



# BREAKING DOWN WALLS WITH *Art & Writing*

Created by artists and storytellers  
incarcerated or under community  
supervision in British Columbia

VOLUME 1,  
DECEMBER 2020

## THE IMPORTANCE OF ART & STORYTELLING

*Words of encouragement from Elders, Peer Leaders and partners.*

ART & Justice is a partnership between researchers at the University of British Columbia, Indigenous Elders, Peer Leaders, the Fraser Region Aboriginal Friendship Center (FRAFCA), and the Correctional Service of Canada.

To date, we have delivered 558 art and writing kits across prisons, Community Residential Facilities (CRFs) and urban Indigenous Peoples served by FRAFCA.

This booklet is a collection of some of the resulting art and writing. We are incredibly honoured to support the talent and creativity of people impacted by the Canadian criminal legal system.

Your story is very important for us all to hear. You may share through words, poetry, artistry, sharing with everyone. Our Elders teach us that through storytelling we all learn important lessons, have opportunities to heal, and can lift each other up. Oh Siem, many kind thanks for sharing.

**Elder Roberta**, Snuneymuxw, Quw'utsun-Cowichan of Coast Salish Peoples

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Storytelling is within all of us and you can tell your story in art, songs, dance, music and poems. Let the creativity rise and feel it in your soul. Let us hear your voice. Migwetch.

**Elder Jean Wasegijig**, Ojibway First Nation, People of the Three Fires Confederacy: Odawa, Ojibway and Potawatomi

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When we understand that everything but the basics has been taken from us, so that we may grow to appreciate the transformative power of solitude and the blessings of freedom and discipline, the crucial importance of things like creative art and writing, and the expressions of honesty in sharing of these new and powerfully personal works of beauty, which have only become possible through the breaking of boundary and the often misguided ideas we have of our own improbability or idol dreams of what might have been, can not, must not, be overlooked or understated...for therein lies the truth, whole truth and nothing but the truth.

**Nicolas D. Leech** - Peer Leader, Journalist & Storyteller

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## THE IMPORTANCE OF ART & STORYTELLING

*Continued*

We know the Walls are there to keep people out as much as they exist to keep people in. The Justice System is built on secrecy and myths. I believe the more our stories, our truths are told showing we are all someone's Brother Sister Daughter Son the faster the Walls will crumble brick by brick.

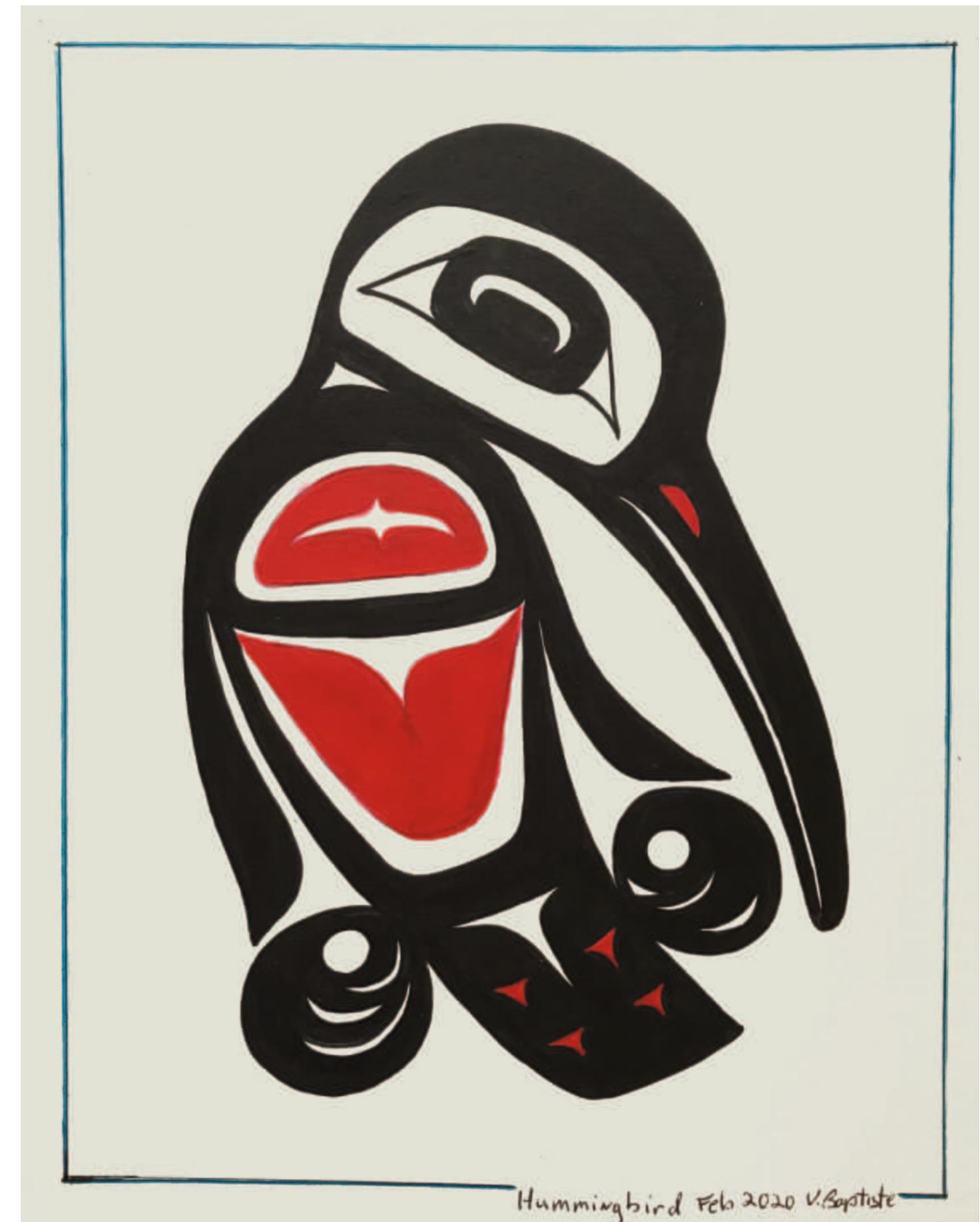
**Patrick Keating**, Peer Leader, Actor & Playwright

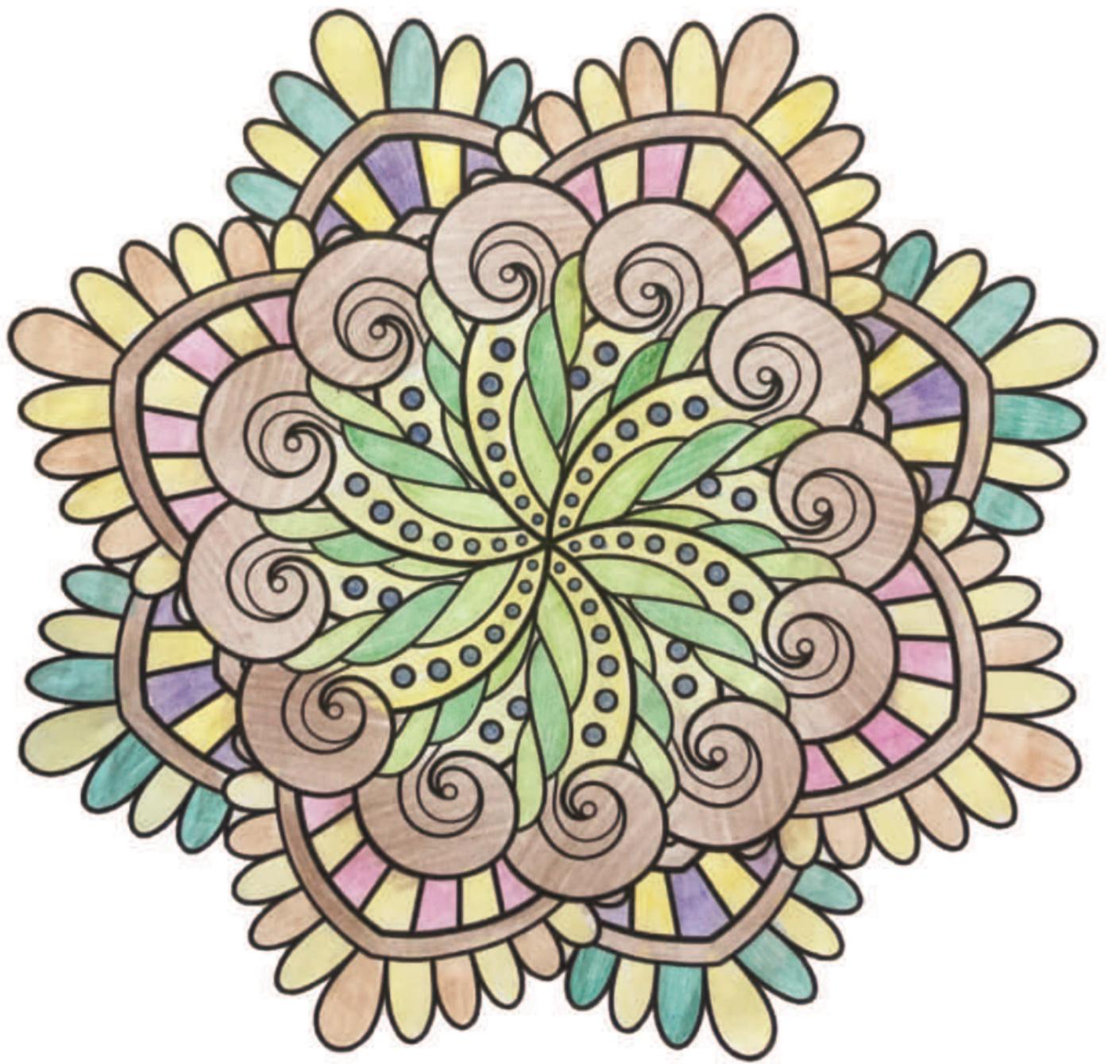
Patrick, I love it, well said. I have seen what can happen when those walls open up for the outside and for those inside and it works.

**Mo Korchinski**, Peer Leader, Executive Director of Unlocking the Gates

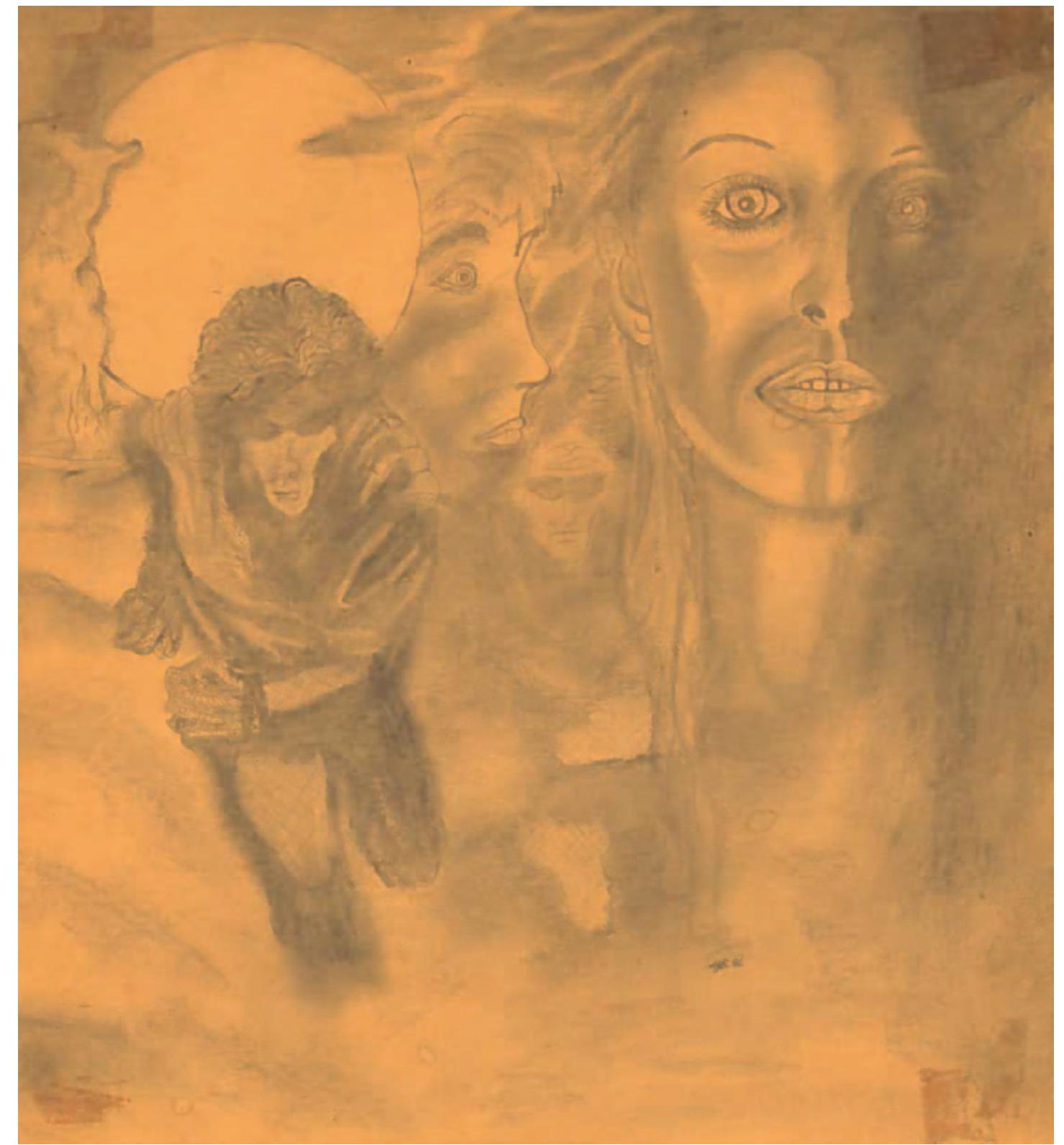
Often the general public is disconnected from the reality of incarcerated individuals struggles and what has led them down that path. Telling your stories you can give them a better perspective and help humanize people.

**Pam Young**, Peer Leader, Manager at Unlocking the Gates





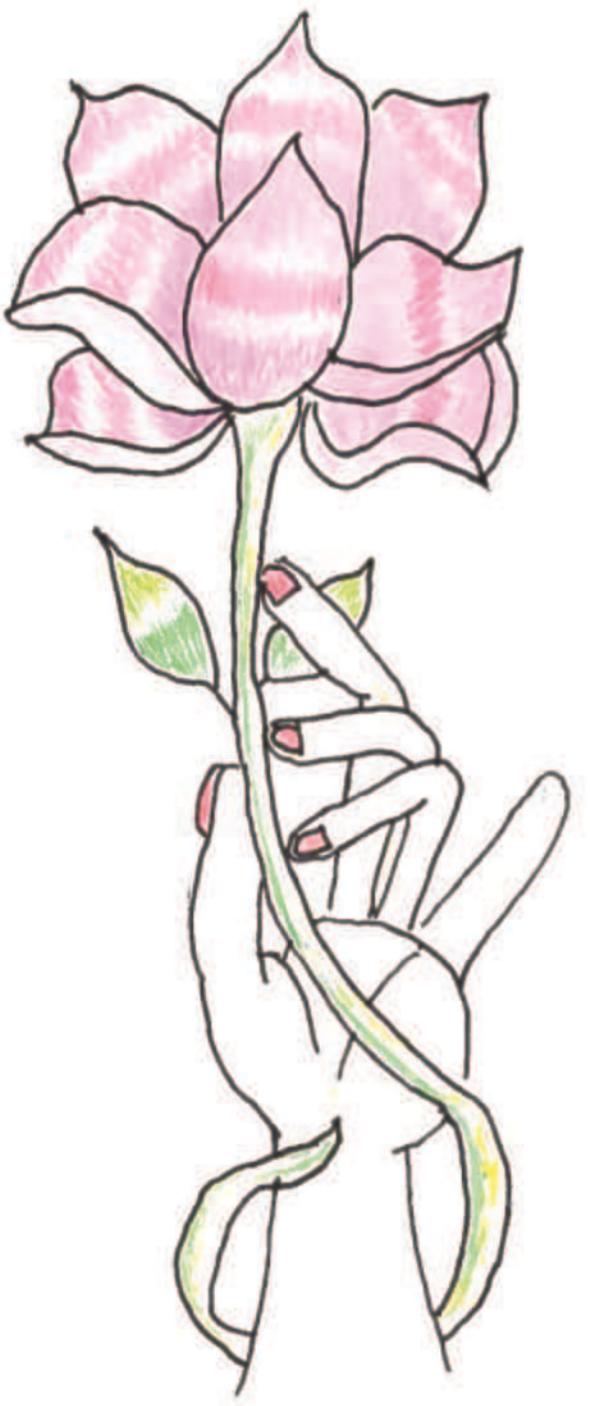




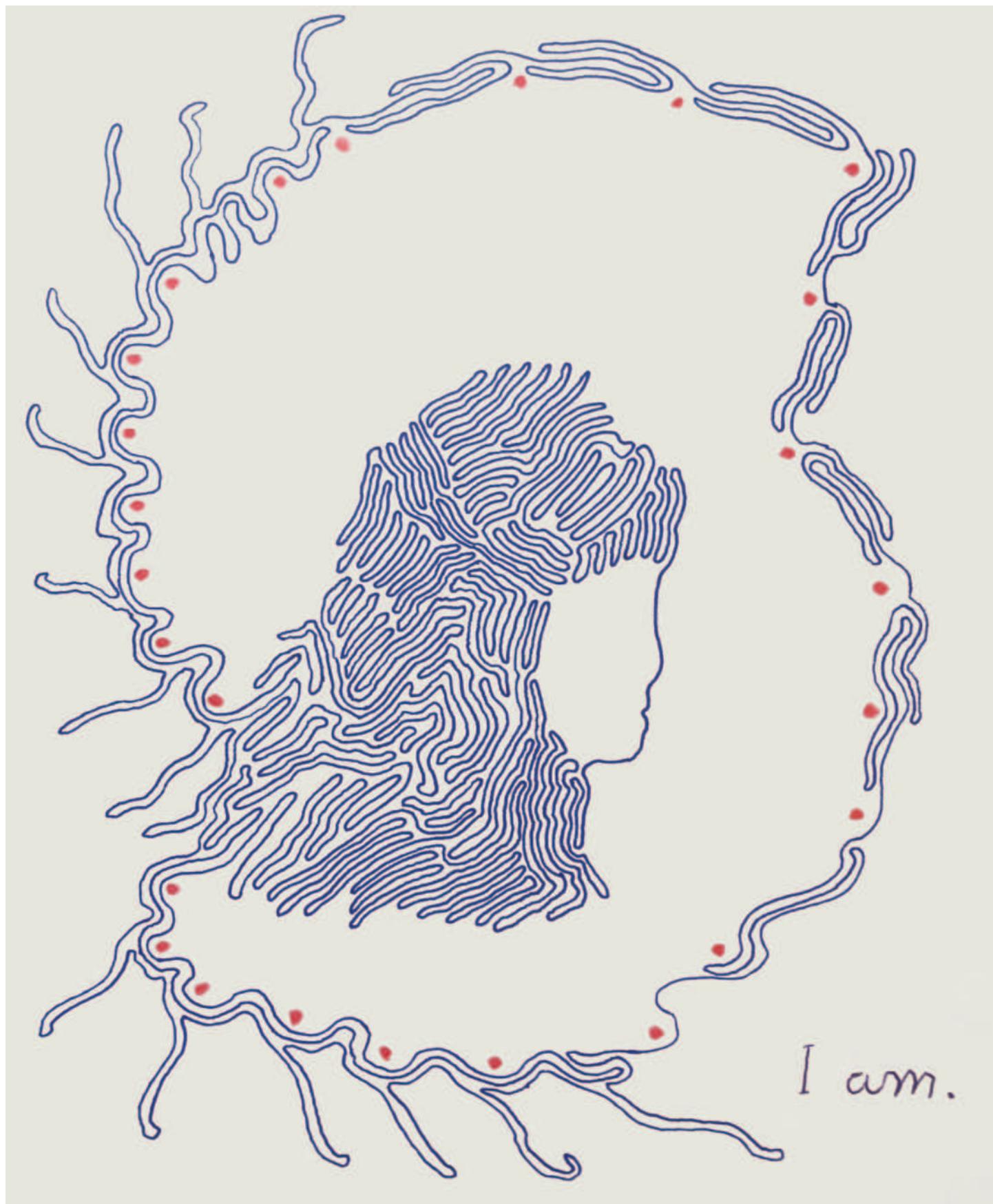






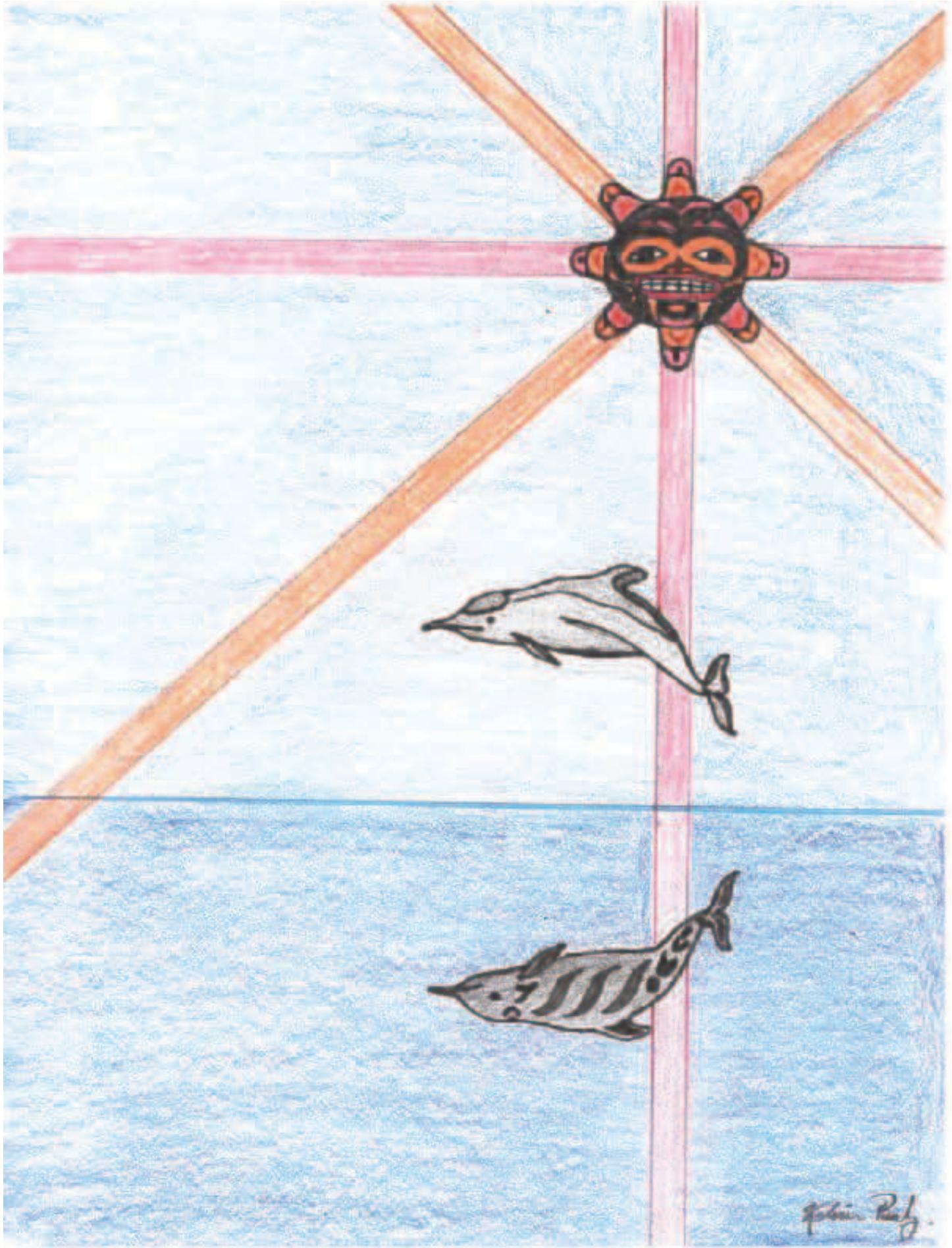


Robin's Egg 2020 Sept  
V.B. print





Beaver Party of Canada  
Logo / John Purdy





Red  
E

Yellow  
S

Dark Blue  
W

White  
N

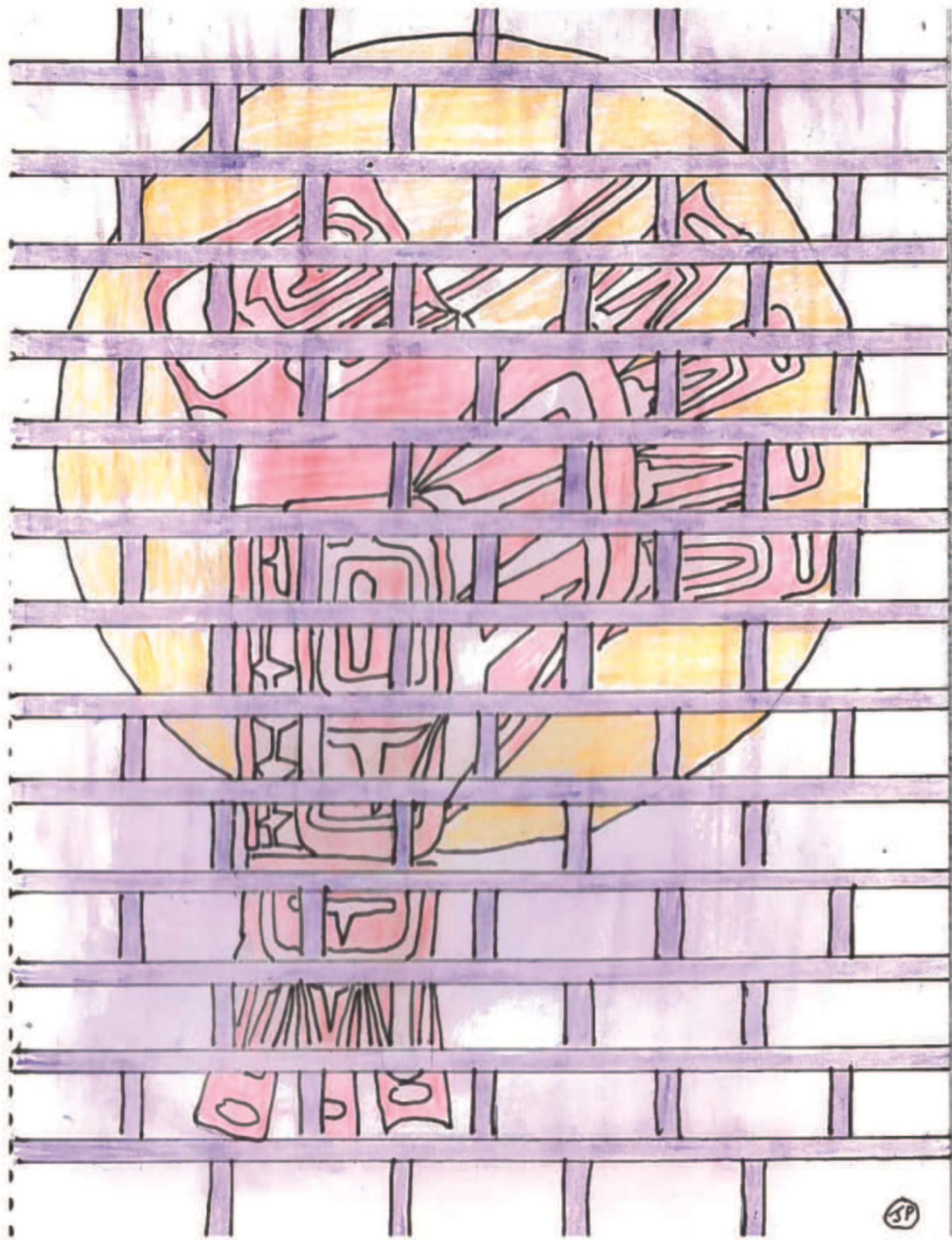
Felicity.

4-Direction Cup.

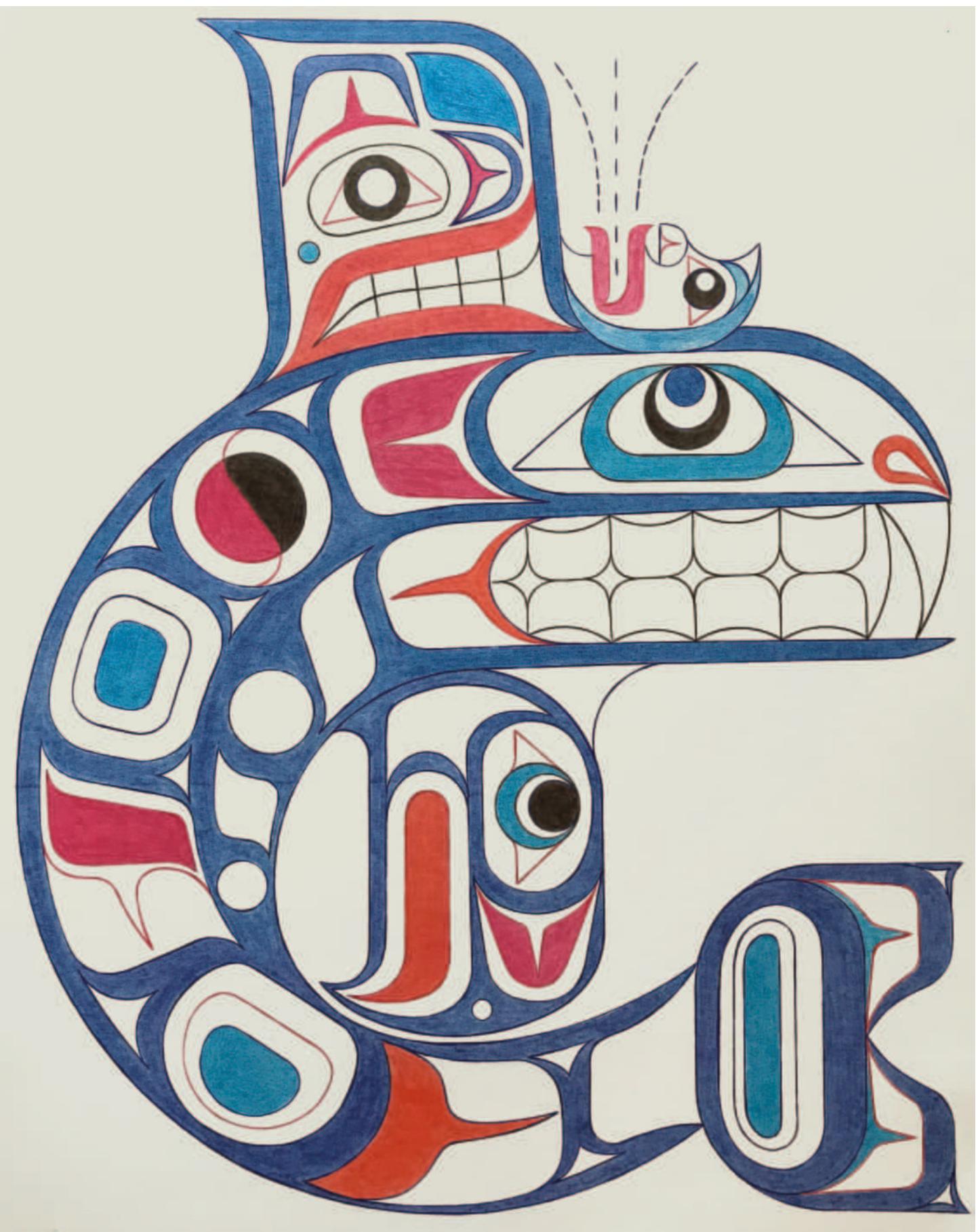
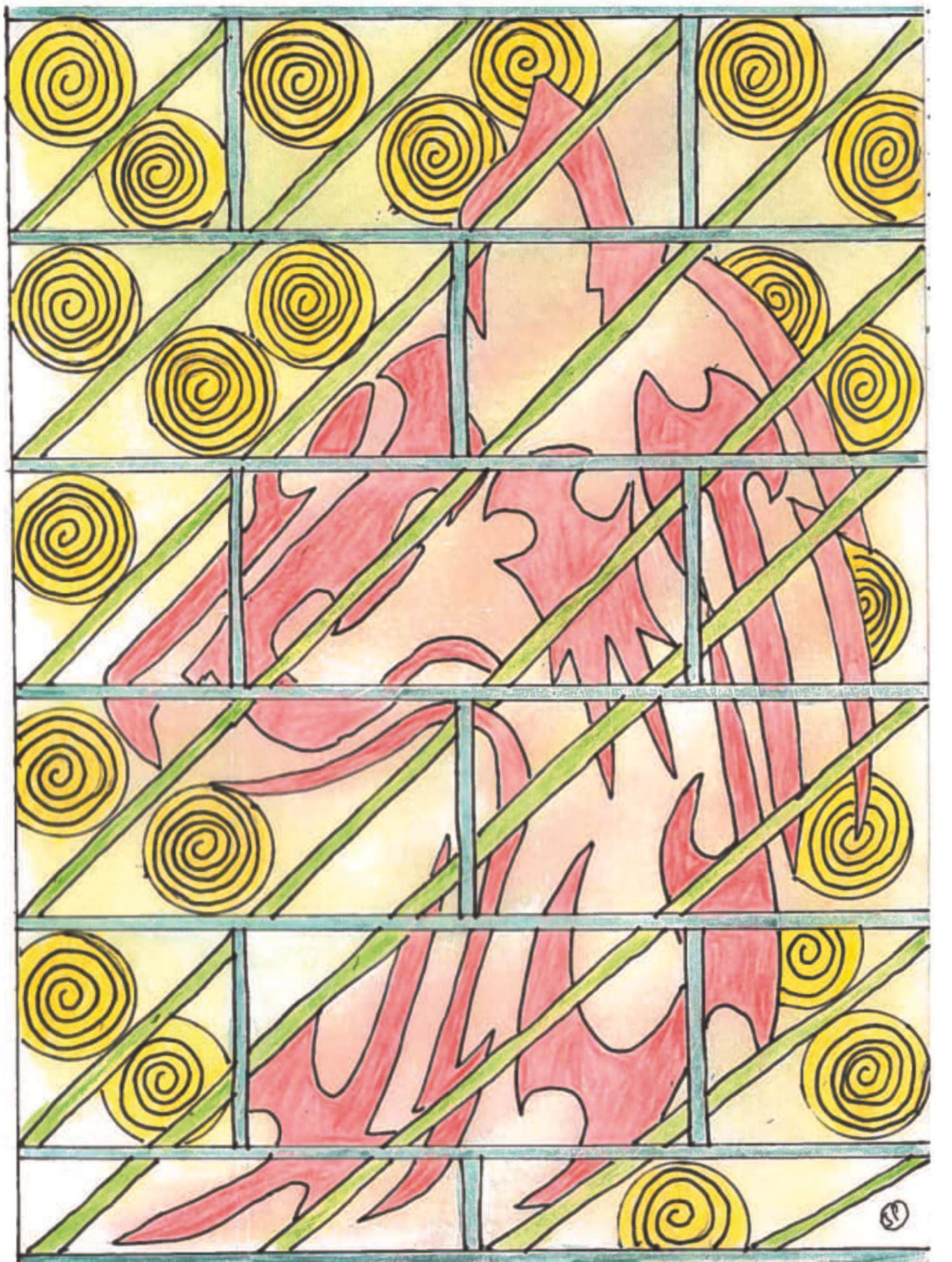
Pink

Green

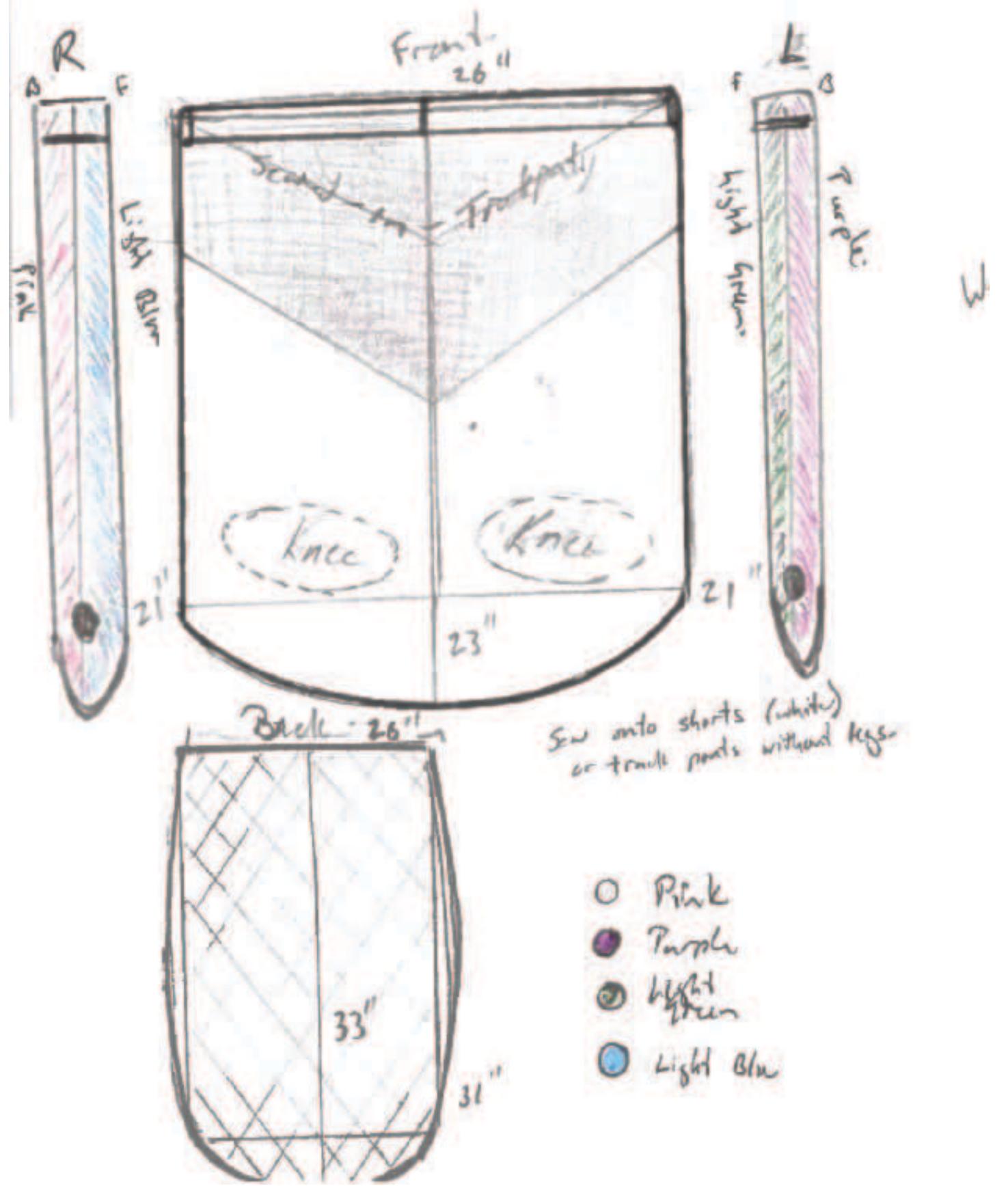
Turn side 8-Directions with  
Light Blue





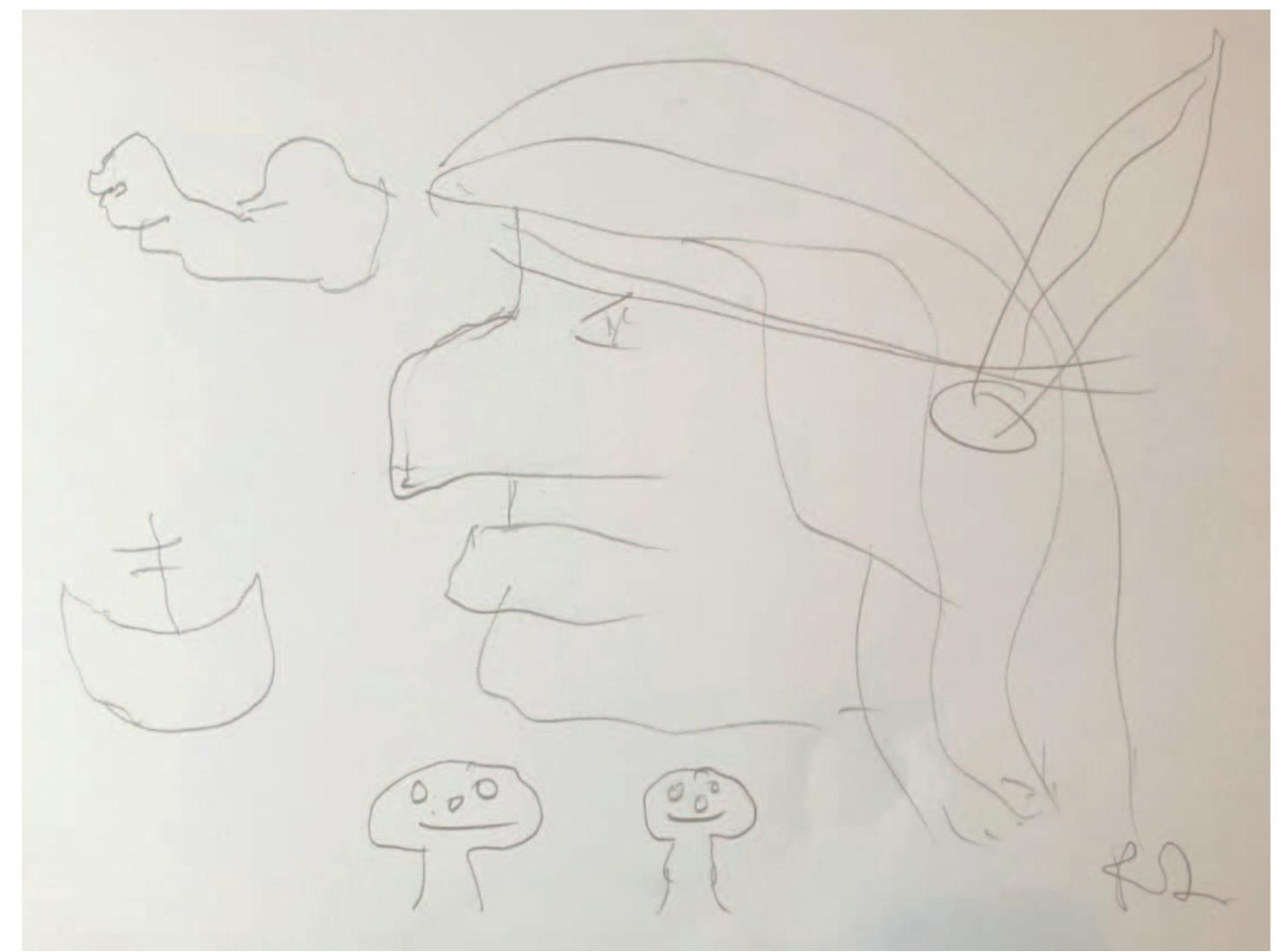






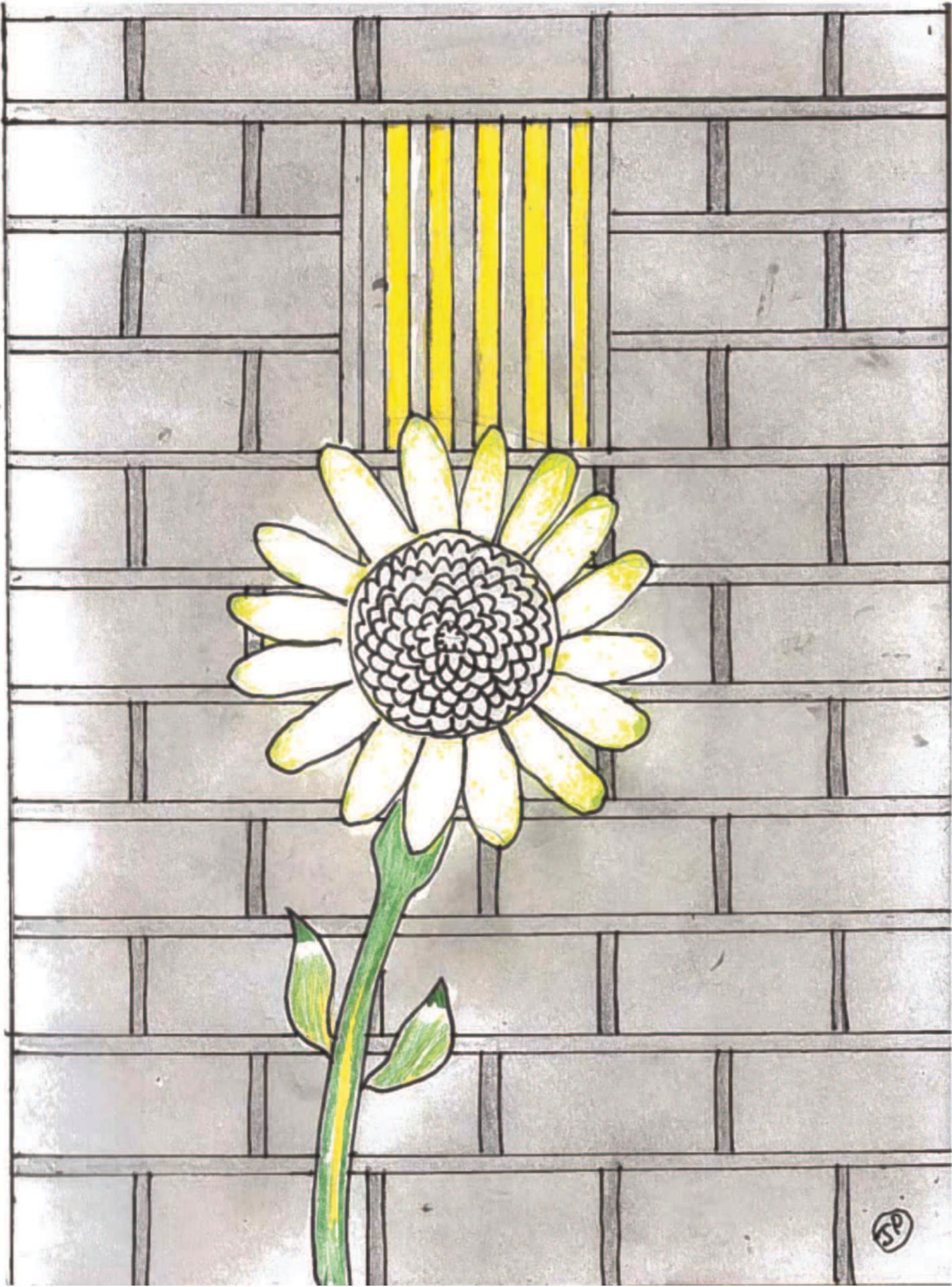


"Angel"



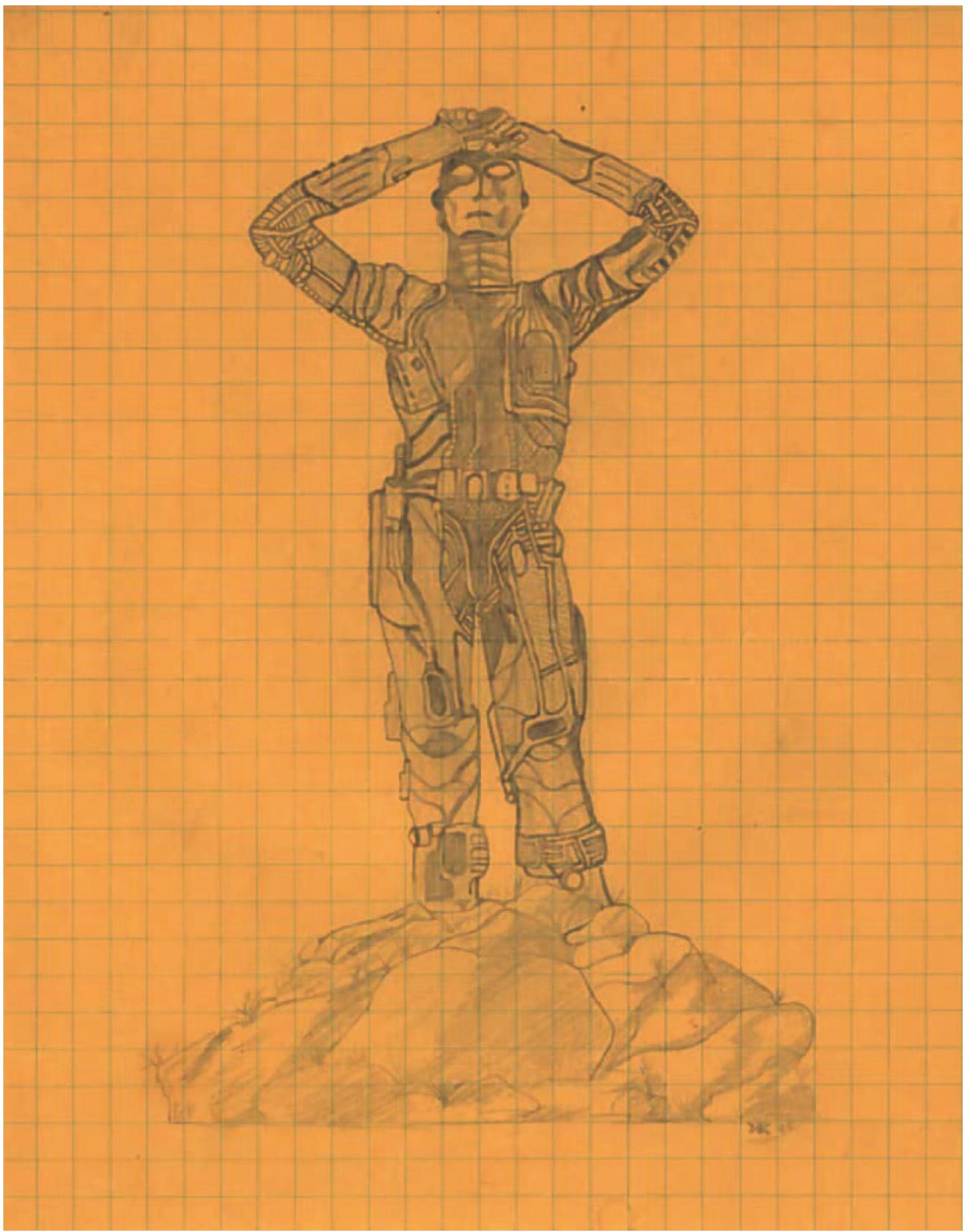
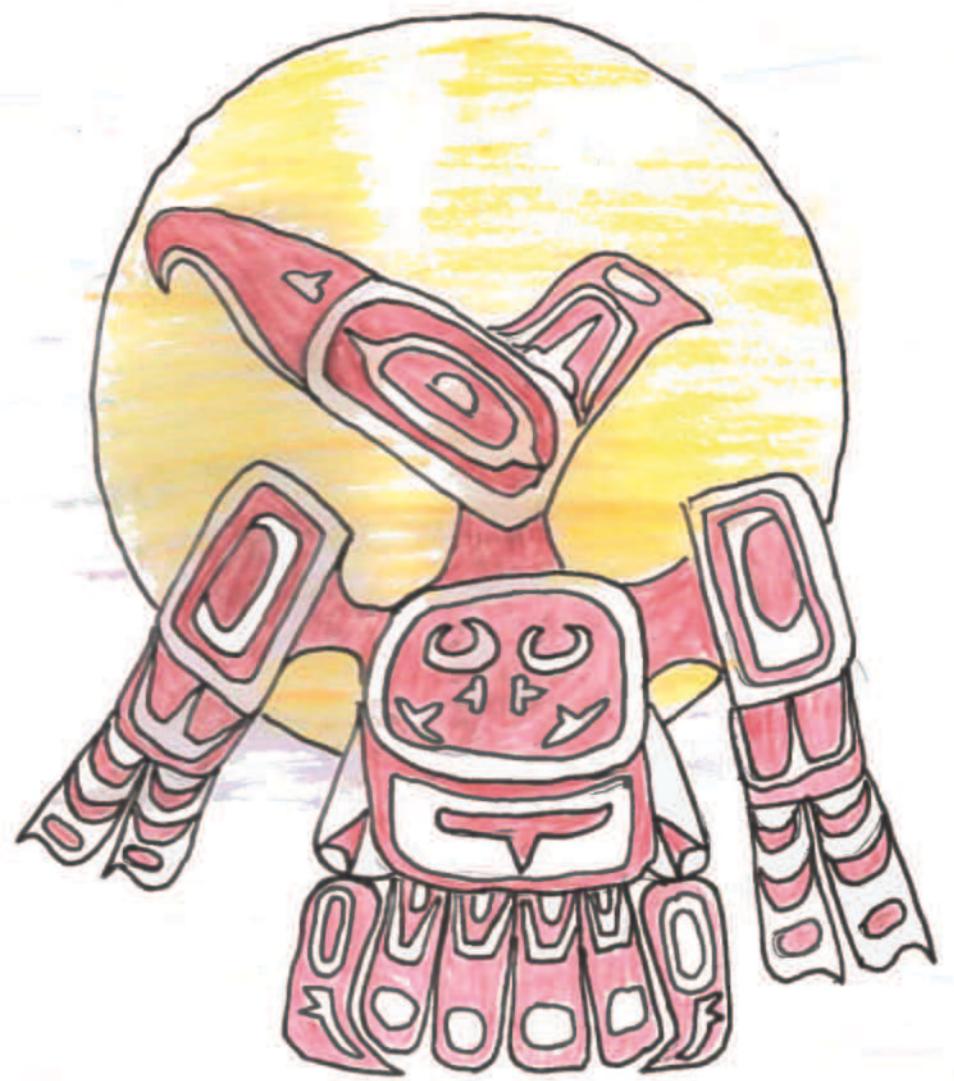


RP



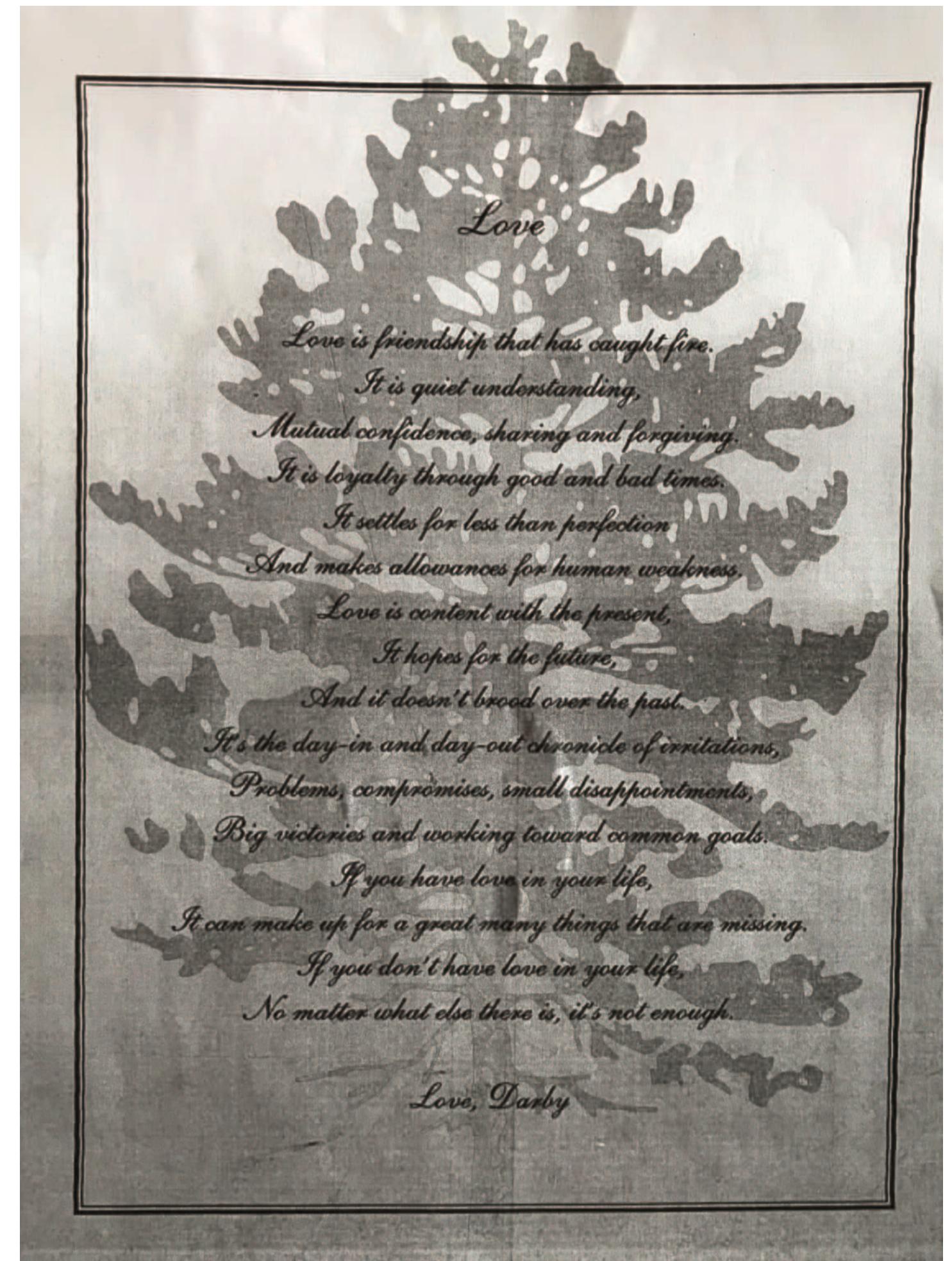


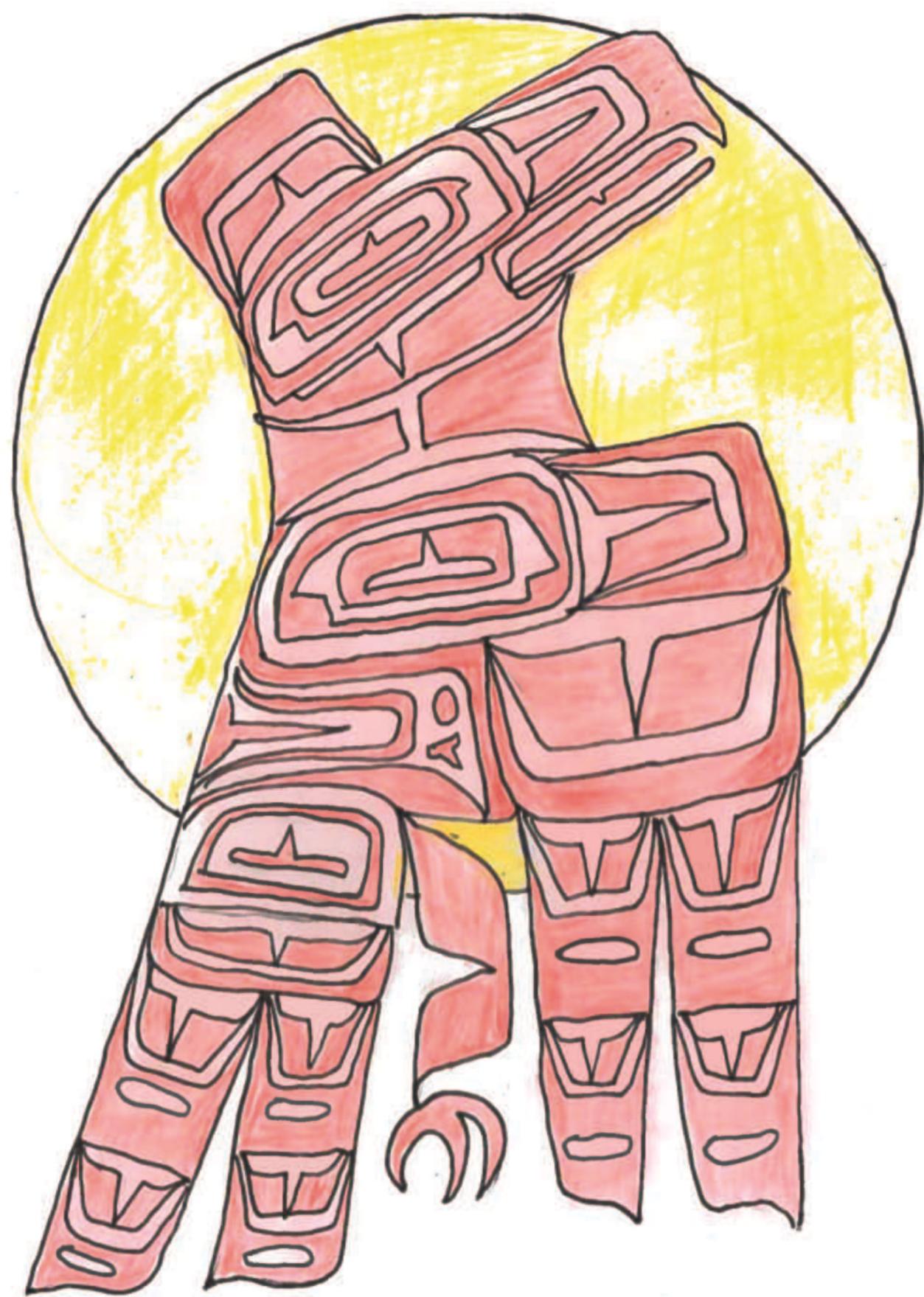
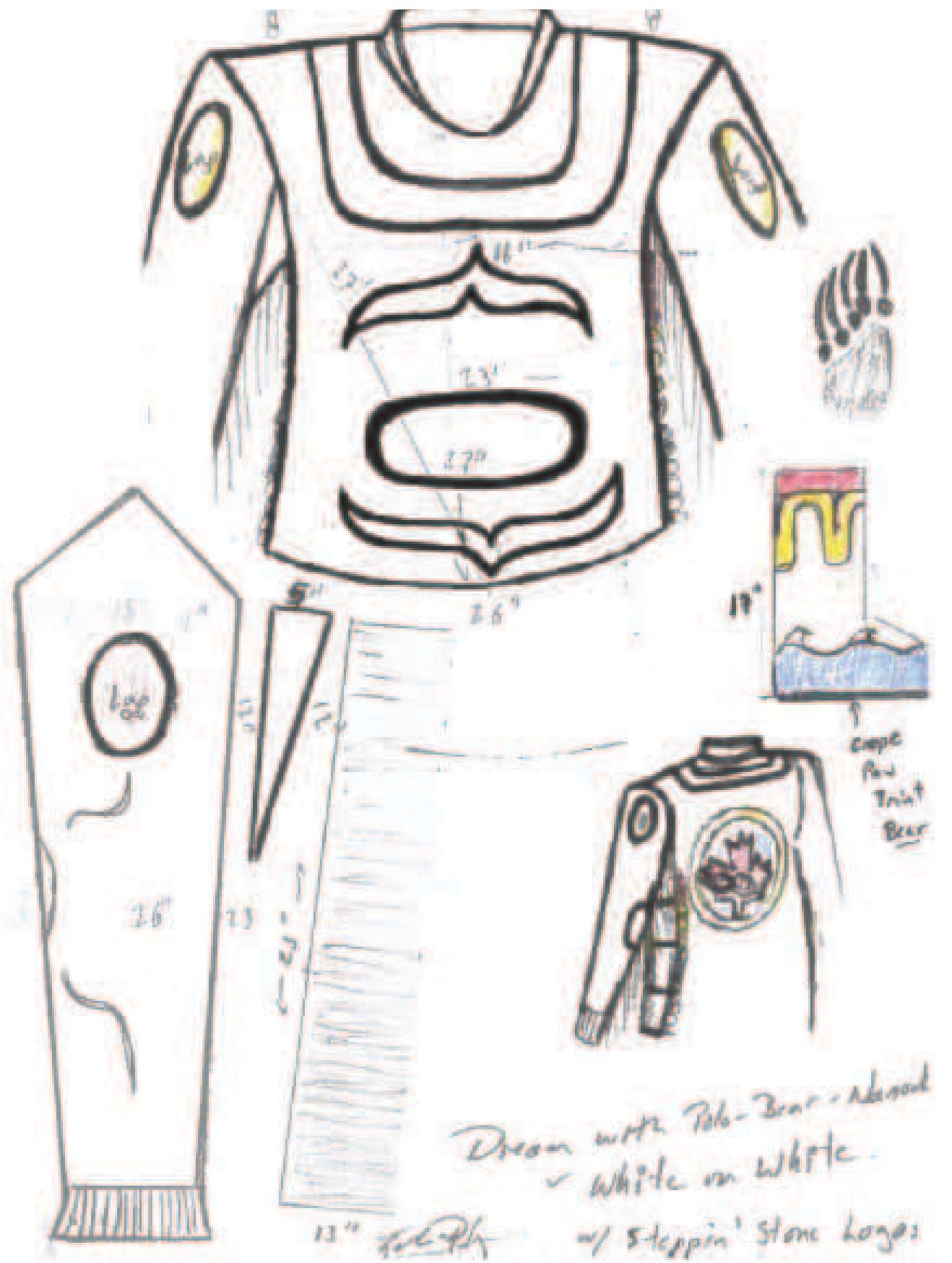




Here is a sample. Is this what  
they wanted, bear is a black & white.  
I do have one of the ones I colored. You  
might want to do it too?







**\*SPIRIT\***

As I sit in my cell, at four in the morning,  
Outside my window, snow falls, the ground adorning.

Memories from my past, I feel returning,  
Lost loves and joys, deep inside burning.

I tremble and sigh, a tear in my eye,  
For a moment I ask, why, oh why?

The answer is clear, for me to see,  
The spirit is strong, and must be free.

The walls and the steel, chains and sounds,  
To the spirit, are, but mole-hills and mounds.

The body is trapped, momentarily in time,  
But the final victory, will always be mine.

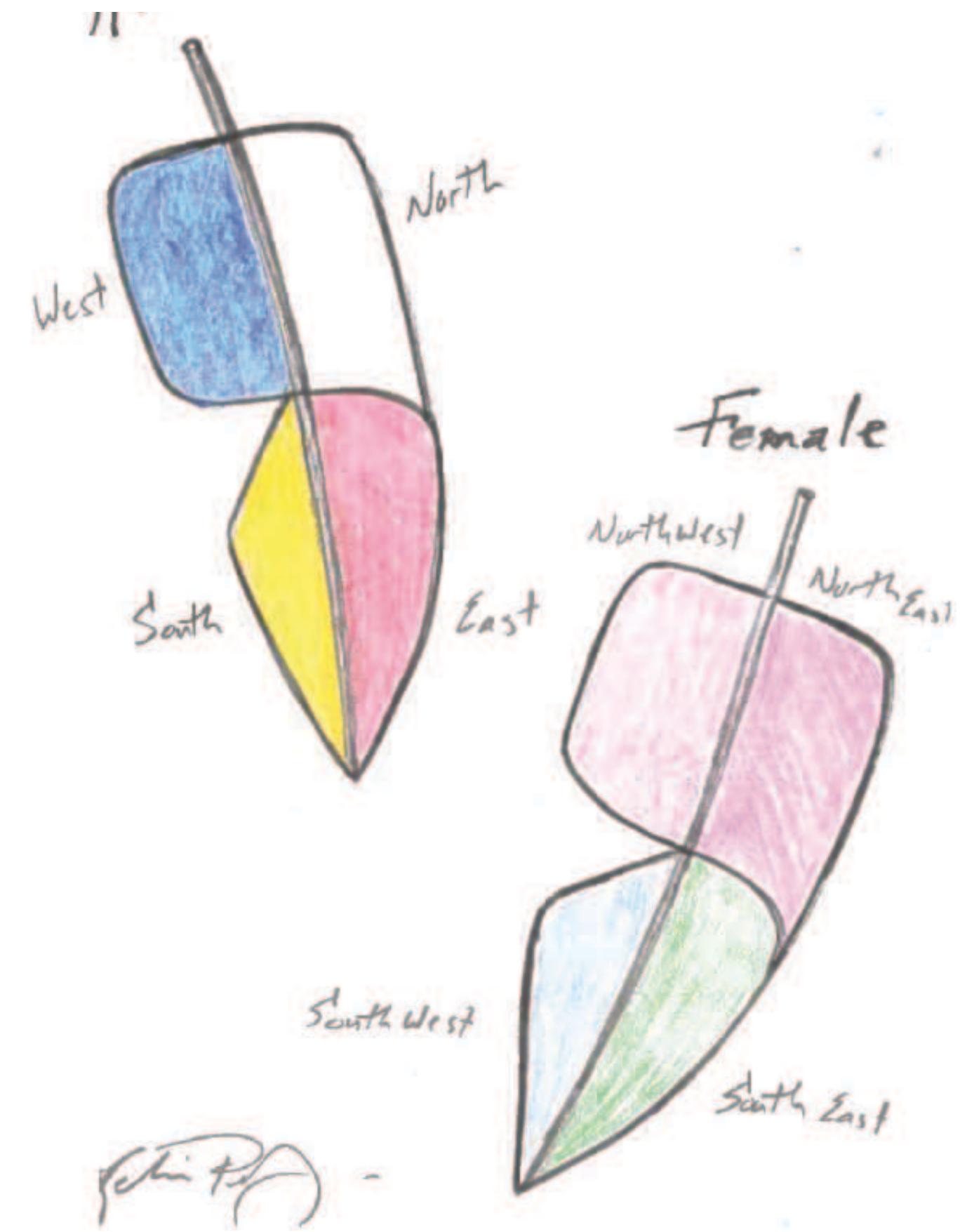
For their bricks and bars, games of the mind,  
Will only hold us, if we allow them to bind.

**"BY"**

**"DARBY (SHAKEY) CAIRNS"**







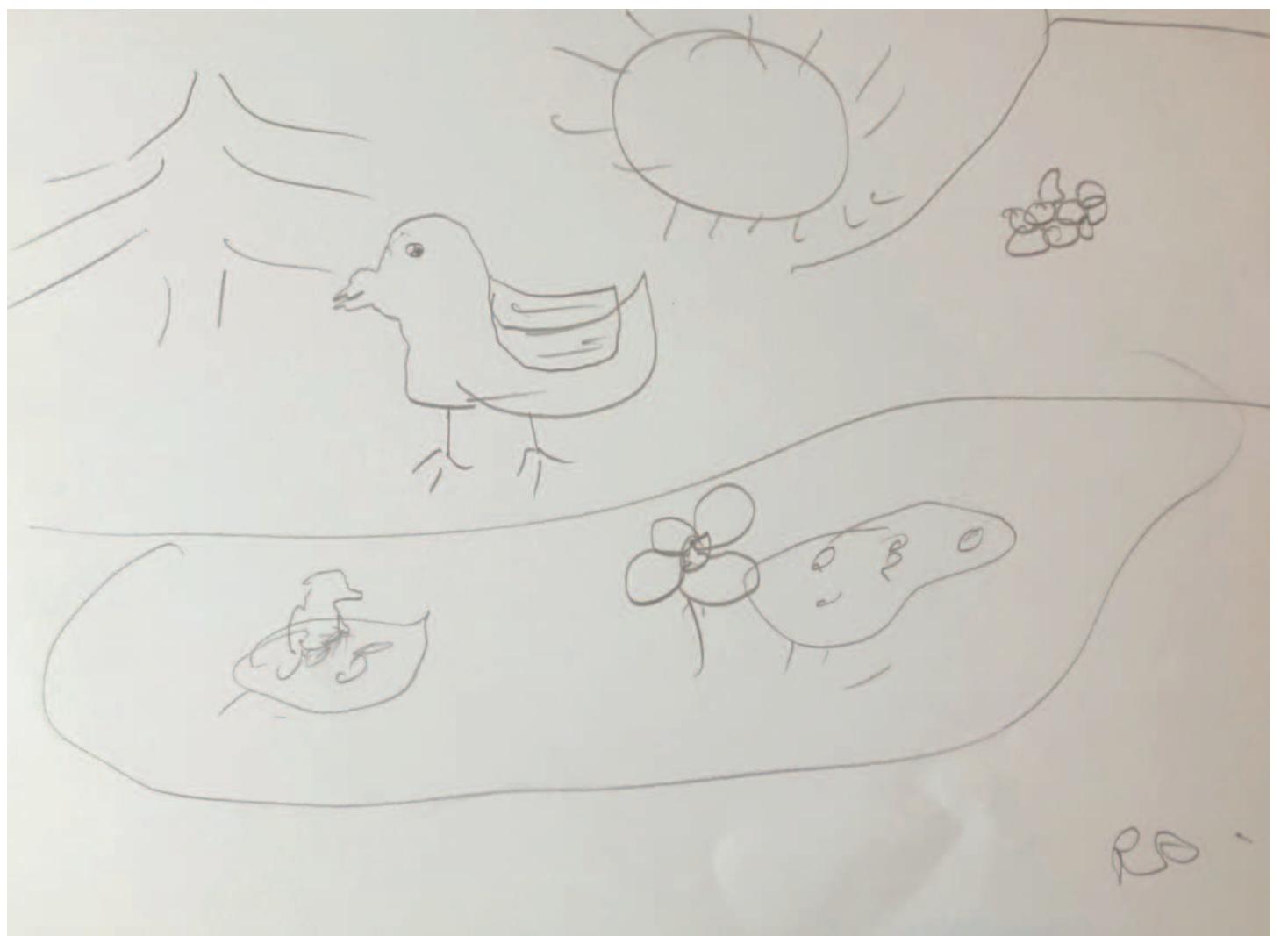


Nanook "Polar Bear"

Felix



DANNY YUMMEL

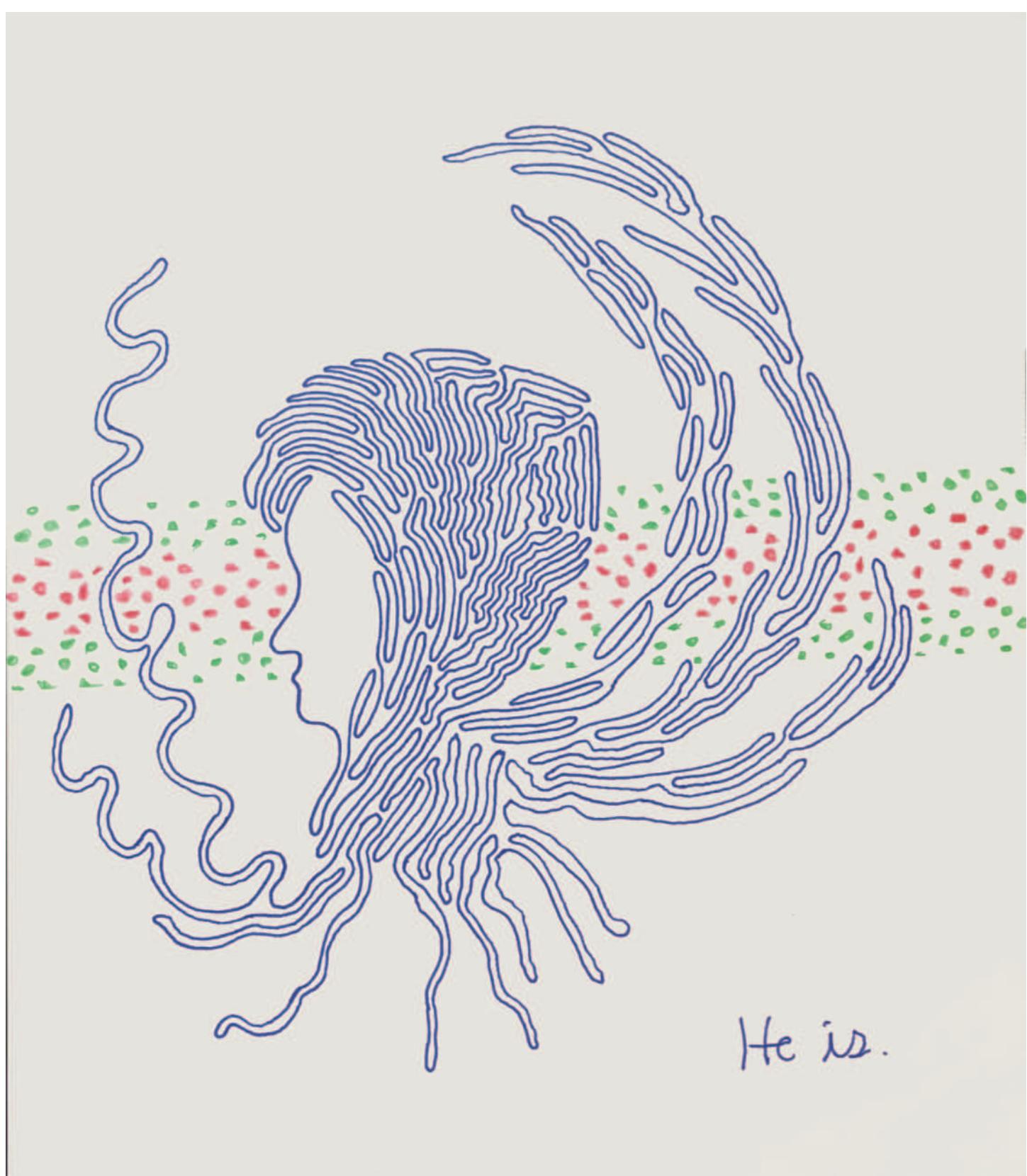


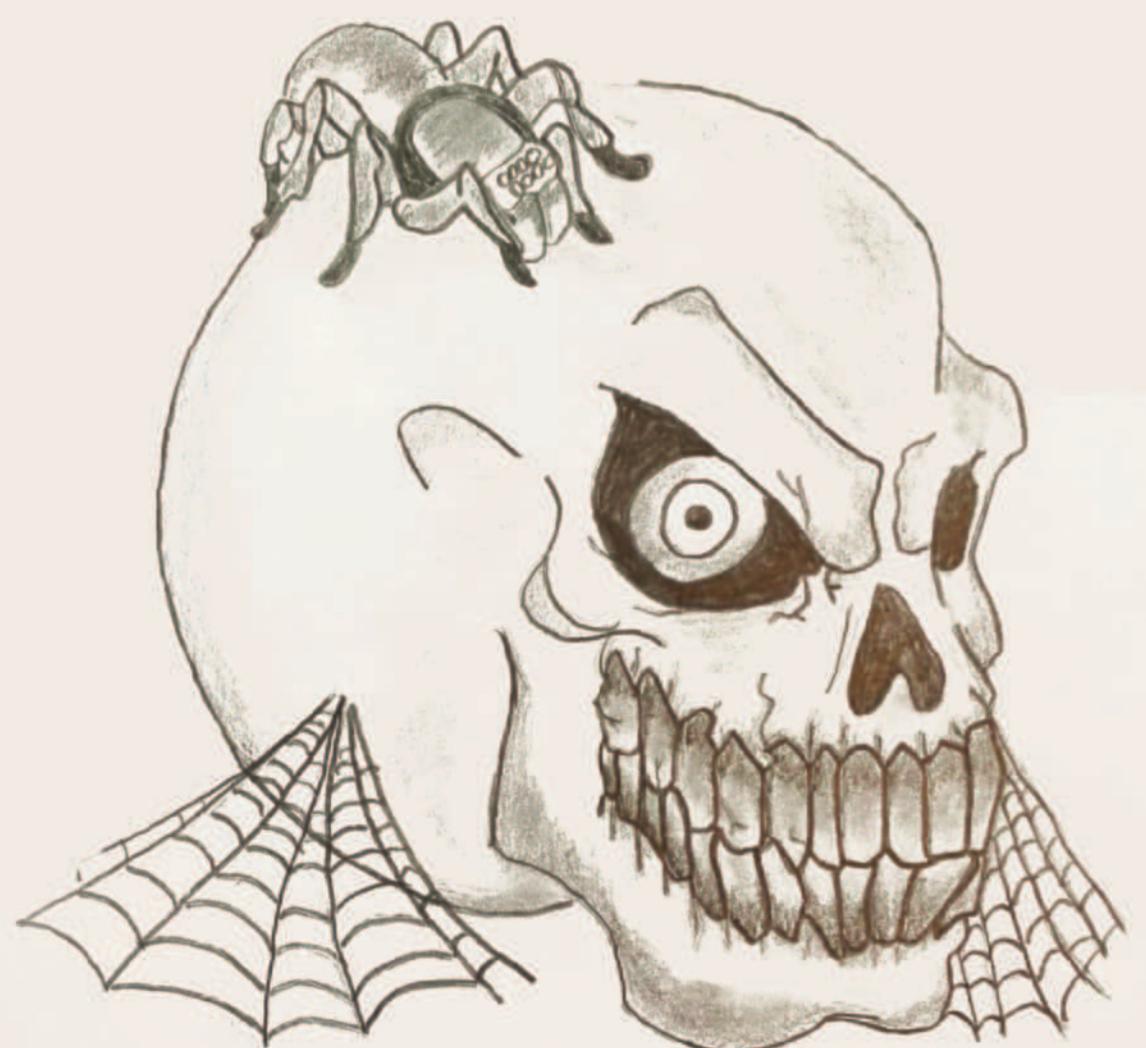


Fred









Nevach North



FF



## Read To Me

Taking a journey deep through my emotions  
Multi personalities challenging my devotions  
Adversed in agony  
Hoping you will pray for me.

A mental breakdown  
I'm lost and full of hate now  
No escape for heaven's sake  
Tired of people being fake  
Out of time and out of my mind  
Spending my time out on the grind.

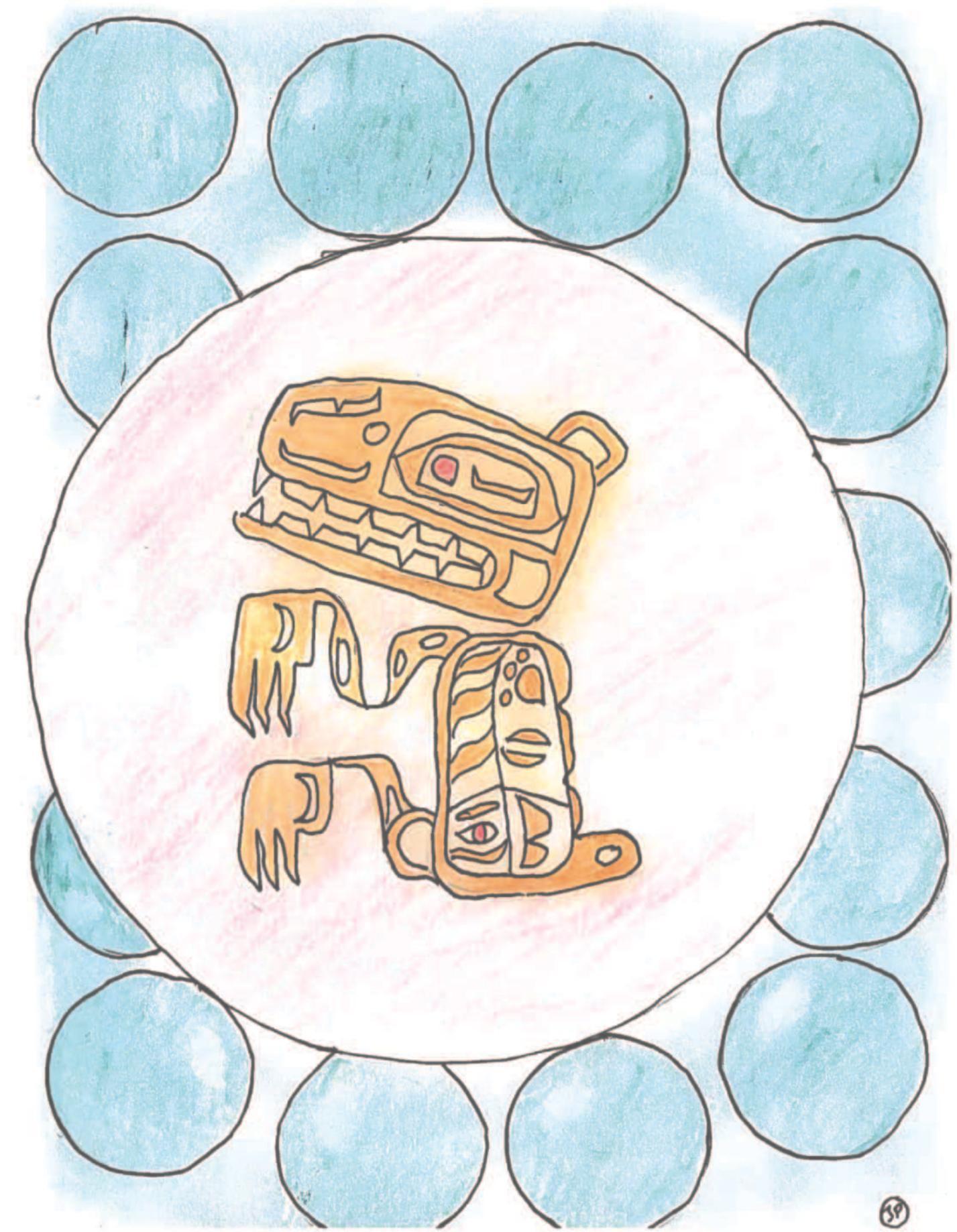
Why am I thinking all of these thoughts  
God help me fill in the dots  
A pharmacological holocaust  
Never been in a place where I was so lost.

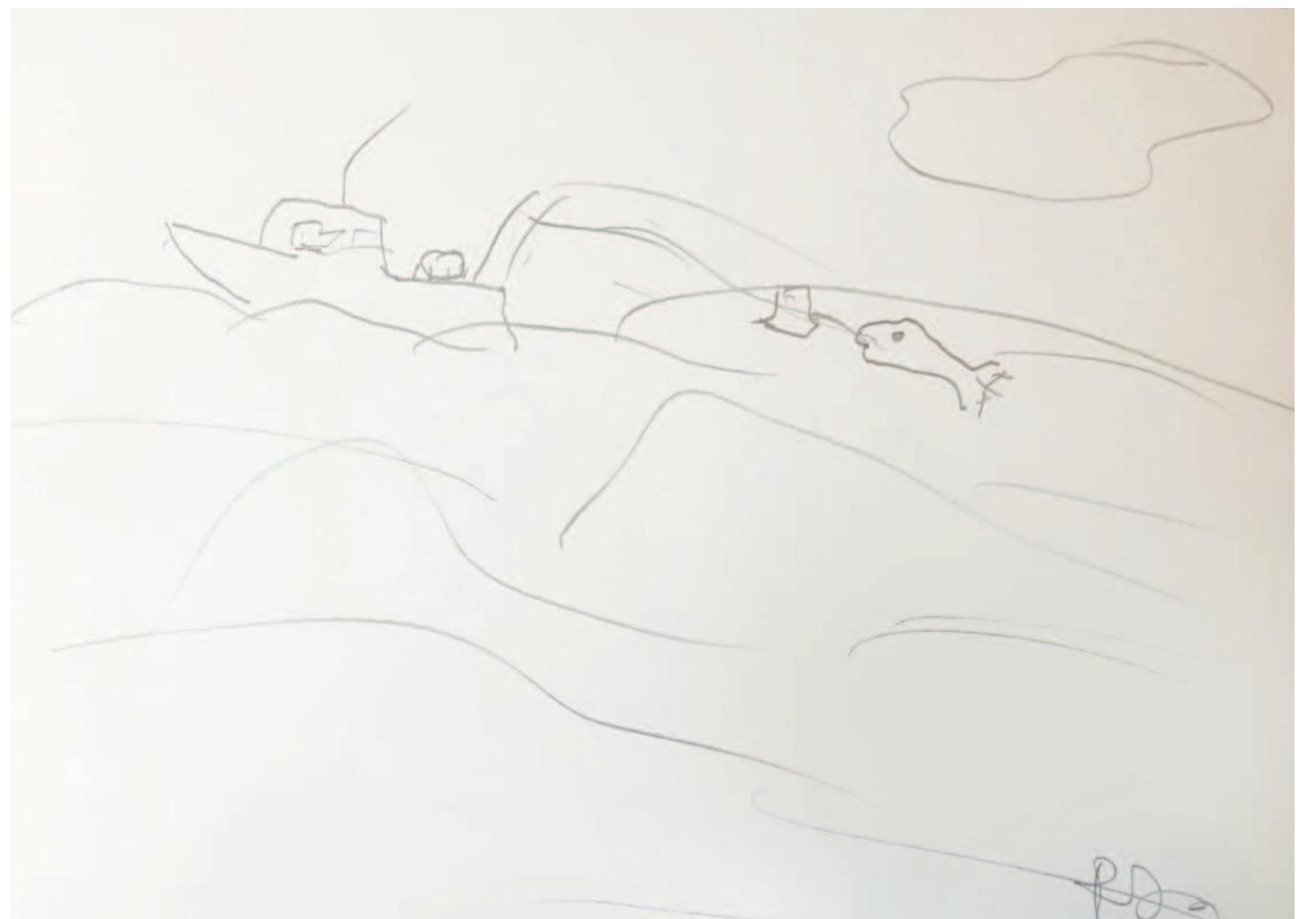
End up another screaming victim  
My chances of finding love seems slim  
Everything is dead to me  
Lose touch with reality  
Everything is dead to me.

Nevae North  
2020



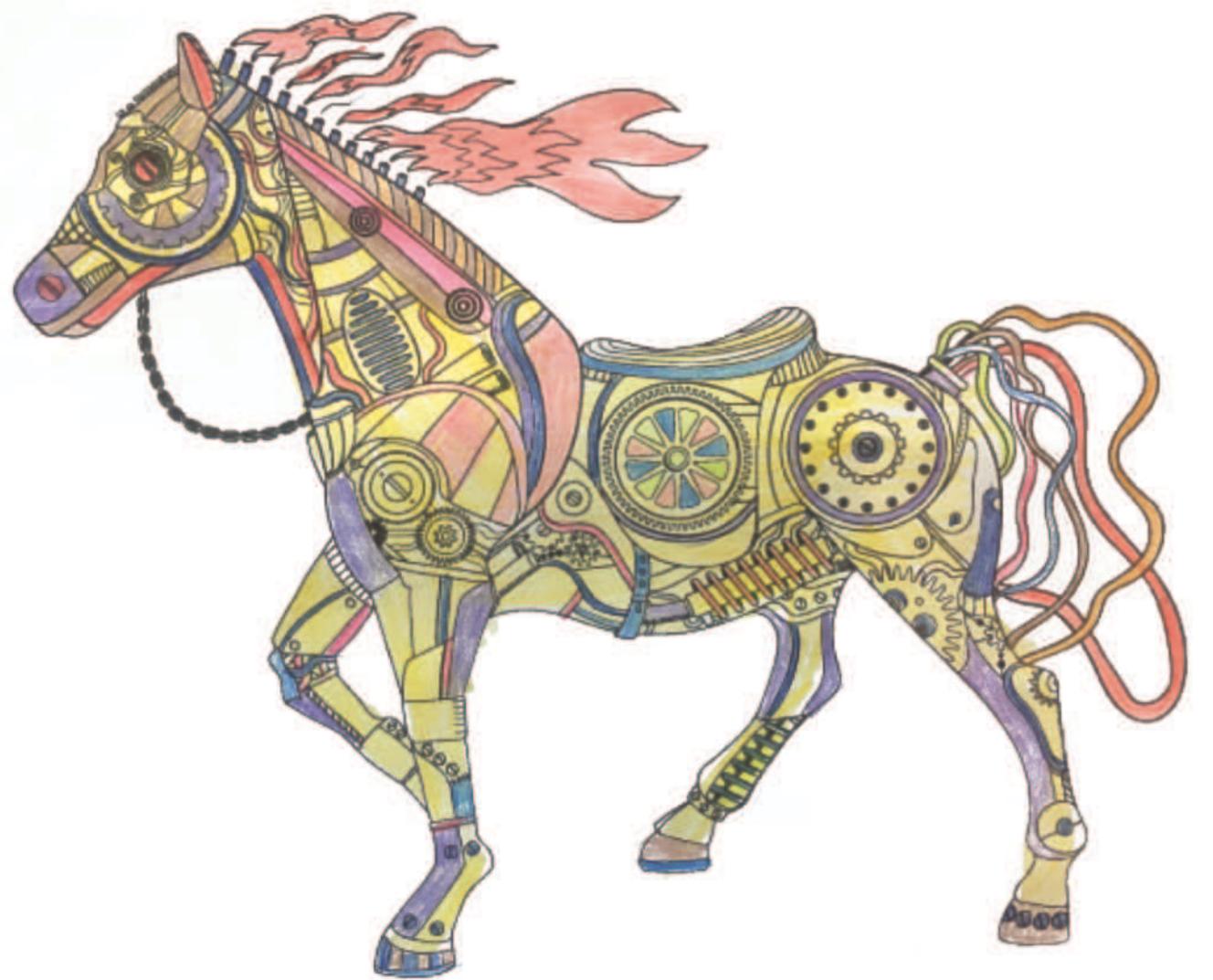
I appreciate ..  
All living things.  
I am behind bars...  
But,  
I am  
**Free!**

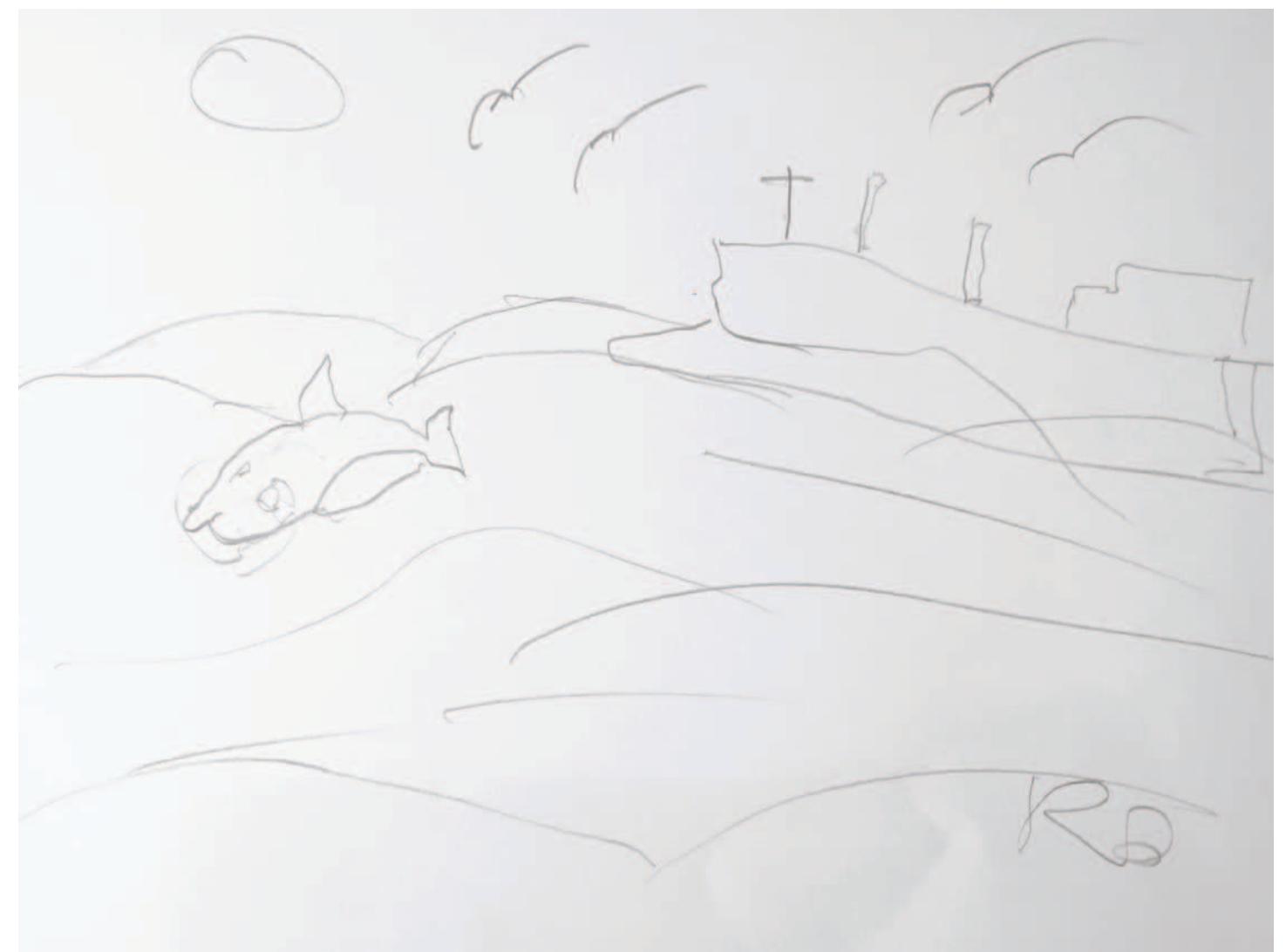




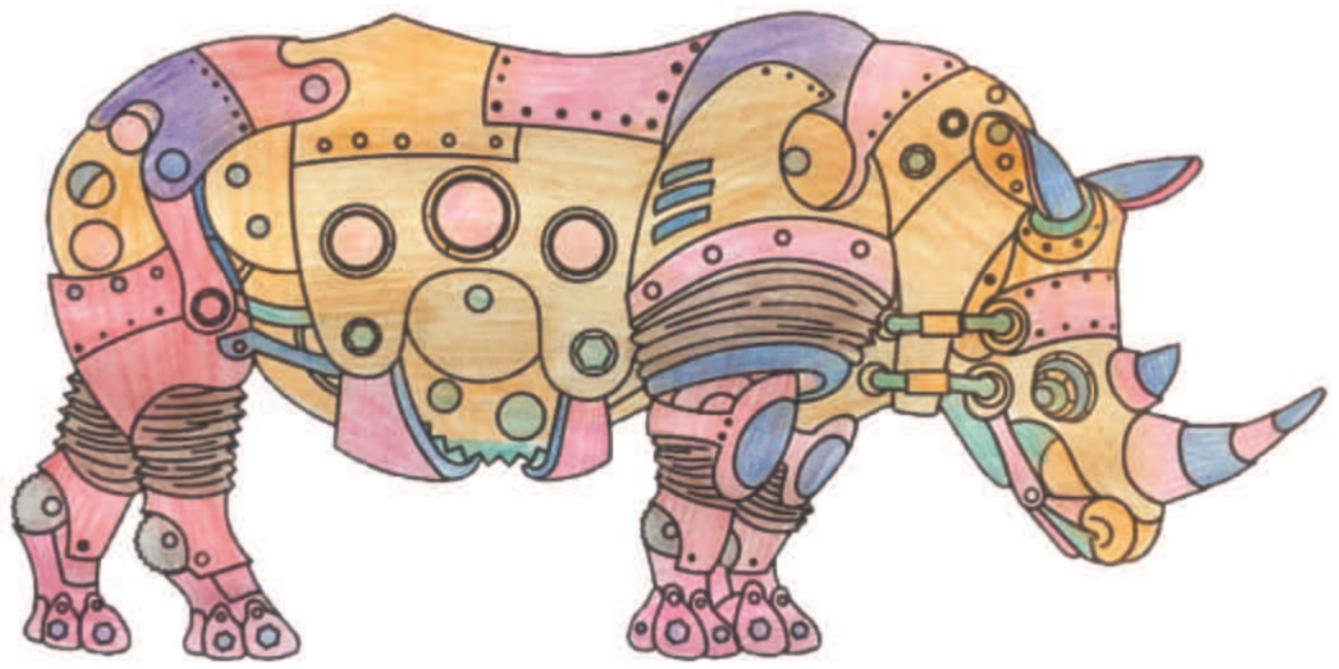
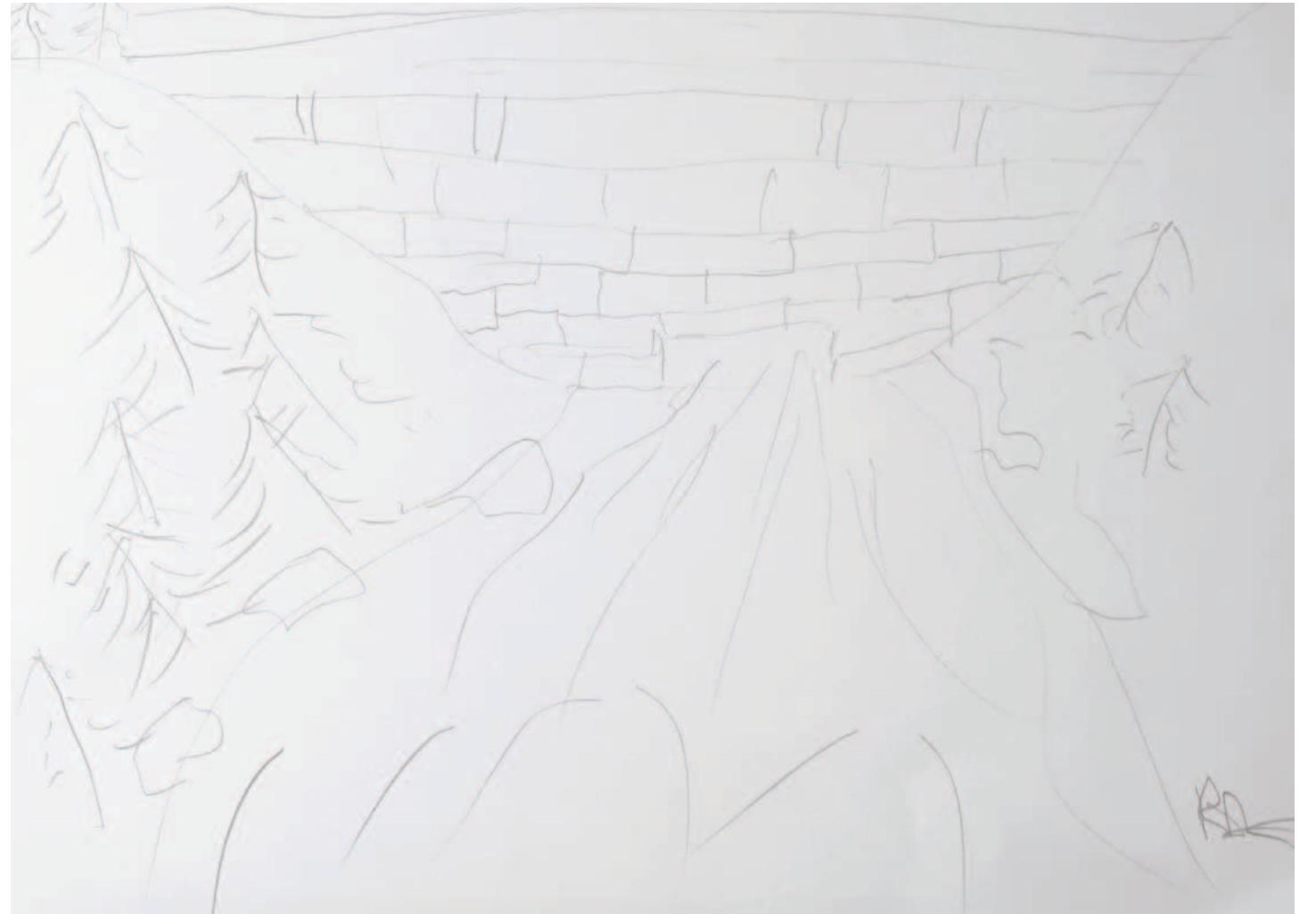




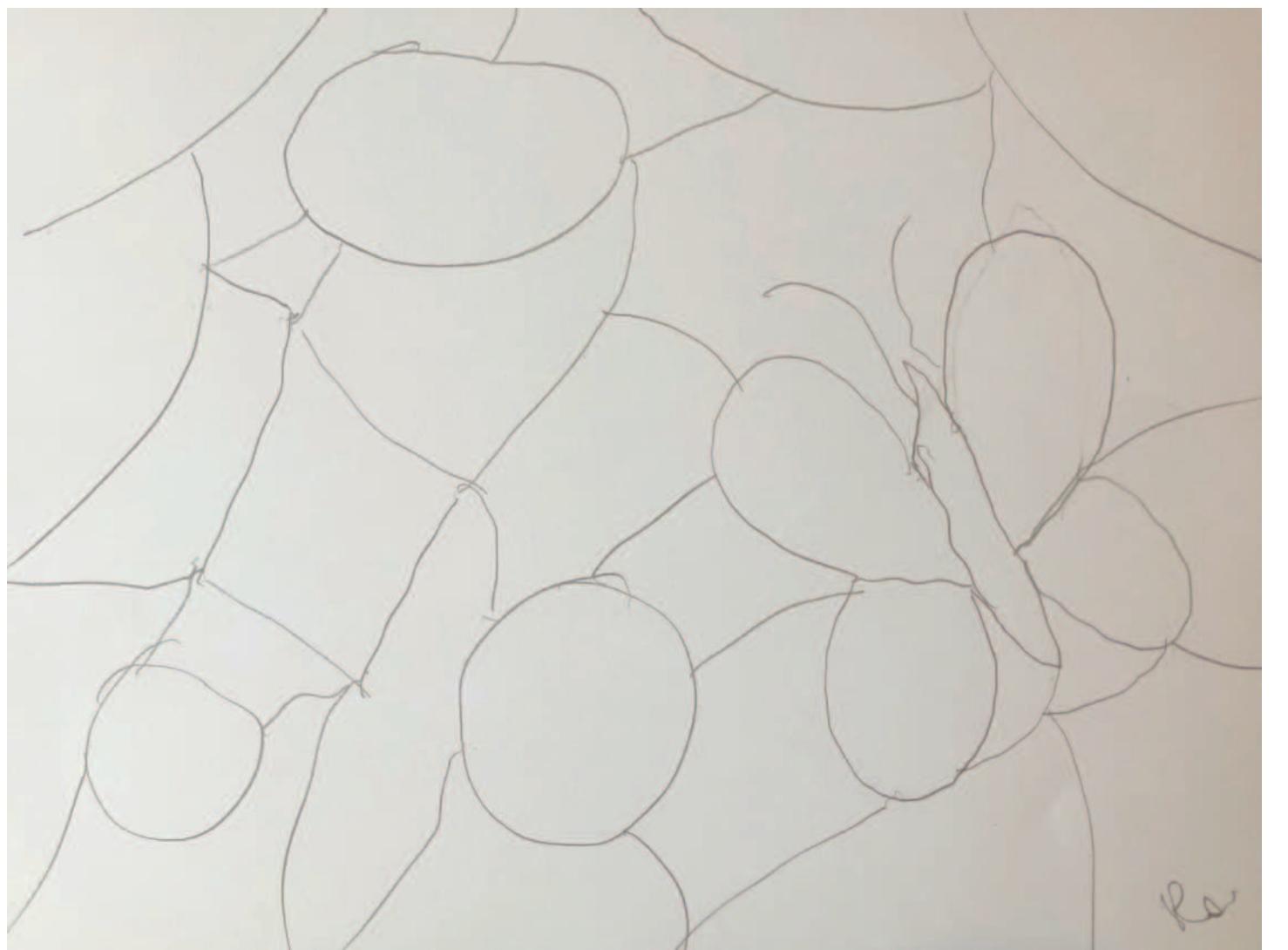


















This booklet was created on December 22, 2020. We look forward to sharing more art and writing with you as we receive more from across the institutions and community sites.

It's important to us to get consent from each artist and storyteller before sharing your work. If you've created something that you want to share and don't see it in this booklet that means we are waiting to receive your tracking and consent form. Don't worry! If you consented to sharing and digitization your work will show up in the next volume.



For more information about ART & Justice please contact Kelsey Timler at 1-888-379-0118, or at [kelsey.timler@ubc.ca](mailto:kelsey.timler@ubc.ca)