





## **MAX PLANCK RESIDENCY WORKS**

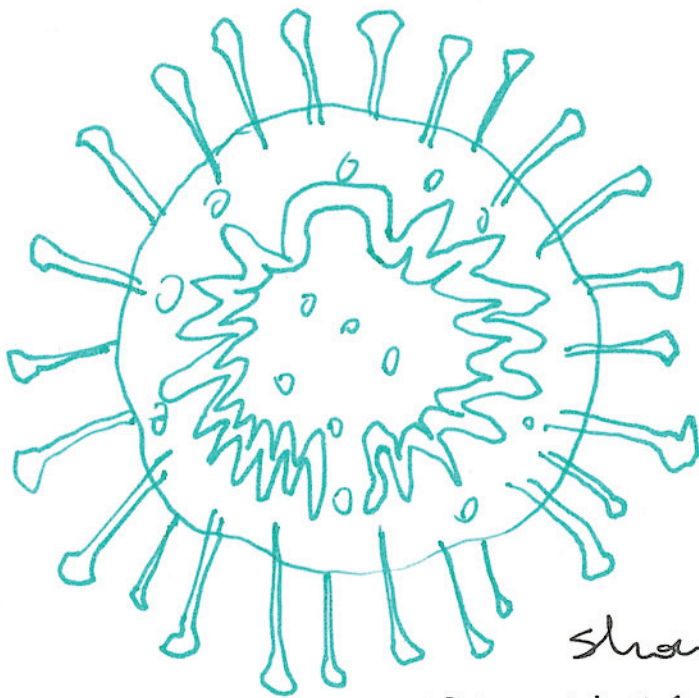
**MARCH 2020 - MARCH 2021**

**You can say that the role of a singer is to feel out loud in public. In the same way, you could say that a painter is someone who thinks out loud in public.**

**These works are about figuring out where we stand in light of scientific discoveries over the last hundred years --and some as new as practically yesterday-- that have changed our understanding of everything.**

**When it was demonstrated beyond doubt that the earth moved around the sun, we had to reshape our point of view about where we stand in the world, and in life. But it took many generations before the new understanding became common sense. And even now, we still say --and feel-- that the sun is going down and not that the horizon is going up, and that we're actually falling backwards towards the east, at roughly 1,600 kilometres an hour.**





Science has  
always had to  
thrust realize  
proof in order  
to change  
perceptions.



Pasteur was a  
showman, flogging a  
non-vaccinated lab sheep  
to prove it had actually  
died of its ailments,  
taking a crowd into a  
vineyard to prove — to an  
incredulous Burgundy  
circumstance — that he could  
starve bad bacteria.

2019-nCoV

An art audience, <sup>in real time,</sup> can METABOLIZE more  
levels of meaning, and experience  
deeper feelings.

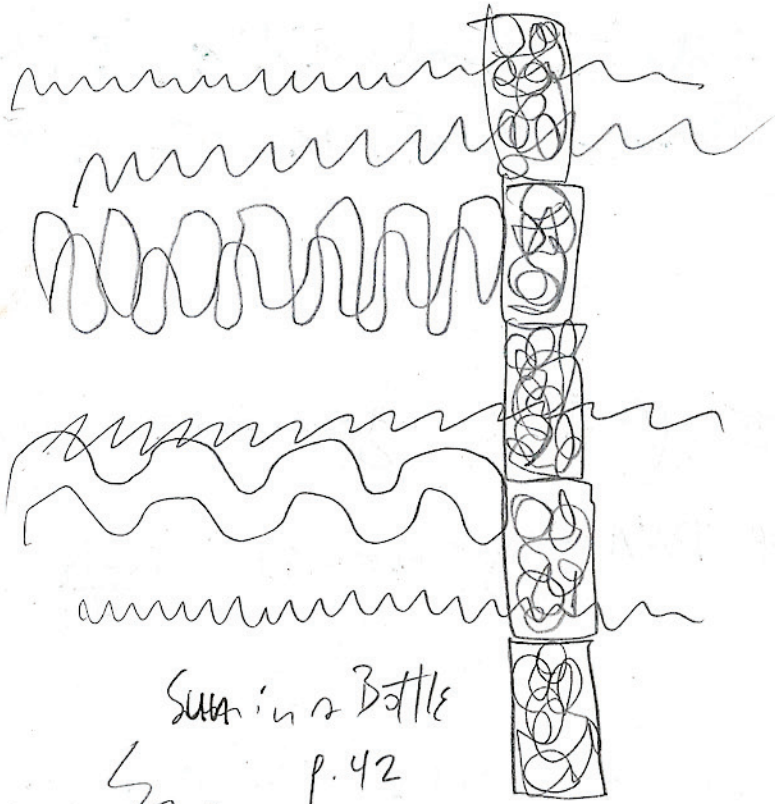
HUMANITY? → MORE THAN HUMAN  
HUMAN  
NON HUMAN



**Darwin's theories of evolution are still causing conflict and rejection. Einstein's insights about time and space have become somewhat embraced because although they're perplexing they're still understandable with a little effort. They're only intellectually radical, so it's just easier to accept them as common sense.**

**Everybody talks about quantum physics as if it were the answer to everything, which it may or may not be. But even the experts are confused about what it ultimately means. Nevertheless, the ideas are demonstrably true. Toasters, fluorescent lights, and computers work because of quantum physics. So in a way, it has become common sense because we can accept the idea that the subatomic world is unbelievably weird, yet it doesn't challenge our sense of self the way evolution does.**

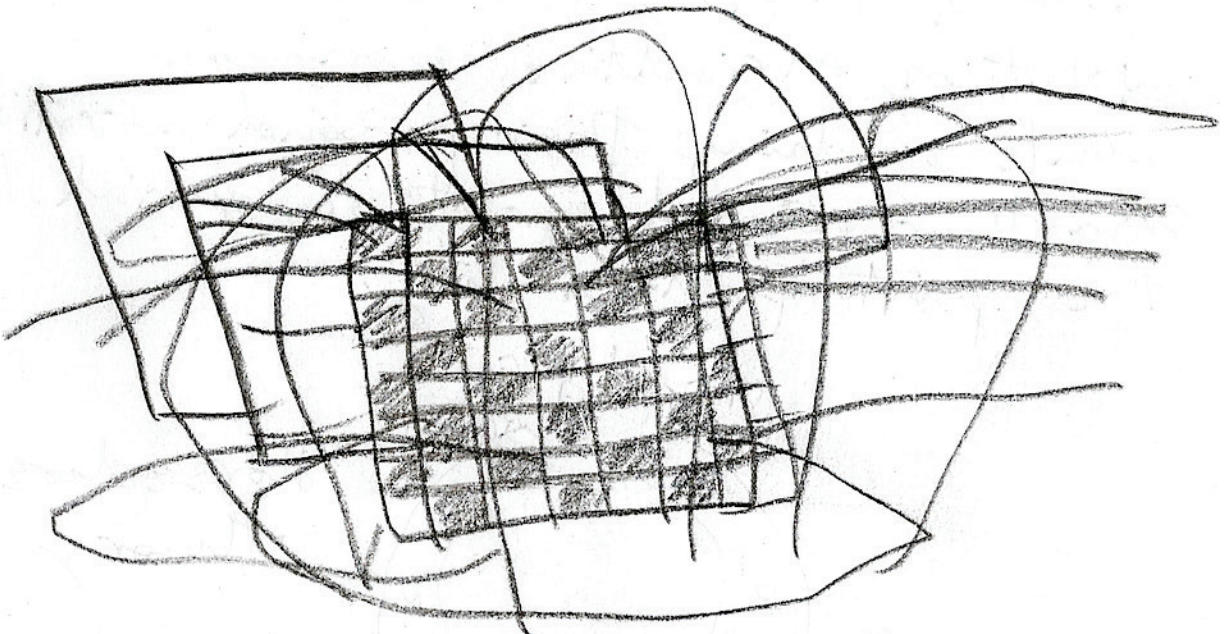




Sun in a Bottle  
p. 42



OLD FIRE



CHESS RHIZOME

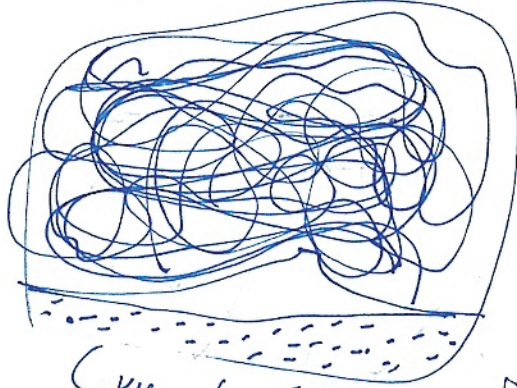


**The structure of DNA was discovered less than seventy years ago. The idea of mapping the entire genome began less than forty years ago and was completed in 2003. This knowledge is so immediate and unavoidable that it is already part of our common sense. Our ability to tinker with life at the gene level either scares you to death or fills you with admiration for the ingenuity of our species. Hopefully it's both.**

**These paintings are like the lab results of a year of thinking about how to feel about being an inhabitant of a world that is at its bedrock a swarm of electrons expelled from the Big Bang 14 billion years ago. The electrons come together as elements and the elements come alive 4 billion years ago. Hominids emerge 6 million years ago, the urge to paint pictures starts maybe 40,000 years ago, and bread is invented about 10,000 years ago. So painting is older than bread.**



AHI BUDHNYA

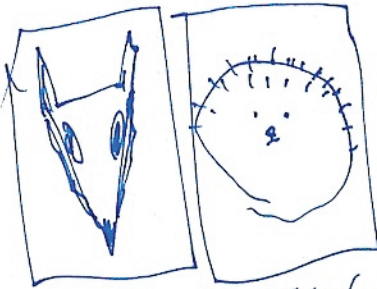


SKY of SNAKES

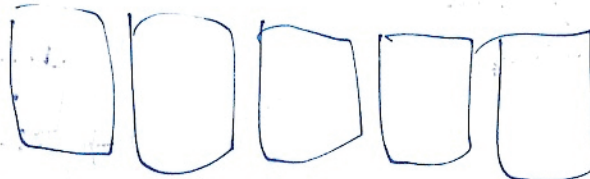
CATASTROPHISM  
MASTICATORS



BURNT  
CONJUNCTIONS



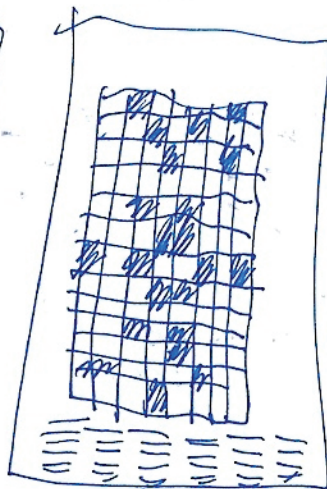
FOX & HED GEROG



SUN mood FIRE PLAGUE WIND



Swived 2 Ph.Ds.



CROSSWORD  
PICTURE  
HANDDRAWN

Crossword clue:  
Knows many things in  
Berlin - FOX





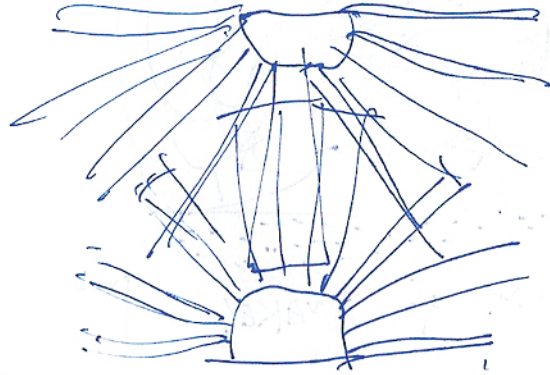
**The confounding aspect of this work for me is the understanding that the human (and just about every other complex life form) body is composed of multitudes of living entities that cumulatively make up the organism. However, millions, billions, or trillions of these symbiotic and synergistic entities can be independent of their host, and some, bacteria for instance, pre-date the human being by millennia. Who and what are we in this situation?**

**My post-Vitruvian figure --sometimes male, sometimes female, sometimes another species, like the protagonist Qfwfq in Italo Calvino's 'Cosmicomics'-- is on the run because the new knowledge has displaced the human from the centre of history. We eight billion are now moved by systems beyond our acknowledgement. And when you count every living being as a complex of smaller beings, we can multiply the population of life by a trillion trillion trillion. Which makes eight billion seem like a rounding error.**

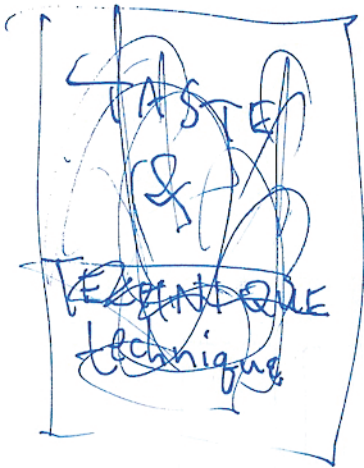




PROUST SATARI



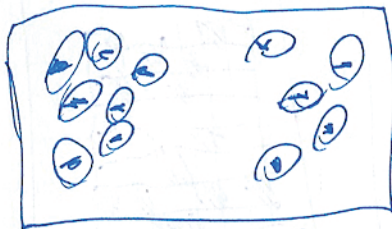
MADRELINE



INSIDE OUTSIDE



PROUST  
LINO CUT  
X 3



MICROBES OF  
MEMORY

**from Max Planck Project Notebooks**

**The Max Planck Institute for Biochemistry (BIOC) in the Martinsried suburb of Munich is a hive of international scientists working in the field of determining the meaning of life.**

**It is, of course, the metabolization of sugars.**



what are we gonna do? There's two  
of them - and we're all alone!



## Schrödinger's Cat

Classical paintings windows onto  
classical layer  
These paintings windows onto  
quantum layer

---

Stallabross: Credibility in esdrawing  
overtly commodifiable forms may  
eventually lead to market advantage.

---

MUSH = Municipalities, Universities,  
Services, hospitals

poetry is puked, not plotted → to discuss



**Some 500 scientists from 45 countries work in seven departments--**

**Cellular Biochemistry**

**Cellular and Molecular Biophysics**

**Molecular Machines and Signalling**

**Molecular Medicine**

**Molecular Structural Biology**

**Proteomics and Signal Transduction**

**Structural Cell Biology**

**The Institute was "founded in 1973 by the merger of three formerly independent institutes: the Max Planck Institute of Biochemistry, the Max Planck Institute of Protein and Leather Research (founded 1954), and the Max Planck Institute of Cell Chemistry (founded 1956)."**

**It was 1954 when Crick & Watson --& the still underacknowledged Rosalind Franklin-- established the form and nature of the DNA molecule. A breakthrough on the scale of Newton, Darwin, Einstein.**



## Double Helix

viruses as naked genes  
sugar-phosphate backbone

nitrogenous bases:

purine (adenine & guanine)

pyrimidine (cytosine & thymine)

inside cells sugars attached to proteins  
& fats help molecules recognize one  
another, & let cells communicate.

Sugars also appear to bind to some RNA molecules -  
the cellular workhorses that do everything  
from translating DNA into proteins to  
catalyzing chemical reactions.  
VERY NEW FINDING

News: genes do not always evolve from existing  
ones. Instead, some are fashioned from  
desolate stretches of the genome that do not  
code for any functional molecules.  
(Antifreeze protein in Arctic cod)

**'Institute of Protein and Leather Research'. A sort of culmination of 19th century chemistry.**

**Everything in the world would change in 1954.**

**ABSTRACT: "Hides and skins, by-product of the meat industry is converted into a value added product namely leather by the tanners. Tanning essentially is the process of converting raw hides and skins into imputrescible substance. The tanning process has number of steps and generates significant quantities of by products and wastes. These solid and liquid wastes pose major environmental problem if not managed effectively. Large-scale production systems are adopted for leather processing in clusters and therefore, the industry receives focus of environmentalists and society. Consequently tremendous pressure is exerted by various pollution regulatory bodies. The hides and skins, after trimming, removal of flesh and fat, are treated with chemicals, which cross-link the collagen fibers to form a stable, durable material. The chemicals used may be derived from traditional vegetable products, or inorganic metal salts. During leather processing number of size reduction, leveling and purification operations are carried out which results in generation of untanned and tanned proteinous waste materials. In this paper, various recovery processes and utilization methodologies of proteinous solid wastes, emanating from leather processing operations prior to tanning is reviewed."**



CLONAL MOSAICISM Body mosaic of distinct populations of cells, each with their accumulated mutations. — errors in cell division.  
Man losing Y most common. — smallest chromosomes.

All the blood cells in the body are in a vast competition with one another for resources. A mutation that confers a small advantage will allow cells with it to win out. Formation of human blood cells is a perfect example of evolution on a microscale.

Gary Indiana:  
Between the elegant form and the coy, almost fatuous content (Koons), the SHEER IMPERIOUSNESS of ARTISTIC WILL BECOMES A MATERIAL PROPERTY of the work in a rather old-fashioned, modernist way: This is a sculpture because I say so (and it is, strongly enough).

Telology is the moralizing of chronology

Méditations of 1800 <sup>rebels of David's School</sup>  
paramonastic esoteric group

Isaiah Berlin: c18 Theosophical, Illuminist, Guelph-bourgeois,

**By 2003, the Human Genome Project had identified and mapped all the genes of the human body.**

**The technology that has emerged from this more than satisfies Arthur C. Clarke's third law:**

**Any sufficient advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic.**

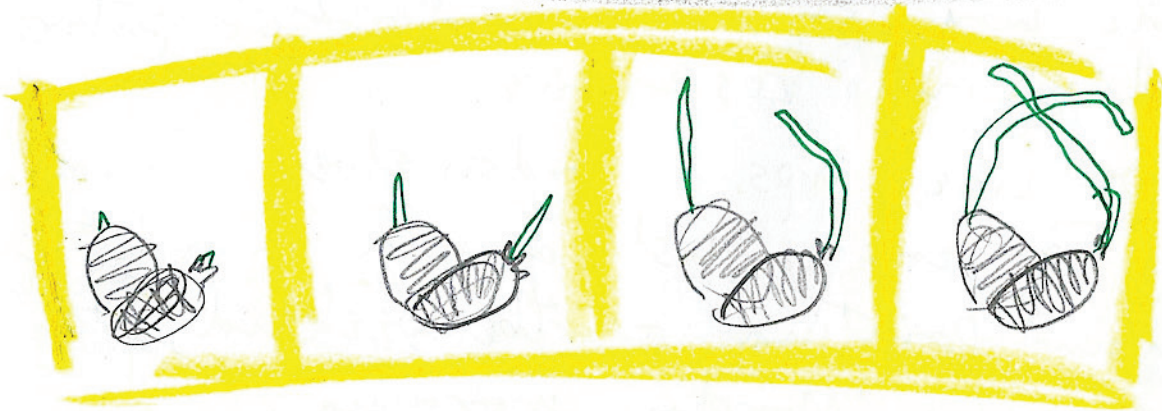
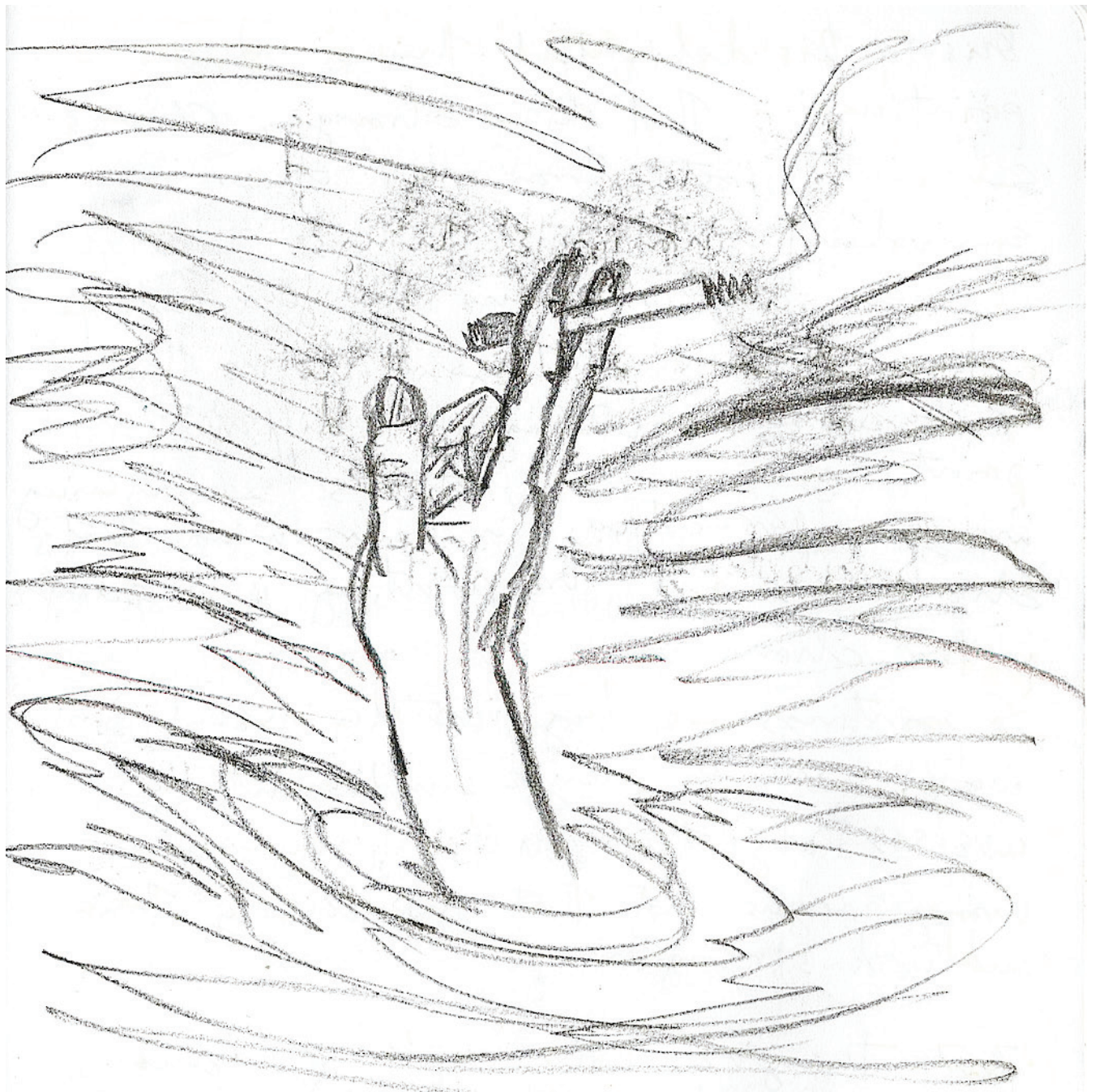
**His second law gives this idea more oxygen:**

**The only way of discovering the limits of the possible is to venture a little way past them into the impossible.**

**And his first law closes the flue somewhat:**

**When a distinguished but elderly scientist states that something is possible, he is almost certainly right. When he states that something is impossible, he is very probably wrong.**





film with onions

**The BIOC compound is so immense that people ride their bicycles to get from one place to another. The bike traffic indoors is as frenetic as that throughout the city streets. Munich is flat, great for bicycling and skateboarding. Though there are downtown streets where you can see the Alps looming in the distance.**

**Across the BIOC campus is a small high-rise filled with offices of multinational pharmaceutical companies with unpronounceable science-fiction names, some of which aren't even words but algorithms. The circulation between laboratory and market is as ceaseless as the metabolism inside the cells that they study.**

**Consequently, BIOC is a high security community, but if you're not looking you won't see it. What you feel most of all is the energy of hordes of very young scientists. And very old ones too, on bicycles, hurrying somewhere.**



They are saying extraordinarily fascinating things — The point is to invent, if not what they are saying, at least its implications, its overtones.

while none of the work we do is important, it is important that we do a great deal of it

Joseph  
Stellar

**Euhemerism** idea that gods were based on historical heroes exaggerated in retelling: Euhemerus, c. 4 BCE Gr: writer. earliest use: 1846

or, per Chinese scholars, the opposite: figures in trad. early history began as pure legend & later fitted into seemingly authentic history.

Confucius participated in this rationalization: Yellow Emperor 2698-2598 BCE: Lived 100 yrs., revered for 100 yrs., century after they followed teachings.

ENTER LEFT; EXIT TRAPDOOR

**A city seen from the air. Billions of events, millions of stories. Energy moving in cycles for individual entities and for the whole.**

**Everyone feels this vision for a moment when they look out an airplane window. It must be an elemental experience of the imagination at work. It soon fades, because there is little to do with it. But the artist holds on to it, and broods over it like a hen over her eggs.**

**The artist reads about the life of cells and tries to grasp the reality of directed chemical reactions in the dark becoming life. Ultimately (ultimately?) becoming self-consciousness.**

**Is the life of that city a mirror of these processes? More than a metaphor, but rather an actuality that can only be grasped by dreaming. Then turning that dream into a prediction to be tested, and finally seeing not through a glass darkly, but through an instrument face to face.**



I

Seaman, lass' das Träumen  
Danke, nicht an zu Haus  
Seaman, Wind und Wellen  
Rufen dich hinaus

Deine Heimat ist das Meer  
Deine Freunde sind die Sterne  
Über Rio und Shanghai  
Über Bali und Hawaii  
Deine Liebe ist ein Schiff  
Deine Sehnsucht ist die Ferne  
Und nur ihnen bist du treu  
Ein Leben lang

II

Seaman, lass das Träumen  
Danke nicht an mich  
Seaman, den die Fremde  
Wartet schon auf dich

GEALTERTES FEUER

FALLING HOME      NACH HAUSE FALLEN  
NOSTALGIA NET      NOSTALGIENETZ  
THE MAN IN THE SOUP      DER MANN IN DER SUPPE

ESCAPE THE CROWD AND ENTER THE GROUP MIND,  
THEN BREAK FREE OF THE GROUP MIND AND  
REINTEGRATE WITH THE CROWD

ENTKOMME DER MENGE UND BETRETE DEN GRUPPENVERSTAND  
DANN BEFREIE DICH VOM GRUPPENVERSTAND UND WIEDER IN DIE  
MENGE INTEGRIEREN

**Here is the vision I was chasing at BIOC:**

**From the most fundamental particles --quarks and leptons-- which are everywhere and nowhere, through to atomic structure, to life, to consciousness, to culture and cosmos-- is that an unbroken continuum? Or is there a break somewhere, where our lifeworld is somehow independent from probability clouds of swarming electrons?**

**This is stargazing, of course; a three in the morning proposition. It felt presumptuous to bring up such a daydream notion with serious, exacting scientists.**

**Then I spotted a printout office-joke meme on a wall behind a shelf of beakers and flasks in a chromatography lab, which read:**

**'Biologists are just a bunch of cells that talk about other cells'.**



Giant phages — unexpectedly massive genomes: average phage carries c. 52,000 'letters' worth of DNA giants carry 540,000  
range 200,000 — 735,000 DNA letters in genomes

Amer. Eng: WHOPPERPHAGE

All viruses co-opt host's resources to build more copies of themselves but huge phages carry out much more thorough & dedicated takeover (build copies in bacterium, then explode outward)

Target is ribosome — manufacturing plant in all living cells, which reads info encoded in genes & uses that to build proteins. Huge phages equipped to commandeer fully ribosome so it ignores host's genes, & instead devotes itself to building viral proteins.

**I had actually thought something similar! That's just the kind of notion I would, up till then, be too intimidated to voice. But that gag proved that nobody is buttoned-down all the time.**

**There are plenty of biochemistry jokes--**

**If you're not part of the solution, you're part of the precipitate.**

**a solution is a completely dissolved mixture of two or more compounds, and a precipitate is a solid that sometimes forms from a chemical reaction in a liquid solution. The solid precipitate falls out of solution, and collects in the bottom of the vial.**

**So a precipitate is definitely not part of the solution.**

**Heyo!**

**Two chemists go into a bar. The first one says "I think I'll have an H<sub>2</sub>O." The second one says "I think I'll have an H<sub>2</sub>O too" -- and he died.**

**H<sub>2</sub>O is the molecular formula for water. But H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> is the molecular formula for hydrogen peroxide, which will kill you if you drink it.**



Nothing is solved by flattening  
multifaceted problems into one-dimensional  
vectors of consistency.

---

Comus: a man's work is nothing but his  
slow trek to rediscover, through the  
detours of art, those two or three great  
and simple images in whose presence his  
heart first opened.

---

economics of meaning: wherein  
economic or class critiques are a means  
to channel anger, create meaning, & build  
solidarity rather than to implement better  
policy outcomes.

empty signifier against which one  
group can define self/selfless

WE vs. contingent many (contingency  
puts populists in precarious position of needing  
to search for enemies)

you got to be clueless in a new place  
only briefly. Don't waste the  
chance to have truths, great & small,  
burst upon you

**A fellow accidentally ingested some alpha-L-glucose and discovered that he had no ill effect. Apparently he was ambidextrose.**

Alpha-L-glucose is a low-calorie sweetener substitute for regular D-glucose. Dextrose is another word for glucose. So instead of being ambidextrous, the fellow is *ambidextrose*-- meaning he can tolerate either kind of sugar.

**I wish I was adenine, then I could get paired with U.**

In RNA, adenine (A) forms a "base pair" with uracil (U).

**Did you just mutate for a stop codon? Because you're talking nonsense!**

A stop codon is a nucleotide in messenger RNA that signals the stop of a translation-- the process that cells use to make proteins.

?

Oh... !

**The name's Bond. Ionic Bond. Taken, not shared.**

An ionic bond is formed between two atoms when electrons are *taken* from one atom by the other, unlike a covalent bond where the atoms *share* their electrons. And, taken rhymes with shaken.



A main purpose of the brain is to read the body, & to regulate the body budget.

Brain predicts action based on impressions & speeds heart rate & breathing to deal with it.

You experience these changes as emotion because your brain has created an emotion concept to make those physical changes meaningful.

You might think that the things you see & hear influence what you feel, but it's mostly the other way around: what you feel alters your sight & hearing.

Children: "mommy I hate you" = "I don't like this" because they haven't learned their culture's concepts for hatred vs badness.

Get older, learn more EMOTIONAL GRANULARITY.

Emotionally wise person can create distinct experiences of disappointment, anger, spite, resentment, grudge, aggravation, whereas for less emotionally wise one these are all synonyms for "I feel bad".

**Biology is the only science in which multiplication is the same thing as division.**

In biology, cells *multiply* in number when one cell *divides* into two.

**A couple of biologists had twins. They named one Jessica and the other Control.**

Scientists must always use a control group or condition --which they don't experiment on and just leave "as-is"-- when conducting an experiment.

**Q: Why can you never trust atoms? A: They make up everything!**

Atoms are the smallest pieces of matter, they make up all of the elements and molecules and proteins and everything else on Earth.

They also literally *make up* everything we see, but in the joke they are suggesting that the atoms lie so don't trust them.

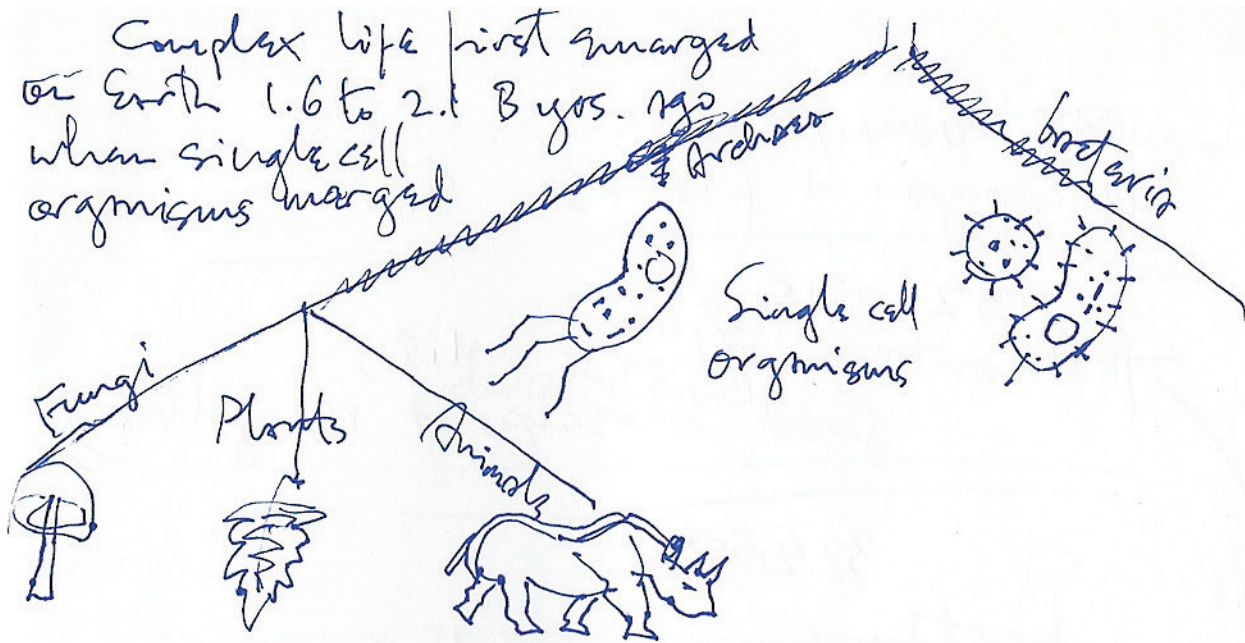
**This, evidently, is a famous one.**

**Full of beryllium, gold, and titanium. Be Au Ti full.**

**Watt is love? Baby don't Herz me**



Complex life first emerged  
on Earth 1.6 to 2.1 B yrs. ago  
when single cell  
organisms merged



Warner Sombart: widespread prosperity will  
forestall the development of socialism in U.S.  
"On this shores of roast beef & apple pie,  
Socialist utopias founder."

When the essential work of discrimination  
is lost in a blanketing cloud of nostalgia.  
Embattled memory takes things apart;  
complacent nostalgia squashes them  
back together.

**Notebook as oldest outboard brain**

**Without notes wouldn't have put together source of lab joke:**

**"Biologists are just a bunch of cells that talk about other cells."**

**George Wald (1906-1997), share of the 1967 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine with Haldan Keffer Hartline and Ragnar Granit:**

**"It would be a poor thing to be an atom in a universe without physicists, and physicists are made of atoms. A physicist is an atom's way of knowing about atoms."**

**Also, "I have often had cause to feel that my hands are cleverer than my head. That is a crude way of characterizing the dialectics of experimentation. When it is going well, it is like a quiet conversation with Nature. One asks a question and gets an answer, then one asks the next question and gets the next answer. An experiment is a device to make Nature speak intelligibly. After that, one only has to listen."**



Structurists on the whole - psychotherapists,  
poets, guitarists, novelists - all running  
cottage industries.

---

history of short-lived vernaculars of c. 20,  
21 design

---

IRGENDWO IRGENDWIE Somewhere Somehow

Wolfgang Pauli: Das ist nicht nur nicht  
richtig; es ist nicht einmal falsch!

Physicists are made of atoms. A physicist is  
the atom's way of knowing about atoms  
George Wald Nobel Laur. 1906 1997

The minute something works, it ceases  
to be interesting. Rosemarie Trockel

The conventional bourgeois conception  
of art for which exuberant colourfulness  
is incompatible with reflective gravitas



**George Wald:**

**"Every creature alive on the earth today represents an unbroken line of life that stretches back to the first primitive organism to appear on this planet; and that is about three billion years."**

**"Death seems to have been a rather late invention in evolution. One can go a long way in evolution before encountering an authentic corpse."**

Evolution began with one-celled organisms reproducing indefinitely by cell division.

**"A scientist is in a sense a learned small child. There is something of the scientist in every small child. Others must outgrow it. Scientists can stay that way all their lives."**

**"A scientist should be the happiest of people. Not that science isn't serious; but as everyone knows, being serious is one way of being happy, just as being merry is one way of being unhappy."**

Lidewij Edelkoort (frandspatter):  
citizens will buy into the "revolution" that  
having less stuff will make us happier. People  
will grow to cherish their selected possessions  
so deeply that we see the rise of ANIMISM,  
where objects are respected, treated "like pets"

---

5000 instances of radioactive decay per sec.  
in human body.

---

making art is a lot about just seeing  
what happens if you put some energy  
into something.

---

feeling like a god or a ghost in  
your own life

---

Everything wrong with the pictures is  
right with the ~~art~~ work, every  
failure of the image a success for the  
art, such is the aesthetic of our times:  
a desire, in effect, of fucking up so  
completely and yet with such confidence  
& control that one's medium expands.

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MEGABIBULOUS!

Bi-phasic sleep  
Bi-modal " pattern  
wake midnight → "THE WATCHING" → 2nd sleep

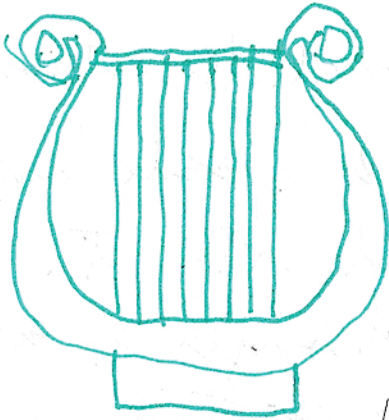
**George Wald:**

**“Mind, rather than emerging as a late outgrowth in the evolution of life, has existed always as the matrix, the source and condition of physical reality.”**

**"I have lived much of my life among molecules. They are good company. I tell my students to try to know molecules, so well that when they have some question involving molecules, they can ask themselves, What would I do if I were that molecule? I tell them, Try to feel like a molecule; and if you work hard, who knows? Some day you may get to feel like a big molecule!"**



Dante - er hatte  
keine Helmut



ÉMILE COHL  
FANTASMAGORIE 1908

FITZ HUGH LUDLOW



MISSION TO MÜNCHEN

If you're never romantic about the  
wrong things, how can you be  
romantic about the right things.

LOVELL/LIFE ON MARS; ENTROPY REDUCTION

## **Why Art?**

**15% displacement activity in the valley of the shadow of death**

**65% heuristics**

**5% money, power, love**

**15% dark matter**

**Anything real begins with the fiction of what could be.**

**Imagination is the most potent force, and a skill you can get better at. It's the one skill that benefits from ignoring what everyone else knows.**

**To find a place where your imagination works.**

**If you feel you don't have an imagination, consider when you fall asleep. Your dream doesn't start by scratching its head and saying, "Oh no! I can't think of anything to dream!"**

NEUESTES BILBERBUCH ZUR  
BELEHRUNG UND UNTERHALTUNG  
Lesung & Diskussion

POST-RECENT ART

SAFE BETS

known solutions

BRAINS ARE evolutionarily EXPENSIVE

Somewhere Nietzsche is laughing hysterically  
while screaming in anguish

strategic access (to art worlds)

Well, bless my probability cloud

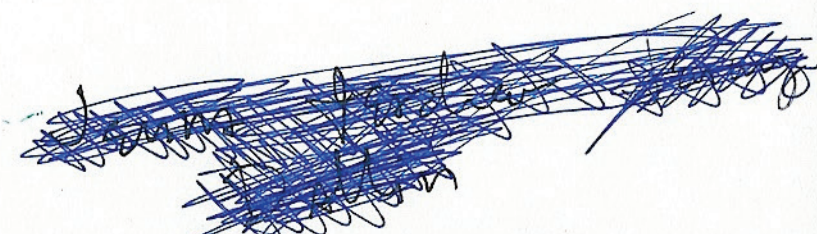
Wahrscheinlichkeit

Wahrscheinlichkeitswolke (Nun, segne meine)

Thore Fastvold: Science has a communication  
problem that art can solve.

LEBENSKUNSTLER

Vollkommenheit der Kunst oder des Lebens





**Titles shouldn't hew too closely to what is portrayed. They should be more like a telegram you get in a dream.**

**The only place you get telegrams these days.**

**Just about all mammals are thought to dream, as are birds, some lizards, and --unique among invertebrates-- cuttlefish. The dreamiest member of the animal kingdom is the platypus, which logs up to eight hours of REM sleep a day.**

**'Comme un oeil suspendu et poli par le songe'**

**(Tristan Murail)**

**Like an eye hung and polished by the dream**

**DREAM is the only word you can't put in quotation marks.**

**Ostrich = Pantsless Thunder-Goose**

One of the delightful things about paintings is that they change, change somewhat faster than most other equivalent inanimate things.

If you live with one on your wall for a time, at some point you'll notice that it has become something of a different painting. In fact, it's something in your perception, in your mind that's changed, and the painting is a gauge of that change.

So paintings are legitimately useful that way, even if they're fundamentally useless objects. Inutile, anyway — many argue that that is precisely their cultural strength —

But they're alive, after a fashion, the way sailboats & guitars & computers are alive and responsive.

Or like imps. Garden elves. In fact, if you leave a dish of milk in front of your painting over the weekend, often it's gone by Monday morning.

**Messenger RNA (mRNA) is a single-stranded RNA molecule that is complementary to one of the DNA strands of a gene. The mRNA is an RNA version of the gene that leaves the cell nucleus and moves to the cytoplasm where proteins are made.**

***Spreading the spores and pheromones and hormones of culture:***

**European television is an asynchronous smorgasbord. Everyone over thirty in Germany seems to know and like Detective Colombo (1968–1978, 1989–2003).**

**The character of Colombo was based on Porfiry Petrovich from Dostoevsky's Crime and Punishment. Sydney Greenstreet, playing Kasper Gutman in The Maltese Falcon, based his vocal delivery on Porfiry Petrovich, from Dostoevsky's Crime and Punishment.**

***Elvis Presley copied Tony Curtis' hair.***

**Slack Blabbath**

**black sABBATH**



## Pythagorean movements as Counter-Enlightenment

These intellectuals also attempted to affirm importance of wonder & religion.

Western ~~esoteric~~ trad. origins in Greece

Greek primitivism already in classical world, first understood as place whence ancient wisdom & magical knowledge.

"Magus" → Persia

orientalist fever following Napoleonic campaigns  
Egypt & Syria turbans fashionable even in England.

{ Méditateurs sur l'homme  
" " de l'Antique  
Observateurs de l'homme  
Primitifs

Penseurs

Illuminés des Arts

Barbus

→ Maurice Quoy  
Charles Nodding

Lucile Messagier  
Jean-Antoine Gleizes

invented term Rococo

Méditateurs functioned as first step in construction of myth of Bohemian artist.

→ Sartre: "at the origin of the picturesque is war"

**A portrait of the way the four forces in the known universe -- gravity, electromagnetism, the weak and the strong nuclear forces-- act on the 103 known elements to produce everything there is.**

**Here are atoms that were once burning in a star. If they're atoms that were heavier than iron, then they were once in a supernova. The canvas cloth parts include material taken from plants descended from ones on which the sun was shining when the pyramids were being built.**

**And in a thousand years this thing won't still exist; but all its atoms will. But they'll be in other places. The work is about this.**

***We need to find somewhere to shelter. The sun is going down. No,no,no, you're all confused-- the horizon is moving up!***

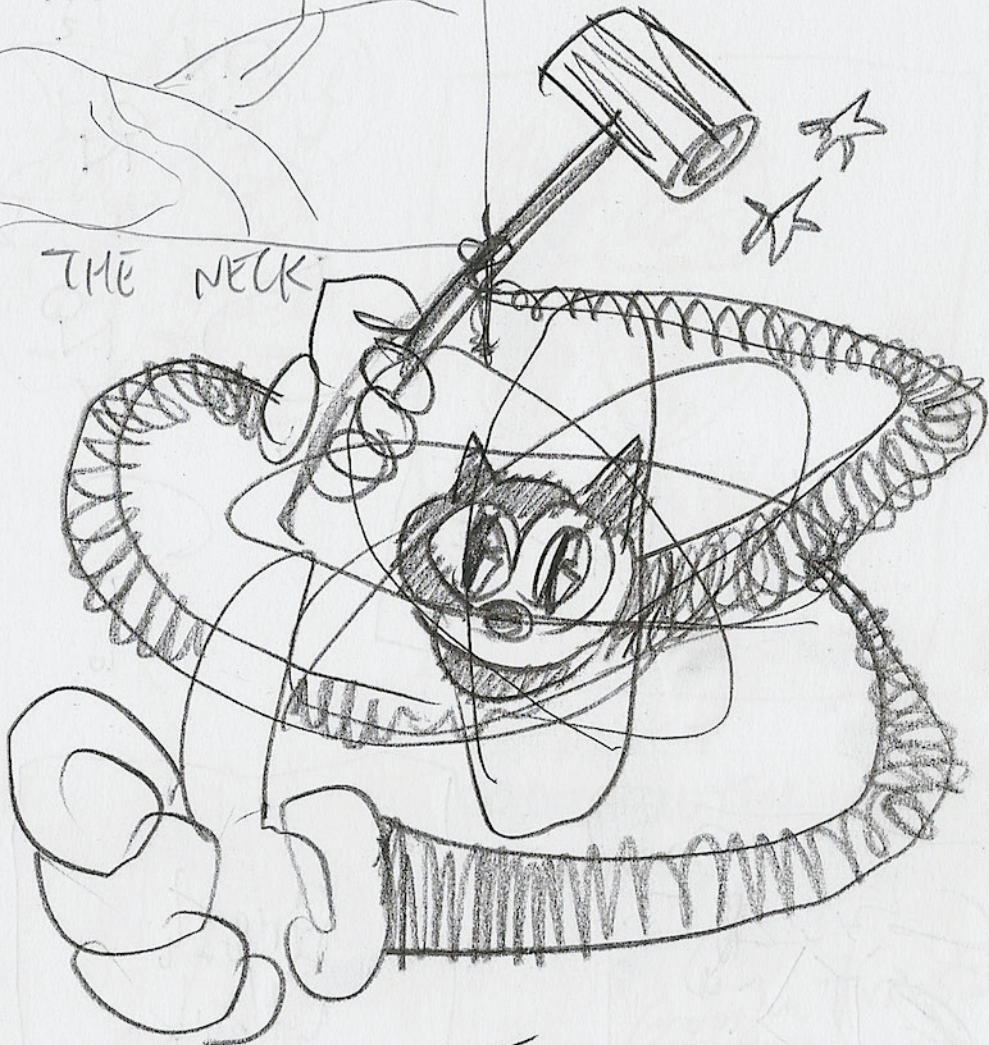




THE NECK



CELL  
FLUORESCENCE UNDER BROWN



VITALISM

KEEP IN MIND  
SITE - SPECIFIC

VANITY FAIR p. 42  
SCAN VUSE A  
AD

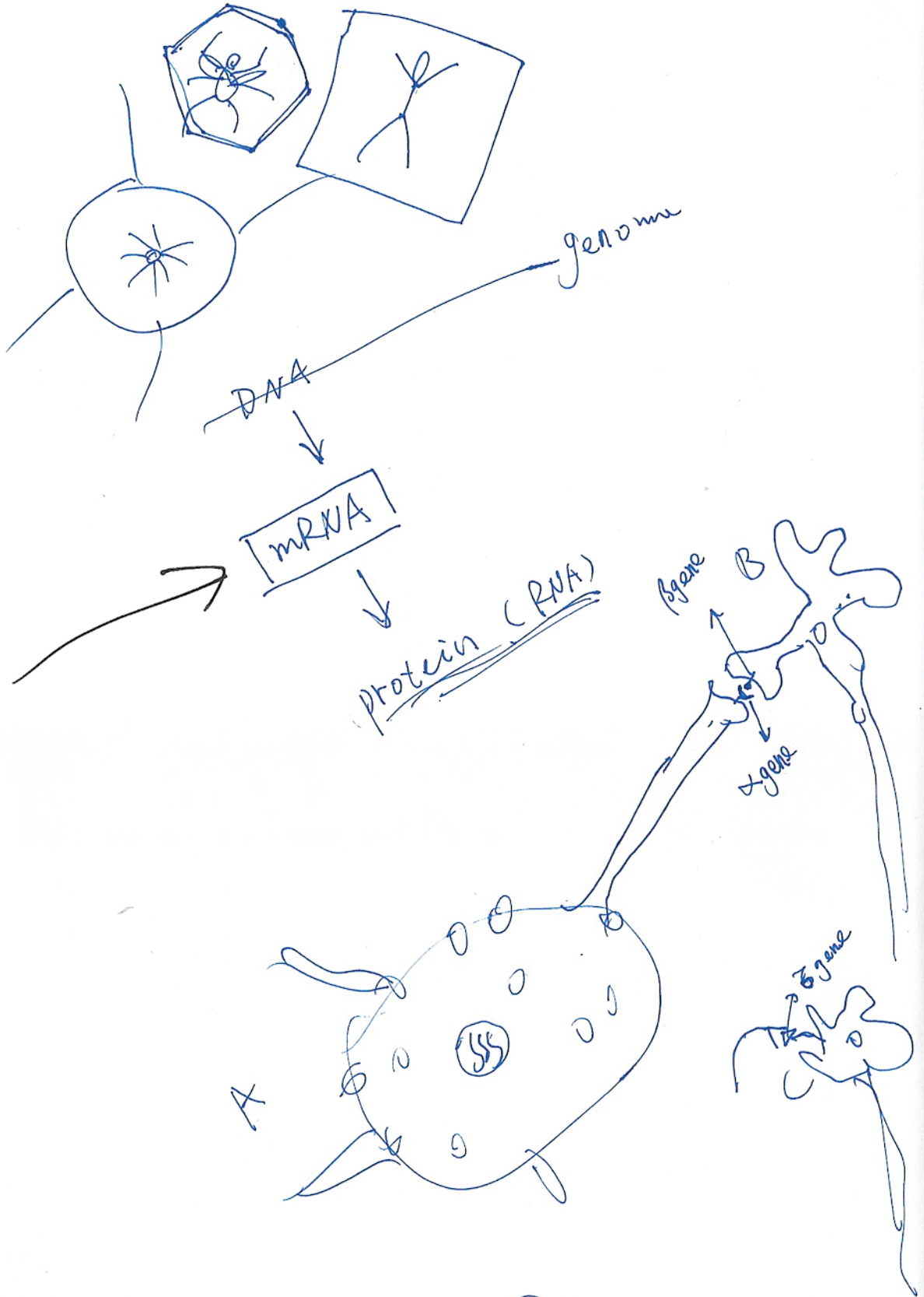


**An alarmingly young doctoral student, daily studying the active, electroded brains of mice in a maze in real time in order to map the neural co-ordinates of sight at the cellular level. This in order to feed the data into an AI deep learning network. So that the artificial intelligence will be able to see with eyes, like us.**

**These are his drawings. What he's saying is far above my head, but I feel the awe and terror of the scientific sublime. I like it quite a bit.**

**He is terribly lonely for his home in Wuhan, but it's February, and the pandemic is all they're talking about at BIOC. All of Germany is already on guard.**

**Each night after work in his apartment he cooks the same dish, with genuine Wuhan ramen noodles you can only find in a few places. I wanted to try it but never succeeded in finding it.**



MOLECULAR

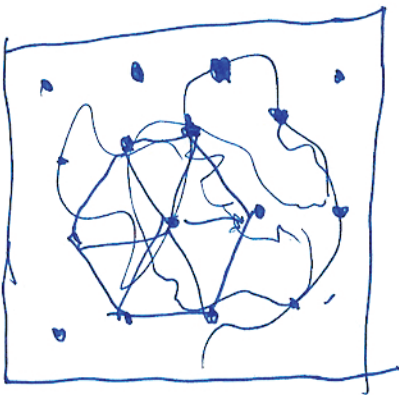
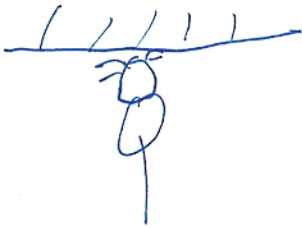
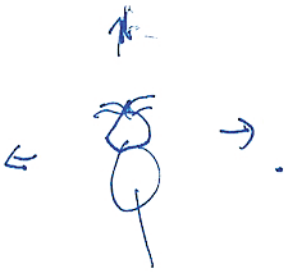
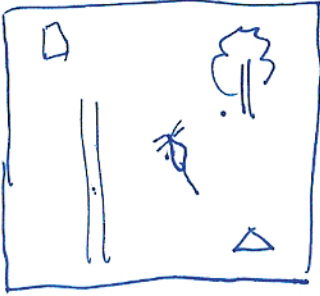
**What we as humans consider 'colour' is only a small portion of the spectrum. Our trichromatic vision is superior to most mammals, who typically share the dichromatic vision of new world monkeys and colour-blind humans. Yet fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and insects are able to see a wonder range, even into the UV spectrum. There's a whole world of colour that humans and our primate cousins are unaware of.**

**While the eyes of insects and mammals look very different, they work in a remarkably similar way. Both capture and process electromagnetic waves reflected from objects or radiated from luminous sources. Both their eyes contain cells called rods and cones. Rods are specialized for low light levels, providing a sort of night vision. Cones are responsible for colour vision, balancing blue, red, and green to provide the perception of the visual spectrum of light. A problem in any cone type causes problems with colour perception.**

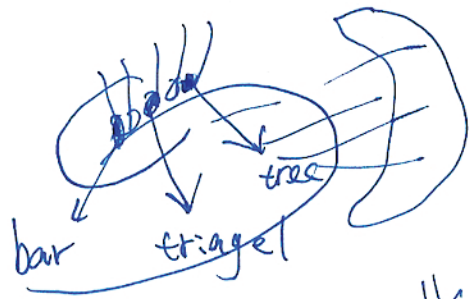
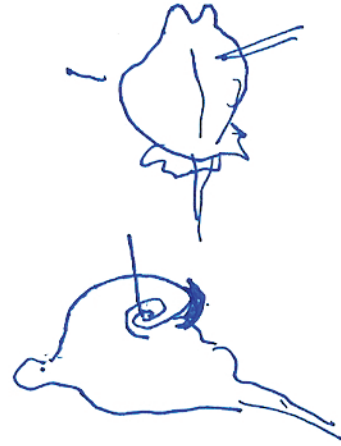
**Most of us sort of know this, but every time I think about it again it feels new.**

***If this is so original, why haven't I seen it before?***





BEHAVIORAL

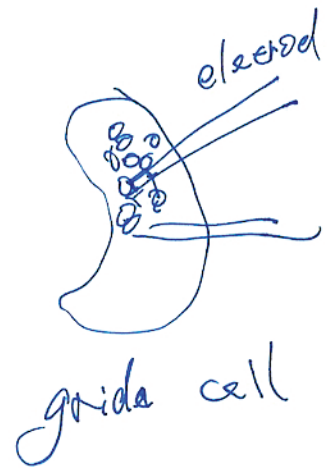


place cells.

2014

2014  
Nobel

prize



**The revelations of science --the empirical authentications of how the world works-- are so astonishing, so outlandish, so beyond belief when you encounter them, that you have to acknowledge that there's a whole new world in the world.**

**When you engage with scientists, however, it very quickly becomes clear that this wonder is the result of toil, of drudgery, of gruelling experimentation, of hard work and intense thought that levels much of art down to size.**

**And yet art can go some distance to communicate what science does. It can help to bring the incredible into the realm of common sense, on the things we can agree on, on our common condition.**

An ordinary genius is a fellow that  
you & I would be just as good as, if we  
were only many times better

Mark Kac      GUEICK  
322

\* SCIENTIFIC IMAGINATION      324

---

The now-popular "what is reality?"  
ground of speculation arising from  
quantum-mechanical paradoxes      366

EMPIRICAL EQUIVALENCE      367  
(e.g.: Heisenberg & Schrödinger versions)

368: Different theories tended to give a  
physicist "different ideas for guessing".  
And the century's history had shown that  
when even so elegant & pure a theory as  
Newton's had to be replaced, slight  
modifications would not suffice.

► To get something that would  
produce a slightly different result  
it had to be completely different.  
In stating a new law you cannot  
make imperfections on a perfect thing;  
you have to have another perfect  
thing.



## **burden of knowledge**

**The atoms that compose your body have existed for billions of years. Originally created by a star, they have been part of many forms before you. But they are exactly the same in structure as they have ever been. So in a very real sense, you are billions of years old.**

**Now that you know that, how do you feel? Any different? Stronger? More expansive? More eternal?**

**It's a "something" that "drives". It's at once human achievement and the most inhuman of existing things.**

**Thought cannot deduce swimming from walking.**

370 What choice, in light of scientific  
relativity & uncertainty, the  
abandonment of strict causality and  
the pervasiveness of war-qualified  
probabilities. No more certainties,  
no more absolutes.

374 Feynman vs RT

375 vs continental philosophy

391 (quarks) at first a way of making  
a simple Feynman field Theory; he  
would INVESTIGATE THE THEORY'S PROPERTIES,  
ABSTRACT THE APPROPRIATE GENERAL  
PRINCIPLES, AND THEN THROW AWAY THE  
THEORY.

**We know that the universe is made up of 85%-95% dark matter (can't be directly observed; doesn't emit light or energy; nevertheless dominates). But the strange thing is that nobody gets excited about this.**

**All living systems --technological, social, biological-- are interdependent, reciprocal, and additive processes where there are no 'mere' objects, and where the composite subject continues to be produced by negotiations among all its enfranchised parts. (Richard Powers on Bruno Latour)**

**Battle of wills    Bottle of pills**

**Artesian wells    Cartesian smells**

**Looks like I'm going to need a bigger Tesla coil**

**I have no idea how this happened, but rest assured, I have top men working on the problem right now. *Top* men.**



If a thing is worth doing, it's worth doing badly.

---

neurons send + receive electrochemical signals

glial cells cater to needs of neurons

↓  
microglia clean-up crew, keep eye out

for injury, infection, clear away pathogens, malformed proteins, dead cells

→ elegant tree branches w/ slender limbs, swirl around thru brain, exploring & searching for slightest sign of distress.

Developing brain makes excess synapses.

Microglia in mature brain eliminate extraneous connections: engulf excess synapses, esp. underused ones, facilitate healthy brain dev. by eliminating weak & idle synapses.

Treatment opportunities for rogue microglia:  
transcranial magnetic stimulation  
fasting - mimicking diet  
immunotherapy, neurofeedback, vagal nerve stimulation, hallucinogens.

**Niels Bohr: An expert is one who has made all the mistakes which can be made in a very narrow field.**

### **Workaholics & Workateetotalers**

**To get a "true" picture, you need to remove artifice. This means removing art. Art's opposite is bulk surveillance. Drones, CCTV, ultra-fast-ultra-high-res DSLR, iPhones, Google Glass. Omnipresent cameras suction up reality without curation. We're looking at the finest time in history to see stars, or anyone, photographed looking like hell.**

**Lars Bang Larsen: Now that the human is no longer central to history – replaced, instead, by networks and systems – we need to reconsider the old question “What is to be done?” It’s never been harder to make your own rules for how to act. How to continue? Acceleration or exit?**

Google Age as a different level of responsibility for artists production.

Lucid dreamers have increased functional connectivity (increased simultaneous blood flow) to the anterior prefrontal cortex and more posterior temporo-parietal association regions of the brain.

Language of passion, language of policy  
eine Sprache der Leidenschaft und eine Sprache der Politik

'woks' - a progressive narrowness of vision

Dreadful epidemic of suspicious circumstances  
main cause of death in Russia

Altersstil Altersstil - old age style

A.E. Bruckmann

late style Spätsstil Adorno

It is almost impossible to awaken someone who is pretending to be asleep!



**Abstract art: how crucial nature --especially trees and plants-- are as a path to abstraction (Gabriele Münter House in Murnau. Seeing the kitchen table "on which abstract art was invented" by Münter & Kandinsky).**

**Wallace Stevens' ambition to rewrite Dante's Commedia for "those who live in the world of Darwin and not in the world of Plato".**

**Alan Kay: Most creativity is a transition from one context into another where things are more surprising. There's an element of surprise, and especially in science, there is often laughter that goes along with the 'Aha'. Art also has this element. Our job is to remind us that there are more contexts than the one we're in-- the one we think is reality.**

**Art that's meant to withstand a critical interrogation and still say nothing.**

friend is brought in to say that instead of  
the other is actually a way to mask  
jealousy of what they have, not in  
terms of wealth, but in their identifiable  
collective traditions & apparent social  
cohesion, which they maintain while  
the "host" nation rots away around  
them. → Fascism is thus successful  
not because it is repressive but  
because it permits & encourages  
our deepest desires to find the culprit  
for our own complicity.

---

Arendt came to conclusion The Heidegger  
was 'idiot' morally speaking — his  
attempt to prioritize ontology while  
reducing ethics to a merely "local  
ontology"

---

Romanticism about Nature as it is rather  
than pastoral idyll. A kind of wonderment  
about a Nature cruel & chaotic but  
nevertheless "owl-like" in its behaviour.

R

**What makes a cheap pigment? Obviously, that it's plentiful. The red pigment that makes cheap paint is red ochre, which is just iron and oxygen. These are incredibly plentiful: the Earth's crust is 6% iron and 30% oxygen. Oxygen is plentiful and affects the colour of compounds it's in by shaping them, but the real colour is determined by the d-electrons of whatever attaches to it: red from iron, blues and greens from copper, a beautiful deep blue from cobalt, and so on. So if we know that good pigments will all come from elements in the big d-block in the middle of the periodic table, the real question is, why is one of these elements, iron, so much more common than all of the others? Why isn't our world made mostly of, say, copper, or vanadium?**

**The answer, as always, is nuclear fusion.**



CITY: repetitions; various;  
architectural elbowing?

COUNTRY: cyclic, but not visually;  
massing, proliferating, edging, seeping

CURATOR: acute professional judgment  
of audience tolerance.

There can no longer be new motives,  
novelties. Nothing new can happen in  
art, art is completed. However, there  
can be a new human in art. Art is  
an already built house in which a new  
human can enter.

Something new is maybe somewhere else:  
in design, psychiatry, pharmacology,  
science.

4'33" = 273 sec. = -273 C = Absolute  
Zero  
(-273.15 C  
actually.)

tabula rasa in which not everything is  
permitted. Intentional sound &  
egocentric actions have no place.

**Der Sommerwind, er hat gespielt mit meinem Haar,  
ich stand am Meer, nur weil mein Herz so einsam war.  
Doch dann kamst du und zeigtest mir, wie schön die Sterne sind,  
und dazu sang der Sommerwind.**

**Der Sommerwind, er wehte mir die Sorgen fort,  
mir schlug das Herz bei jedem Kuss und jedem Wort,  
du sagtest mir, dass nun für uns das Leben erst beginnt,  
und dazu sang der Sommerwind.**

**Der Sommerwind, er wehte dich weit fort von hier,  
und wieder geht die Einsamkeit nun neben mir,  
ich frage mich, warum das Glück für mich so schnell zerrinnt,  
und dazu weint  
der Sommerwind, der Sommerwind.**

From Buchloh - "In contrast to visual modernity, literature, theater, & cinema retained in all but the most radical instances a complex network of interrelationships w/ the representational conventions that modernist aesthetics had set out to displace. By contrast, visual modernity insisted not only on its absolute break w/ tradition, but furthermore on its proximity to, if not congruity with, the REAL, emphasizing its characteristic of immediate intervention within its parameters.

A special cognitive weight placed on the Visual Arts.

Once entered into the public realm, any artistic innovation is a fact to which later practitioners will ineluctably respond, whether they do so in full knowledge of the past or in ignorance.

Operating at galaxy-brain levels!

BETRIEB IM GALAXIE - GEHIRN - MODUS

Yves Klein: The Specialization of Sensibility in the Low Material State into Stabilized Pictorial Sensibility, The Void.



**Work from March 2020 to March 2021**

**All the work I did in Germany --about 23 kilos worth-- is still there, as of April 2021, due to Covid-19 shipping complications.**

**This show contains all new work done over the year.**





**OSTINATO: a painting-mosaic-video-environment.**

**In Jorge Luis Borges' short story 'The Aleph', there occurs, in the basement of an otherwise ordinary suburban house in Buenos Aires, a sphere, about the size of a human eye. When one looks into it, they can see the entire world from every point in the cosmos, with no diminution in size, not overlapping or mixed up, but simultaneously, day and night, every person, every creature, every word in every book, all the seas and every grain of sand, all hidden things, one's own innards and face in the mirror.**

**It's like the opposite of a black hole, which swallows everything, including light, into its gravity. The Aleph is like the ultimate fountain from a spring. It allows everything that exists to bubble up into one bright shining spot.**

**Borges is having some fun with the idea of capital V-Vision. You could never, in the ordinary sense, 'see' what's in the Aleph.**



MICROBIOME = 100 trn microbes living throughout, internally & externally competing w/ pathogens for food & space.

Beneath these writhing swamps of mucus & microbes our bodies are lined with epithelial cells which are really hard to get through. They make antimicrobial products incl. (most relevant to COVID-19) antiviral compounds that are hostile.

If pathogen breaches these defenses it has to deal w/ white blood cells, or immune cells. One type, MICROPHAGES, inhabit all body tissues & have weapons ready to go, but not terribly precise.

They report to the cleverer, adaptive white blood cells known as LYMPHOCYTES, the ones that remember germs, so if you meet that germ again they'll deal with it probably w/out you even knowing. That's where you get immunity & is basis of vaccination.

Vaccination trying to bypass early stuff

**Just the opposite: the Aleph would envelope you like a dream and turn you into a God's-eye, an immanent awareness, like Pascal's infinite sphere whose centre is everywhere and whose circumference is nowhere.**

**Would looking into the Aleph blow all your circuits? Would a first-hand experience of simultaneity precipitate an inability to process? I don't think so. In fact, when a critical mass of people had participated in experiencing this exorbitance of absoluteness, there would develop a new acquired taste. Like those adventure tourists who pay to get themselves carried up Everest by sherpas, getting sucked into the Aleph would become the new 'Being John Malkovich' experience. Operators would be retailing the experience, genuine or facsimile, at all price points. The Ultimate would become stock and staple lickety-split. But what of it? We would have evolved a new form, or variant, of seeing. An advance, perhaps ultimately slight, on the way we process reality.**



& create the memory so you don't have to be sick.

Bodies contain more cells belonging to microbes, such as bacteria & yeasts, than human ones. We live in Symbiotic rel. w/ gut bacteria.

Having right ones around, that we evolved with, is best for health. Anything we do that alters that can be detrimental.

Microbes form protective barriers, also program our immune systems.

To feed gut flora = high fibre.

Microbiome really likes fibre, pulses, & fermented foods. (Kefir yogurt, pickles, sauerkraut, kimchi)

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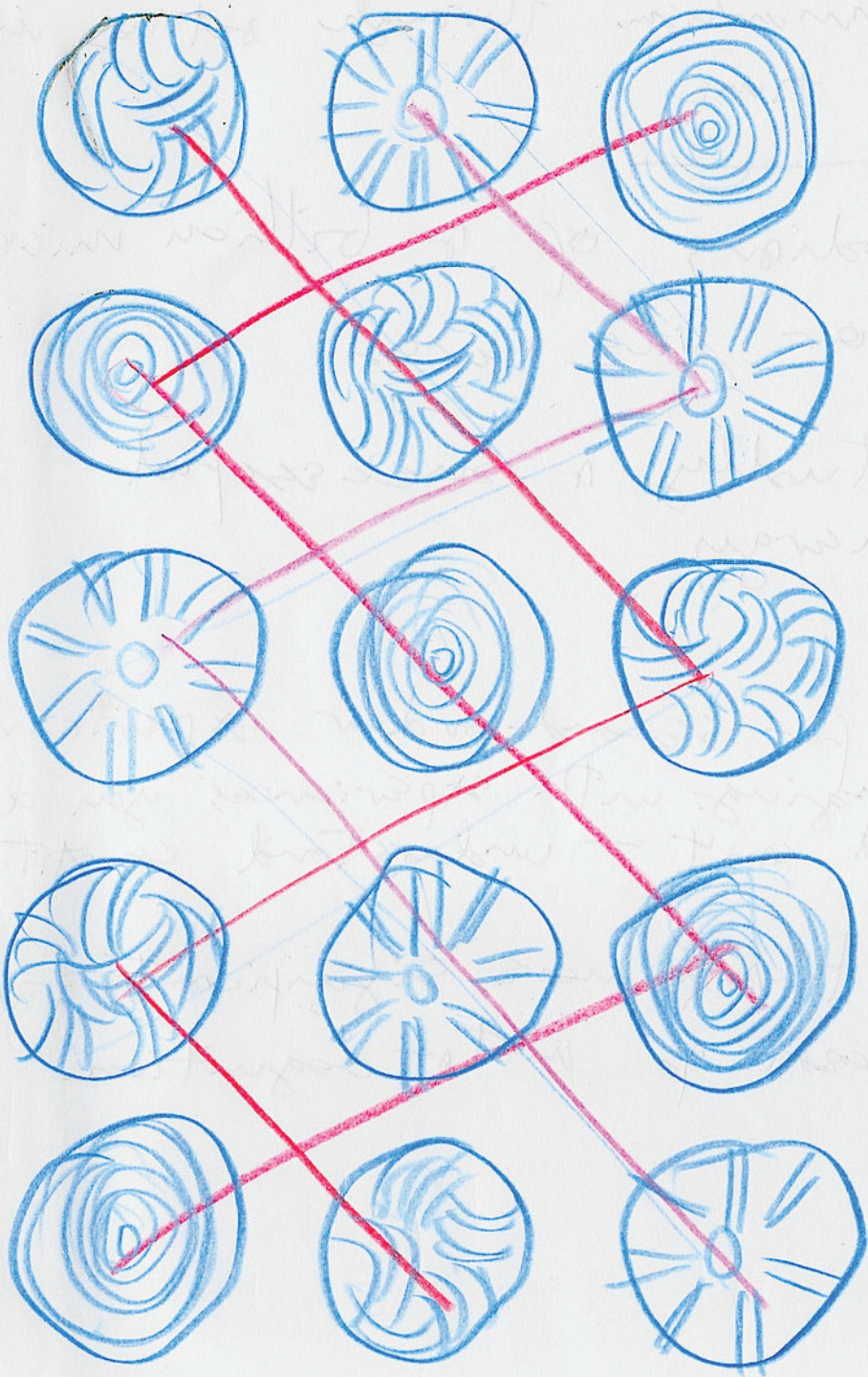
Skin hydration ensured by bricks-&-mortar structure of dead skin cells on surfaces, which are bound together by natural moisturizing compounds such as ceramides. Together they keep moisture in skin & prevent from evaporating but frequent bathing can strip barrier away.



**My scale model video mosaic aleph is called OSTINATO. It's both obstinate repetition and constant metamorphosis. There are hundreds of paintings, prints, and drawings in the piece. Around 56,000 images of my paintings flash by at one-tenth of a second each, orchestrated into a feature-film-length flow.**

**At that speed you can only see the flow, so as with watching a fire, or rushing water, or wuthering clouds, you are projecting as much as you are scrutinizing. The spectacle might work for you as an analogue of the act of painting.**

**When you seek to paint in a heuristic 'do something, now do something else that responds to the previous thing you did' way, without caring too much how it ends up, but instead trying to make something in cahoots with the materials so that you have a fighting chance to make something that you couldn't have foreseen or planned-- that's the pole vault of painting.**



**This is how the act of painting works as a mirror of the mind. You can think of it as a manual-psychological technology which may yield information from or access to that part of the mind-brain that concocts your dreams. We all seem to be in possession of or possessed by a genius-level dramatic impresario who creates entire worlds every time we relinquish our executive position in the here and now. What's more, it invites us to be as big a cheese in its alternate reality as we are in ours. And what's even more, it occasionally does this for caring, didactic reasons-- to give advice on predicaments; to tell us when we're going astray; to restore harmony with our memories.**

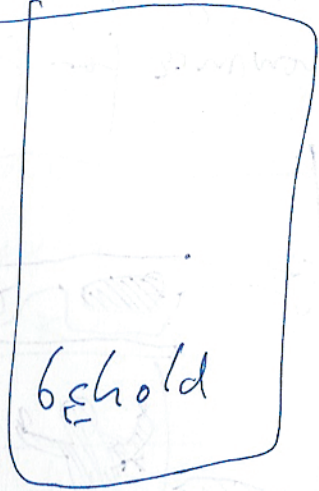
**(I've come to suspect that the dreaming mind doesn't really like lucid dreamers popping in too often. It's got enough work to do, and waking consciousness doesn't smell all that good in Dreamland. The burning tire aroma of evolutionarily adolescent forebrain.)**



I'm not crazy about reality, but it's the only place to get a decent meal  
— Groucho



Attorneys & Barristers



**BAZOOKA**

**LOST TIME** pt SA bands

The HEART'S INTERRUPTANCES!

## **WHAT DOES THE RUNNING FIGURE MEAN?**

**It's a paraphrase of Leonardo da Vinci's drawing Vitruvian Man (c.1490), after a work based on the Roman architect Vitruvius (c.80-70 BC - 15 BC). Leonardo (1452-1519) draws the proportions of the human body as an analogy for the workings of the universe, based on the science of his time. This is pre-Galileo, and just within the lifetime of Copernicus (1473-1543), but before the heliocentric hypothesis of about 1514. For Leonardo the human is the measure of the world. Our world is post-Darwin, Einstein, Planck, Bohr, Heisenberg, Schrödinger, Crick-Watson-Franklin, and tens of thousands of other scientists who have enlarged and distilled our understanding of the nature of the world. It has become inadequate for knowing the universe to retain the human at the centre of things.**

One of the great models in art is  
co-optation — co-operation & competition.  
You have people who are competitive, but  
at the same time they good each other  
along.

The term of art these days in b-ball  
for navigating rigours of long season is  
LOAD MANAGEMENT : schedule  
regular days off to save energy.

Feldman / artistic freedom: "It is not  
at all true that the more one is free, the  
more things one has to choose from.

Actually, it is the academician who has the  
alternatives. Freedom is best understood  
by someone like Rothko, who was free to  
do only one thing — to make a Rothko —  
and did so over & over again. It is not  
freedom of choice that is the meaning  
of the 50's, but the freedom of people to  
be themselves.



**Of course, our subjectivity, our interiority, our relationships abide. But we have a responsibility to widen our vision.**

**WHO IS THE MODEL FOR THE FIGURE?**

**I'll never tell. For a good reason.**

**Paintings have quoted other paintings since forever. A famous example is Manet's *Le Déjeuner sur l'herbe* (1862-63), in which the figures are taken from Raimondi's engraving *The Judgment of Paris* (c.1515), after a drawing by Raphael (d. 1520). When you recognize a motif in a picture you're looking at, there's a mental thrill that is pretty unique. It's like recognizing a tune being quoted in another tune. Rap and hip-hop works are often constructed on samples and quotes-- some familiar, some *recherché*. Picking out the reference is great fun.**

the literature predicts that people will take comfort when a covid fatality is attributed to "underlying conditions" that they do not share, and will be tempted by the quick DOPAMINE HIT associated w/ showing those who fail at distancing. Cognitive scientists even have exp. to explain "declining marginal disutility" that people associate w/ others' deaths - feeling that diff. btw. no deaths & one death is really bad, but diff. btw. 110,000 & 111,000 is negligible. Turned PSYCHOPHYSICAL NUMBING, confounding juxtaposition of mathematical & existential. where we live now.

NASTURTIUMS  
 VS  
 GOUTWEED  
 so they say



+ double  
 Symmetries

Pointing has died more deaths  
 than a cat. It has died of  
 loneliness, & sometimes it has  
 died as a result of its own  
 stupidity. often it's  
 murdered, or euthanized.

**One day, in this our image-saturated world, you'll run into the reference for the running figure in these paintings, and some dormant synapses in your brain will spark and you'll connect the sources. It would be irresponsible for me as the artist to deny you this small but sturdy kick of your very own.**

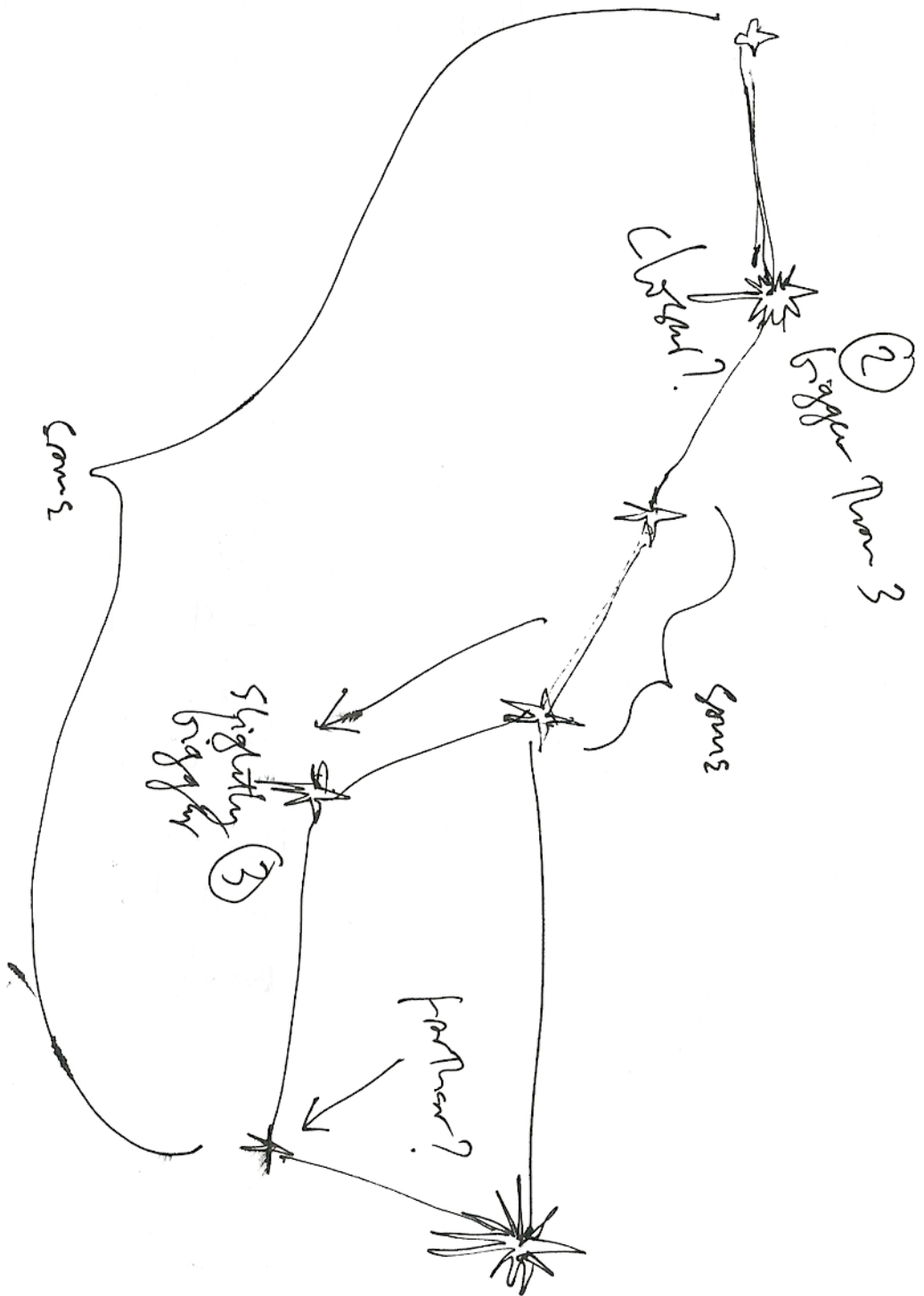
**The Man in the Soup *L'uomo della minestra***

**Run, Vitruvian, run *Corri, vitruviano, corri***

***Vitruviano dopo Darwin, dopo DNA***

***cosmografia del macro mondo***





Count U rowise

## **GOOD GOVERNMENT**

**This is not only, but also, an homage to the 1984 painting 'Good Government' by Terry Winters, in the Whitney Museum of American Art.**

**From the Whitney's website:**

**"The forms in Terry Winters's Good Government include crystals, chromosome fragments, dividing cells, and indeterminate bits of organic matter. Winters worked on this large painting for three months, considering it finished when he "thought it looked like one of those maps you saw in grammar school and it said 'good government' and everything was working together." The work's title also refers to the famous fourteenth-century fresco of the same name by Ambrogio Lorenzetti in the Palazzo Pubblico, Siena, Italy. Partly based on Aristotelian ideals, Lorenzetti's fresco is an allegory of enlightened civic rule, resulting in a content and prosperous population.**

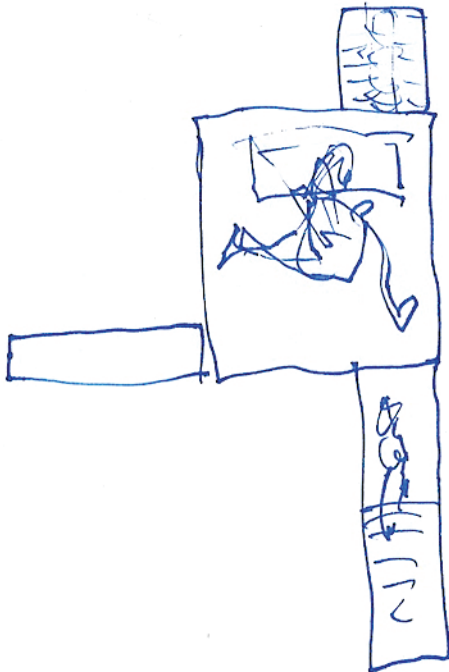
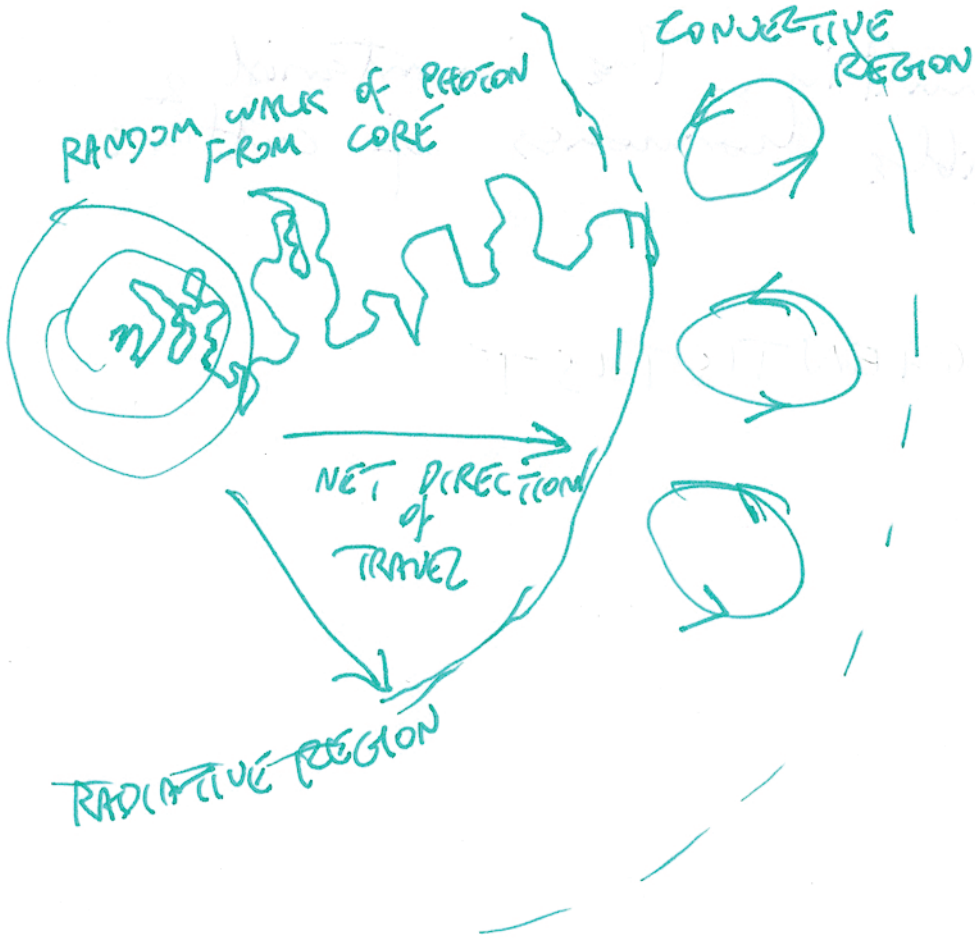






**Winters's biomorphic forms, like Lorenzetti's earlier image, suggest both a landscape and the forms of a burgeoning society, seen from several independent perspectives. Yet according to the artist, such references explain only the inception of the work. "I always start from someplace outside myself," Winters has said, "and end up someplace inside myself.""**

**For me, the post-Vitruvian character operates as the self-conscious superintendent of a body composed of multitudes of living entities that cumulatively make up the organism. However, millions, billions, or trillions of these symbiotic and synergistic entities can be independent of their host, and some, bacteria for instance, pre-date the human being by millennia.**



**CAPITALOCENE - CHTHULUCENE**

**= DOUBLE-SLIT PROBLEM**

**In physics the double slit experiment demonstrates that tiny particles of matter can also manifest as waves, and suggests that the very act of observing a particle has a dramatic effect on its behaviour.**

**The term Anthropocene is used to refer to the preponderance of humans in the balance of earthly life and the human experimentation, albeit until recently unwitting, in the chemistry of the planet's atmosphere and oceans.**





ON 20



**Donna Haraway proposes that the current epoch, that has irrevocably changed the world for “everyone and forever” is the *Capitalocene*, because it is distinctly characterized by the capitalization of resources as fast as possible. She implies that the human did not necessarily cause this mass-extinction or global warming, but capital did. And that means that we need to see the epoch starting at some point before the invention of the internal combustion engine. The true starting point would be somewhere in the human past, not the deep past, where markets, trade routes, and the economical metabolisms of the world were initiated.**

**The *Cthulhucene*: Haraway approaches a definition of the cthonic epoch by talking about the impossibility of existing as an individual – existing is far stranger than a bunch of monads wandering around and interacting. This epoch is defined by the frightening weirdness of being impossibly bound up with other organisms.**

what creative rebels don't realize is  
that being all inventive & creative  
they're actually playing into  
capitalism's hands because the  
lifblood of capitalism is new ideas.  
Contemporary art is like an R&D dept.  
for capitalism

G. Perry

---

All living systems - technological,  
social, biological - are interdependent,  
reciprocal & additive processes where  
there are no mere objects & where the  
COMPOSITE SUBJECT continues to be produced  
by negotiations among all its enfranchised  
parts

Richard Paves on Bruno Latour

---

humans not on earth but in earth

Elvesson

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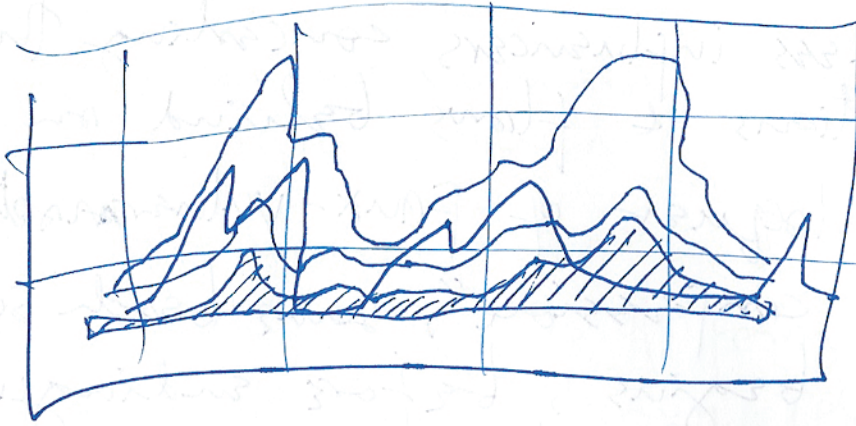
die großen Einzelnen - the  
great individuals, between classicism  
& romanticism - Jean Paul, Hölderlin,  
Kleist. fall between epochs, draw  
from each, but to understand them you  
ultimately have to take them on their own  
terms.



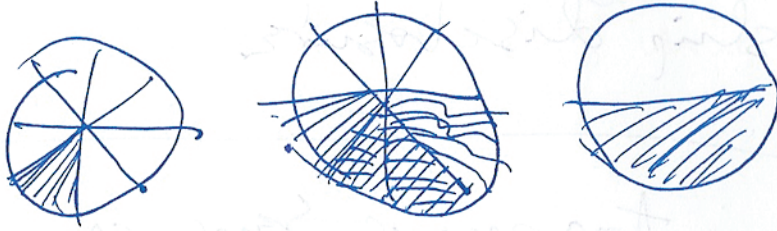
**She says, “complexity is impossible without infection.” Even the self is infinitely strange. The identity of an individual is amorphous, porous, and liminal. There’s never a clear point at which a being begins or ends, and that’s why we are all lichens: a being made up of multiple separate symbiotic organisms.**

**“The activation of the chthonic powers that is within our grasp to collect up the trash of the anthropocene, and the exterminism of the capitalocene, to something that might possibly have a chance of ongoing.”**

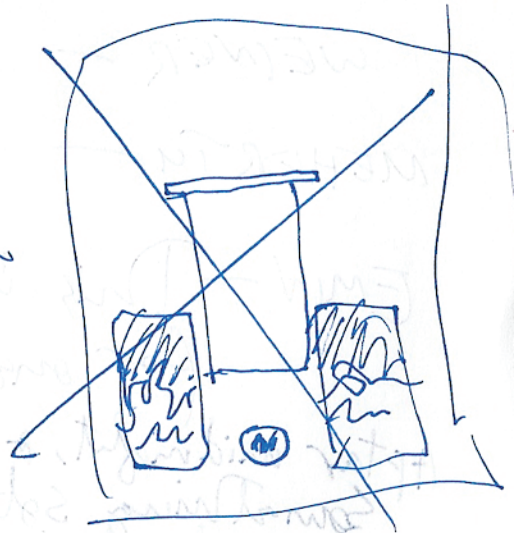
**“Fossil making man burning fossils as fast as he can,” is also under the cthonic sway of alien oil, and its dark agenda. In the Cthulhucene objects and hyperobjects (see Timothy Morton) may not only be ineffable to humans, but also have strange objectives.**



GREEN  
YELLOW  
RED



CDF



**Objects like capitalism catapult us toward the capitalization of all resources and the concentration of wealth. Oil launches us into space and into an unknowable future where it might be very difficult for our species to continue. These objects aren't acting alone, but that much is obvious because there is no alone. Just like there are more bacteria cells in our own bodies, than there are "human" cells, there are many parts that go into creating these large scale objects. We've all always been lichens.**

**--Leif Haven <https://entropymag.org/weve-all-always-been-lichens-donna-haraway-the-cthulucene-and-the-capitalocene/>**

**Chthulucene, of course, has nothing to do with H.P. Lovecraft's Cthulu mythos. Different spelling too. But when you stumble onto a display of ancient-one Cthulu-shaped fuzzy huggy pillows-with-tentacles in the local Winners, you appreciate anew the height of the mountains of fishy goods that skulk the world.**



# FINGER TIPS



WORK



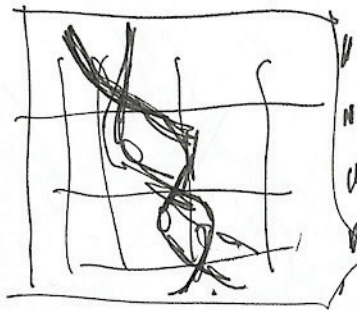
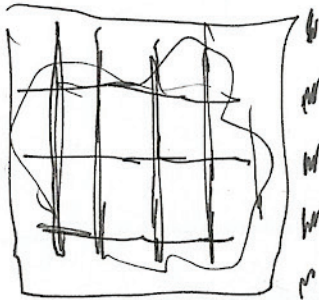
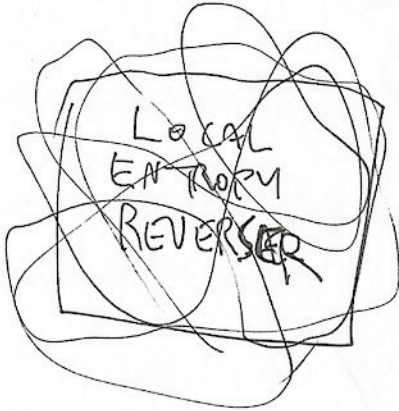
IDEOLOGY



NARRATIVE



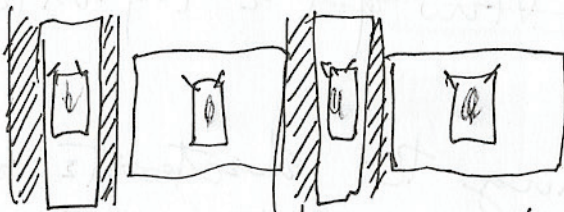
MEANING



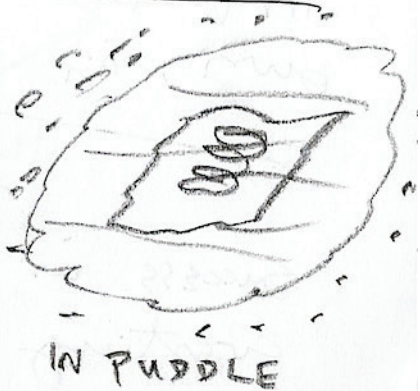
OUTSTICK

# REDUCING ENTROPY LOCALLY

drawing on window



edit to phone/wide screen



## **PHOTON MOUTH**

**Eyes appeared in an evolutionary blink and changed the rules of life for ever. Before eyes, life was gentler and tamer, dominated by sluggish soft-bodied creatures lolling around in the sea. The invention of the eye ushered in a more brutal and competitive world. Vision made it possible for animals to become active hunters, and sparked an evolutionary arms race that transformed the planet.**

**The first eyes appeared about 541 million years ago --at the very beginning of the Cambrian period when complex multicellular life really took off-- in a group of now extinct animals called trilobites which looked a bit like large marine sow bugs. Their eyes were compound, similar to those of modern insects. And their appearance in the fossil record is strikingly sudden. Trilobite ancestors from 544 million years ago don't have eyes.**

tocka = Russian, spiritual anguish

litost = Czech, misery combined w/ hunger  
for revenge

People w/ high emotional granularity  
respond flexibly to life, better mental  
health outcomes, drink less.

with AI exact processes of molecular biology  
will be understood in context of whole  
ecological systems: Molecular granularity.

Trump rally: thousands w/ low emotional  
granularity - feedback loop of mob.  
Nirvana - or at least fentanyl.

Society of the Spectacle, where personal  
identity is something to be performed  
publicly, and therefore weightless &  
malleable, A REALITY EFFECT. It isn't  
reality, but the feeling of reality that's  
wanted.

---

Celine Jones on Glotzer: "A therapeutic  
technique picked up from someone who  
once worked with somebody who knew Lee  
Strasberg's sister"



**Darwin was aware of the 'arguments from design' that insisted that something so complex as the eye must have a designer, and he admitted that their evolution seemed "absurd to the highest degree." But he went on to convincingly argue that complex eyes could have evolved from very simple ones by natural selection as long as each gradation was useful. The key to the puzzle, Darwin said, was to find eyes of intermediate complexity in the animal kingdom that would demonstrate a possible path from simple to sophisticated. Those intermediate forms have now been found. According to evolutionary biologists, it would have taken less than half a million years for the most rudimentary eye to evolve into a complex "camera" eye like ours.**

**Photosensitive patches evolved into light-sensitive cells, light-catching apertures, and the final big change-- the light-focusing lens.**

4% Universe 47

Scientists had known from the c. 19th that if you rotated an initially spherical liquid drop it would become oblate, increasingly so, & eventually compress into a bar shape. Stars as liquid drops - as compressible objects - would become oblate over time.

Earth as oblate spheroid

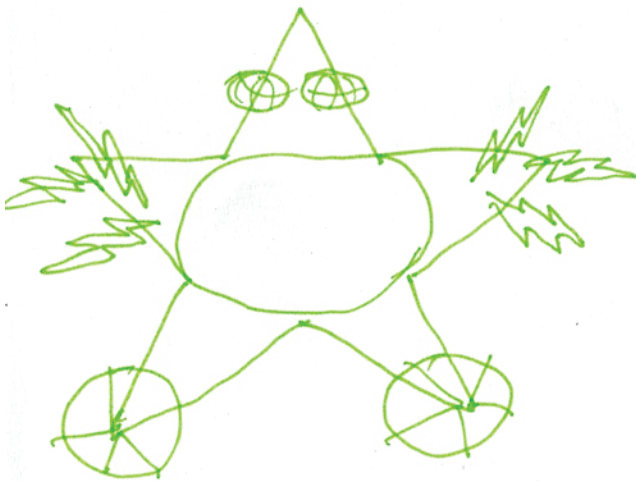


oblate:

Squashed spheroid

Equatorial radius greater than polar radius

(lay or clergy, in general society, while not professed monks or nuns, have individually affiliated selves w/monastic community post nominal letters: obl[ ] or ob[ ])



BARYO GENESIS



CECILIA  
PAYNE  
the SUN

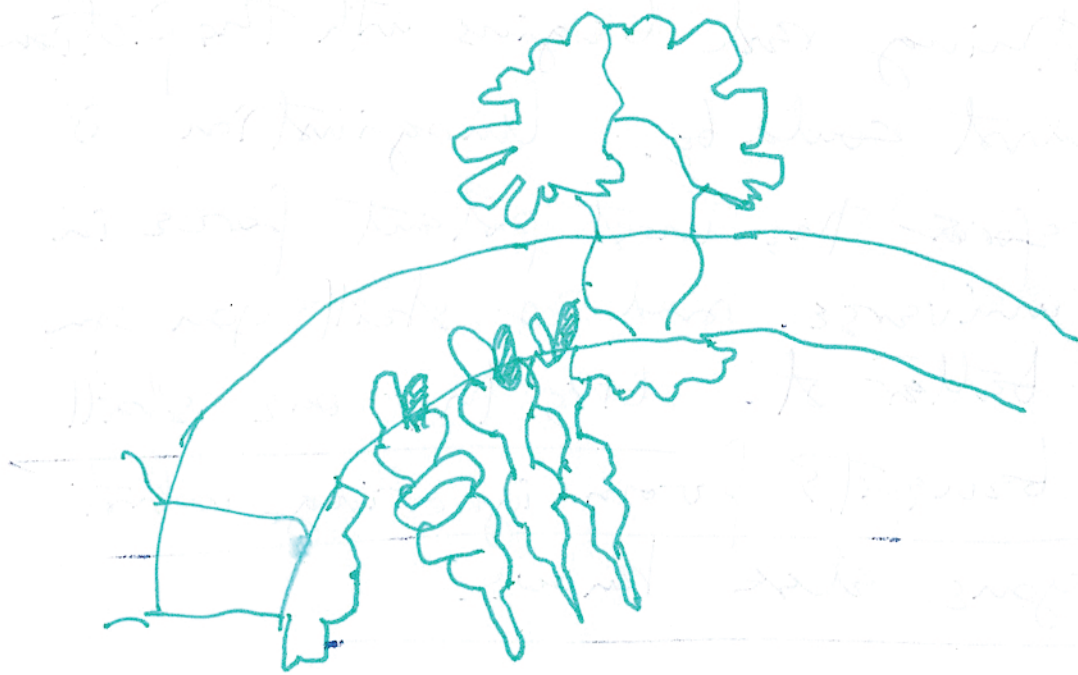
Der Schaumg

~~HENRY MORRIS RUSSELL~~

**Trilobites weren't the only animals to stumble across this invention, although they were the first. Biologists believe that eyes evolved independently on many, possibly hundreds, of occasions.**

**It made all the difference. In the sightless world of the Early Cambrian, vision was tantamount to a superpower. Trilobites became the first active predators, able to seek out and chase down prey like no animal before. Unsurprisingly, their victims counter-evolved. Just a few million years later, eyes were everywhere and animals were more active and bristling with armour. This burst of evolutionary innovation is what we now know as the Cambrian Explosion.**





Separate the processes of creation from improving. You can't write and edit, or sculpt and polish, or make and analyze at the same time. If you do, the editor stops the creator. While you invent, don't select. While you sketch, don't inspect. While you write the first draft, don't reflect. At the start, the creator mind must be unlesioned from judgement.

**In this painting, the post-Vitruvian character is sweeping with the right eye the small portion of visible light that we can see. The entire rainbow of radiation observable to the human eye only makes up a tiny portion of the electromagnetic spectrum—about 0.0035 percent. We see the rest with our tools, and with our minds.**

**The other eye is looking at itself, appreciating the wondrous fact that a brain capable of contemplating itself has materialized in the world.**

**As usual, when your heart's on fire, smoke gets in your eyes.**

Ranking lastingness above novelty is a holdover from an aesthetic of scarcity, predating the age of mechanical, or digital, reproduction.

In to: emphasis on quantity begets serenity  
begets disposability. Quantity over quality; talent & resources spread thin; producers know less to lose from commercial flops. Bingers cycle through more quickly, creating increasing demand for content.

A larger trend in art criticism: the displacement of aesthetics by ethics as the primary lens through which we view culture. And in this climate, there is nothing more suspect than irony.

MIND OPEN, EYES CLOSED

Herbert Spencer — "Survival of the fittest" —  
The millionaire not a  
conquering brute but a product of  
natural selection

E. Digby Baltzell: Spencer served as "a veritable  
Marx for the millionaires in the Golden Age"



## **RACE FOR THE PRIZE**

**The work of scientists entails outstanding drudgery.**

**Experiments are set up painstakingly, and repeatedly fail. They can be dangerous. In a field such as biochemistry, they are working with material which can't be seen by the eye, or just barely, and often only indirectly with instruments. Conclusions are usually decoded from mathematical or other forms of data, or working backward in order to make new data agree with existing schemata.**

**The painting is about the work of turning organic profusion into mathematical order.**

**There are two figures in the picture because the design of the painting is based on the 15th century Gothic manuscript illuminations known as the Très Riches Heures du Duc de Berry, created between c. 1412 - 1416 by the Limbourg brothers (there were actually three brothers).**

PREMIERE  
options is the foundation of modern  
shopping

AMANDA MULL / ATLANTIC

A plethora of Subpar

The most wrong we can do is playact modern success for as long as possible while hoping the real thing happens eventually.

props for this Kabuki theatre, things that are masquerading as more exceptional than they are.

The market has looked upon the people it serves & said, "Let them eat cupcakes"

---

° We can appreciate yet another paradox here, what made this music culture so positive was its capacity to express negativity - a negativity that was thereby de-privatised as well as de-institutionalised.

---

conceptual works that rarely seem like work to live alongside in a casual, repeat-play way, but like statements to encounter and assimilate, developments to keep abreast of. framing works as a pitch to the browsing consumer, not so much to buy but to buy into.

**The individual pictures in the manuscript are topped by hemispheres which function as an almanac calendar, an astronomical and astrological ephemeris, a breviary, and a book of hours. The book, therefore, was a late-Medieval scientific device.**

**The middle ages are unfairly known as the "dark ages", as against the Renaissance. The scholarship of the ancient world was being keenly maintained in the half-century after the fall of Rome.**

**Like 15th century music, 15th century painting looks perfectly at home here in our time, unlike, say, 16th & 17th century art, which looks solidly of its own time. Late Gothic painting seems to leap nimbly over five hundred years and plug itself into a contemporary current.**

**The title refers to the song "Race for the Prize" (subtitled "Sacrifice of the New Scientists") by the band Flaming Lips:  
Wayne Coyne - Michael Ivins - Steven Drozd**





RASPUTIN'S  
POISON  
PROVENDER

gave up  
form

The "I'm crazier  
than you" school  
of cultural  
mashup

VIZ. ISA Genzken  
Rachel Harrison  
Jessica Stockholder  
Rebecca Warren

Early on in favour of inspired,  
squint-like IMAGE CANTRIPS

Rizzolatti; sympathy <sup>no</sup> from heart but  
directly from brain & is registered  
in neurons. (mirror neurons:  
cornerstone of empathy)

Sells on Rachel Harrison: her starting point  
is a feeling of disconnectedness,  
estrangement, & simmering revolt fed by  
a finally cultivated disgust. The disgust  
is tempered by humour; it's gleeful &  
semi-inclusive.

Her work feels familiar, part of a long  
tradition, & also of this moment — what  
Absurdity looks like has to be re-invented  
for each generation. To flourish in our  
current visual culture is to establish  
just the right kinds of connections — between  
things found & made — that are neither  
too literal nor so vague as to be like water thru a sieve.

## **STARDUST**

**"You are a ghost driving a meat covered skeleton made from stardust riding a rock floating through space". --anonymous, and ubiquitous online.**

**We are stardust**

**We are golden**

**Billion year old carbon --Joni Mitchell**

**We're made of atoms that were once burning in a star. If they're atoms that are heavier than iron, then they were once in a supernova. This is a portrait of the way the four forces of the universe-- gravity, electromagnetism, the weak and strong nucleic forces-- act on the 103 known elements to produce everything there is.**

**The saw is the sun, and the brain. As well as a saw, whose atoms were once in a supernova. The figure is in a state of hastening evolution, halfway between fish and flesh.**

Stanley Cavell liked to talk about the two myths of reading subscribed to by Western philosophers. According to one myth the philosopher must have read virtually everything, at least the whole of Western philosophy, broadly conceived," he wrote in his memoir 'Little Did I Know (200)'. The other myth specified that philosophers, pure thinkers that they are, should read virtually nothing. "Heidegger is an obvious exemplar of the former myth," Cavell observed, "Wittgenstein the latter."

Living in space-time continuum in an apparent human body is a bit like wearing a diving suit. In order to experience time & space and sensations & physicality, you wear this world-machine. But it breaks down because it's such a brutal environment. Brutal, living in linear time. But a wonderful place to visit.

We haven't yet learned how to stay human when assembled in masses.  
Lewis Thomas

one's smallness; a single squirrel in an unbearable swarm  
ein einziger (Wandung) in einem unerträglichem  
(sich winden) (wie ein Wurm) Schwarm



**So the painting is full of references like that. The eyes are from novelty eyeglasses, and they were made in China. So maybe that has something to do with the idea of competition, diplomatic role-play, and vigilance, in an evolutionary context. If in your imagination you follow the timeline of any manufactured object backward, it can make you dizzy. The eyes, from novelty glasses in a Dollarama, on a freighter, in a factory, the design and material vectors coming together, the plastic being formed from petroleum, the oil in the ground, prehistoric forests recycling for a million years.**

**So the painting is here now, but in a thousand years it won't be; but all its atoms still will, but they'll be in other places. That's what my work is about.**

**WHAT'S WITH THE SMUDGY YELLOW PANEL?**

**That's a pretty hip move. Only a painter could come up with that.**

## STAKHANOV DAMS & ROSPUTIN NIGHTS

It's a currentless river that asks you to do all the swimming.

CIGAR. TOSS IT IN A CAN. IT IS SO TRAGIC.

DR. AWKWARD

OH, CAMERAS ARE MACHO

NEVER ODD OR EVEN

DRAW PUTRID DIRT UPWARD

REVILED, I WONDER IF I PIRED. NOW, I DELIVER

Understatement in Hyperbole Town  
UNTERTREIBUNG IN HYPERBOLE STADT

Underworld & overfurnished

A metaphor is a presentation of facts belonging to one category in the idioms appropriate to another.

Money - you don't know where it's been, but you put it where your mouth is. And it talks.

The positive element of kitsch lies in the fact that it sets free for a moment the glimmering realization that you have wasted your life.

- Adorno

**It refers to a raised running leg, of course, in the context of the piece. The markings are fingerprints in powdered graphite, the crystalline form of the element carbon, which is the fourth most abundant element in the universe (after hydrogen, helium, and oxygen). What we normally think of as 'life' is based on chains of carbon atoms, with a few other atoms, such as nitrogen or phosphorus. So the smudges are actual human fingerprints, which we know are unique to each of the eight billion or so humans on the earth. In this piece they refer to a small action, flipping the panel end to end, sometime in 2020, which served to resolve the four-part painting with the greatest amount of information applied with the minimum and most everyday of means.**

**Also, this is the kind of visual information biochemists work with. This is what you see through a microscope. Forms that seem formless until you develop a frame of reference to distinguish between a bacterium and a virus, a Manet from a Monet.**

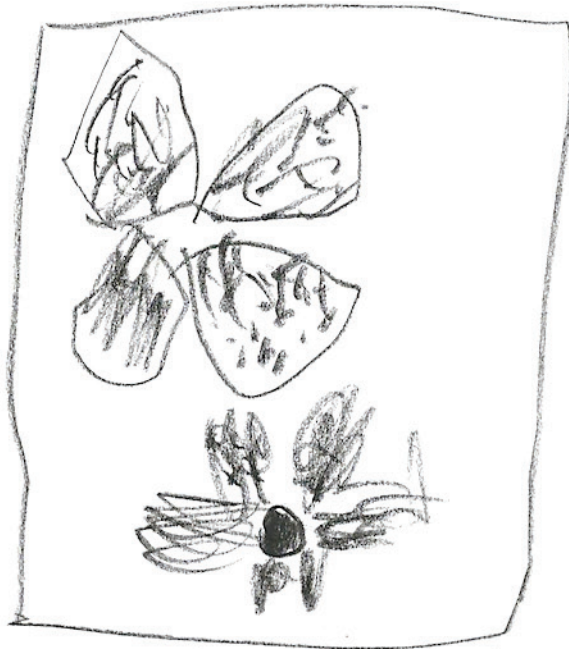
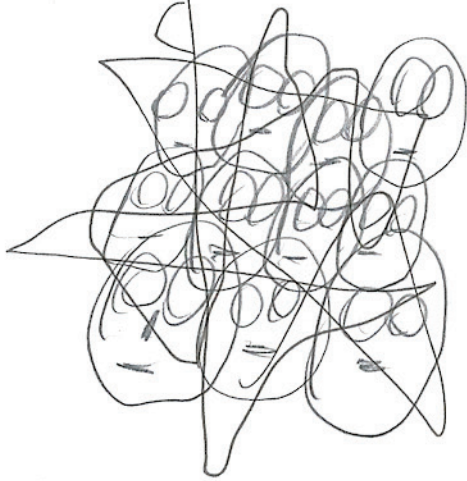


EINSTEIN  
PICASSO

PLANCK  
KLEE

to make sense of  
Sense-grid

CARBON PAPER MENDER



LETASET  
PRABABILITY  
CLOUDS



GROUND  
DRAWING

Google translate  
character  
recognition  
function -  
drawings → words? \*

## **UNIT**

**The self who sets the alarm clock before bed is not necessarily the one who throws it across the room in the morning. Nor is it the one staring at the ceiling in the dead of night, having just been given the heave-ho from a wondrous dream.**

**Until the mind is aware of its own process, the self operates as a collection of conditioned responses always being challenged by one's environment, in the field of its relationship with people, things, and ideas; as well as with our accumulated personal history. We too often ride in the passenger seat of our own lives.**

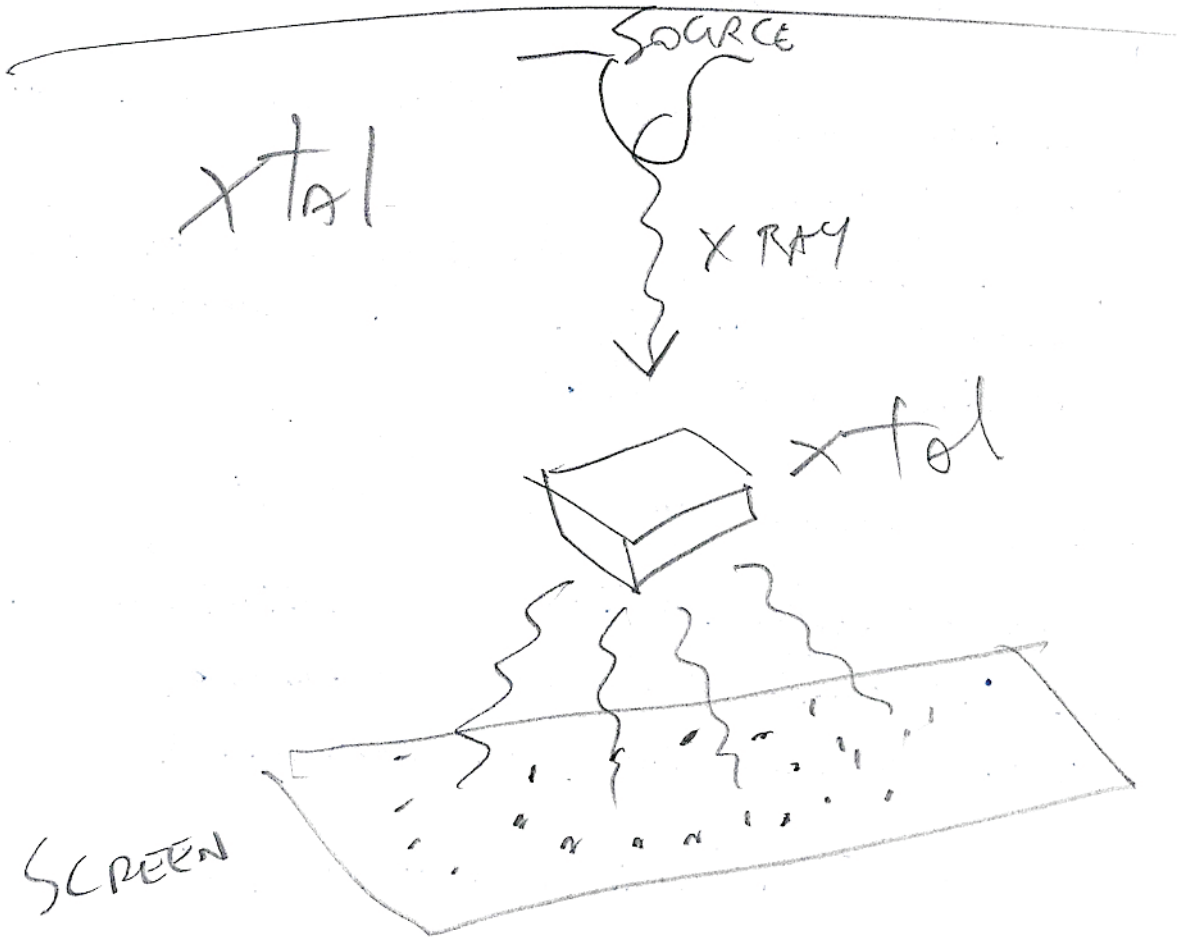
**Occasionally one has a sense of the self consisting of the entirety of one's life, from womb to worm. That kind of four-dimensional point of view could make it easier to navigate the present.**

**Like the character in the picture, a lot of people have gone through fifteen seasons of mood in a day over the past year.**

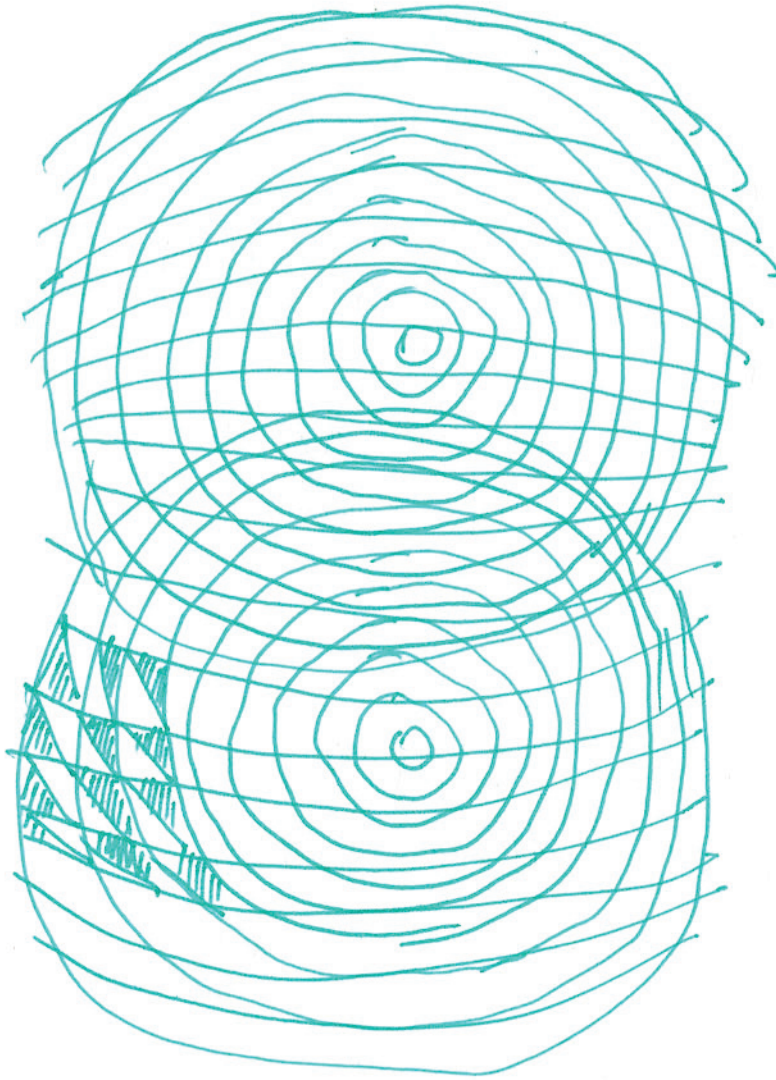
Genes  $\rightarrow$  proteins (Central dogma of mol. bio)  
 $\downarrow$   
Action

protein data bank  
rcsb.org

David S. Goodsell







Swims upside-down  
is still Swims

## **THANK YOU**

**Greg Davies**

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**Brigitte Schwörer**

**Lisa Breyer**

**Dr. Sabine Suppmann**

**Ieulian Iermak**

**Mahesh Lingaraju**

**Songwei He**

**Albrecht Herrmann**

**Thomas Linsmayer**

**Martin Rohmer**

**Carmen Nöhbauer**

**Ingeborg Ott**

**Päivi Naskali-Schrank**

**Uli Schaarschmidt**

**Mary Ann Wilson**

**Heather MacIsaac**

**Art Damage**

**Matthew Claener**

**Else Gebauer**

**Paula Muise**