



BREAKING DOWN WALLS WITH *Art & Writing*

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

VOLUME 1,
DECEMBER 2020

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.

THE IMPORTANCE OF ART & STORYTELLING

Words of encouragement from Elders, Peer Leaders and partners.

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

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

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

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

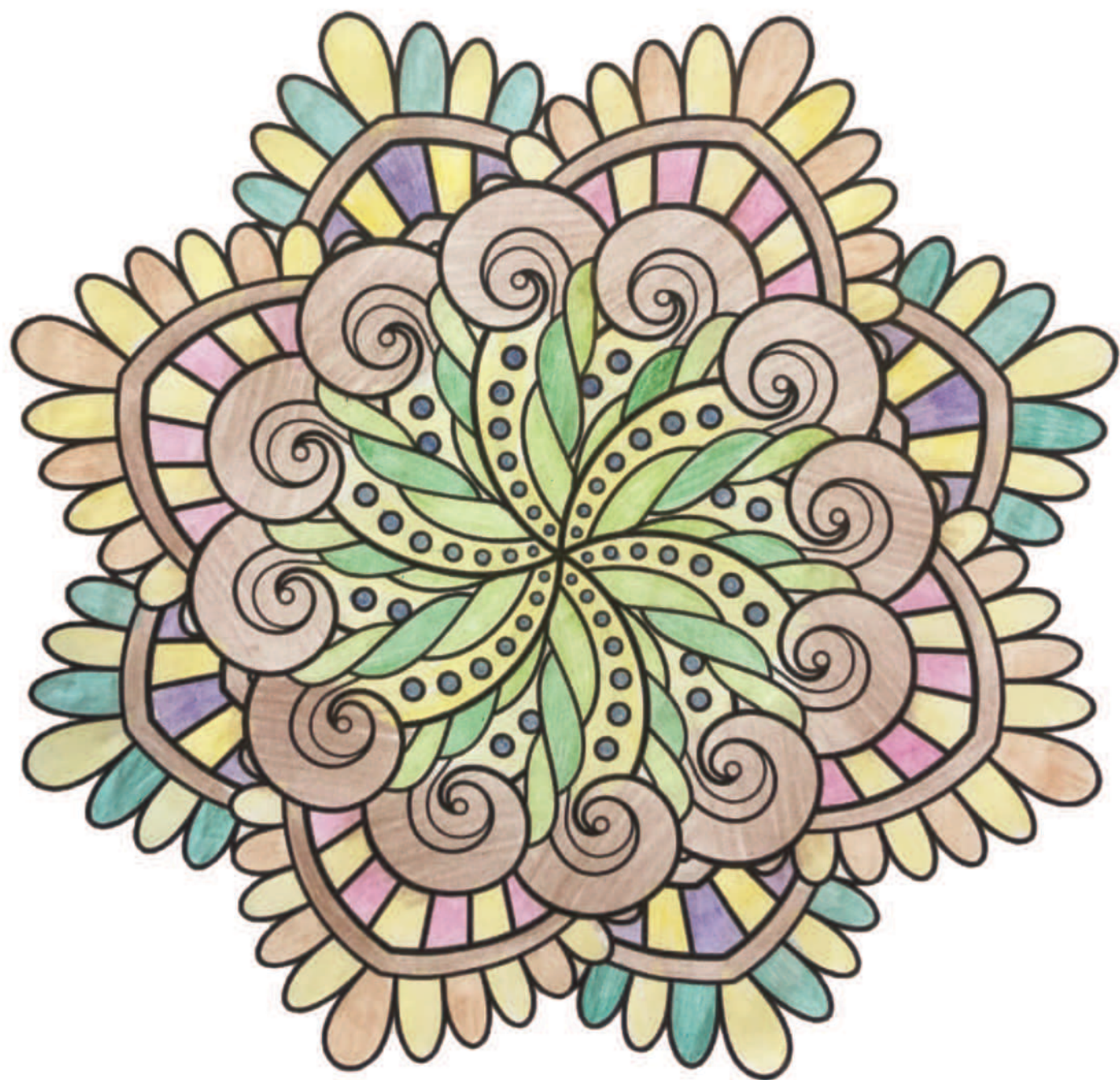
Patrick, I love it, well said. I have seen what can happen when those walls open up for the outside and for those inside and it works.

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







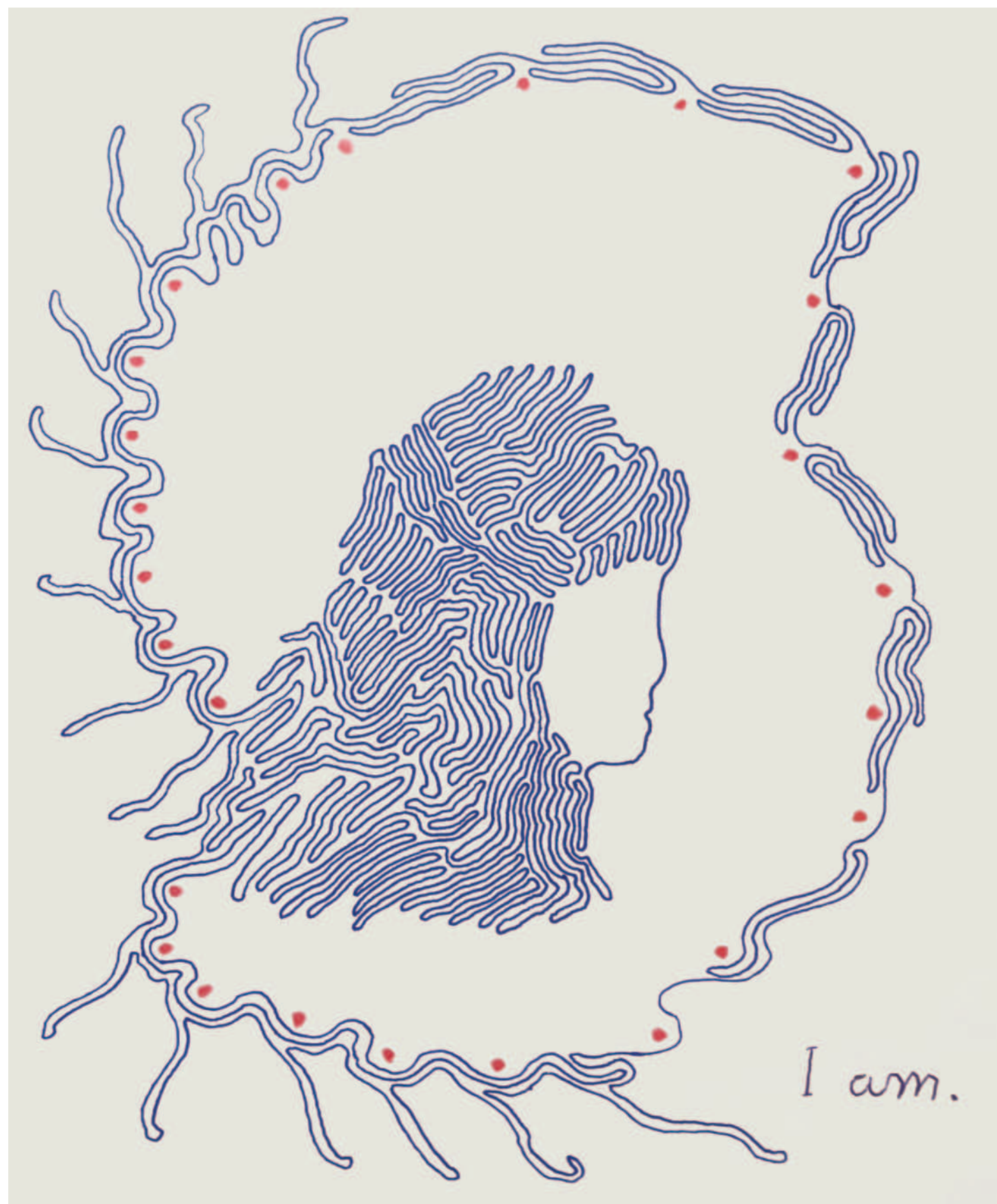






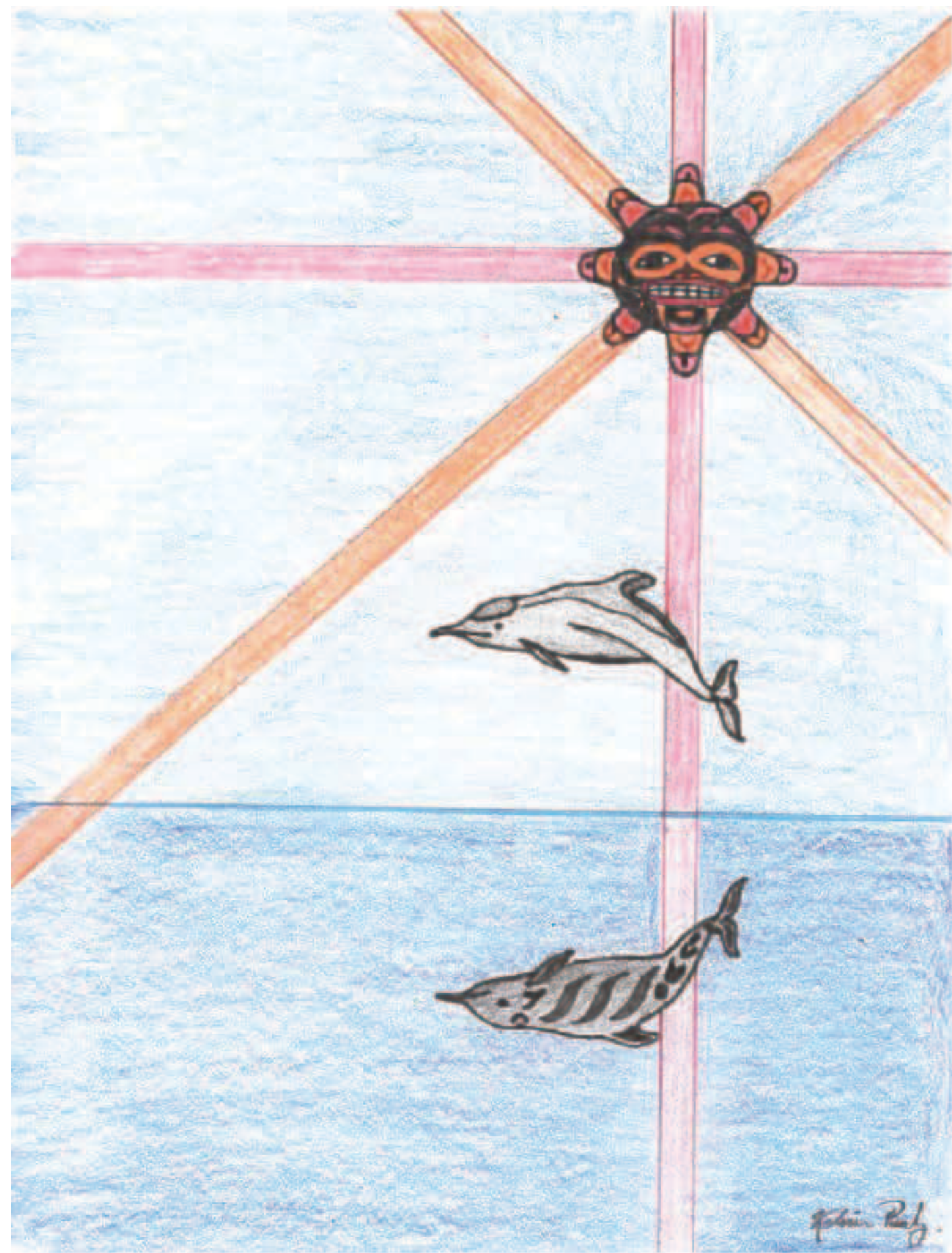








Beaver Party of Canada
 Logo ✓ www.BeaverParty.ca
 Robin Parry



Robin Parry

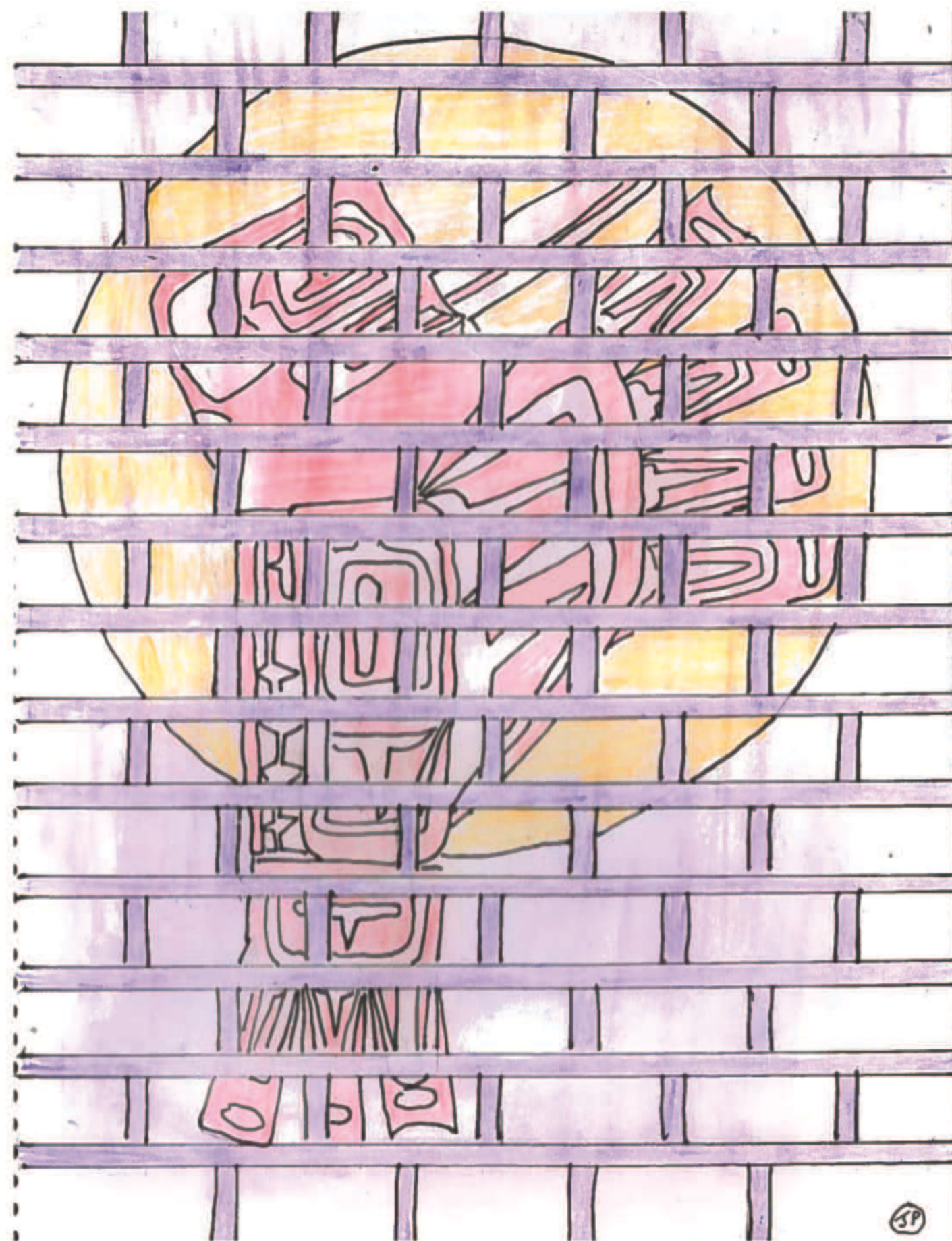


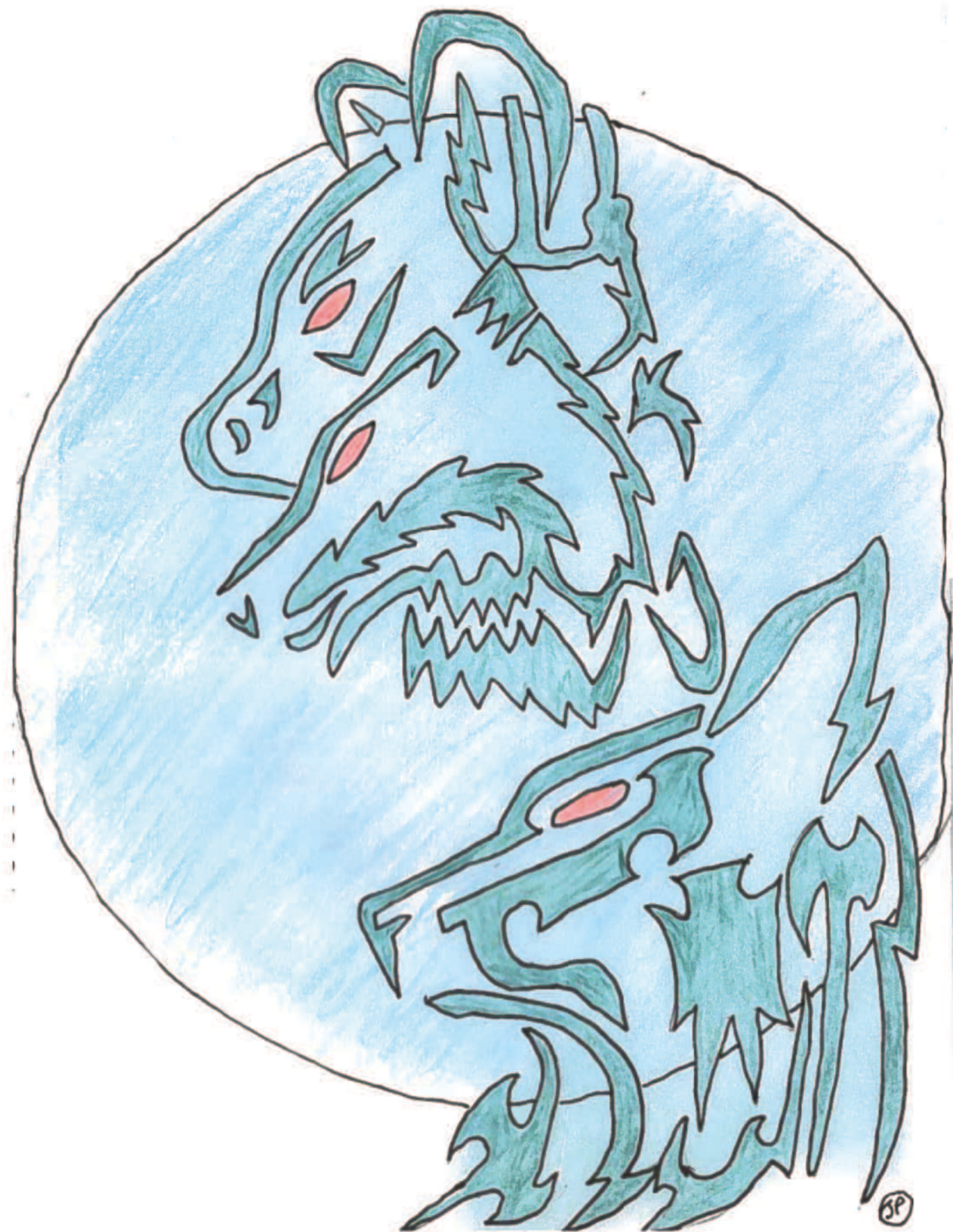
● Red E
● Yellow S
● Dark Blue W
○ White N

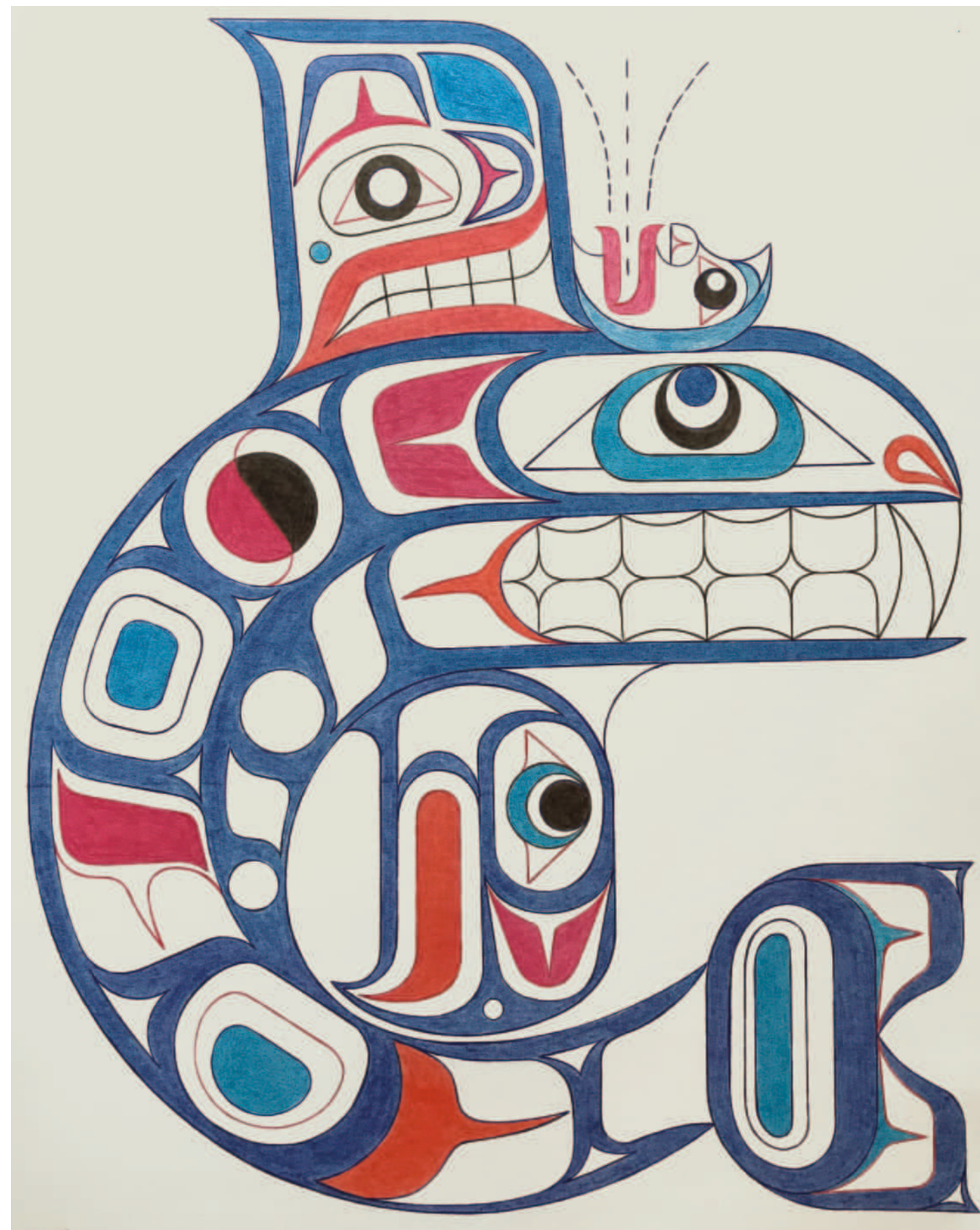
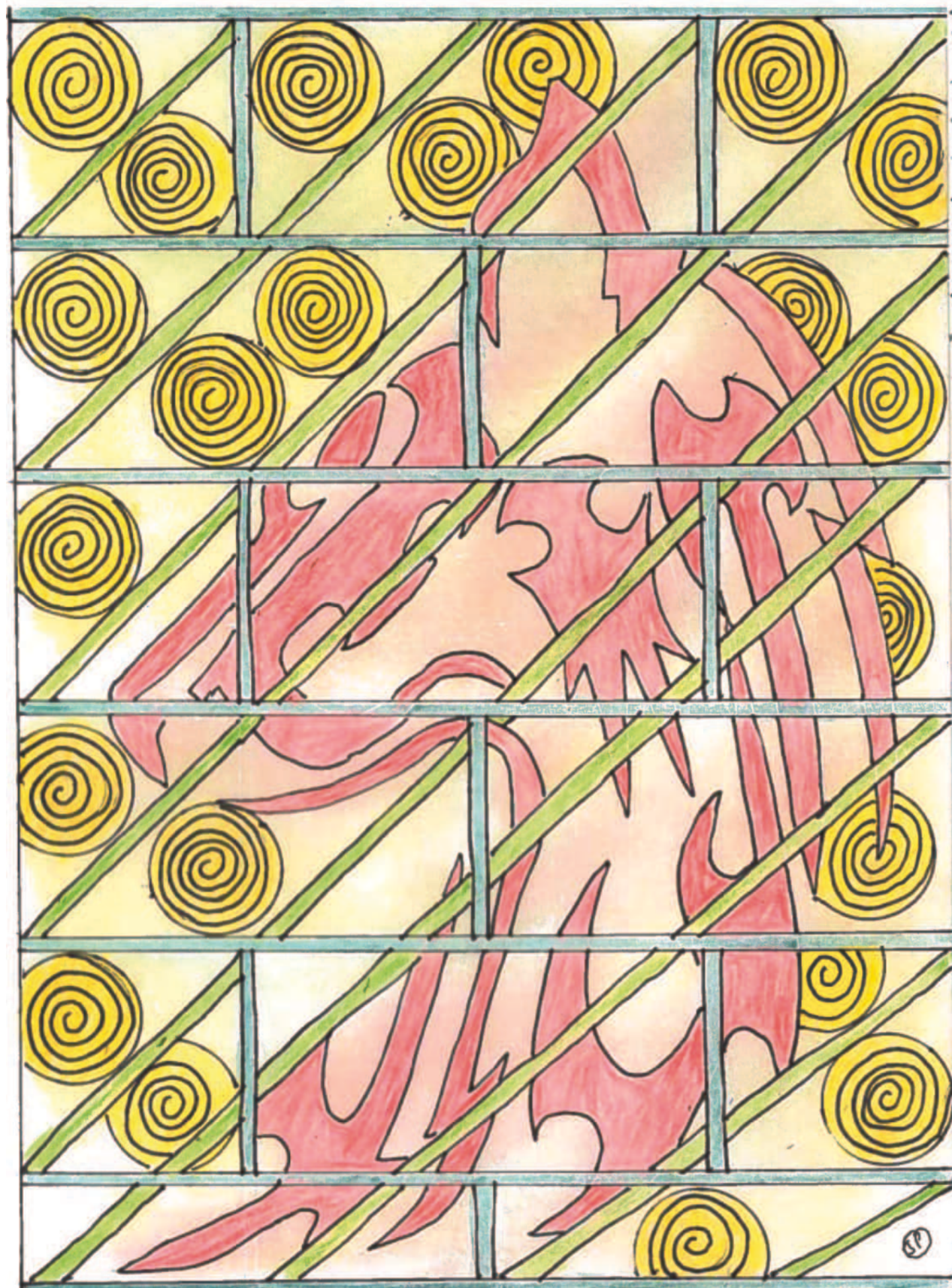
4-Directions Cup.

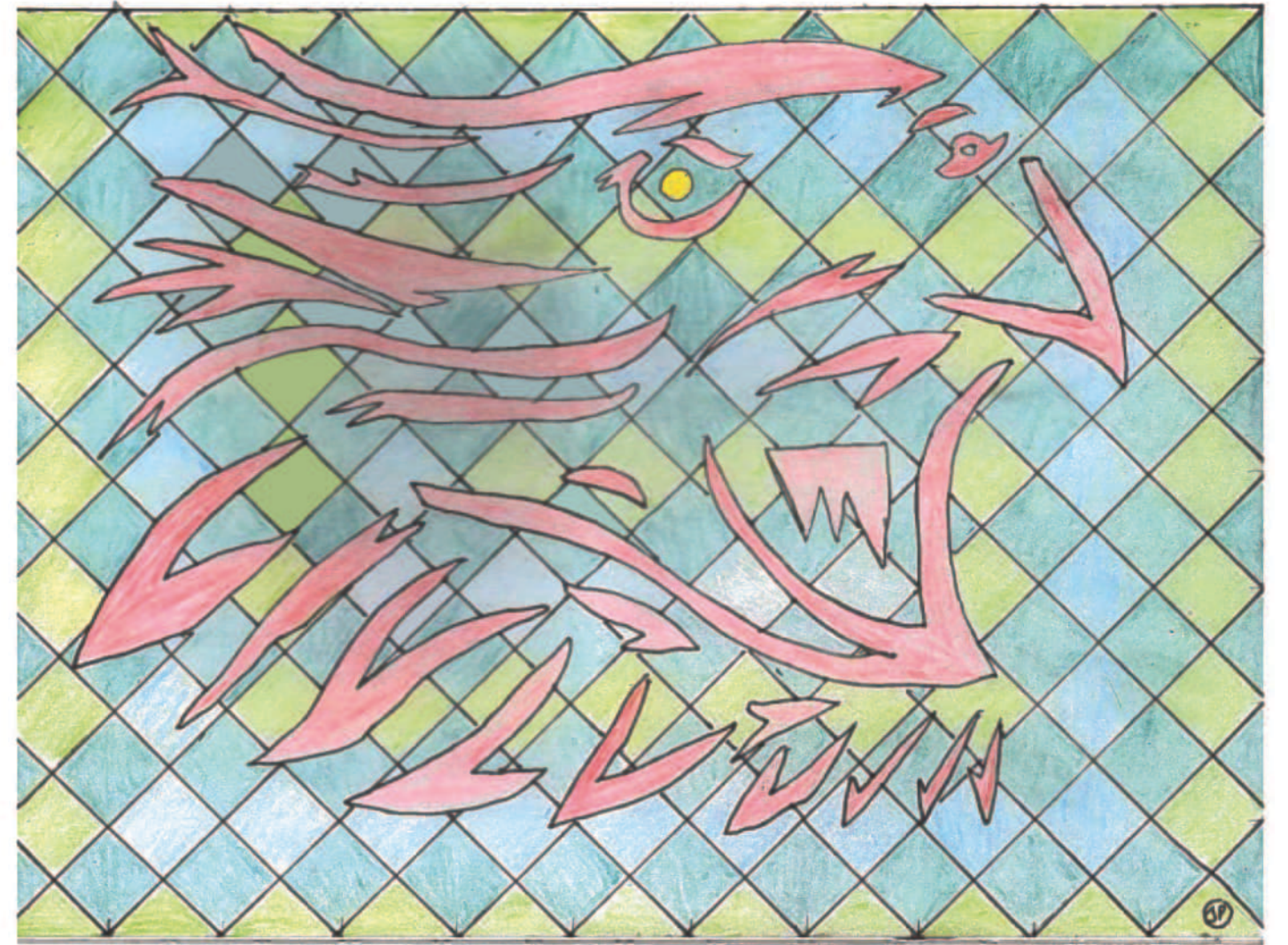
Felix Rhy.

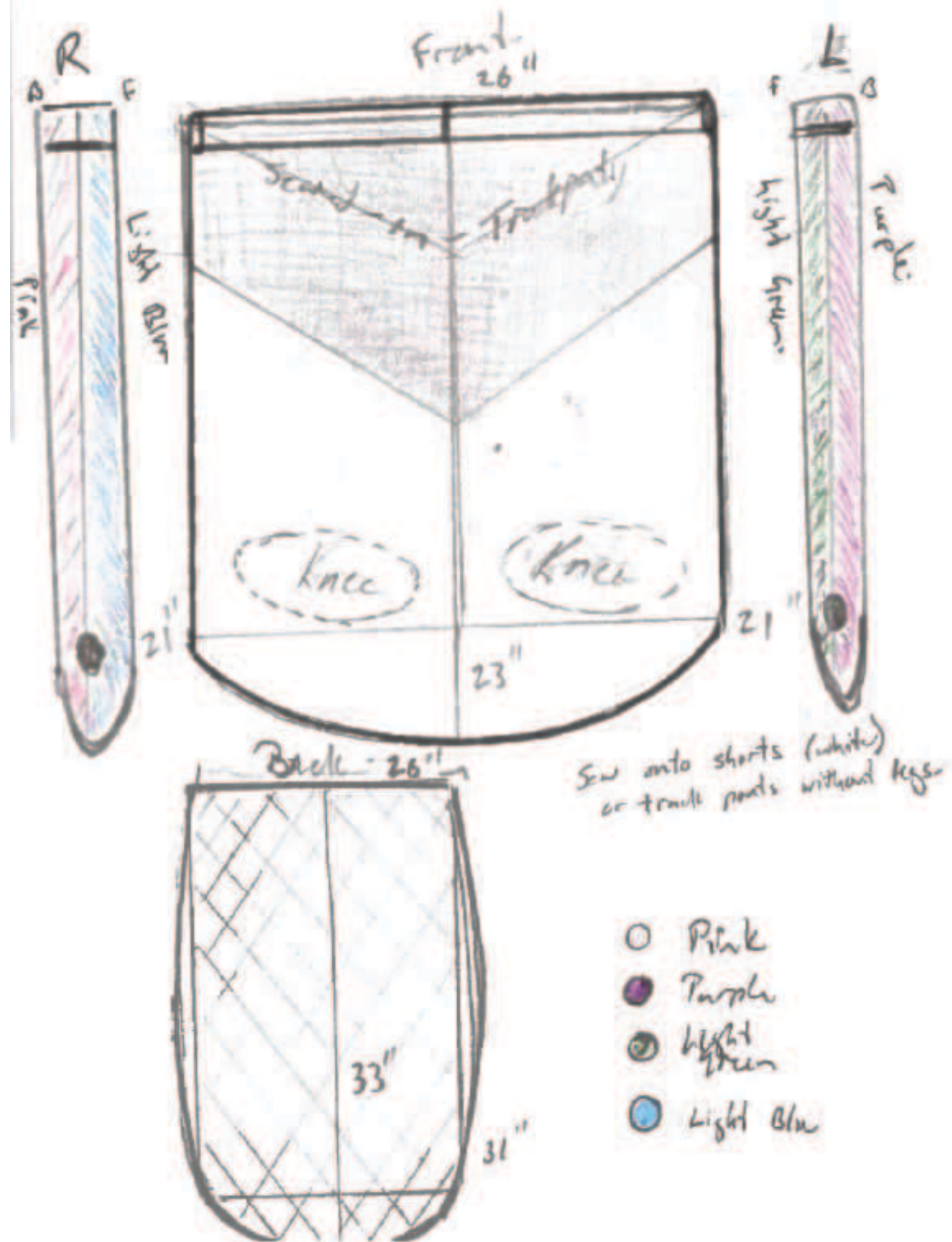
○ Pink
● Purple
● Green
● Light Blue
 Turn into 8-Directions with

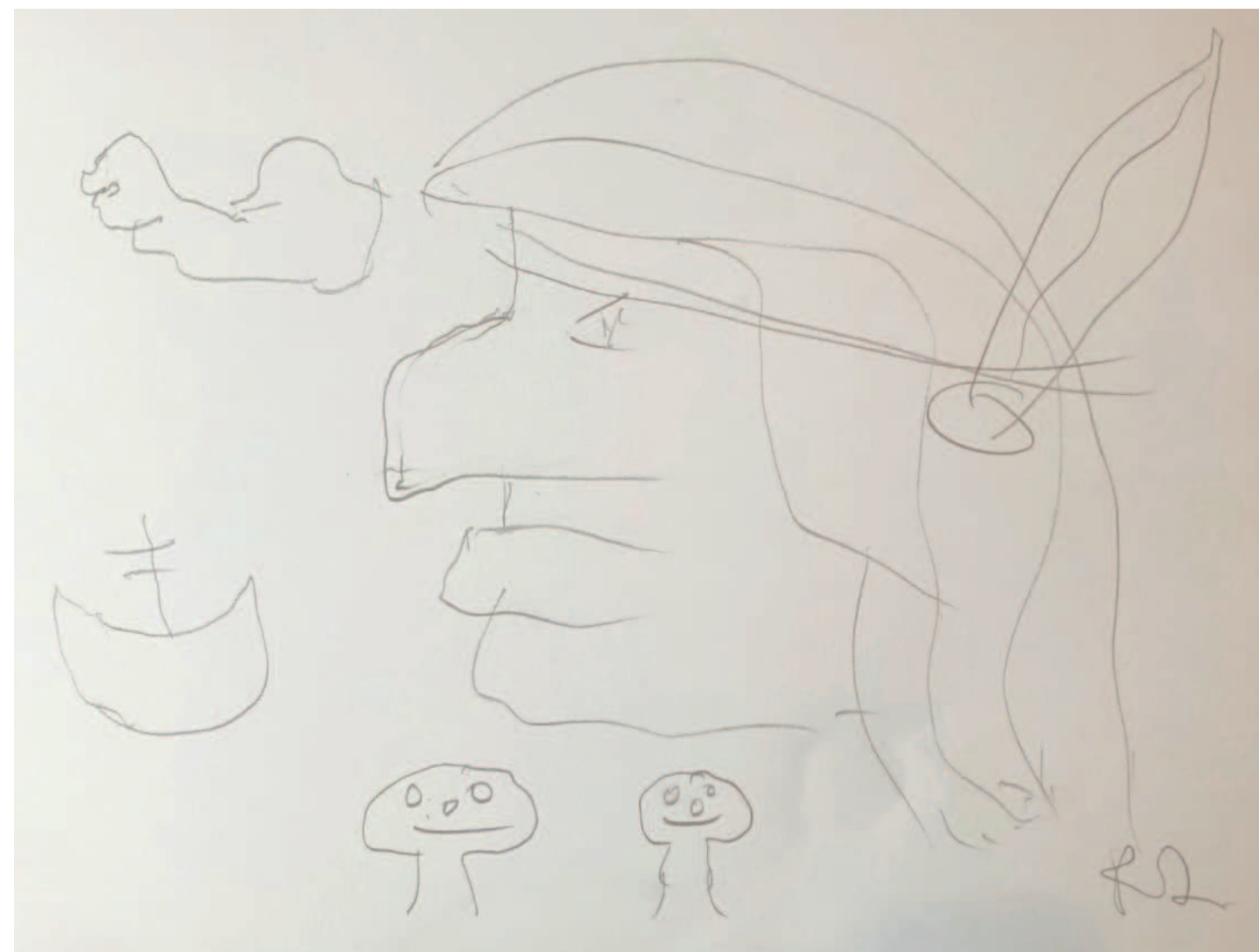


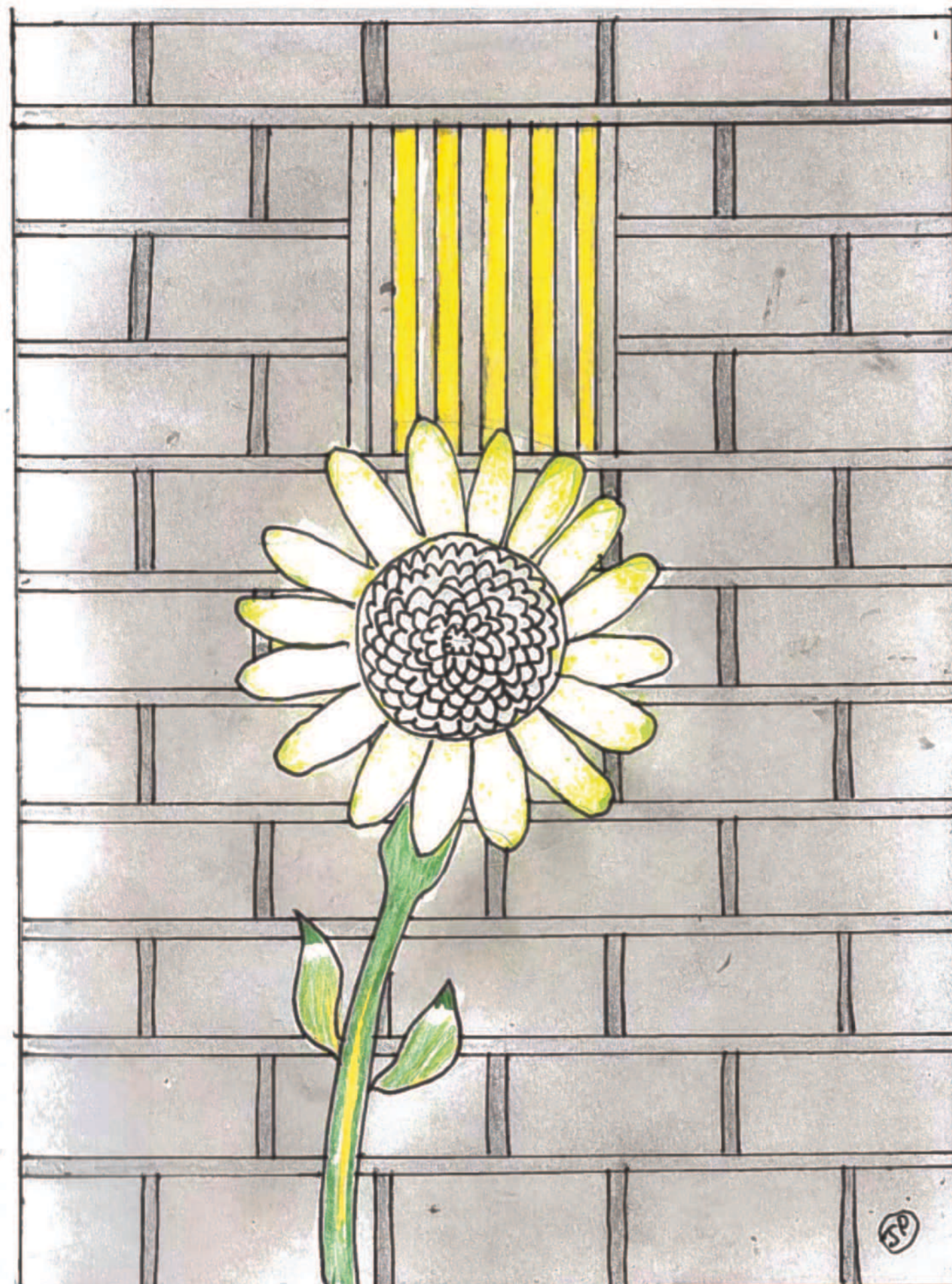






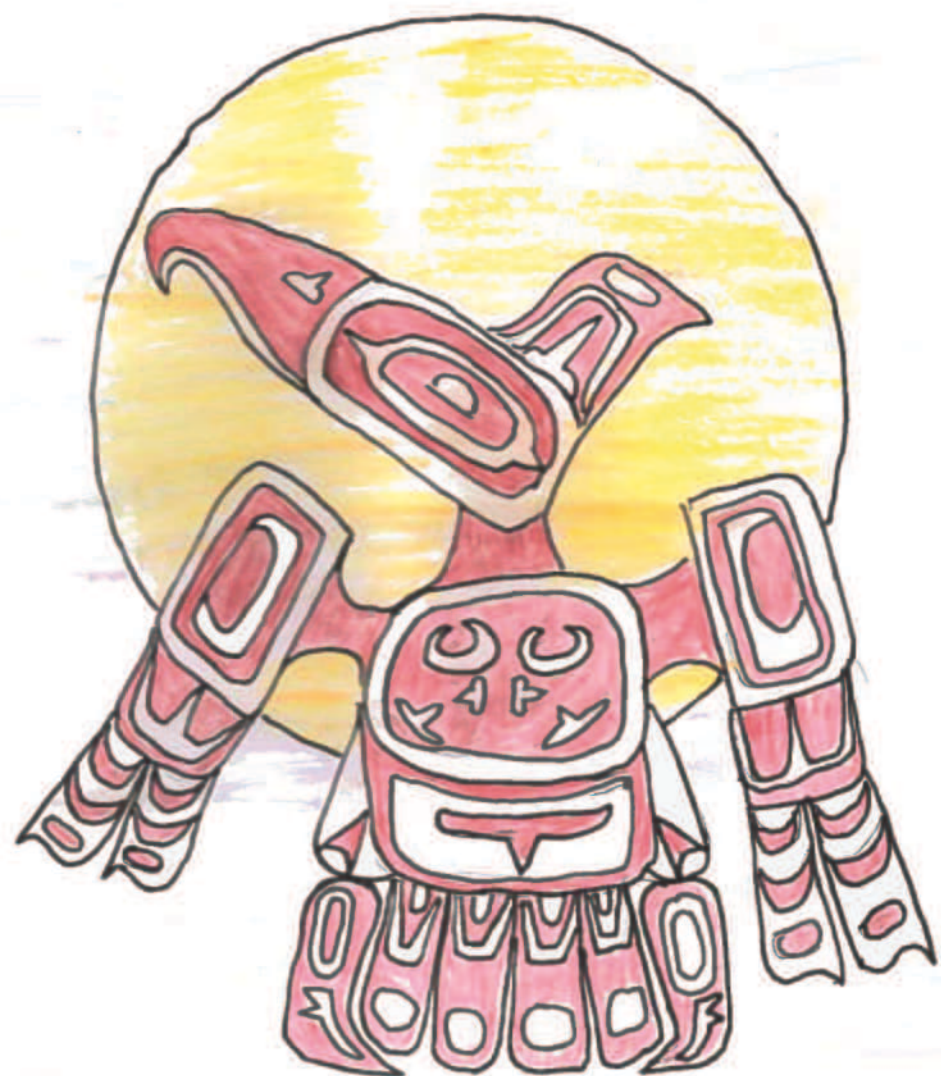




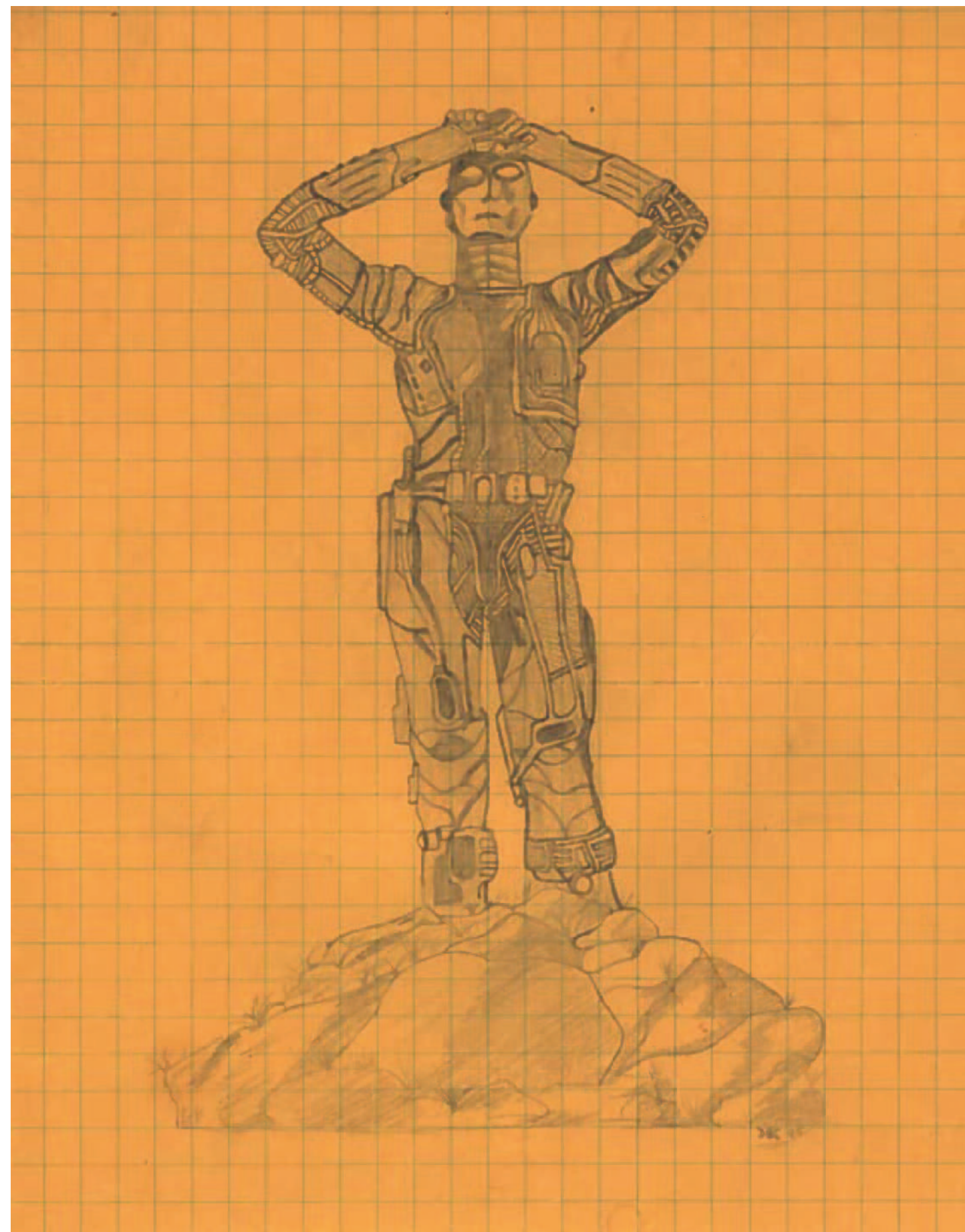








SP



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





Love

Love is friendship that has caught fire.

*It is quiet understanding,
Mutual confidence, sharing and forgiving.*

It is loyalty through good and bad times.

*It settles for less than perfection
And makes allowances for human weakness.*

Love is content with the present,

It hopes for the future,

And it doesn't brood over the past.

It's the day-in and day-out chronicle of irritations,

Problems, compromises, small disappointments,

Big victories and working toward common goals.

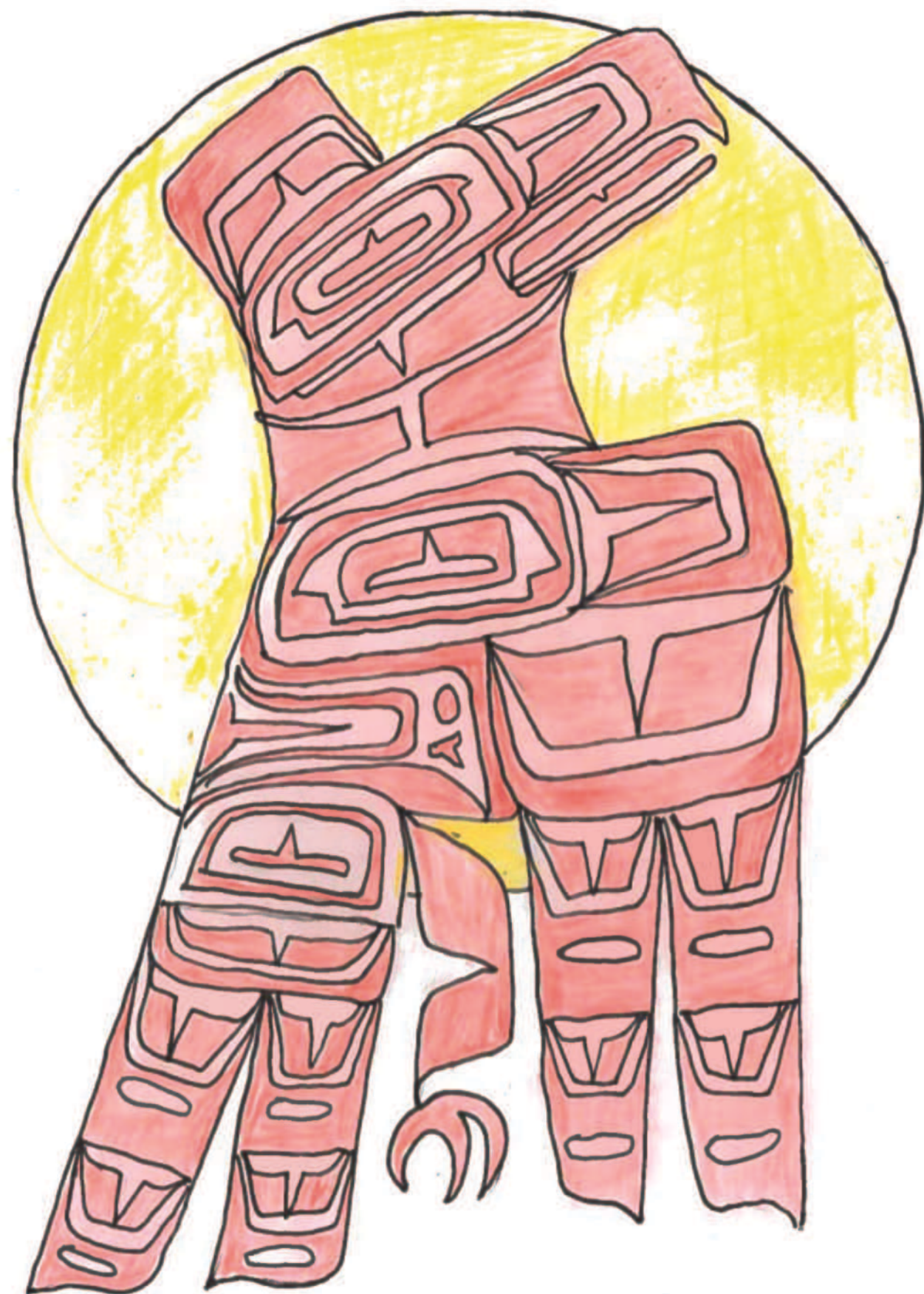
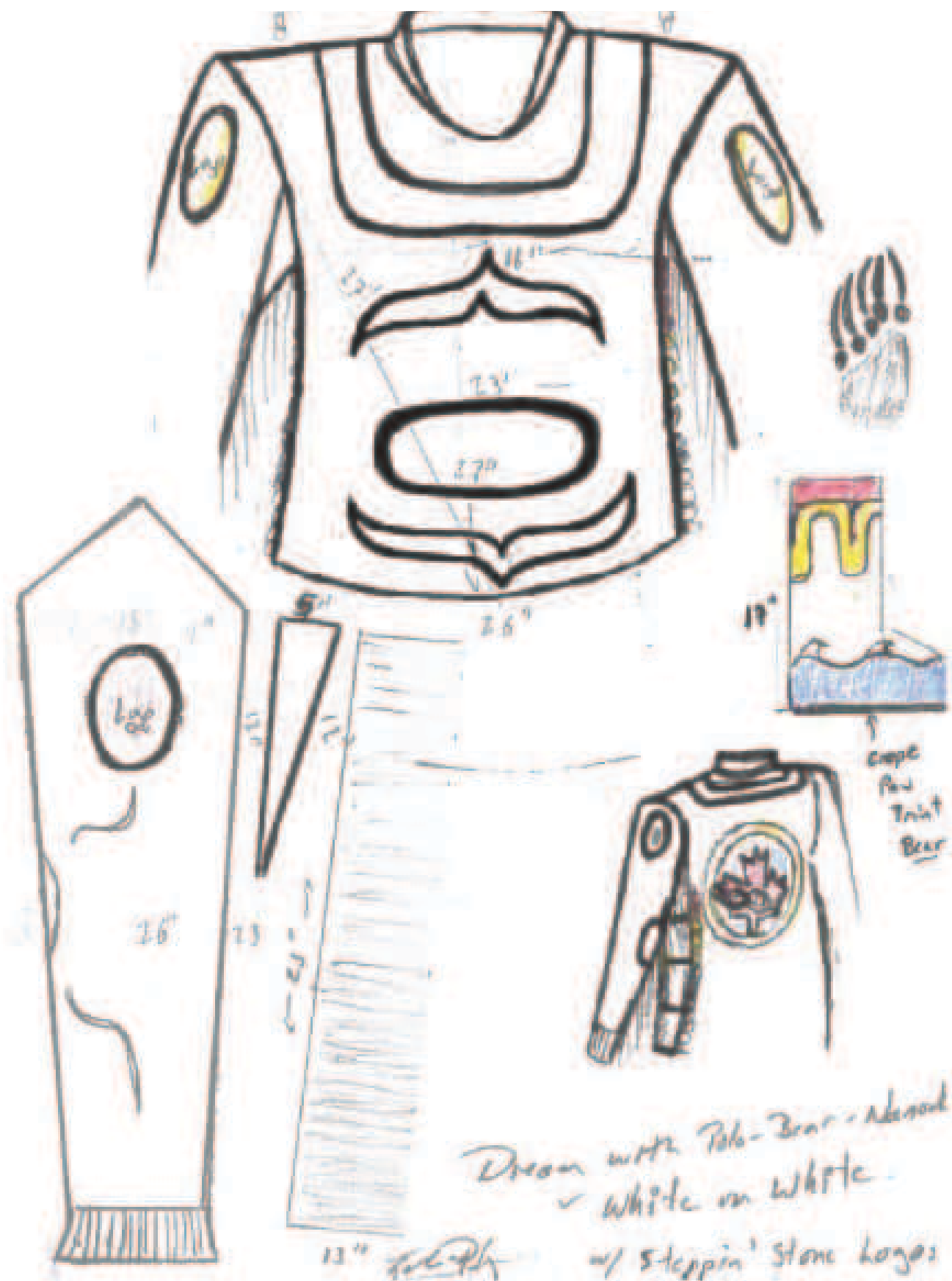
If you have love in your life,

It can make up for a great many things that are missing.

If you don't have love in your life,

No matter what else there is, it's not enough.

Love, Darby



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.

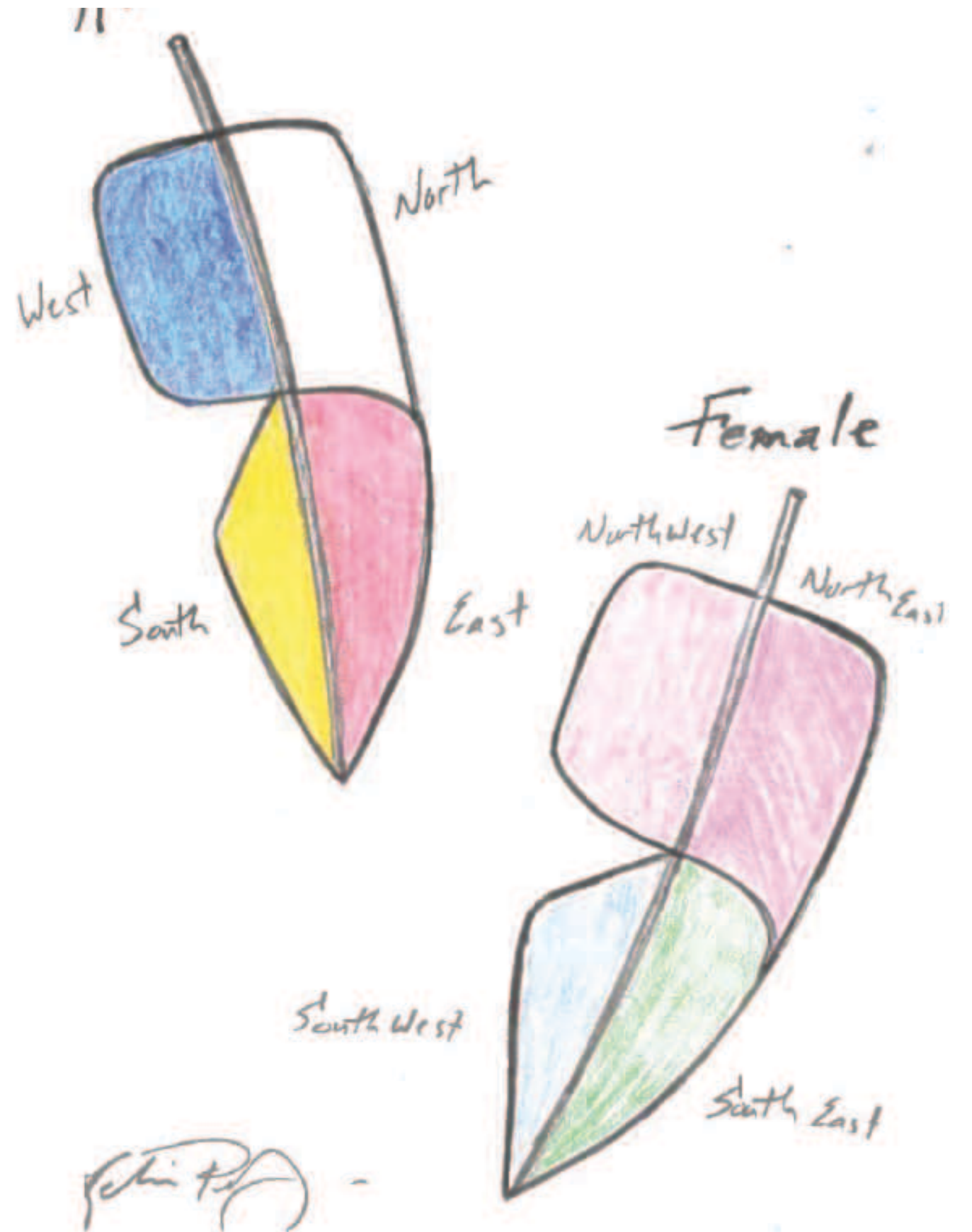
For their bricks and bars, games of the mind,
Will only hold us, if we allow them to bind.

"BY"

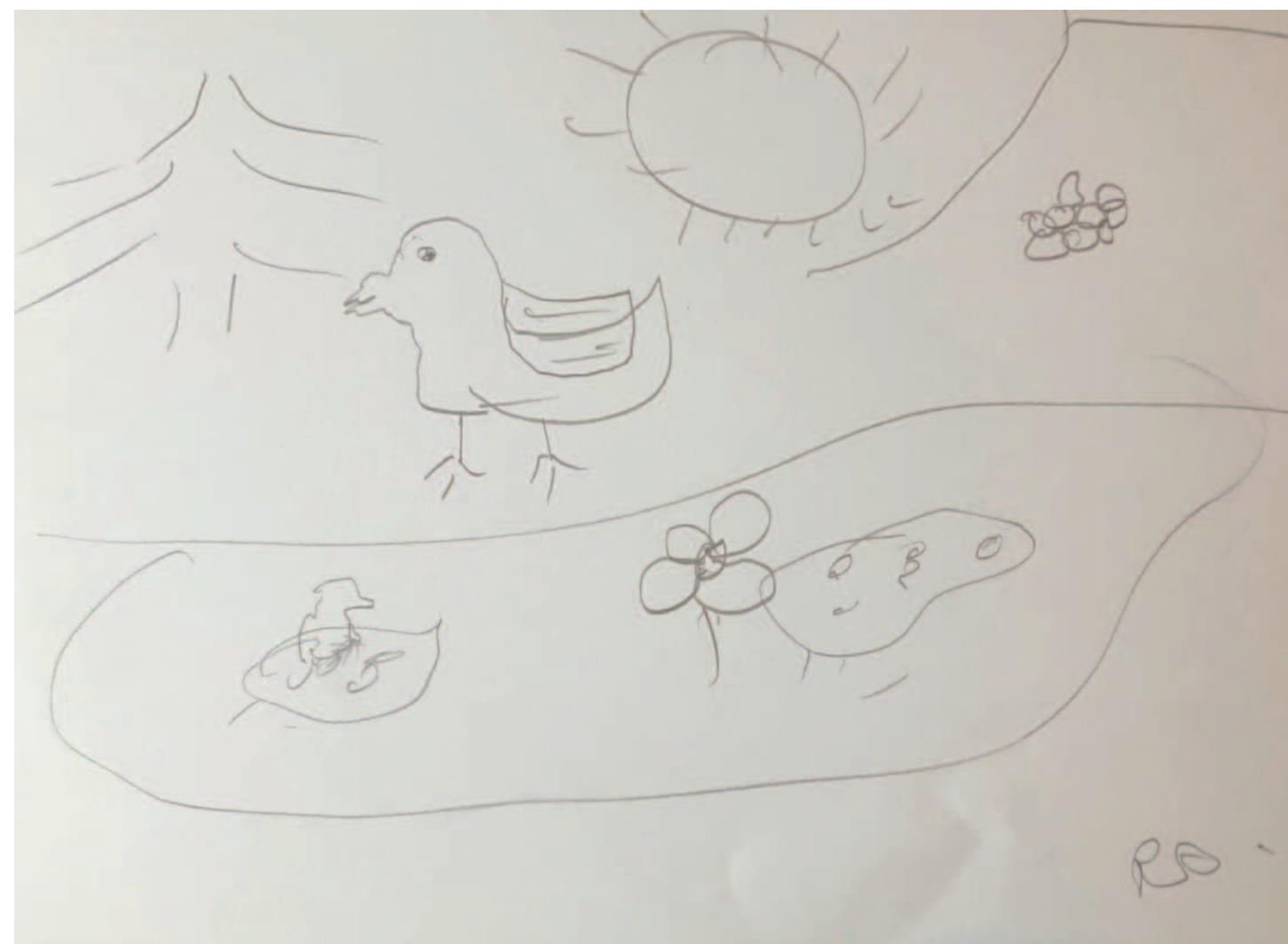
"DARBY (SHAKEY) CAIRNS"





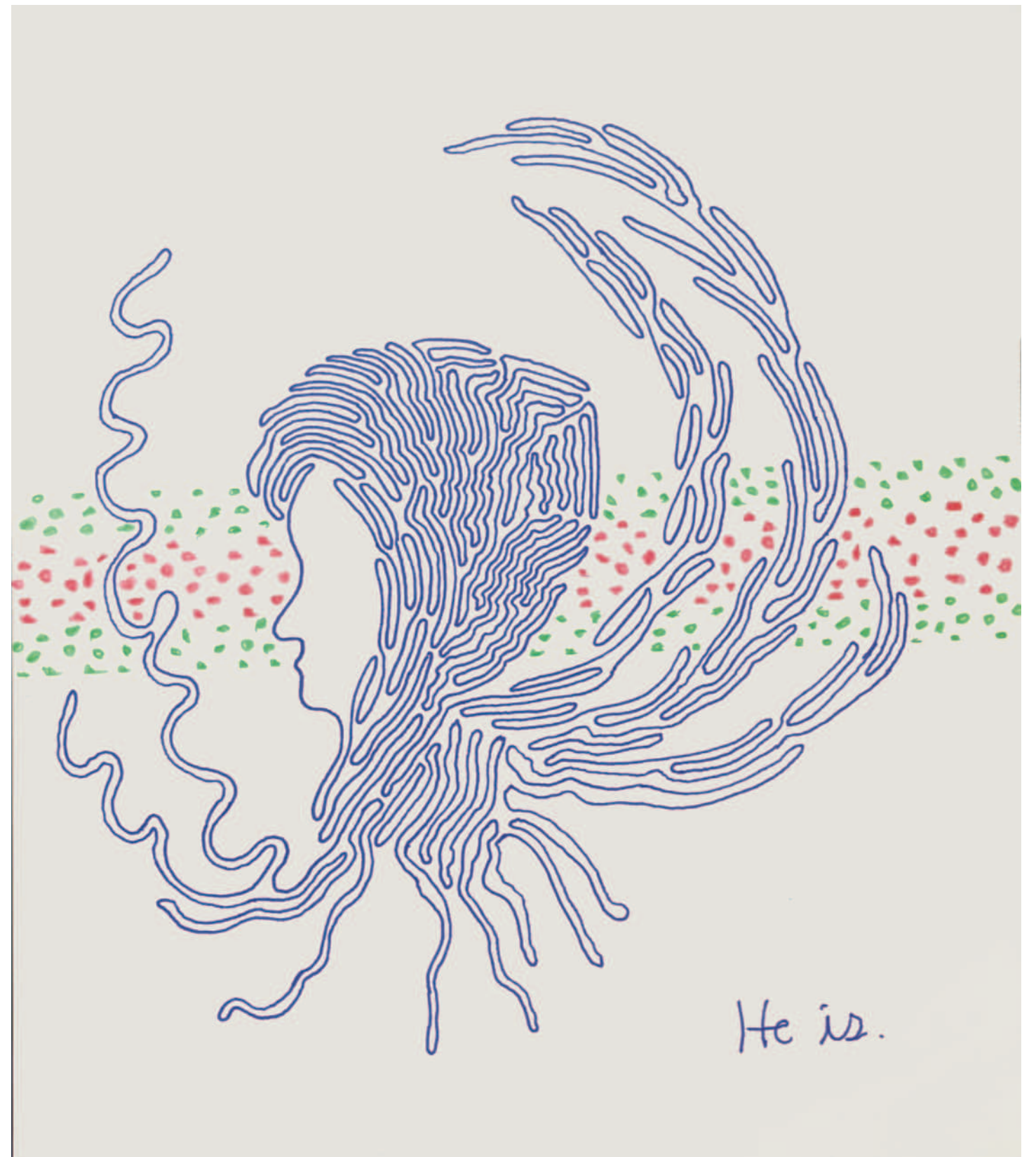












He is.



Nevaeh North



FL



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.

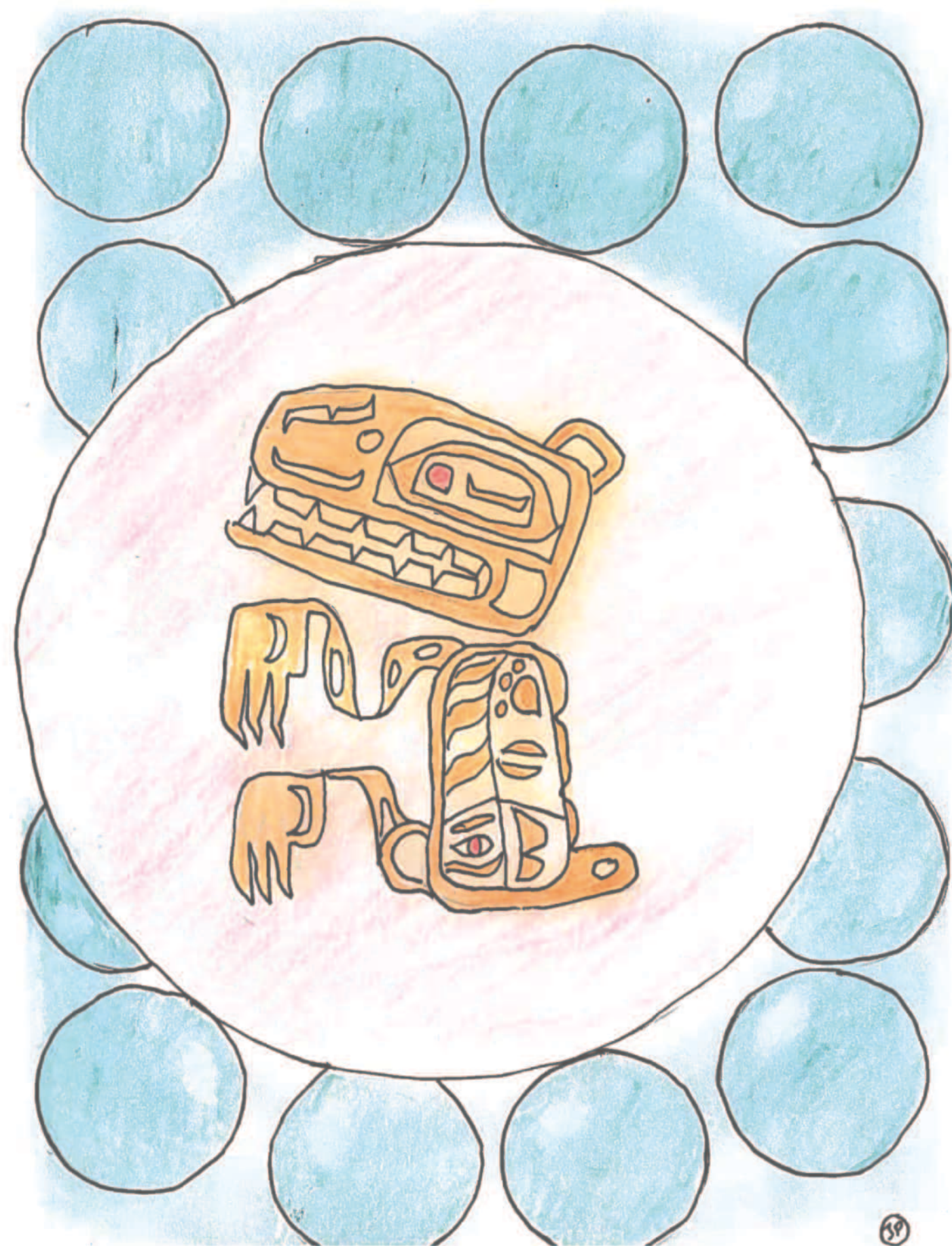
Why am I thinking all of these thoughts
God help me fill in the dots
A pharmacological holocaust
Never been in a place where I was so lost.

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.

Nevaeh North
2020

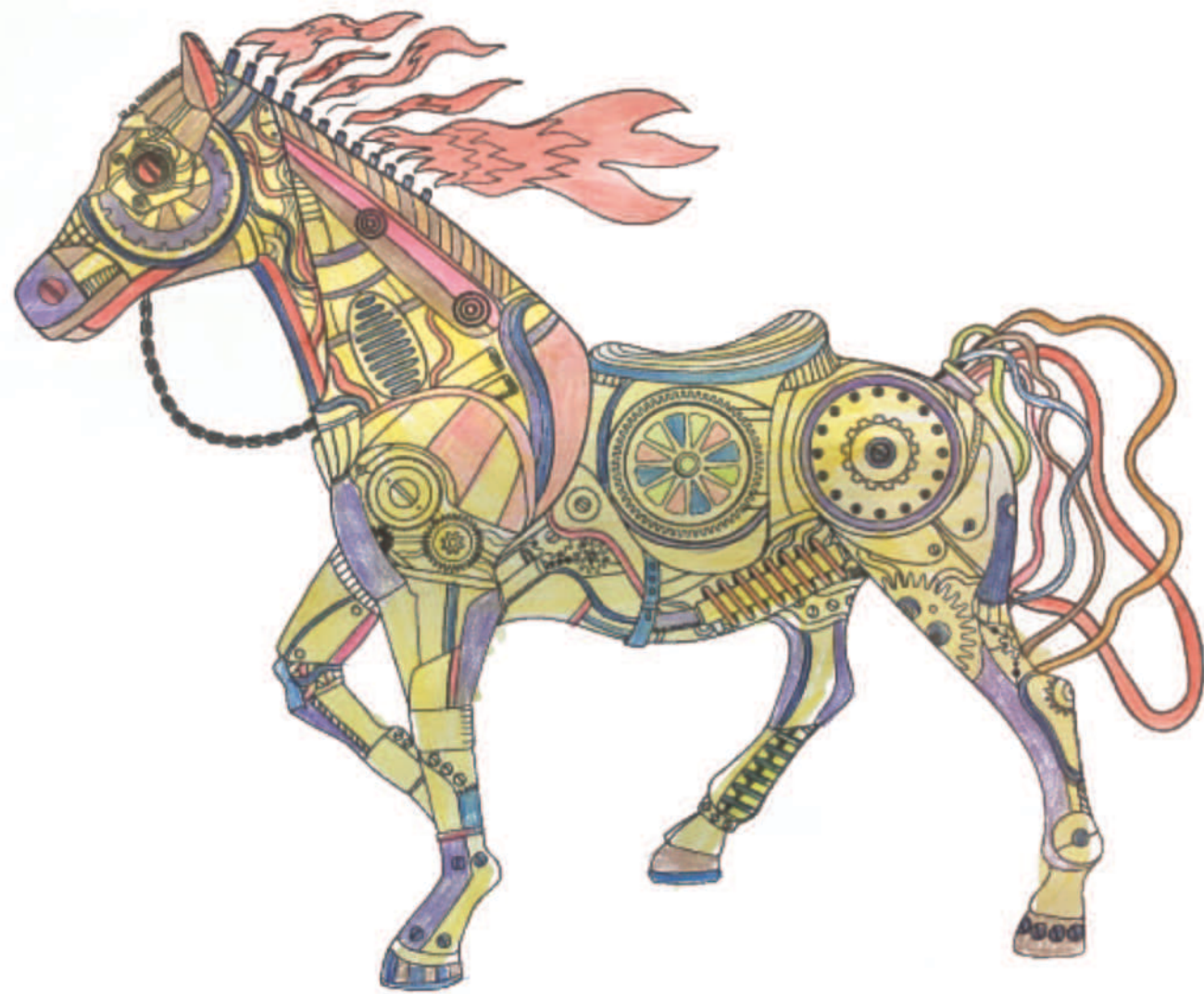


I appreciate..
All living things.
I am behind bars...
But,
I am
Free!



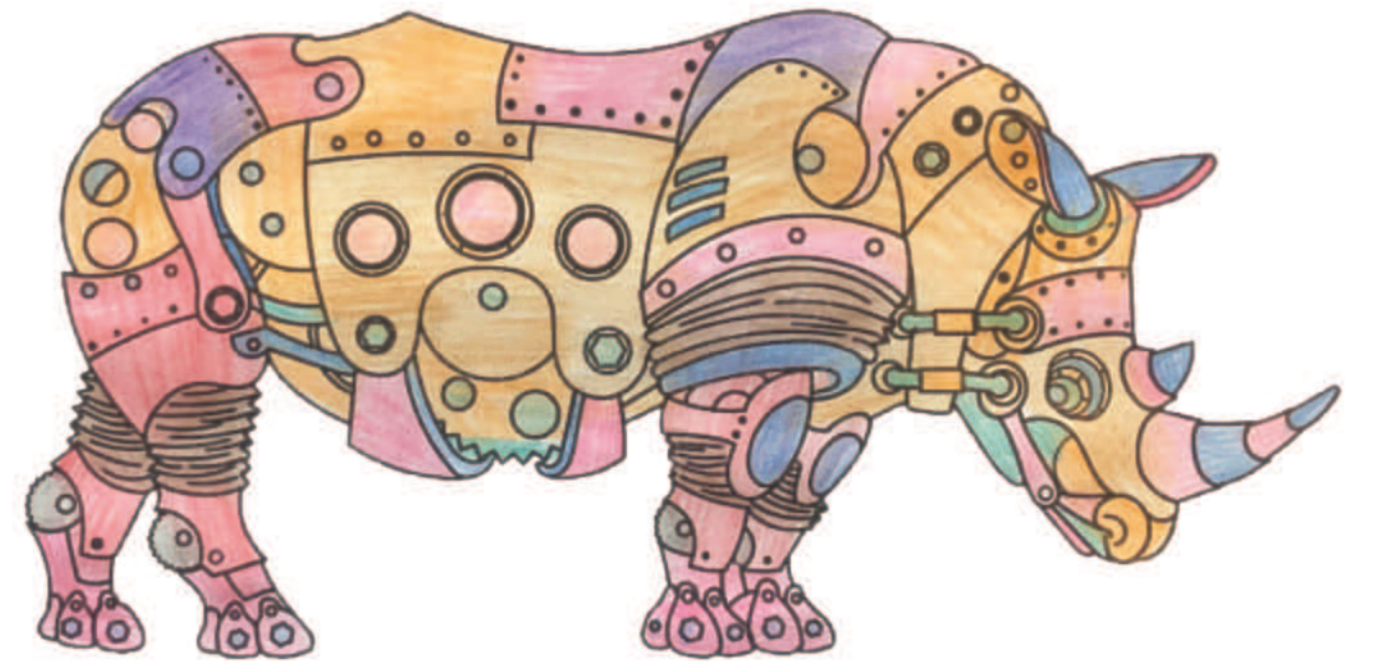
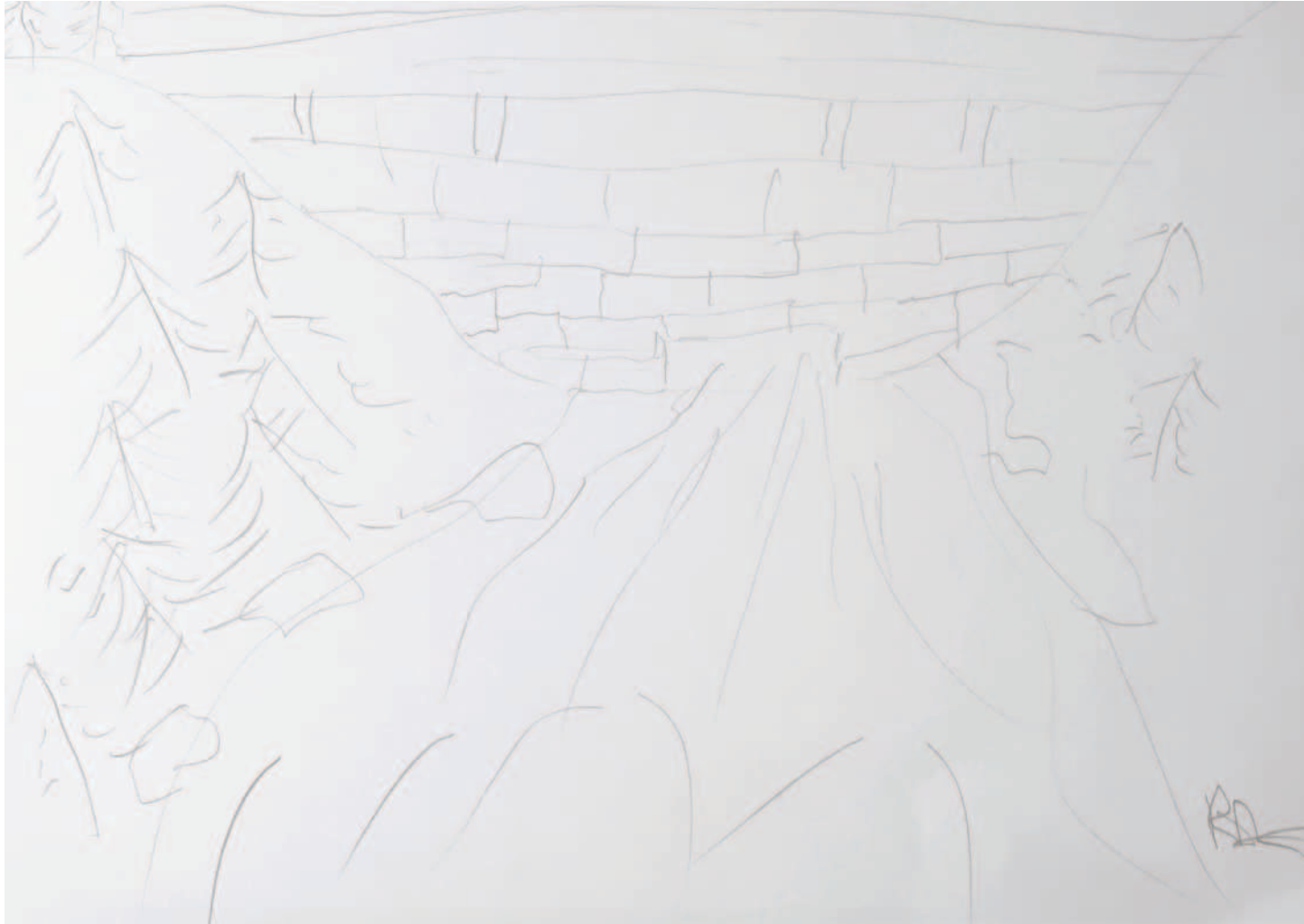




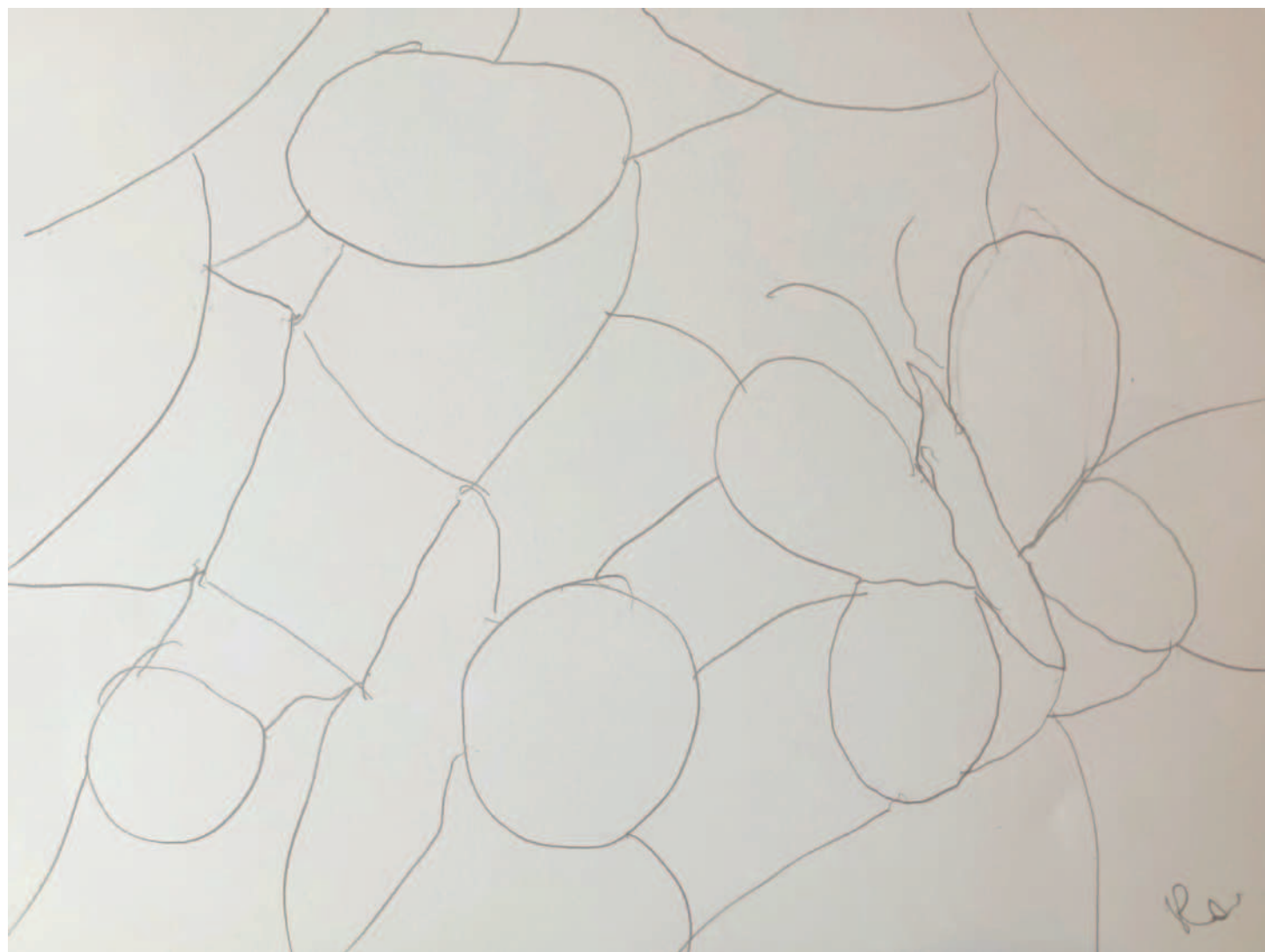


















This booklet was created on December 22, 2020. We look forward to sharing more art and writing with you as we receive more from across the institutions and community sites.

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