

EXPLORING NARRATIVE

----Viva Voce----

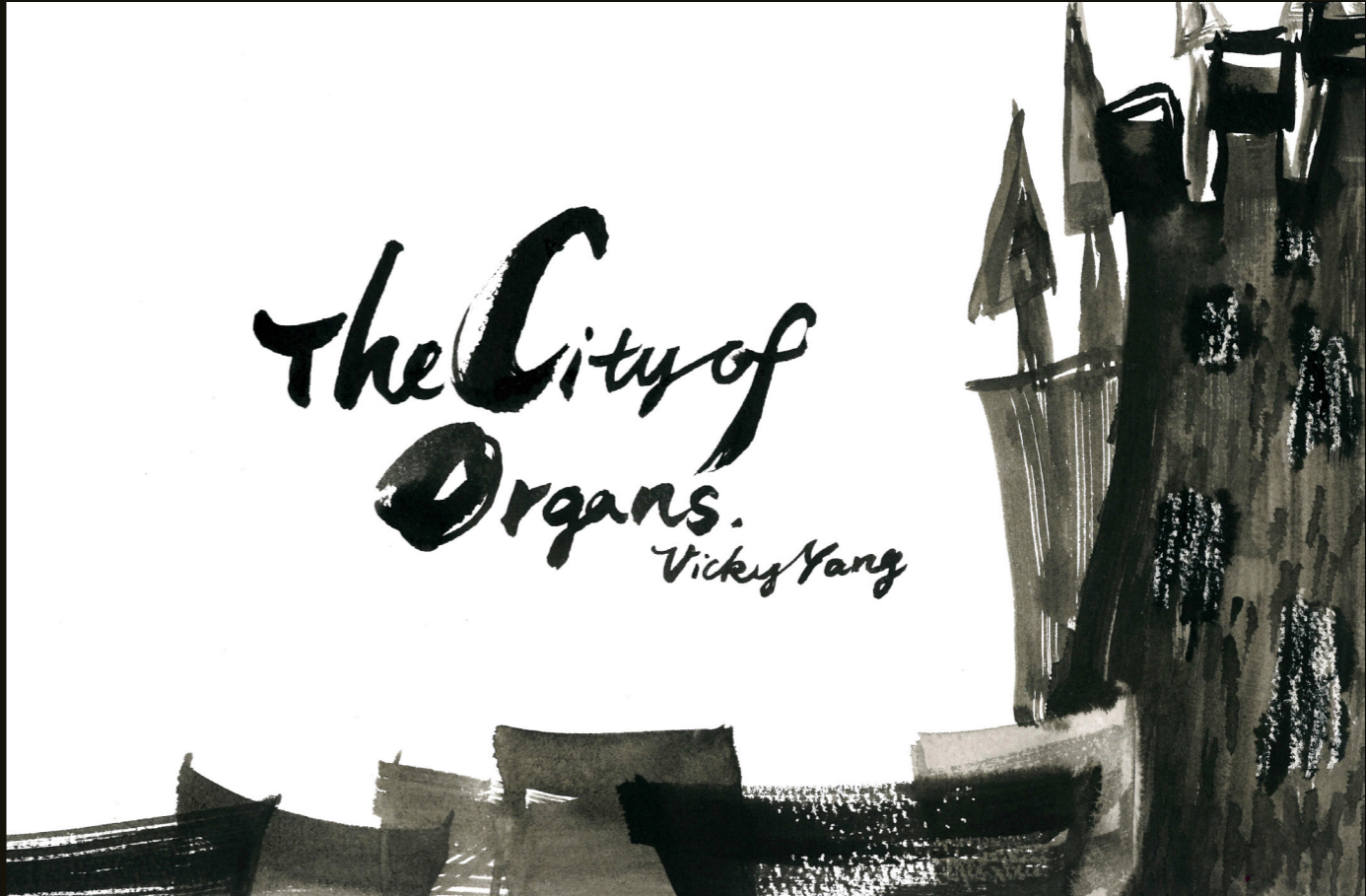
Vicky Xinyuan Yang
May 2020

OVERVIEW



'The City of Organs' is a A4-sized landscape picture book about how a brave queen uses her half heart to call out The Seven-Warrior Army to fight against the darkness and finally defeat them. It is a fictional story inspired by visiting museums and galleries in London. After extensive exploration of possible media, the final book combines a variety of textures, all cohered with the ink drawing.

The City of
Organs.
Vicky Yang





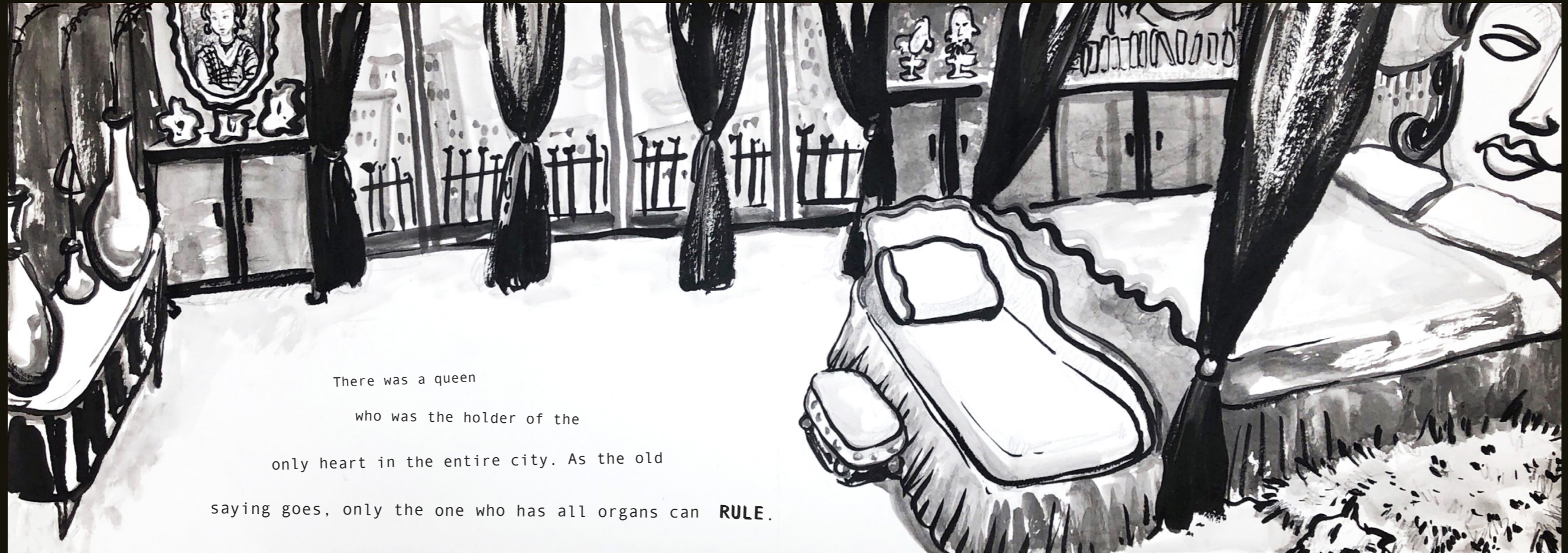
This book belongs to:



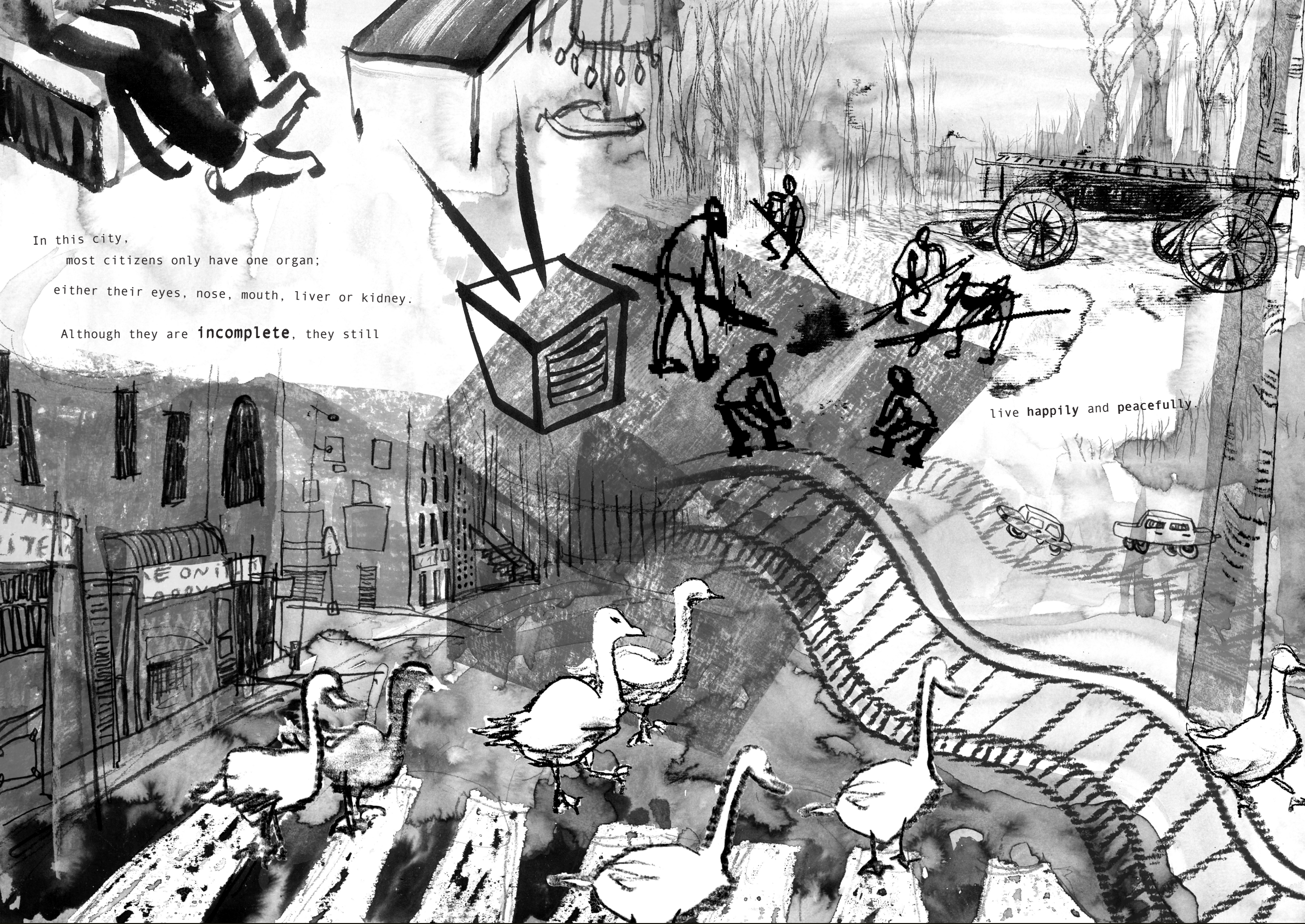
The City of Organs.
Vicky Yang



This is a story about
The City of Organs.



There was a queen
who was the holder of the
only heart in the entire city. As the old
saying goes, only the one who has all organs can **RULE**.



In this city,
most citizens only have one organ;
either their eyes, nose, mouth, liver or kidney.
Although they are **incomplete**, they still

live happily and peacefully.



One day, the queen's wizard
consulted the oracle and had a feeling
that something bad was about to happen.

There
was

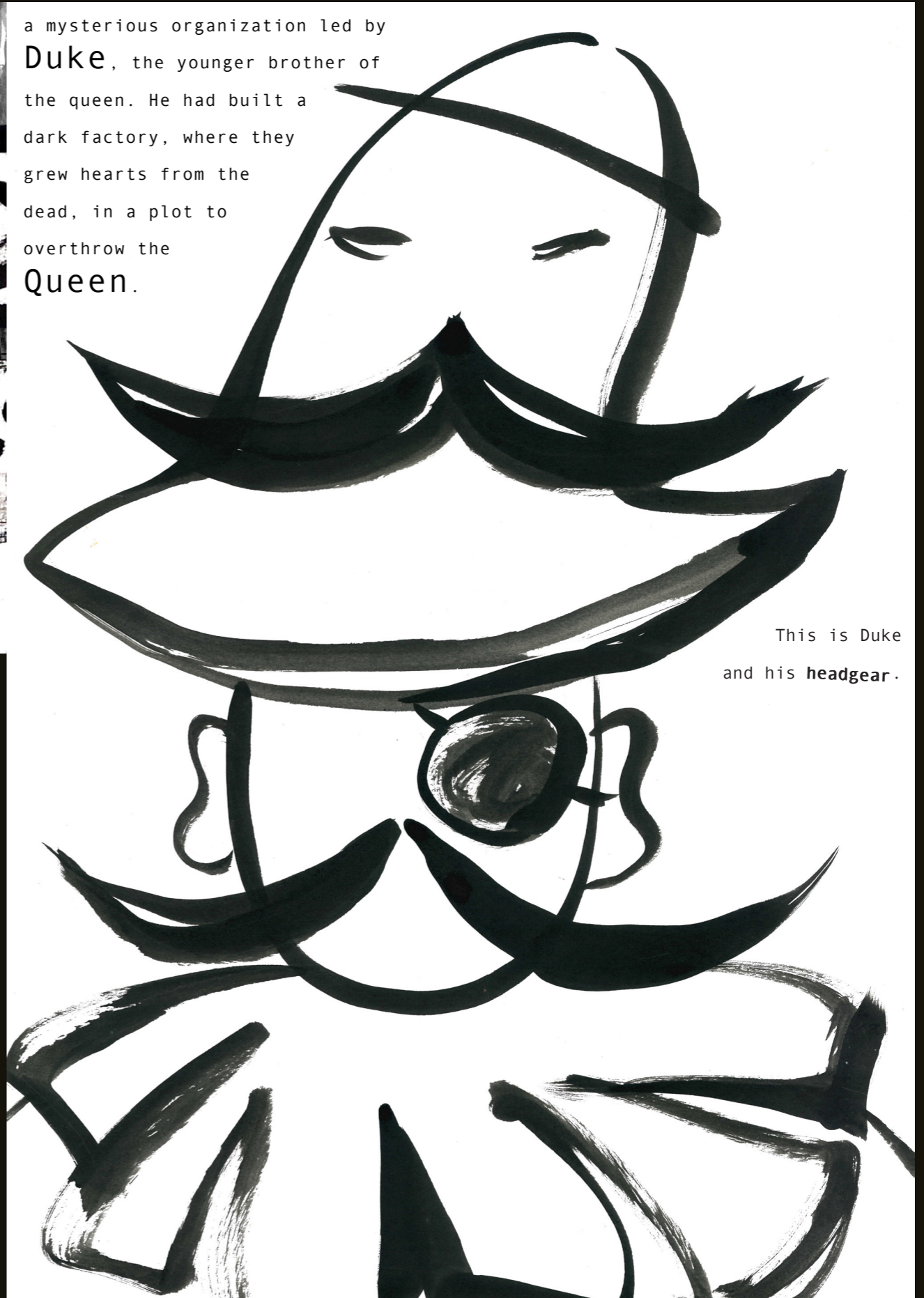
RESTRICTED AREA

NO FOREIGNERS ALLOWED

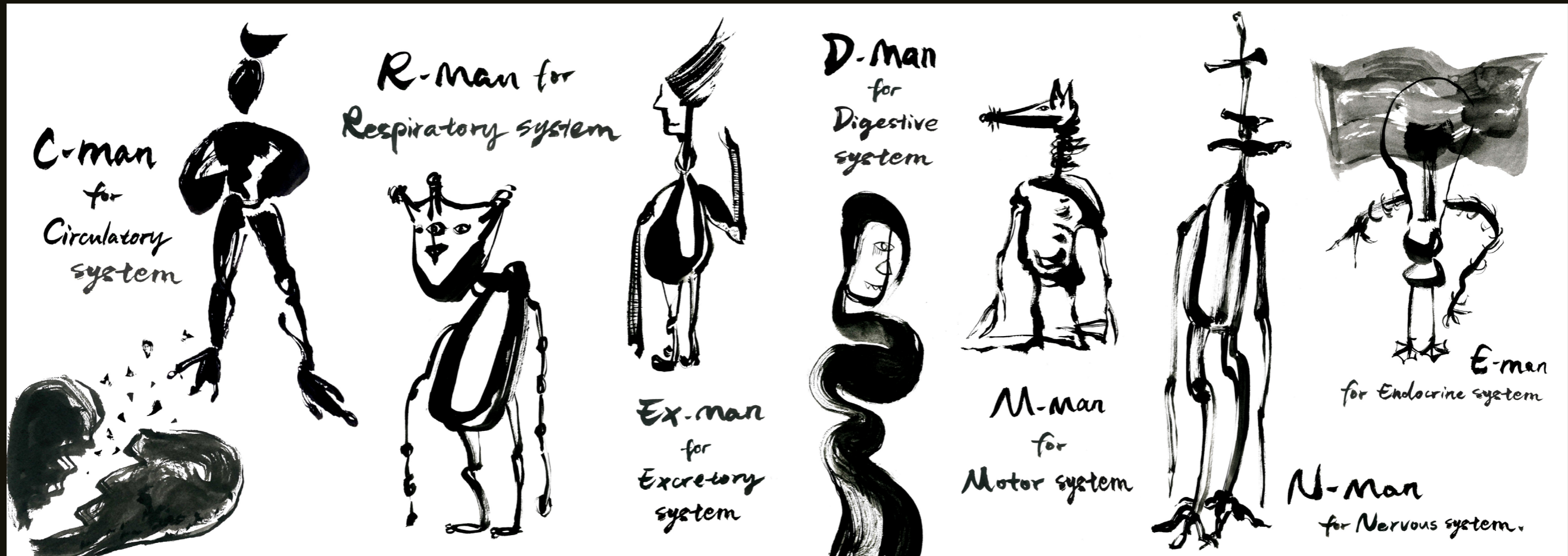


There
was

a mysterious organization led by Duke, the younger brother of the queen. He had built a dark factory, where they grew hearts from the dead, in a plot to overthrow the Queen.



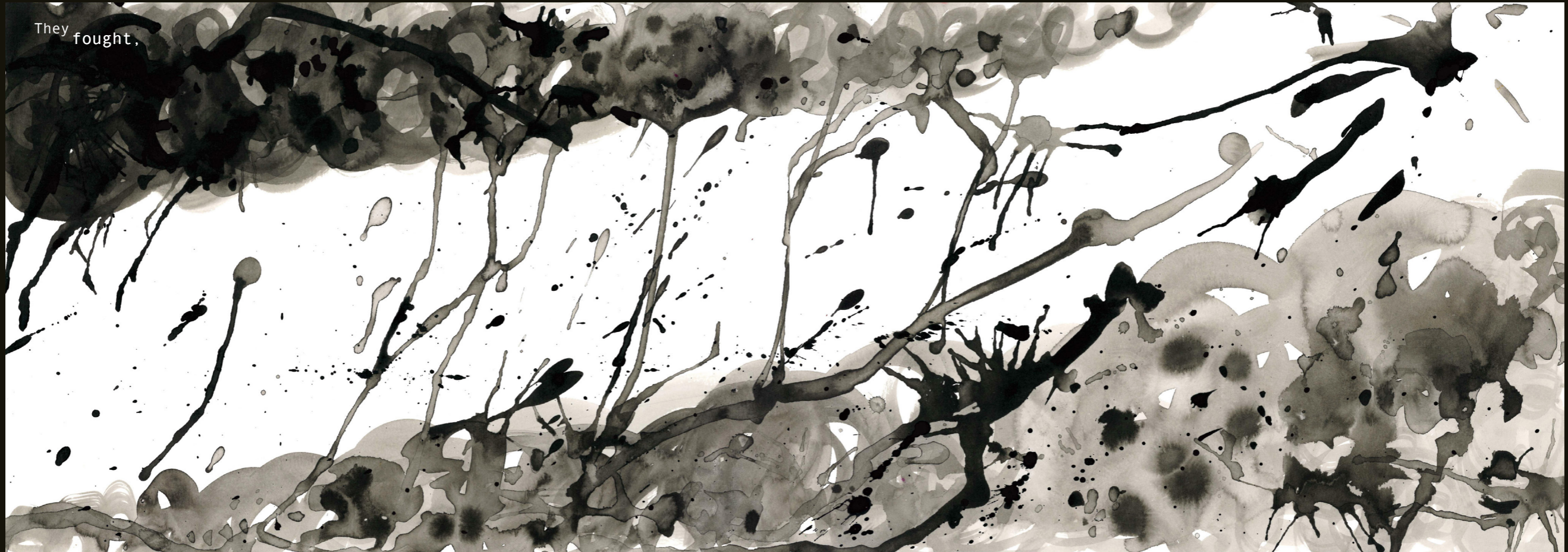
This is Duke
and his headgear.



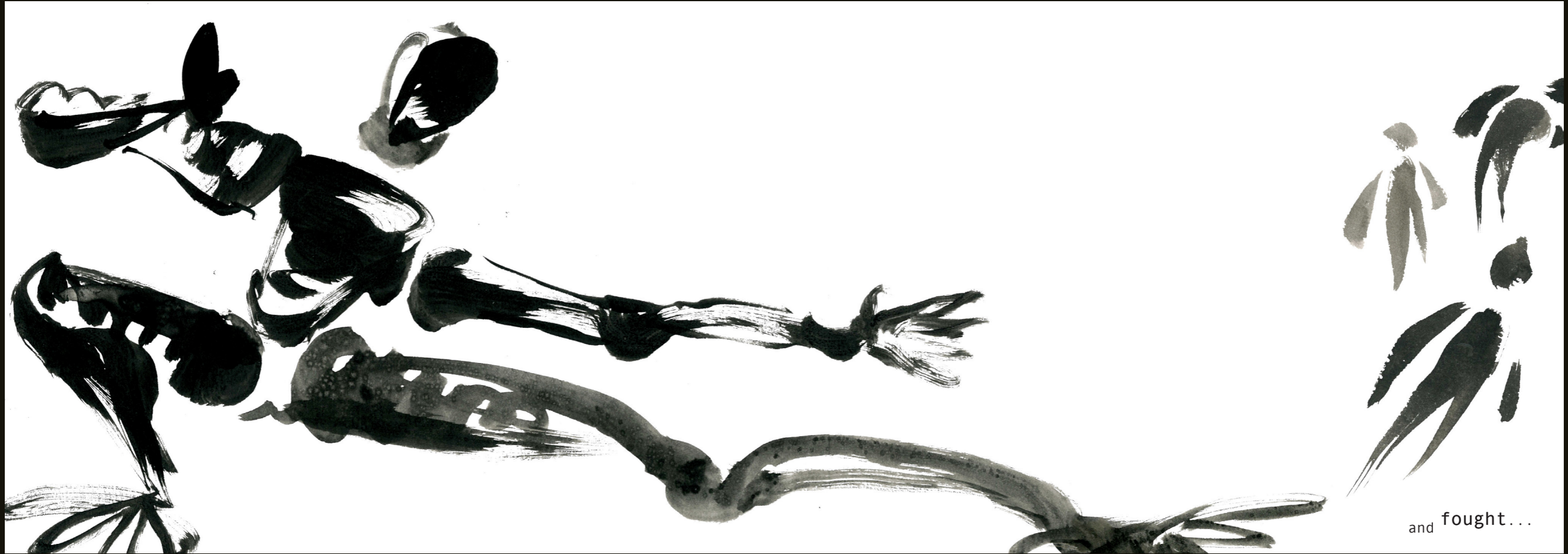
The only way to crack down and get rid of this secret society is to summon an underground army. The queen sacrificed half of her heart to call out the seven warriors.



They found
the exact place of
the dark factory
and mapped out
A campaign.



They fought.



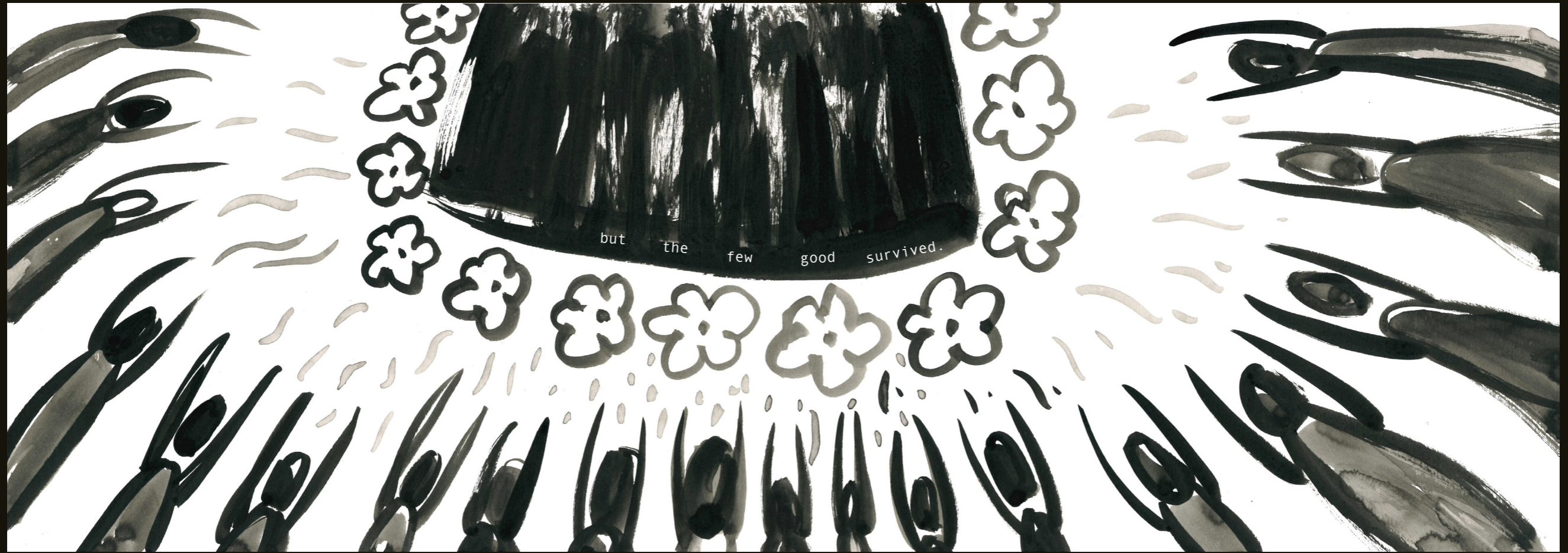
and fought...



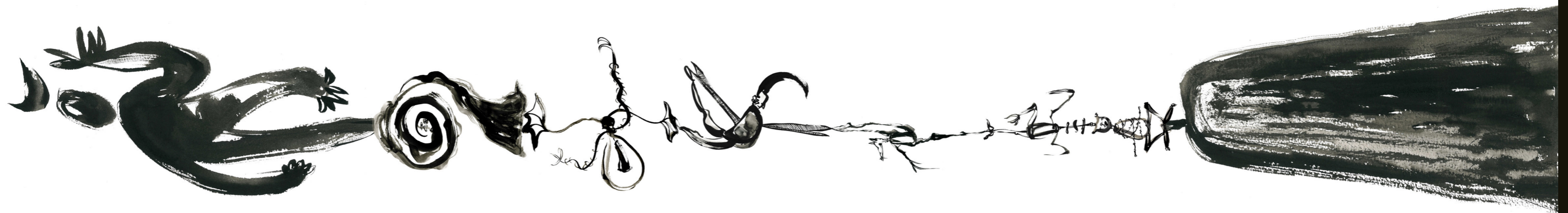
and
fought.



Many people
died in the battle.








They built a Giant MoNuMent to appreciate and remember these seven brave and righteous people who stood out and fought for love and peace.

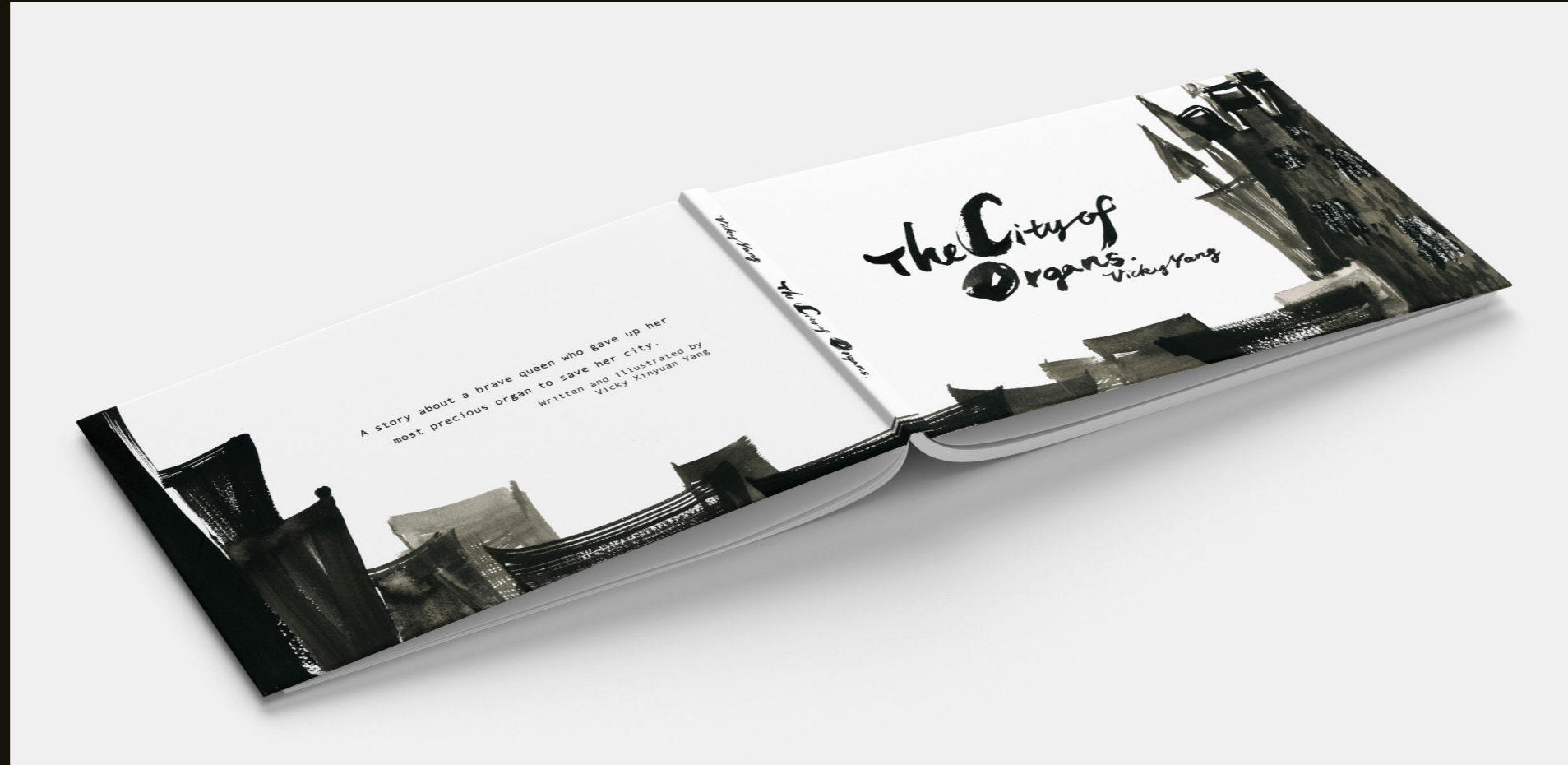




A story about a brave queen who gave up her
most precious organ to save her city.

Written and illustrated by
Vicky Xinyuan Yang

Intention



Through my interests in art therapy, criminology and mental health, I have learned that picture books play an important role in education, from an early age. Indeed, picture books may be the first art works we encounter as children. With care and imagination, I think they can be used to inform and educate children about death, war and the darker side of humanity. I hope my visual images can not only guide children to better understand the world, but may also prompt adults to reflect about themselves, society and real life.

Dissertation:

The Minds of Billy Milligan by Daniel Keyes

'Being an artist is the closest thing to being a criminal that exists.'

(Flash Art International, 1988)

'How can visual narrative be used as a therapeutic tool to help offenders?

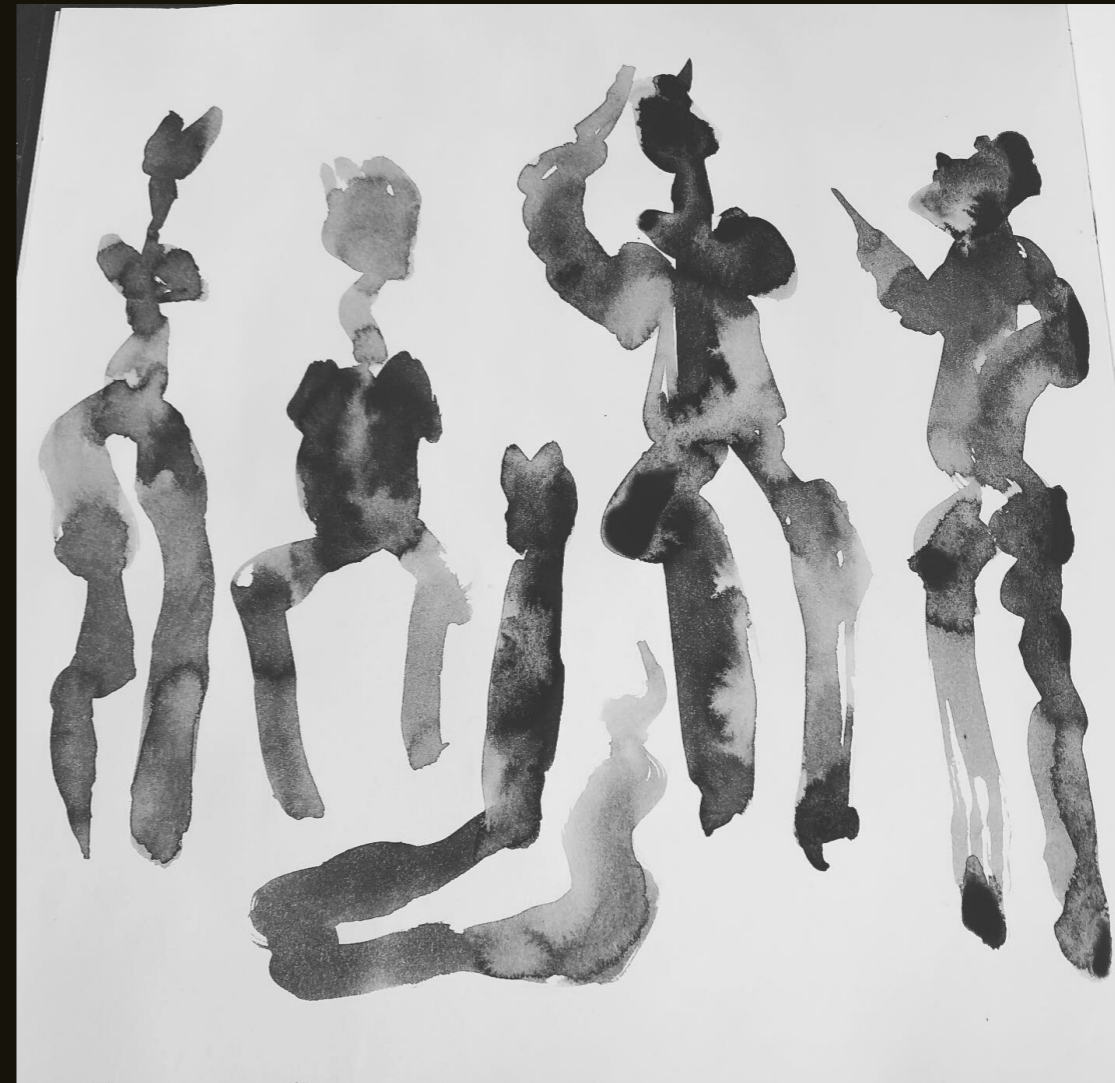
- The function of art
 - Narrative
 - Artists as offenders
 - Offenders as artists
 - Art Therapy
 - rehabilitation
 - wellbeing
- Botton, A.D. and Armstrong, J. (2016) ART AS THERAPY
 - Cropley, D.H. and Cropley, A.J. (2013) CREATIVITY AND CRIME: A PSYCHOLOGICAL ANALYSIS
 - Levick, M. (1983) THEY COULD NOT TALK AND SO THEY DREW: CHILDREN'S STYLES OF COPING AND THINKING
 - ...
 - Michelangelo Caravaggio, Adolf Hitler, Yayoi Kusama, Carlo Zinelli...

Process:

1. Creative influences

While considering about both the plot and scene setting, I started to look at some surrealist artists and concept artists.

For example, Valentine Hugo, Max Ernst, Paul Eluard, Andre Masson, Arshile Gorky, Leonora Carrington, Patrice Garcia and so on...

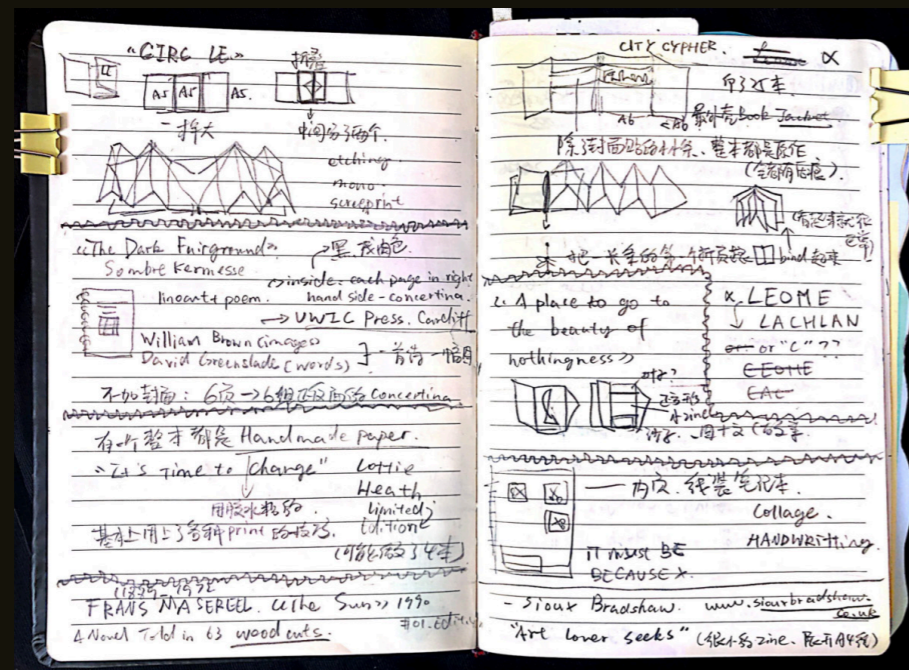
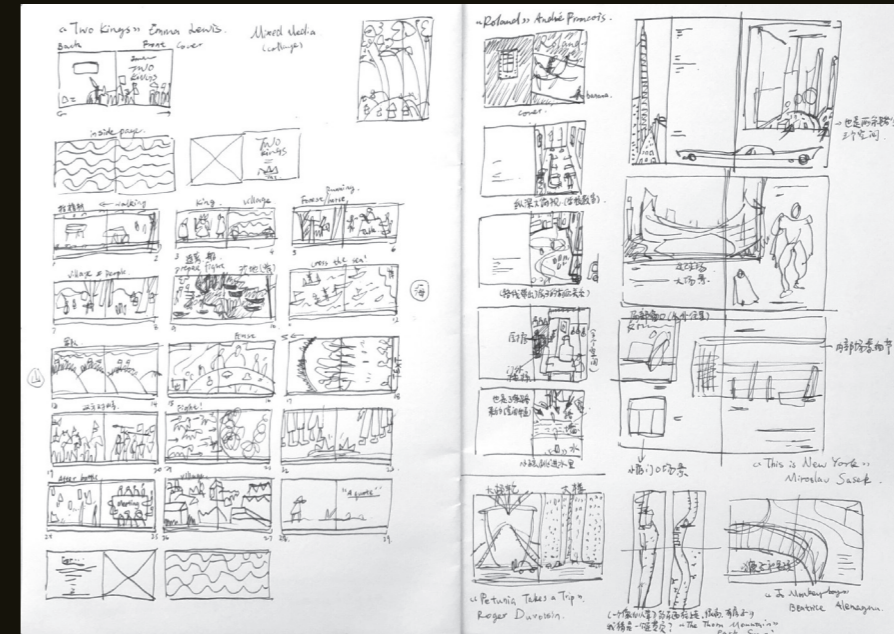


Trying to copy the work by Wolfgang Paalen with ink.

2. Academic research

-Children illustration

I've been reading some children's picture books and noting down their interesting composition. For example, 'THE IRON MAN' by Laura Carlin, 'JO MONKEY BOY' by Beatrice Alemagna, 'THE HERO'S QUEST' by Jeffrey Alan Love and 'TWO KINGS' by Emma Lewis.

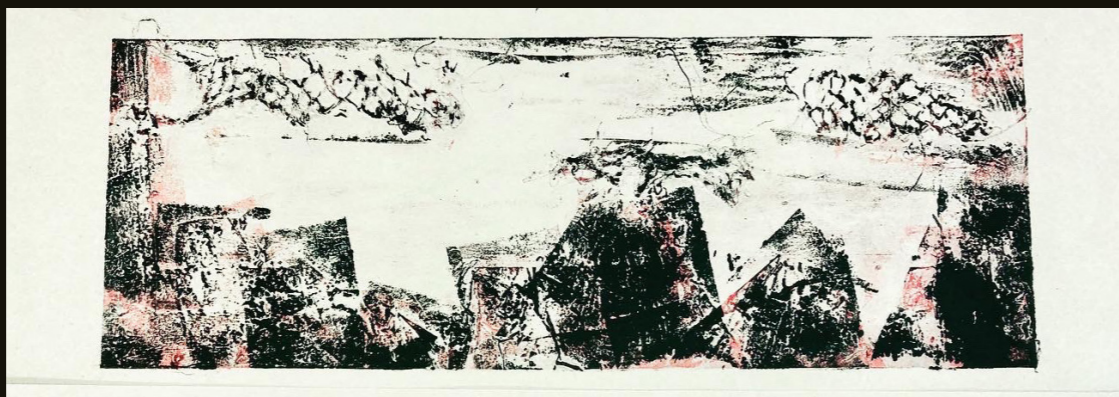


-Book Art

Some book artists and designers including Jim Butler, Hyemee Kim, Ian Boyden, Kohei Sugiura, Lv Jingren, Xu Bing, Zhu Yingchun

Also, the special collections in library

3. Explore my visual language



Form

- Animation
- Film
- Theatre
- Book
- Exhibition
- Presentation
- Live performance

Material

- Ink: Brush + Fountain Pen
- Colourpencil
- Linoprint
- Etching
- Monoprint
- Callagraph
- Digital Collage

4. Professional Context

-Publishers:

Thames & Hudson, Prestel, Walker Books, Pavilion Children's Book, Boxer Books, Book Island, etc

(Small/ Independent)

Atlantic Press, Guillemot Press, Nieves, Dunlin Press, Lone Goose Press, etc

-Fairs:

The London Art Book Fair, Small Publishers Fair, and other fairs in Bristol, Oxford, Leeds, Liverpool, Printed Matter, Inc, Codex, Bologna Children's Book Fair, Frankfurt Book Fair, Leipzig Book Fair, Shanghai Art Book Fair, etc

-Competition:

The CILIP Kate Greenaway Medal, Bologna Ragazzi Award, The MCBA Prize (Minnesota Center for Book Arts), IBBY (International Board on Books for Young People) Awards, Best Book Design from all over the World, etc

Next steps:

- My ink drawing skills and print making skills
- Collaborate with book artist/ graphic designer
- Keep an eye on any appropriate timing to get published

Further step:

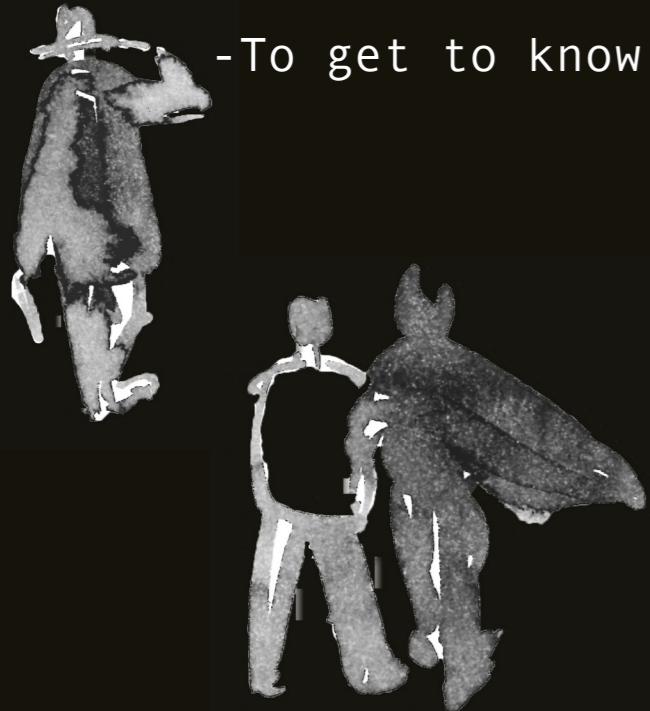
- Collaborate with animator/ film director and make it show on big screen/ theatre

PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE



1. What are the opportunities that open up by simply having a degree?

- Higher level of educational diploma
- Broaden my horizon to see profound and lasting
- Academic environment (A chance to explore my interests, to learn and make mistakes)
- A starting point of pursuing my future career
- A buffer zone before entering the society (We are always supported by positive guidance)
- Build a strong art-related network
- Personal development from mindset to practical skills (Help us adapt the diverse world)
- To get to know myself better



2. What are the skills that you have developed?

Graduate attributes and transferrable skills:

- Well-organised myself (Balance my study and life)
- Autonomous learning and reflective thinking
- Adaptability (Accommodate to the culture barrier)
- Problem-solving (Deal with emergency/complicated issues)
- Leadership and collaboration
- Presentation (Speak in public)





Subject specific skills:

- Academic reading and writing
- Research and document
- Storytelling
- Solid image-making skills with various material
- Design and edit the work into professional standard
- Digital skills with different software and facilities
- Reflective thinking and objective self-evaluation



3. My ideal work in the future:

- A freelance book artist who runs an independent bookshop with self-publication alongside.
- Collaborations with other practitioners and organize exhibitions, symposiums regularly.
- Using visual narrative as a therapeutic way to engage charity/social campaign which are related to the themes around mental health, early education and offenders.

4. My research and inspiring practitioners

Main research area:

- Book related (Picture books, Bookshop, Publication)
- Master course (4 uni)
- The themes I am interested in

Inspiring Practitioners:

- Artists: Kveta Pacovska, Carlo Zinelli, Beatrice Alemagna, Laura Carlin, Gosia Machon, Cai Gao, etc
- Publishers: Atlantic Press, Thames & Hudson, Prestel, Walker Books, Pavilion Children's Book, Boxer Books, Book Island, etc
- Creative Collective:(Independent Bookshop & Press & Gallery & Cafe & Bar) Waterloo Tea (in Cardiff), Elysium(in Swansea), Neurotitan (in Berlin), 44flavours (in Berlin), Institute for Provocation (in Beijing), ZZCETISTAR (in Shanghai), etc

“Entrepreneurship is all about ‘Generating Value’”

5. What can you do with your illustration work?

How do you see your work being applied within these contexts?

- Publication Industry (My published picture's book)
- Book Fair/ Illustration Festival (Other formats of my books and creative products)
- Sales in independent bookshop (Some of my works with limit edition)
- For special collections: Library, Gallery, Private, etc
- Symposium with given theme (Art Therapy, Mental Health, Early Education, etc)

My work is bold, tactile, abstract shape, few colours but with strong contrast, and is always characterised by its use of narrative. Through my interests in art therapy, criminology, and mental health, my practice aims to use my visual narrative as a therapeutic tool. They can not only guide children to better understand the world, but also prompt adults to reflect about themselves, bring hope and motivation to the humanity.

6. What steps have you taken so far to gain experience/ research and respond to or create opportunities?

- Take part in the illustration fair last Summer
- Have a conversation with people in bookshops who are in charge of the children's book area
- Approach independent bookshops as an illustrator
- Keep an eye on the experience of the practitioners I always look at
- Engage in the pop-up workshop of Interfaith Week
- Working as a teacher and learn how to communicate with children

(Plan for next step)

- Get commission work: editorial illustration
- Collaborate with the practitioners in other background
- Entrepreneurship

7. Live Application

(1) Escapism Illustration Exhibition on March 4th-14th, 2020



2. Master course



Your Anglia Ruskin University Student ID number is 1940933

Miss Xinyuan Yang
304-16 Cangjien Yicun, Liantang, Luohu District
Shenzhen
Guangdong
518000

17 March 2020

CONDITIONAL OFFER LETTER

Dear Xinyuan


Congratulations! You have been made a Conditional Offer for entry to the course below.

Please check these details carefully and let us know if any of the information set out below is incorrect.

Award title:	Master of Arts [MA]
Course title:	Illustration and Book Arts
Campus:	ARU Cambridge Campus
Campus address:	Anglia Ruskin University, East Road, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, CB1 1PT
Study mode:	Full-time
Course start date:	10 September 2020
Course end date:	24 September 2021
Course point of entry:	Year 1
Tuition fee for your first year of study:	£14100
Total scholarship awarded:	Dependent upon results

This offer requires you to meet the following conditions:

- Provide scans of your previous CAS, previous/current visa(s) and relevant immigration stamp(s).
- Successful completion of your BA Illustration degree from Cardiff Metropolitan University with a minimum of 2:2 overall and provide copy of the final consolidated transcript.
- Pay a tuition fee deposit of £4000GBP or provide an official financial guarantee/sponsor/scholarship letter from a recognised sponsor. Please refer to the guidance provided in the Supplementary Information attached to your offer.



UAL Applicant ID: **20035404** (Quote this if you need to contact us)

Dear Xinyuan Yang

We are delighted to offer you a place to study **MA Illustration and Visual Media** at **London College of Communication**, and we hope that we will be able to welcome you to UAL from September 2020.

3. Working as a teacher



Certificate

To Whom It May Concern:

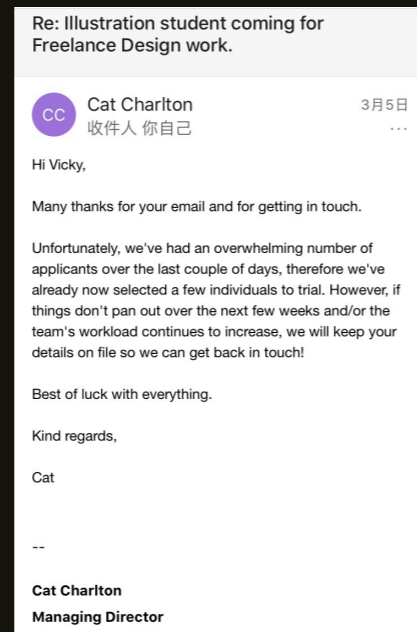
This is to certify that Xinyuan Yang, had been worked in the Chinese School Department of South Wales Education Limited since 30th September 2018 as Arts Teacher.

During the period, she puts all her passion and effort into her work, and gets along very well with others, which proves her team-spirit and excellent skills of communication. Her diligence, attitude and cooperation left all her co-workers and our company a very good impression.

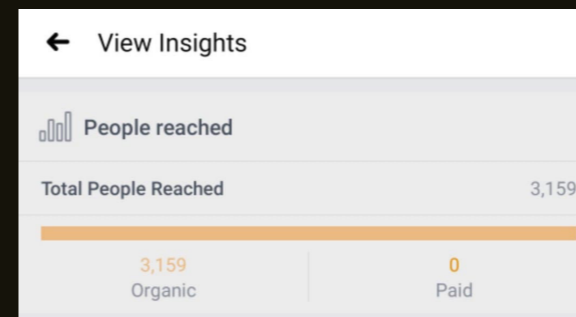
 _____ 06/05/2020 _____
Company Director Date

Email: kitty@southwaleseducation.org
Mobile: +44(0) 7885 887707
Address: 29 Tandem Mill Road, Newport, United Kingdom. NP19 4DP

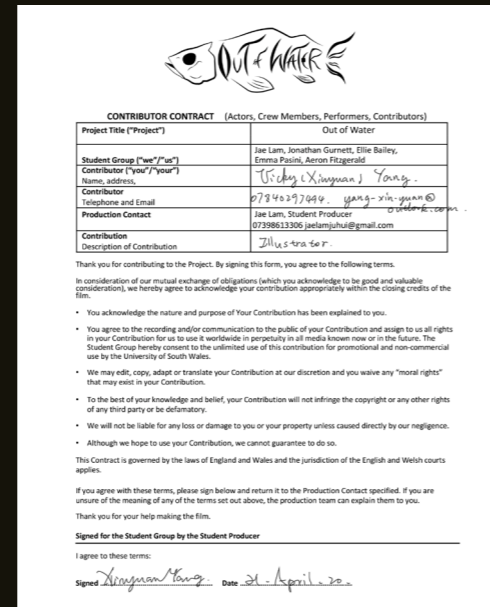
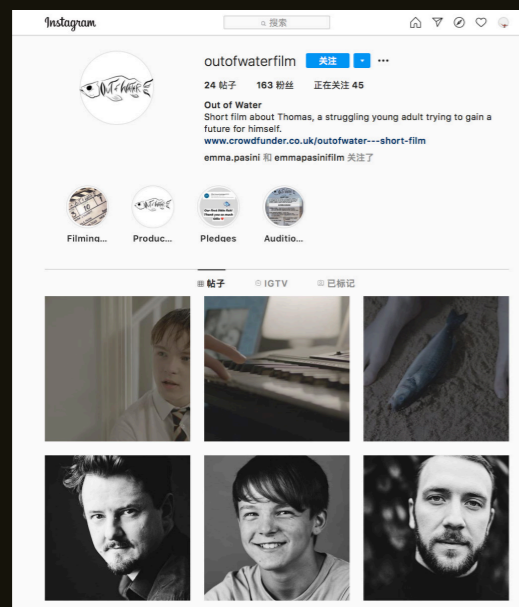
4. A paid freelance work



5. Colouring book



6. Contribute to the film 'OUT OF WATER'



8. CV



Vicky Xinyuan Yang

Illustrator | Storyteller | Book Maker

11 Mackintosh Place, Roath Road, Cardiff,
CF24 4RJ
Mob:(+44) 7840297494
Email: yang-xin-yuan@outlook.com
Website: yang-xin-yuan.com

Originally from China, I have always been inspired by silhouettes and movement. I am passionate about storytelling and working across different media including ink, watercolour, collage and a range of printmaking techniques.

Through my interest in themes related to humanity, particularly morality, criminality, mental health and art therapy, my practice aims to use my visual narrative as a therapeutic tool. They can not only guide children to better understand the world, but also prompt adults to reflect about themselves, bring hope and motivation to the society.

Languages

English, Chinese (Mandarin, Cantonese)

Education

09/2018-06/2020	BA(Hons) Illustration	Cardiff School of Art and Design
09/2016-06/2018	Exhibition Design	City University of Macau

Experience

09/2018-07/2020	Art Teacher	South Wales Education Chinese School
03/2019-04/2019	Illustrator	Omidaze Productions The Talking Shop
08/2019	Illustrator/ Product Designer	Witches Feast Illustration Fair
11/2019	Illustrator	Interfaith Week Pop-up workshop at Cardiff School of Management building
03/2020	Illustrator/ Curator	'Escapism' Illustration Exhibition

Award

2nd Year Course Award for Illustration in Cardiff School of Art and Design

Skills Offered

Illustration: Research and document, Storytelling, Solid image-making skills with various material, Concept Design, Character Design, Editing skills

Software: Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator, Adobe Indesign, Procreate

Further: Communication, Teamworking, Leadership, Problem-solving, Time Management, Presentation

9. Personal statement

Illustrator. Storyteller. Book Maker.

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For more information about me please visit my blog and follow her on instagram for updates.

10. Artist statement for Degree Show

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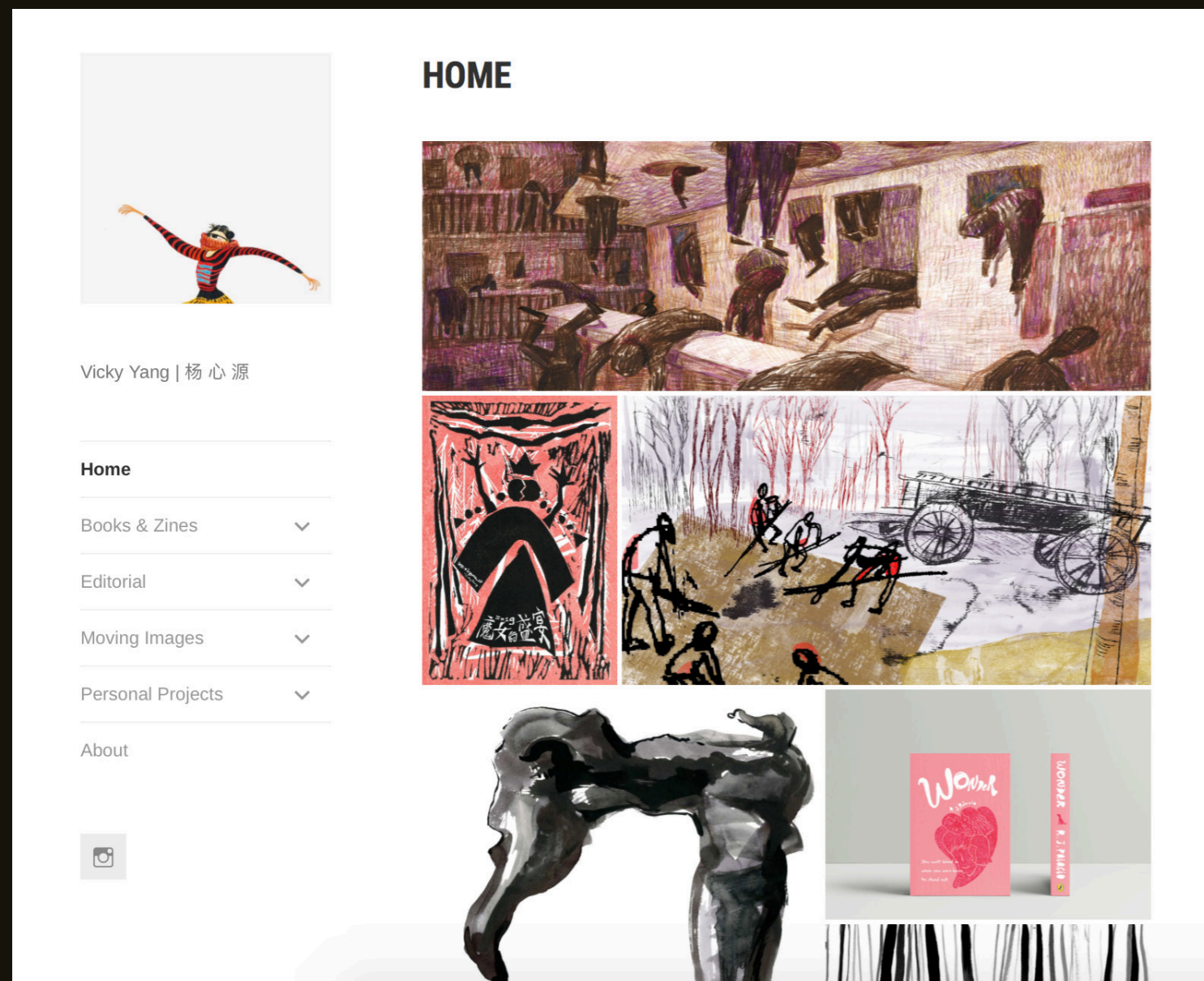
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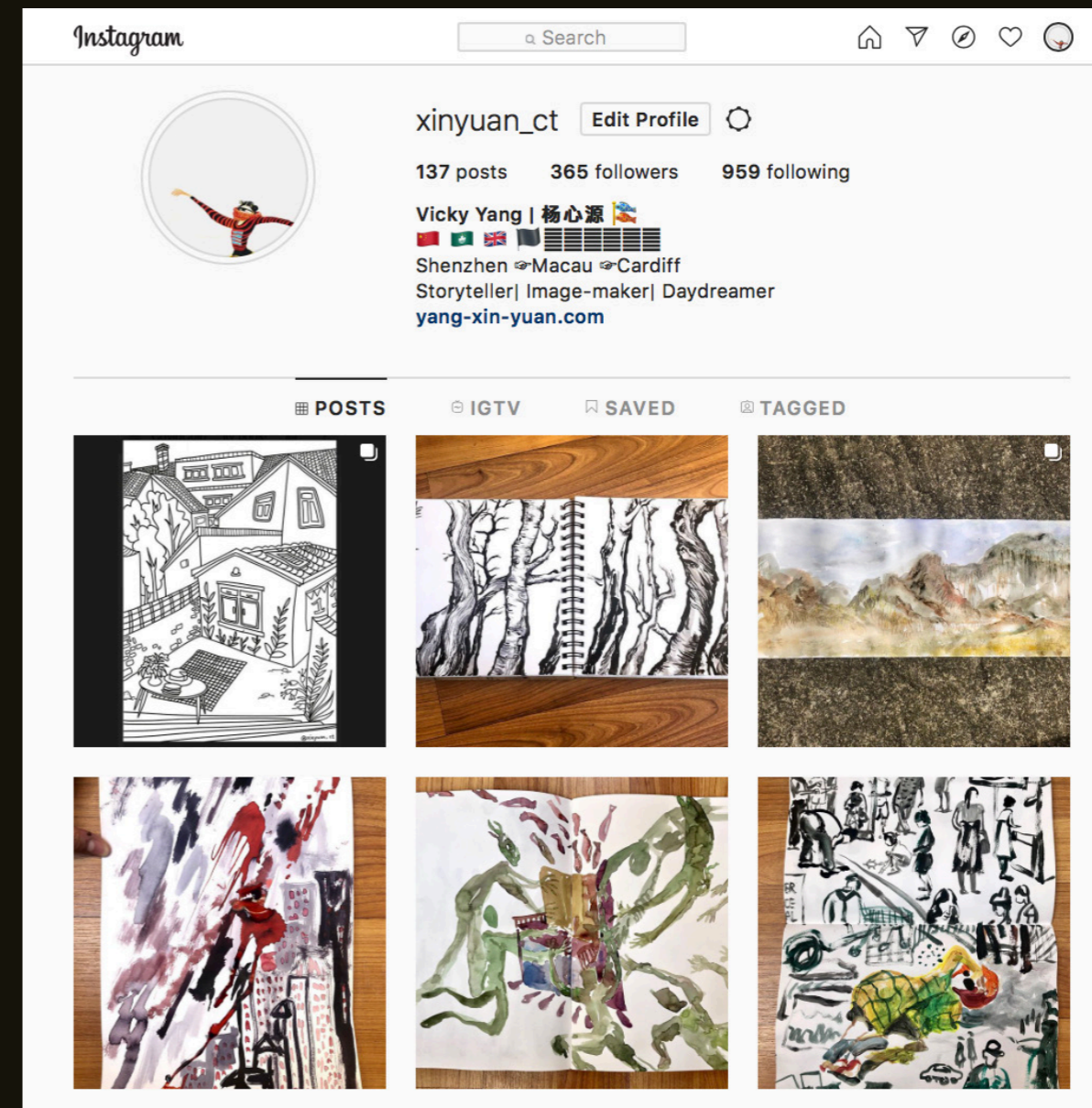
11. Images for the online cataloge



12. Digital Portfolio



Personal website



Instagram Account



yang-xin-yuan.com