



GRISLYBITSSERIES

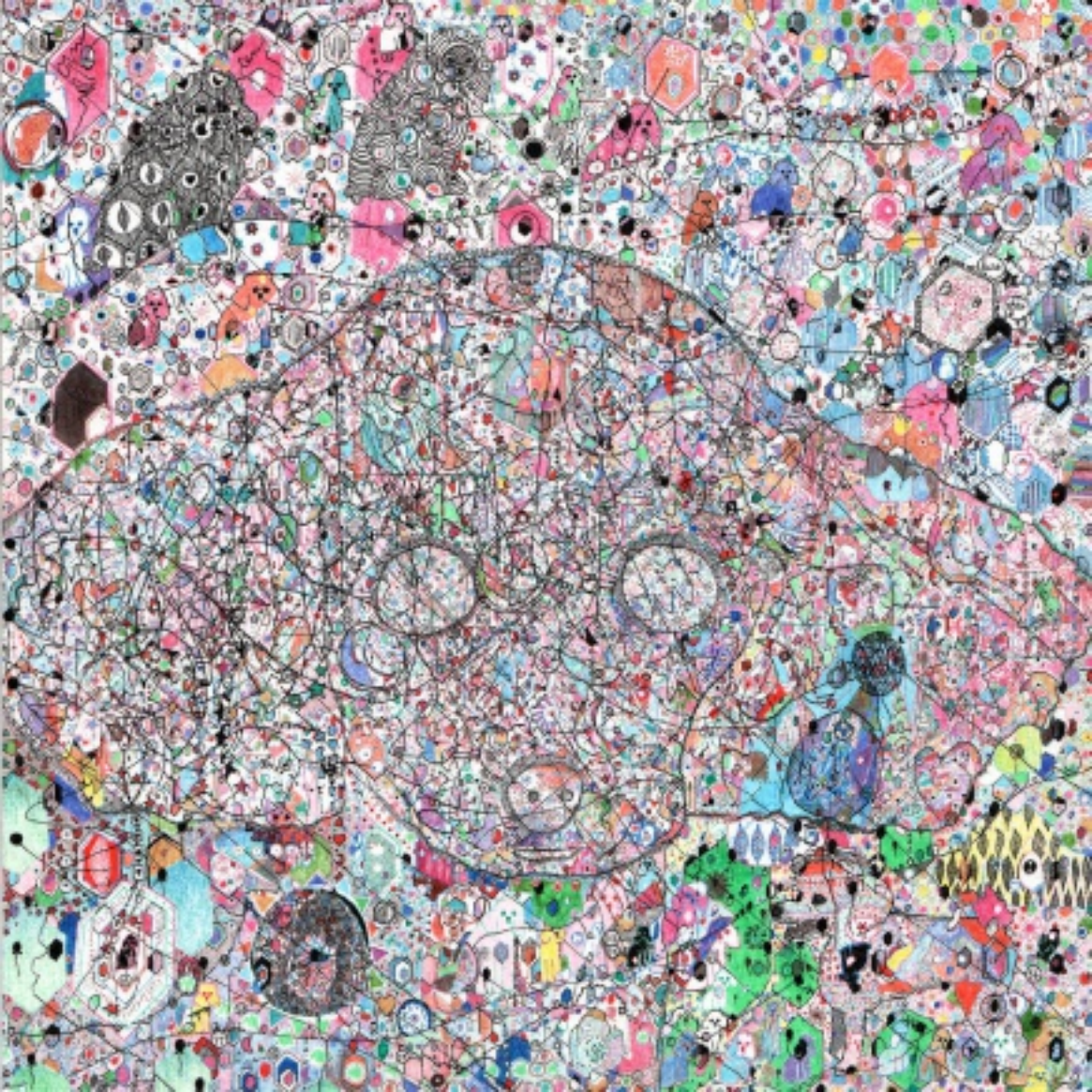
MONSTER

KAREN B. K. CHAN

MONSTER

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MONSTER IS SITTING,
JUST OUTSIDE MY DOOR.
I SAY, I'M NOT HERE!
WHAT DO YOU WANT ME FOR?

MONSTER IS SAYING,
JUST OUTSIDE MY DOOR,
I HEAR YOU AND SMELL YOU.
I WANT TO KNOW YOU MORE.

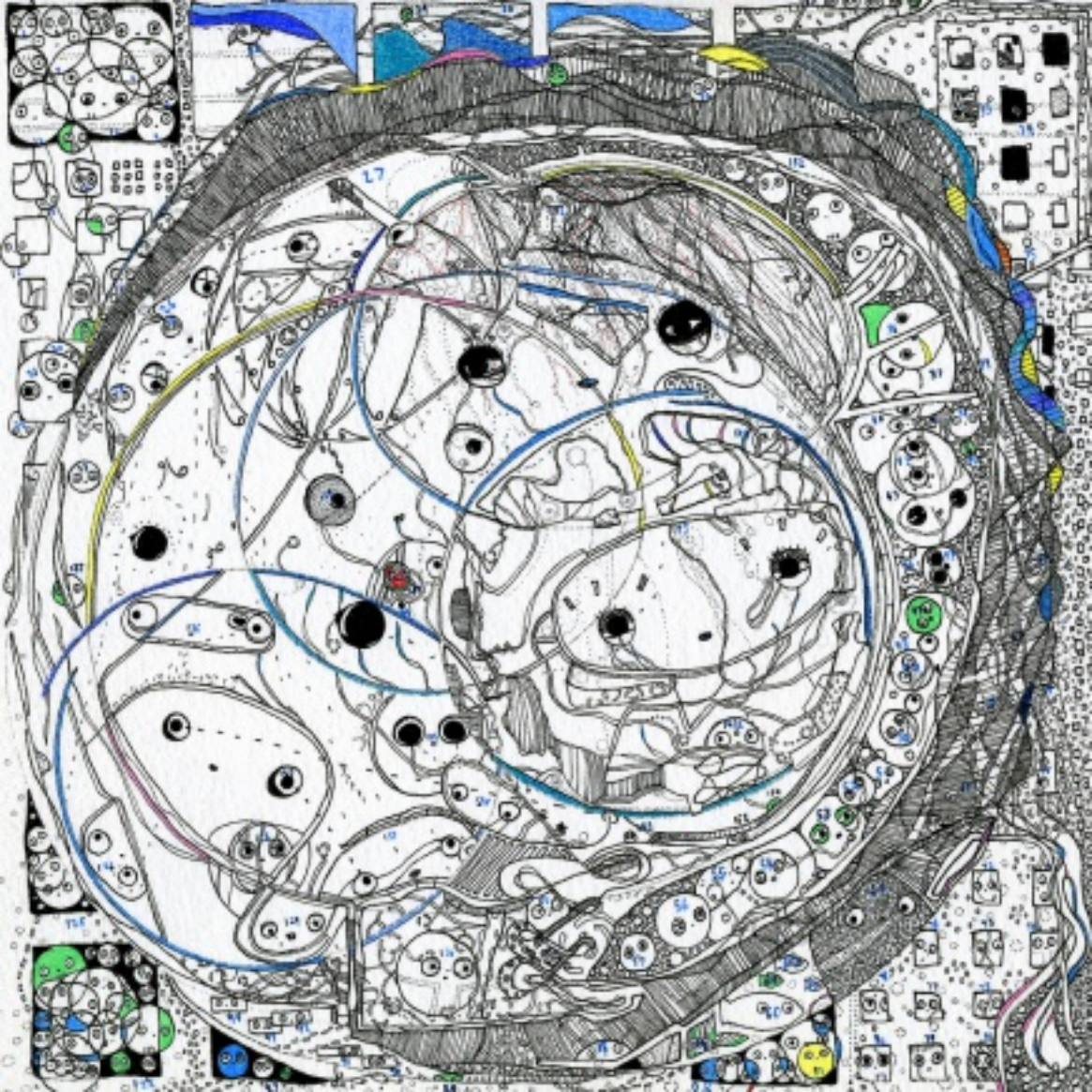






**MONSTER IS COUGHING,
JUST OUTSIDE MY DOOR.
I BLAST THE MUSIC
SO I CAN'T HEAR MUCH ANYMORE.**


**MONSTER BUILDS A NEST,
JUST OUTSIDE MY DOOR.
SHOO! AWAY!
I'M BREAKING DISHES ON THE FLOOR.**



MONSTER CURLS UP
AND SLEEPS IN ALL DAY.
I BREAK MORE DISHES,
WHY WON'T IT GO AWAY?!

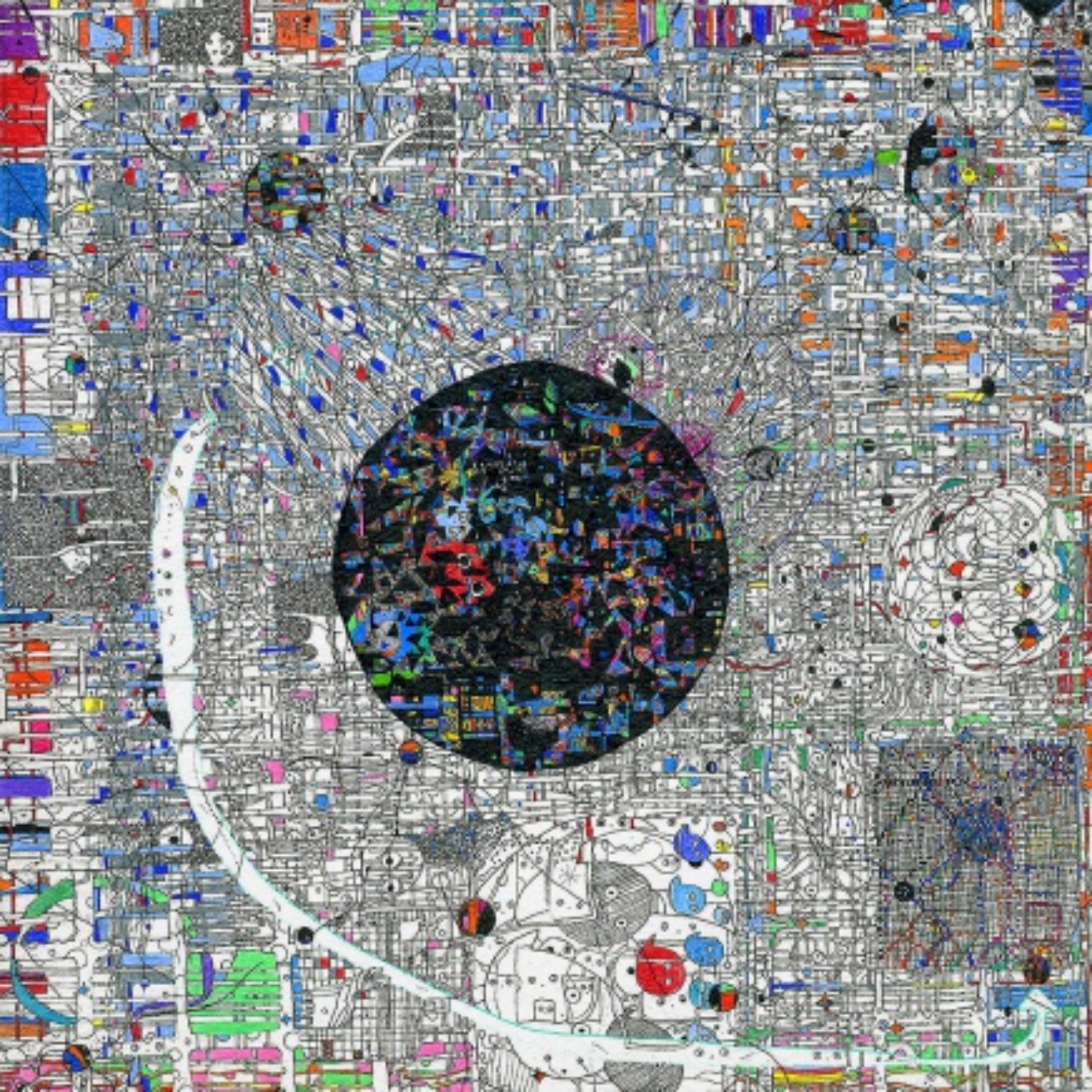
I SCREAM,
YOU CAN'T HURT ME!
I WILL WIN WIN WIN!
I BOARD UP THE HOUSE
AND SEAL MYSELF IN.





**SOMETIMES I HEAR IT
SNIFFING AROUND,
BREATHING ITS BREATH,
SOUNDING ITS SOUNDS.**

**AND FOR MONTHS AND YEARS
AND WEEKS AND DAYS.
I PROTECT MYSELF
FROM MONSTER'S WAYS.**

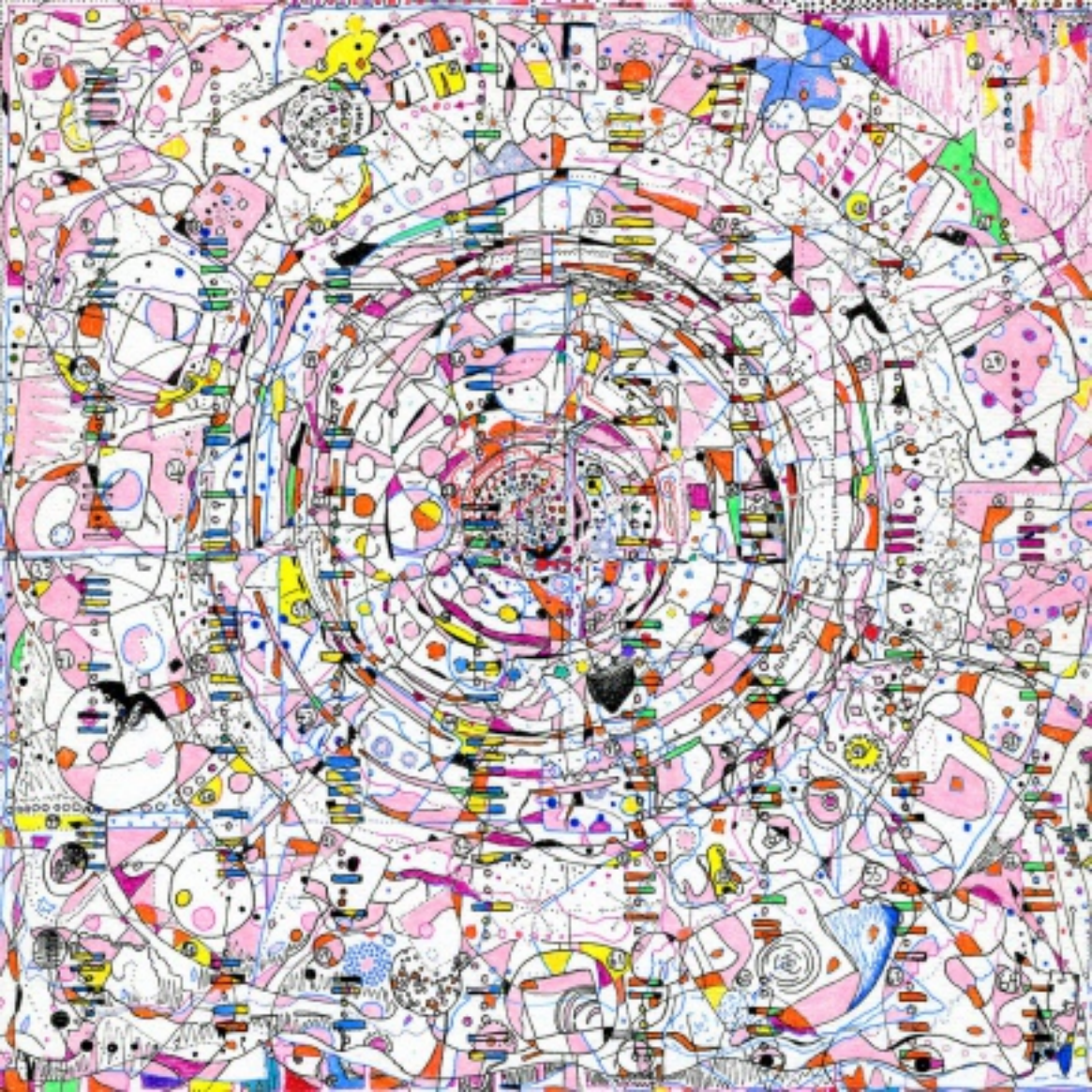


**AND FINALLY,
I AM OLD AND TIRED AND LONELY.
TRAPPED IN MY OWN HOUSE,
WHEN SOMEBODY PHONES ME.**





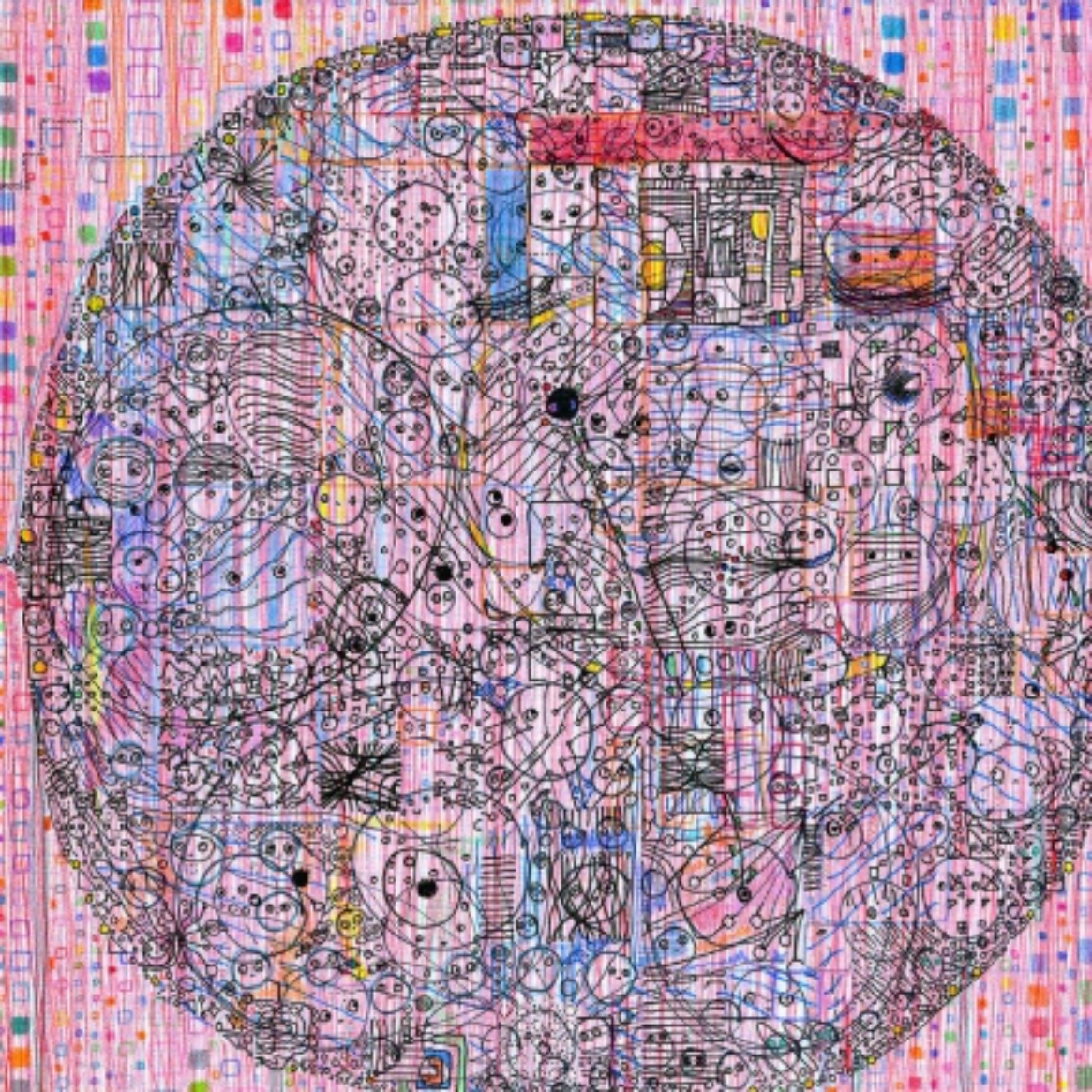
HELLO? THE VOICE SAYS,
WHY DO YOU KEEP AVOIDING ME?
WHY DO YOU FEAR ME
INSTEAD OF ENJOYING ME?





**I SAY,
BECAUSE WHAT YOU DO
IS HURT AND TAUNT!**

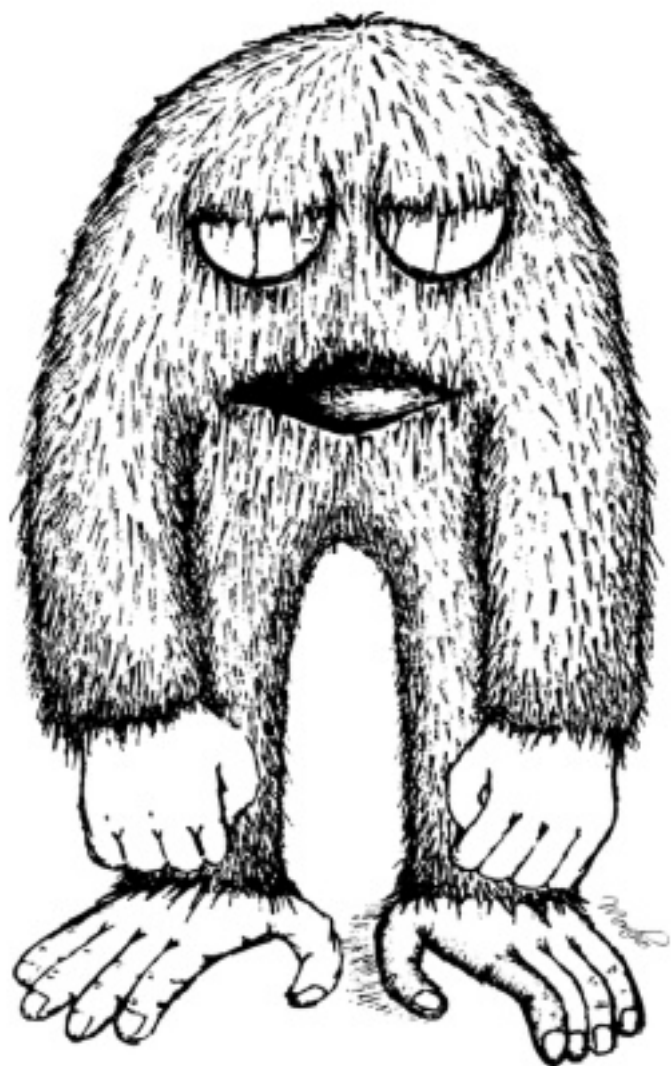
**MONSTER SAYS,
NO NO, THAT'S THE LAST THING
THAT I WANT!**



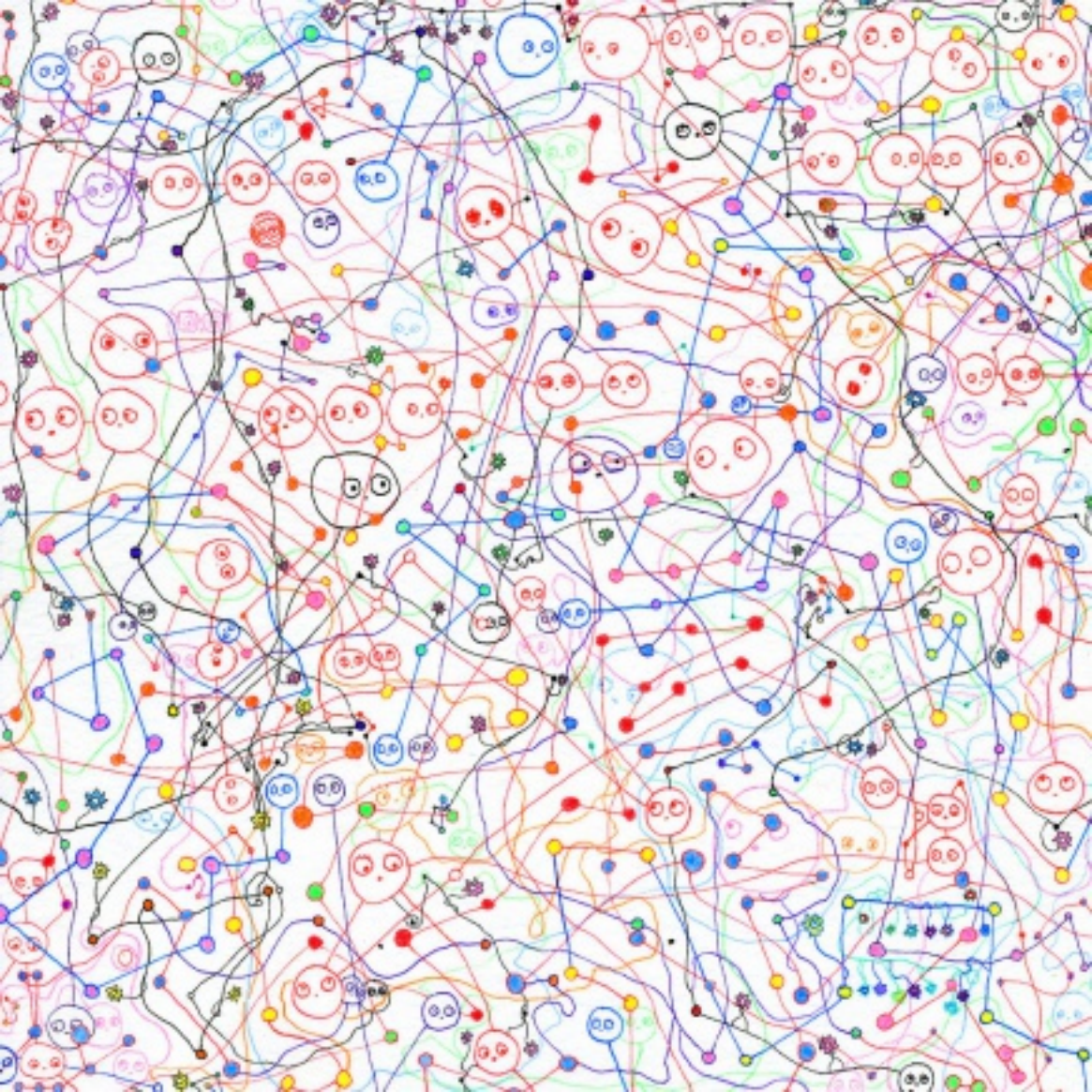
I JUST...
I JUST WANTED A CUP OF TEA.
I WAS HOPING FOR SOME COMPANY...

FOR YOU TO SIT WITH
AND LOOK AT ME,
FOR YOU TO KNOW
YOUR OWN MONSTROSITY.









YOU SEE, I...
I'M ONLY SCARY IN YOUR MIND,
I GET UGLIER
WHEN YOU LEAVE ME BEHIND.

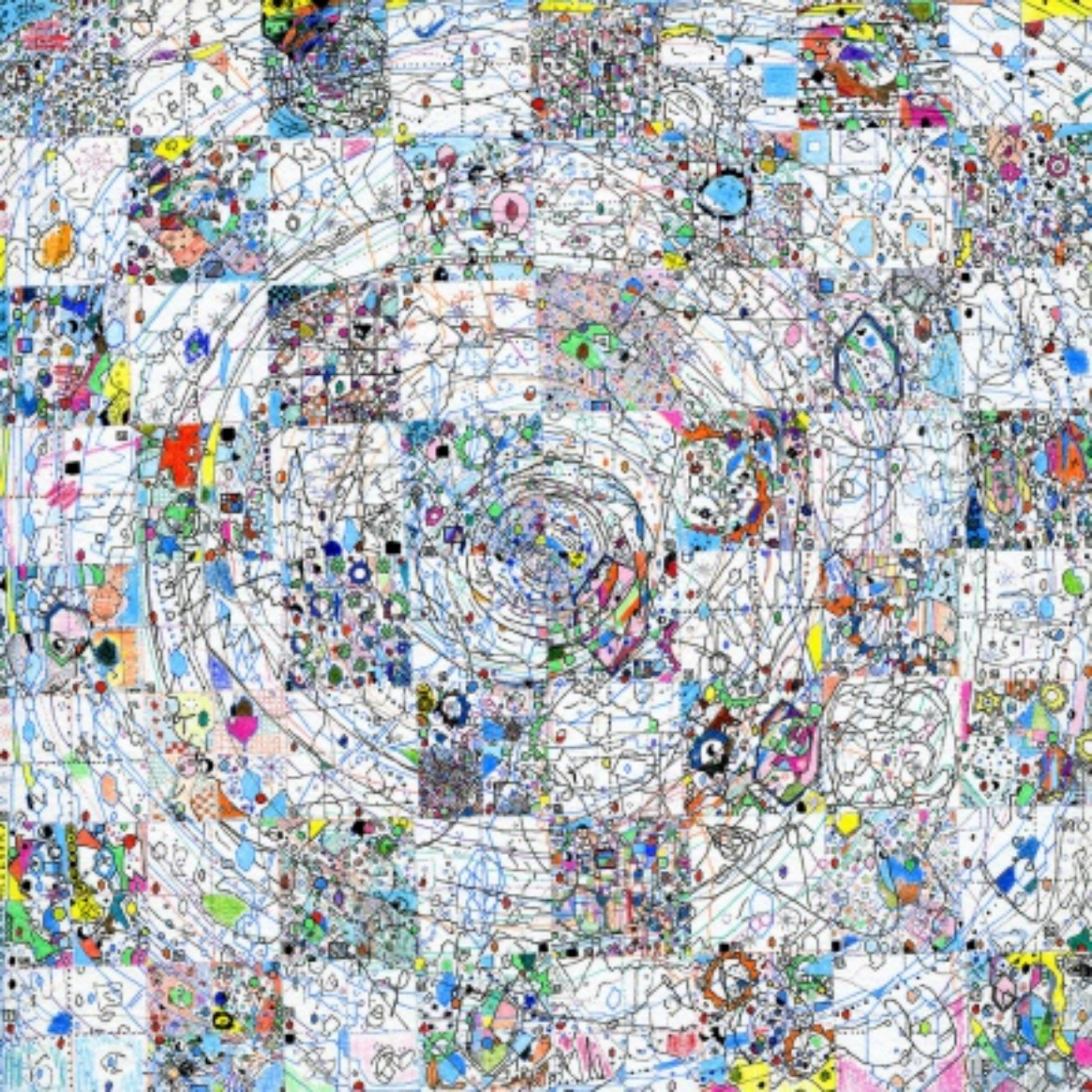
I GROW BIGGER
IN THE GARBAGE BIN,
AND I'LL GET SMALLER
IF YOU LET ME IN.



SO I PUT DOWN THE PHONE
AND PEEK OUT THE DOOR,
I SEE A GIANT MONSTER
WEDGED CEILING TO FLOOR.





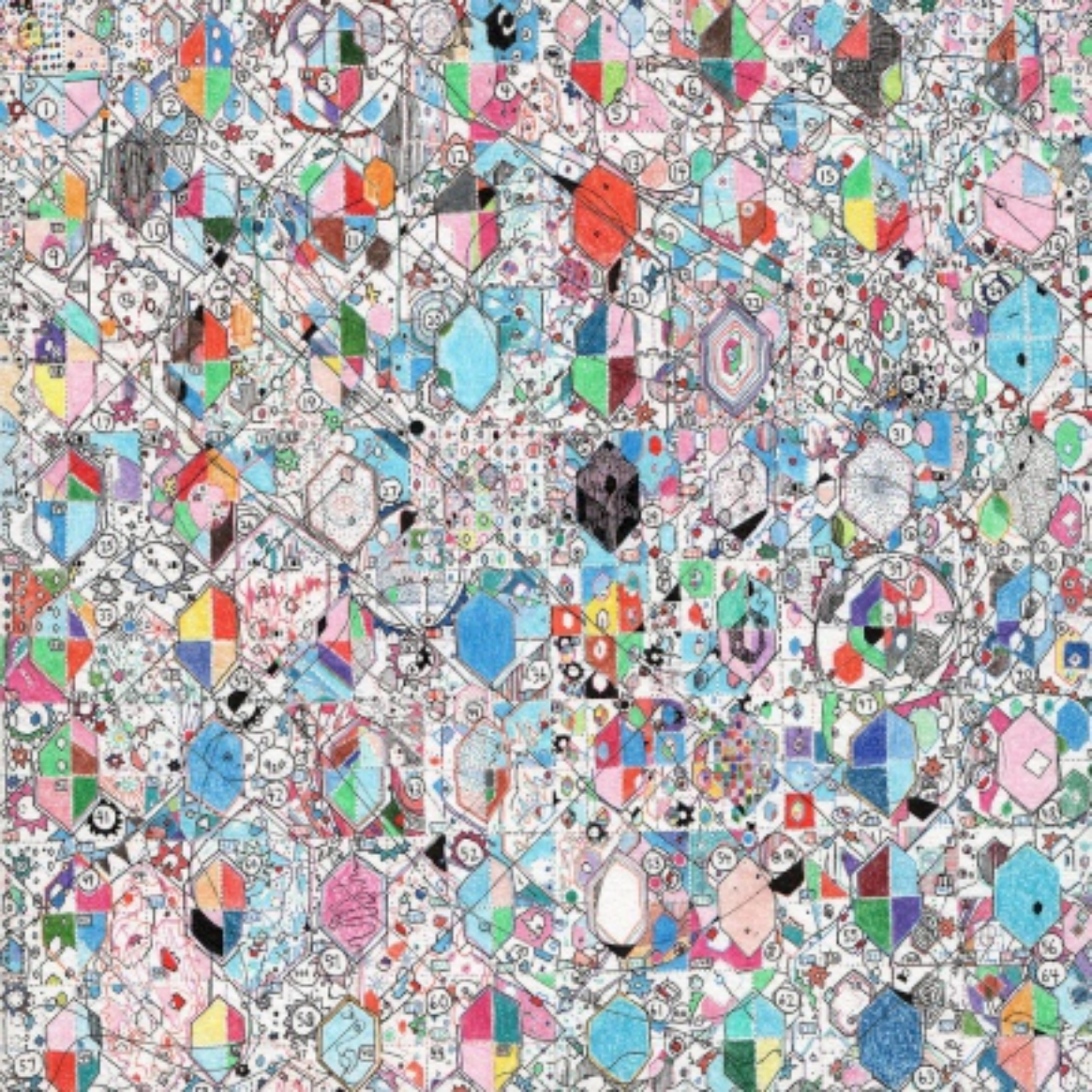




**THE MOMENT I FACE IT,
IT STARTS GETTING SMALLER,
WITHIN A FEW MINUTES,
IT'S ME WHO IS TALLER.**

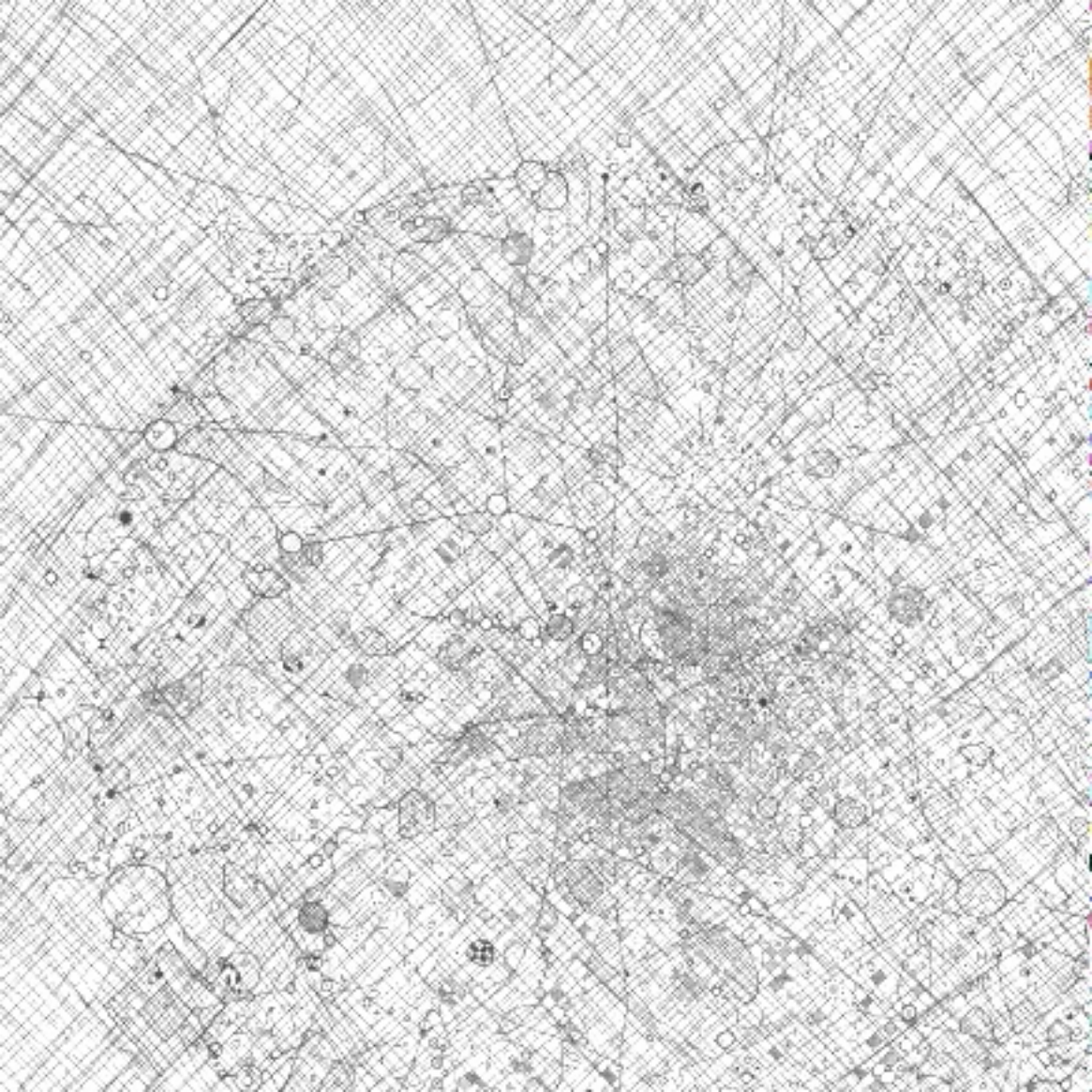


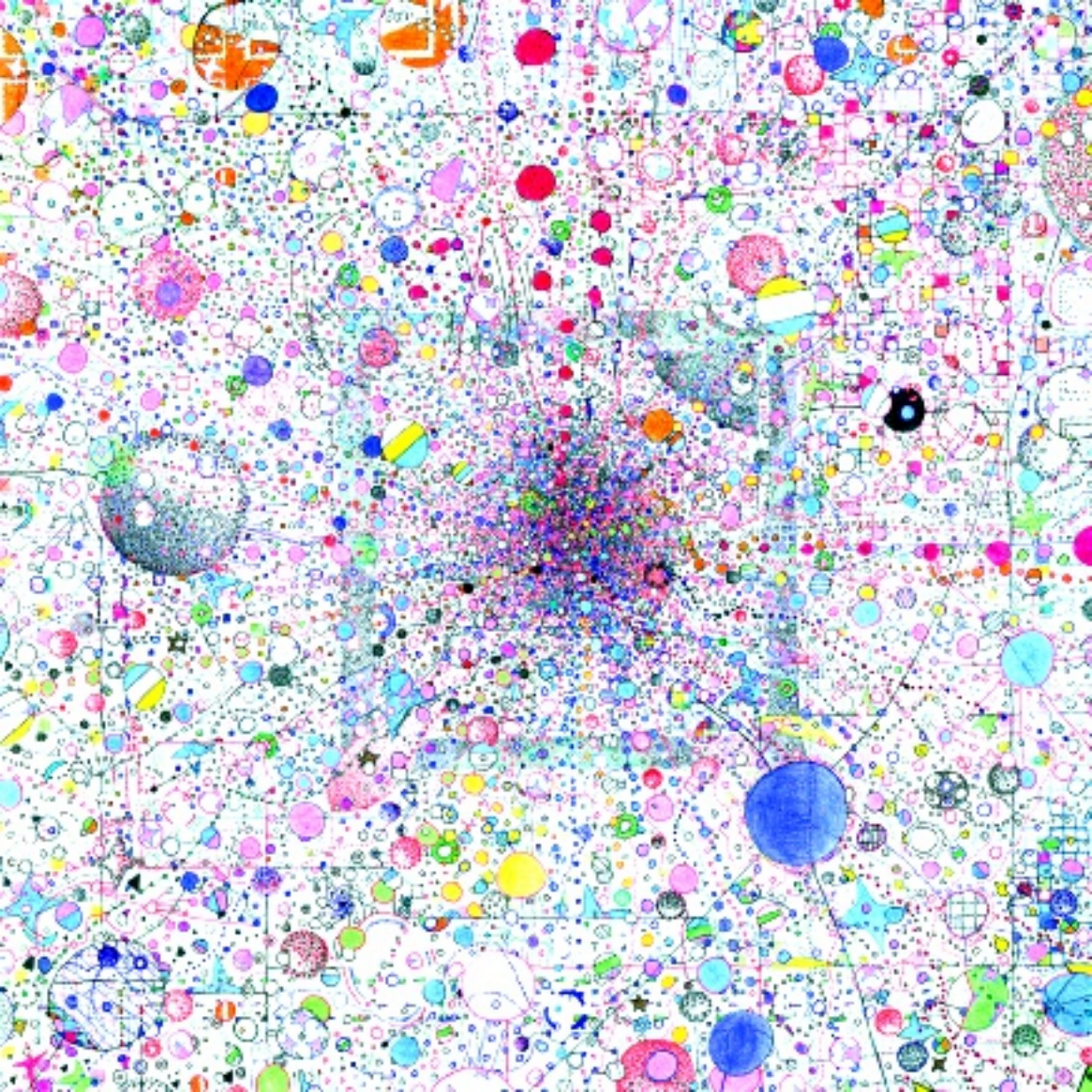


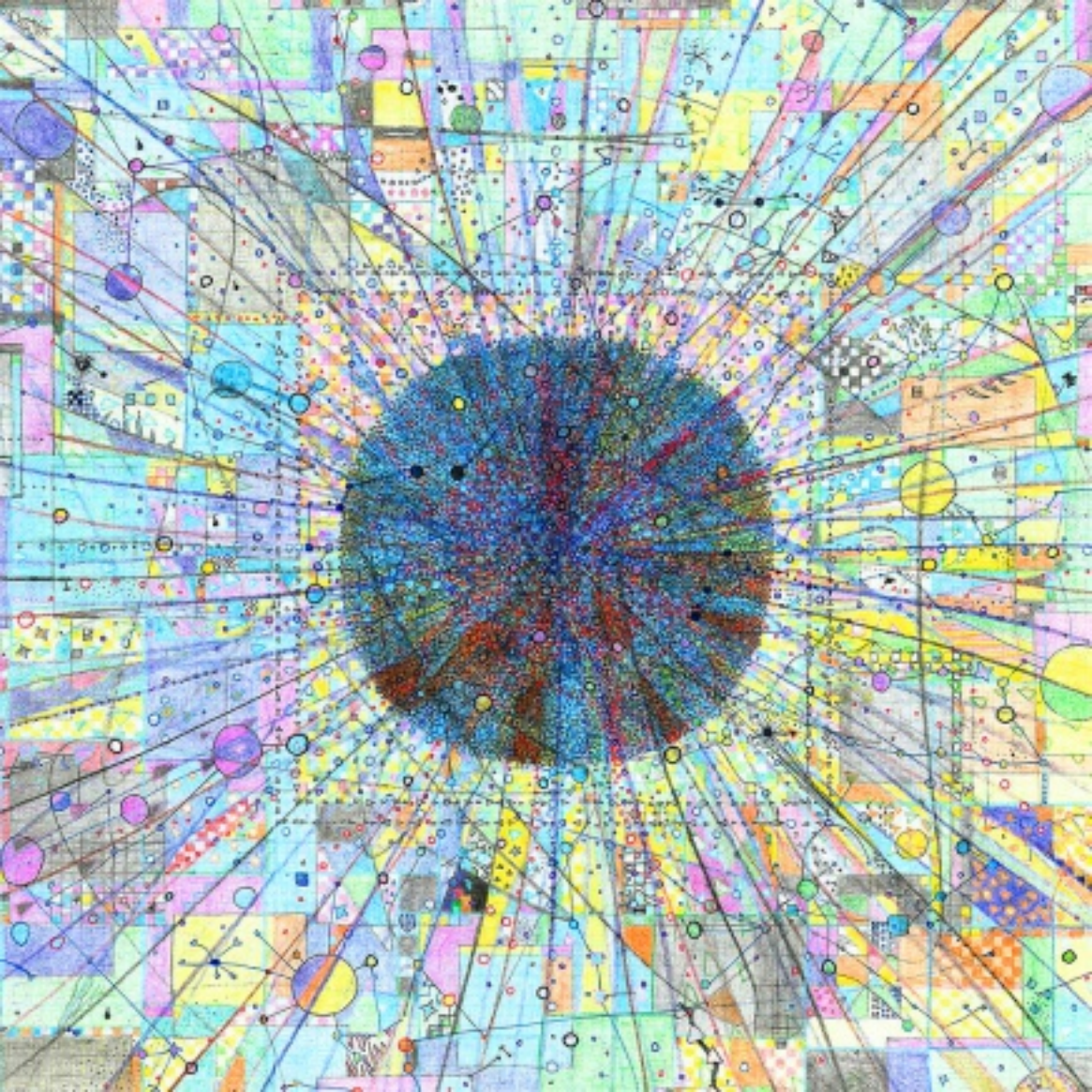




IT HAS PURPLE FUR,
THIRTEEN TEETH,
A TUFT OF ORANGE WHISKERS,
HOW 'BOUT WE BE FRIENDS?
IT ASKS IN A WHISPER.









I SAID YES.

WHAT ARE THE MONSTERS IN YOUR LIFE YOU
MIGHT BEFRIEND?

WHAT ARE WAYS YOU BLOCK THE MONSTERS OUT,
AVOID THEM, TRY TO BEAT THEM, OR PRETEND
THEY DON'T EXIST?

HOW DO YOUR MONSTERS REFLECT AND MIRROR
YOU?

HOW DO YOU INVITE MONSTERS IN FOR TEA?

HOW DO YOU FIND THE COURAGE TO SAY "YES"?

DEDICATED TO BRIGID TIERNEY
FOR THE FEROCITY & ENDLESS WISDOM
OF HER LOVE

ALL ART SOURCED FROM THE PUBLIC DOMAIN.

1. GREEN MONSTER FROM WIKIPEDIA COMMONS
2. ALL MANADLAS BY TAO LIN
3. BLACK & WHITE MONSTER ON P.18- 19 BY GDJ
4. BLUE & RED SWIRL ON P.28-29 BY FONS
HEIJNSBROEK

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