DETROIT KITE FESTIVAL  
IS PLEASED TO DISTRIBUTE  
THIS FOR FREE IN HONOR OF  
OUR FIRST FESTIVAL IN  
2017, ON THE 16<sup>th</sup> OF  
JULY ON BELLEISLE.

UP, UP AND AWAY,  
MARGO DALAL



SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL  
THE CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ZINE,  
AND TO AMELIA ERAMYA FOR HER  
ENERGY IN PUTTING THIS TOGETHER.



## **Taut**

How many times can you bend till you break?

How much strain can you take?

What's your tensile strength?

Hold me, and then, like a kite with no weight

Pull the line nice and straight

Out of sight into space.

If I pluck the string, will it vibrate and create?

Will it snap in my face?

What is this song's fate?

**by Michele Oberholtzer**





## **me & kites ain't friends**

hey, kites. i got a question for you.  
how come you can fly, but i can't?  
what makes you so special?  
you ain't nothing but two sticks  
and some newspaper i found.  
this isn't even kite string.  
this is yarn; the weakest of strings.  
why you get to soar majestically  
amongst the pigeons?  
why i got to enjoy you from the ground  
like some flightless beast?  
why you and not me?  
answer me!  
how convenient; you can fly but  
you can't explain yourself.  
this is why we haven't been  
cool in all these years....  
...because you can fly,  
but you can't share your feelings.  
this is why none of my relationships work out.  
because i date people who act like kites.

**by Zech Alcala**



# kite strings



I keep you in a bag,  
guarded, hidden away,  
neatly packaged,  
contained,  
controlled,  
easy to ignore

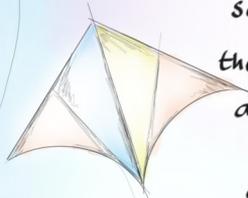
but sometimes, when the wind is just right  
I take you out and let you unfurl your wings

effortlessly you rise,  
carried by the wind's embrace  
elegant,

exuberant,  
soaring, looping, and twirling  
the breeze sings to you, and you dance  
as she lures you higher,  
I lengthen your tether  
and watch you from the world below.

firting and frolicking,  
proudly beaming down  
all your life and color

but the wind is fickle and flighty;  
she becomes frenzied and inconsistent,  
leaving you adrift and unsupported



I watch as you spiral in freefall,  
twisting and jerking,  
helpless and confused,  
groping for anything more  
than the indifference  
of the wind



I have let you stray too far, too fast  
your kitestrings are too long to reel in  
before your torturous descent  
ends in a terrible tangle  
your lines rife with loops and twists



the frenetic wind  
once uplifting and sustaining  
now seems intent on adding to the tangle  
I hurry to shelter you  
but the knot is already dense

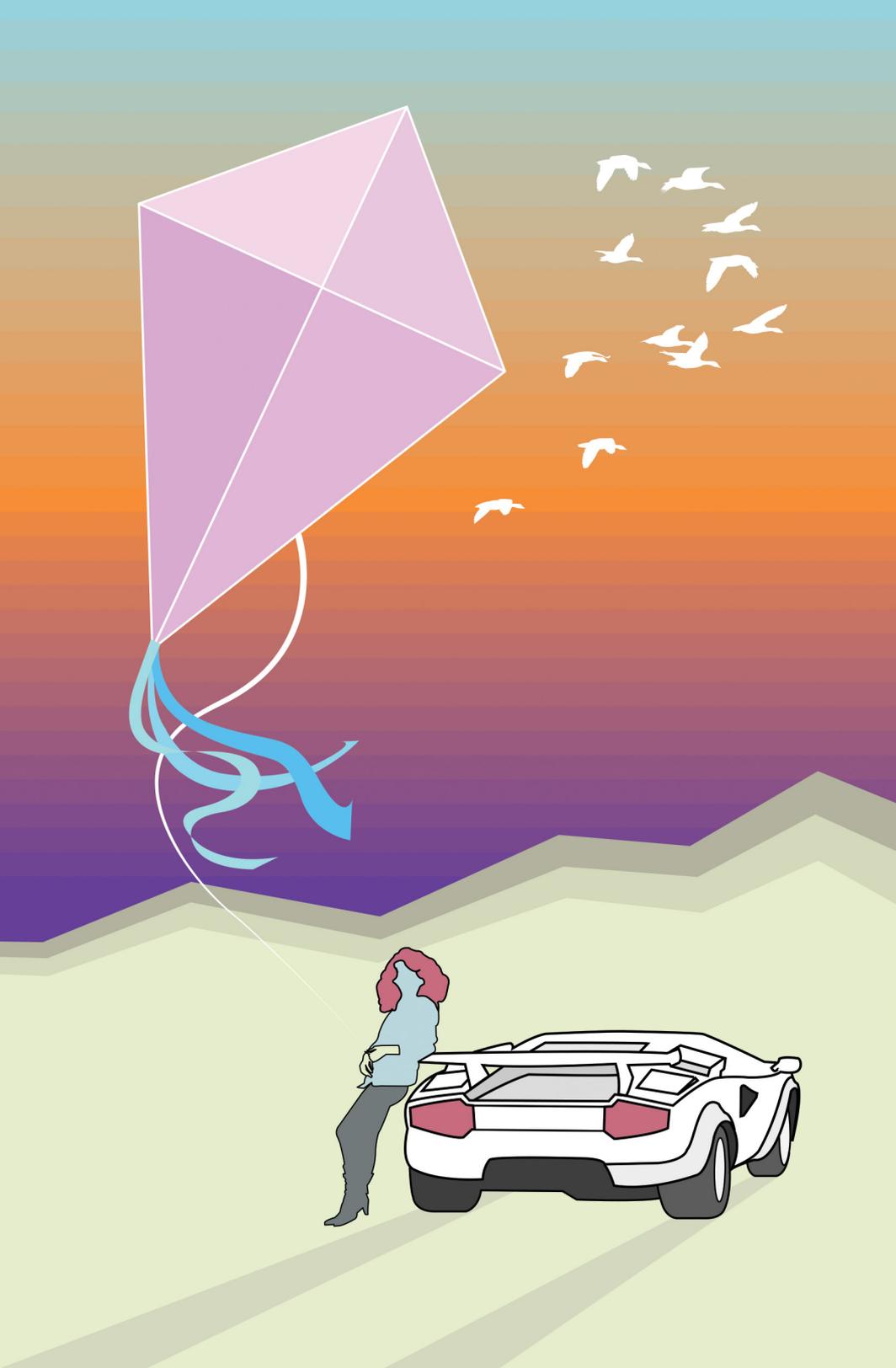
so I set about the frustratingly tedious process  
of untangling your kitestrings,  
patiently  
sorting through the muddled, interwoven mess,  
lamenting  
how easy and natural it was  
to let your lines stretch to the sky,  
and how arduous  
the aftermath can be

eventually,  
I can stow you away again,  
sheltered,  
protected,  
until the next time  
the wind blows just right.



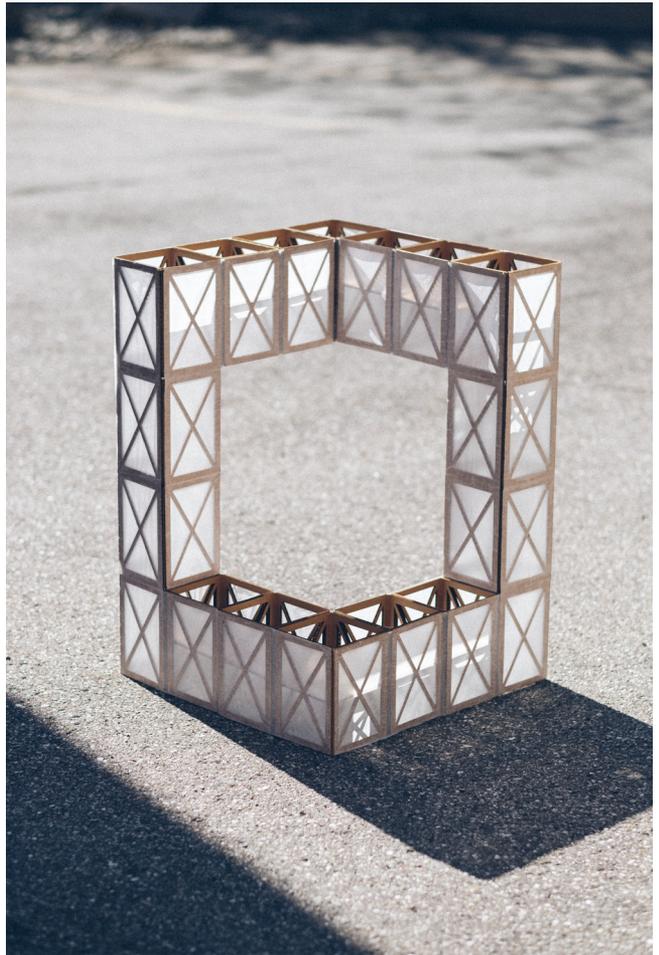


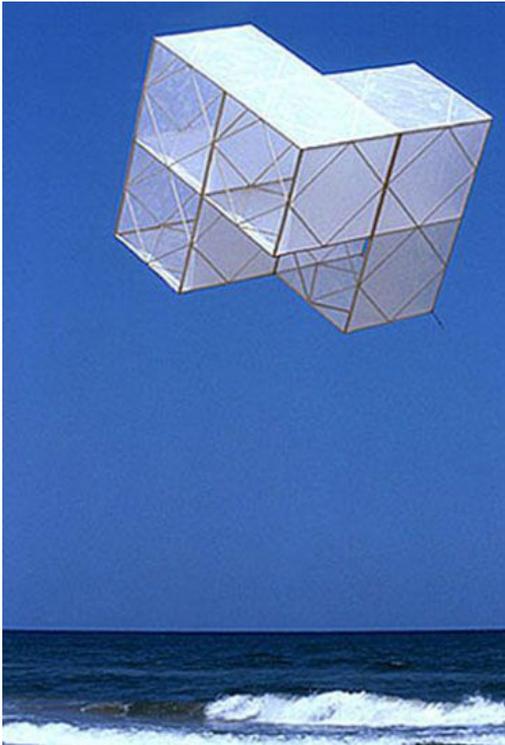
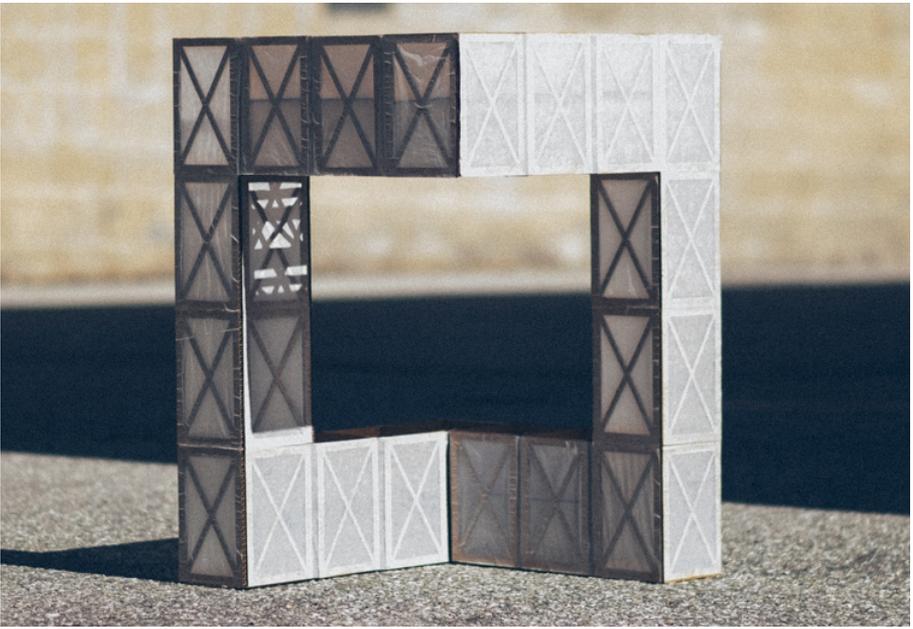






The geometric kite is made of cardboard and glassine paper, designed by Detroit-based designer Matthew Tait. It is inspired by the work of Spanish designer José María Yturralde.





Left: An image of the inspiration, by José María Yturralde.

## How do you feel about writing a poem about kites?

Okay sure, Amelia, but does it have to be good?  
Because I have not written a good poem  
in some time. Or, you know, ever  
flown a kite well.  
These feel like basic requirements.  
Pre-requisites. Same as the supplies on a park bench:  
The cross simple as Palm Sunday.  
The limp cloth. The bobbin bound skyward,  
yes of course this appeals to me.

And the taut, suspended dance  
has long strung through me.  
Forgive this unspooling,  
but who hasn't wanted to harness that kind of whimsy.  
I mean I've encyclopediad the festivals, all of the best ones  
seen the segmented dragons swimming through sulfur, the messy manta  
rays bobbing in their own swirl. It's always  
a swirl.

You know the Internet has been telling me Margo  
started a kite festival over Belle  
Isle where the wind is relentless and the water stubborn and swift but still  
on the surface and I have to be honest Amelia I am getting my hopes up  
more and more just as I write this  
that I'll be able to finally get a sweet little quadrilateral to stick skybound  
—to hop and hang while peering over Canada  
but still pull back to sleep  
in my grateful shaking hands.

by Andrew Malcolm Dooley



تیقرو یرئاط  
cometas

ঘুড়ি  
kite

latawiec

kajto

風箏

saranggola

leija

papalote

drachen

воздушный змей

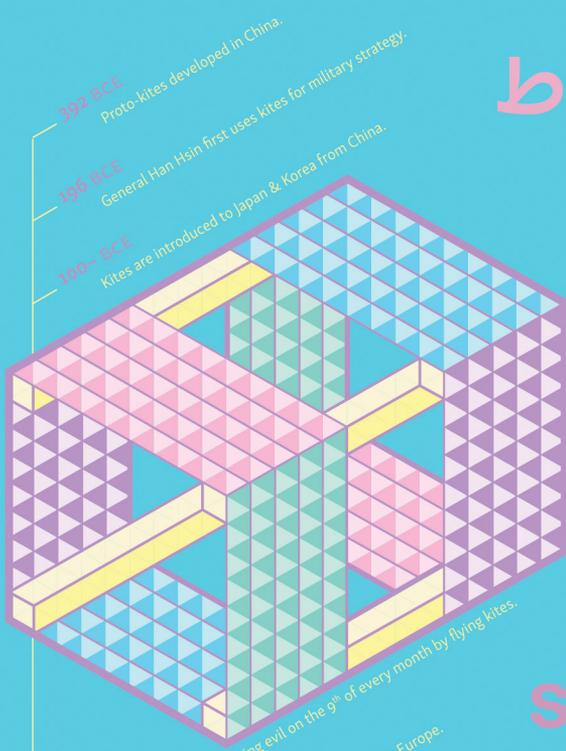
serf-volant

aquilone

凧

layang-layang

chartaetós



700 BCE

Proto-kites developed in China.

180 BCE

General Han Hsin first uses kites for military strategy.

100- 0 CE

Kites are introduced to Japan & Korea from China.

1288 CE

Chinese celebrate banishing evil on the 9<sup>th</sup> of every month by flying kites.

1295 CE

Italian colonizer Marco Polo first introduces kites to Europe.

1542 CE

First mentions of kites in Indian literature as patang and vavdi.

1803 CE

Japanese citizens outside of the samurai class are granted permission to fly kites beginning in the Edo Period.

1752 CE

Benjamin Franklin flies a kite to capture electricity from storm clouds in Philadelphia, PA, USA.

1899 CE

The Wright Brothers first begin flight experiments using kites.

1964 CE

The American Kitefliers Association is founded by Robert M. Inghram of New Mexico, USA.

1969 CE

The Japan Kite Association is founded under the premise of teaching and the free exchange of ideas with the world.

1976 CE

The Australian Kite Association is founded and based in Kew, Victoria, on Balle Street, Detroit, MI, USA.

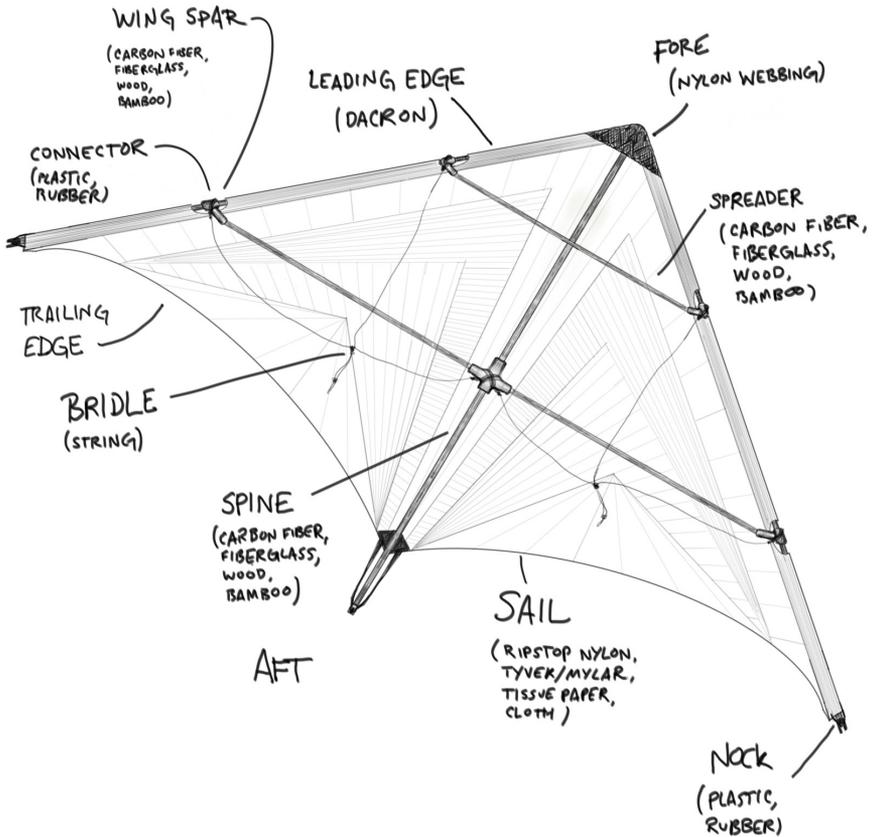
2017 CE

The British Kite Festival is founded and based in Kew, Victoria, on Balle Street, Detroit, MI, USA.

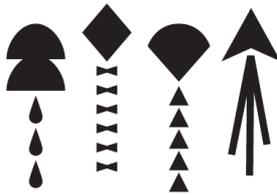
A(n) (Incomplete) History  
of Kites Around the World

# ANATOMY OF A KITE

\* AS SHOWN ON A DUAL-LINE SPORT KITE



bin



DETROIT *Kite* FESTIVAL

[detroitkitefestival.org](http://detroitkitefestival.org)

belle isle, detroit

july 16, 2017