



HOLLOW

John O'Donnell

EARTH









PRINTS

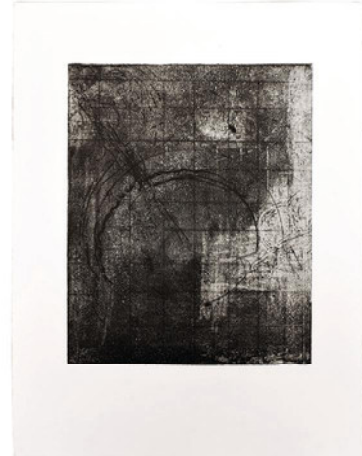


“an elaborate labyrinth decorated with mazes of gems.”

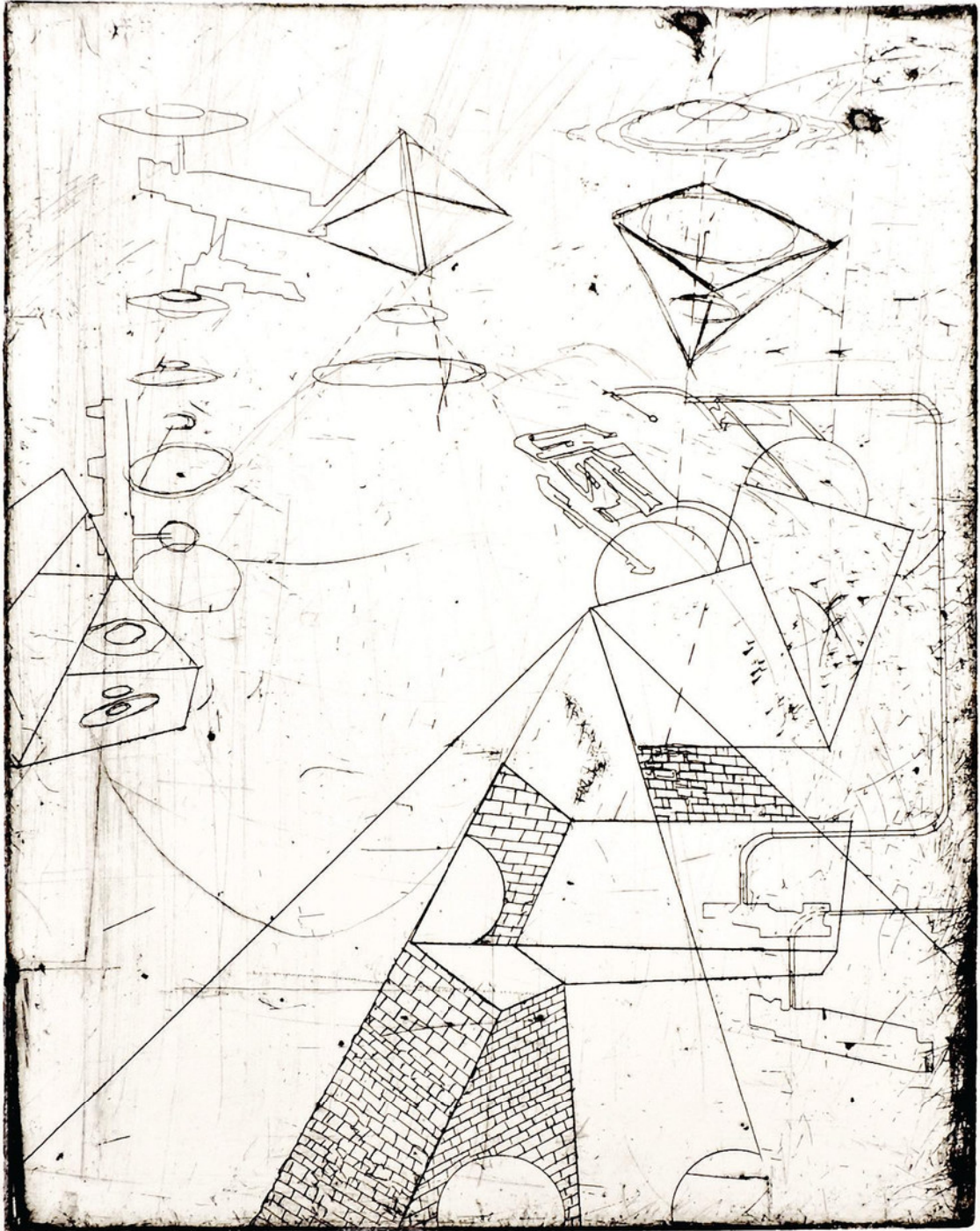
**Q:** Hollow Earth was one of your pieces that played around with scientific theories and art. What was your inspiration?

**A:** Antique science, where so much of science was imagination plus philosophy and assumptions. I'm interested in the whole different ways we come to understand ourselves in the world and how that's always evolving. It's this idea of science vs. art, which is something I've been kinda preoccupied with lately. We worship art from the past, we love greek statues, roman architecture, and cave paintings, but we laugh at science of the past. 'Can you believe people thought the Sun revolved

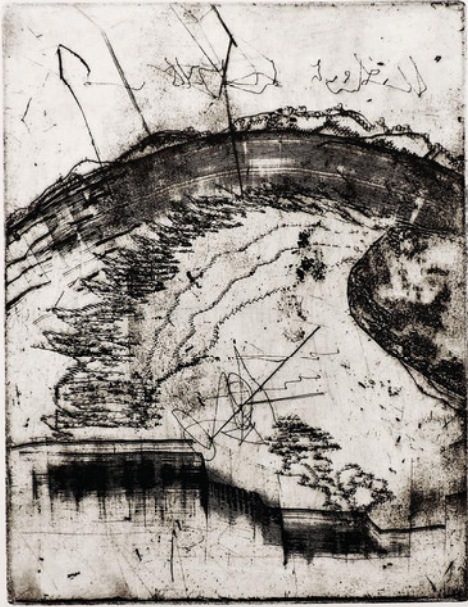
around the Earth? That's stupid. Can you believe people didn't know what germs were?' We spend so much of our time almost making fun of the art of the present and worshiping the science of the present, but when we look back at civilization – we worship the art and dismiss the science. It's something I think about all the time. There's something very different about art and science, but something very similar at the same time.











I have been using ideas of the Hollow Earth to guide my recent projects. These ideas are interesting to me for many reasons: the large amount of scientific illustrations that exist, representations in art history, the parallels with religious ideology and conspiracy theories. Edmond Halley, famous for the comet he identified, wrote at length about the Hollow Earth, along with many other members of the scientific community. Dante's Inferno is set within the center of the earth, and several artists throughout-





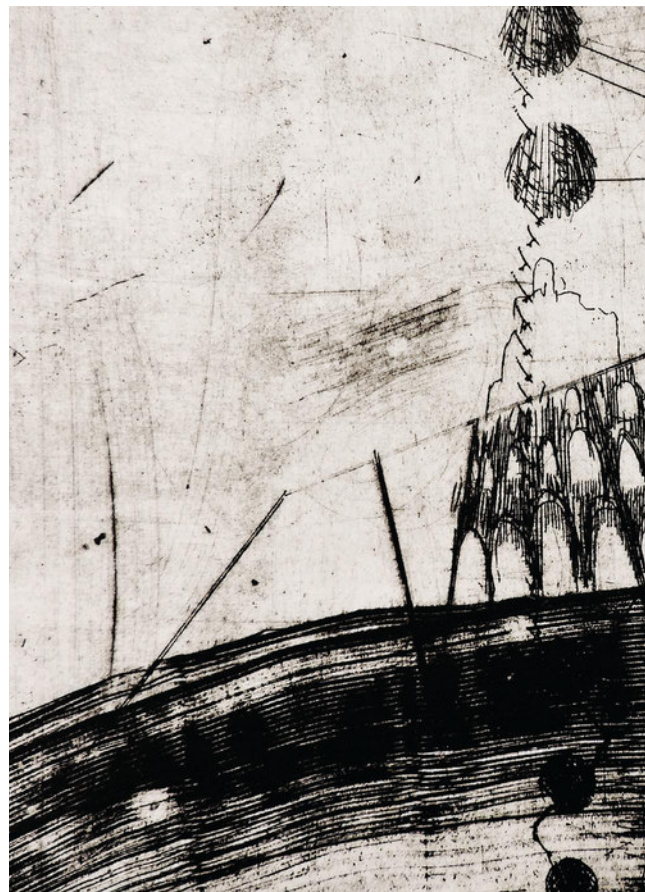




history have created many compelling works in response to the visuals portrayed in the text. I was raised Catholic and consequently spend most of my childhood believing that hell existed within the earth, and I am curious to use images from my childhood imagination to develop ideas addressing the representation of an underworld. I am also interested in the large variety of conspiracy theories that rely on the reality of a Hollow Earth. Amazing and ridiculous images emerge from these conspiracy theories: a

race of subterranean aliens, UFO docking stations, reptilian humanoids and many other bizarre manifestations of life. I am interested in using conspiracy theories as a vehicle to create my art and cultivate ideas because of the methods conspiracy theorists use to persuade readers and viewers.

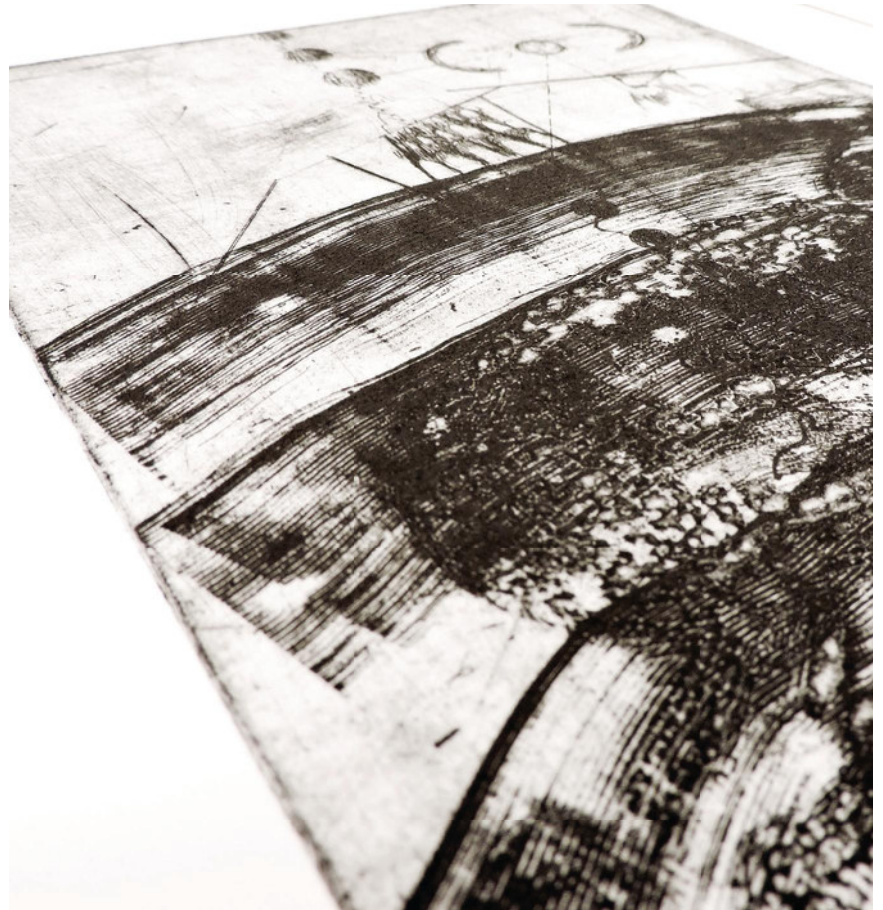
4. What kinds of experiences or influences brought you to the materials/mediums of art that you work with?





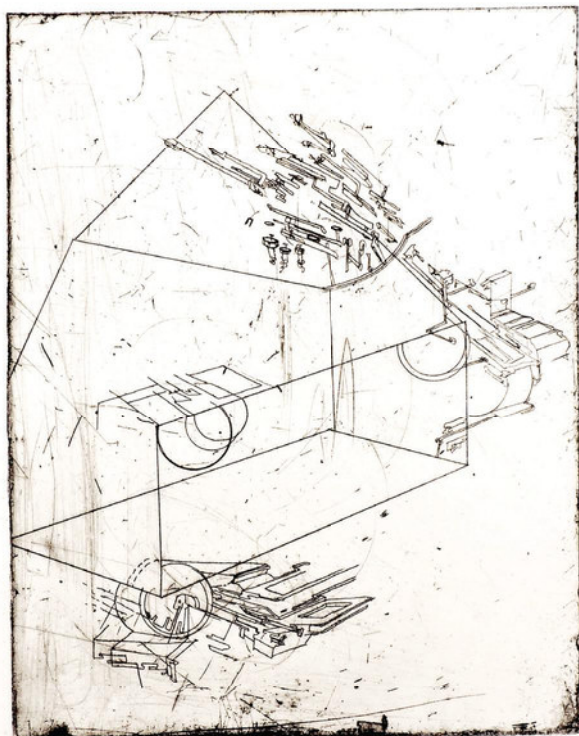
I grew up in Montana. I was born in 1981 and graduated high school in 1999. I honestly feel like every single cultural and societal thing I encountered during that time has influenced me. I grew up in a very small bubble. Pre-internet Montana was so isolated at the time, I didn't really know a lot about the world until I moved away for college. I left Montana at age 17, I was a sponge and began to absorb everything around me, good and bad, I took it all in and now when I make art, fragments of all of my experiences combine to build things I have never seen before.

I will always be a product of culturally isolated upbringing, which has made me obsessed with esoteric knowledge and popular culture.





More about Hollow Earth:

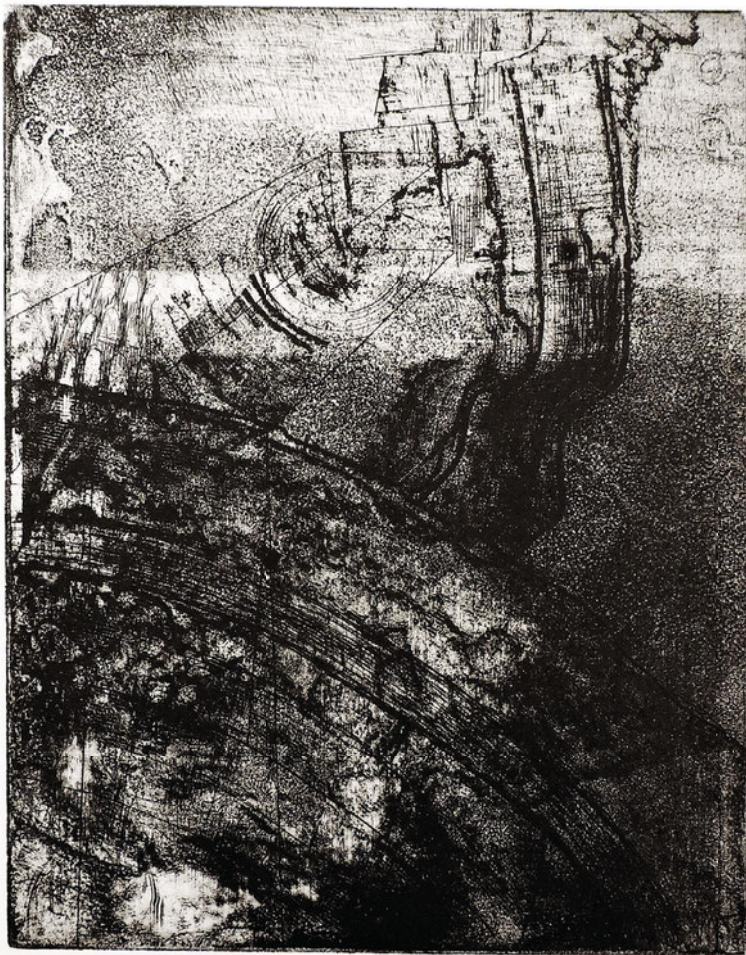


The Hollow Earth hypothesis suggests that the planet earth contains large empty interior and variety of subterranean realms. It has been the topic of scientific inquiry since the 17th century and a substantial amount of writings have been generated in response to the idea. This concept has been investigated by religion, science, science fiction, literature, folklore, mythology and conspiracy theory.

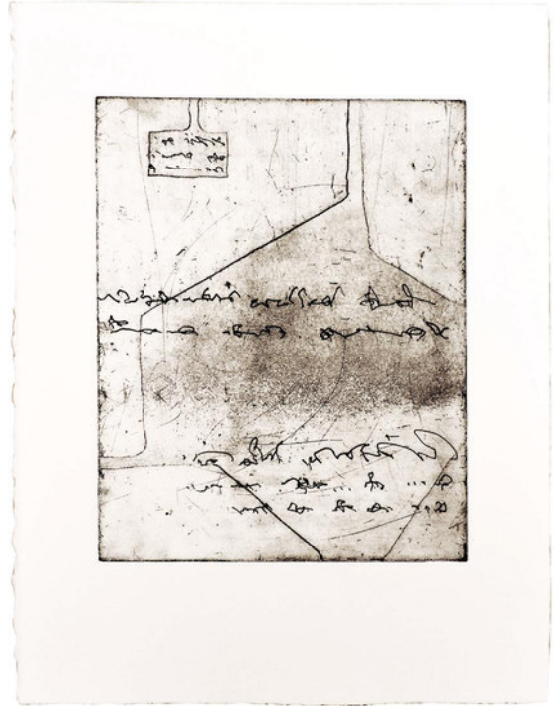
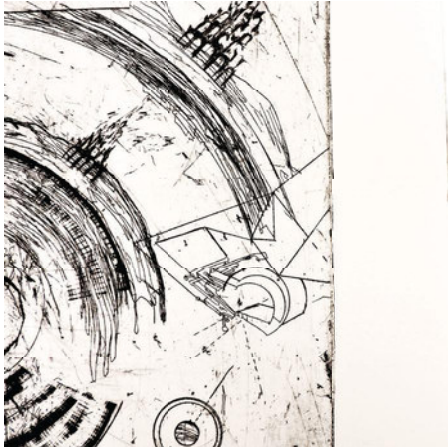








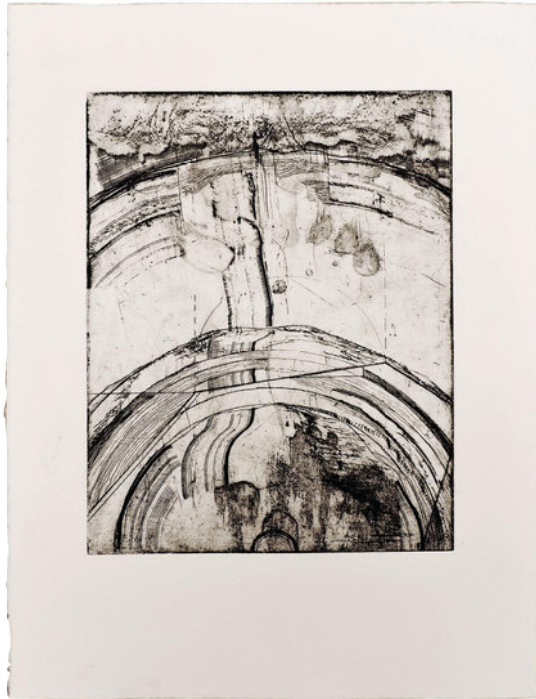










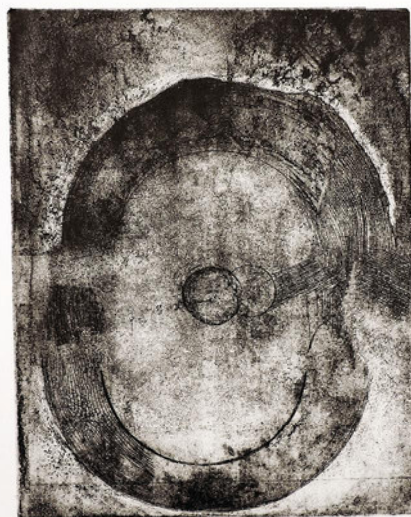


There was an ancient myth held in the middle ages that some mountains located between Eisenach and Gotha in Germany hold a portal to the inner earth. There is an old Russian legend that says the Samoyeds, an ancient Siberian tribe, traveled to an underground cavern city to live inside the earth.



According to the Ancient Greeks

there were caverns under the surface which were entrances leading to the underworld, some of which were the caverns at Tainaron in Lakonia, at Trozien in Argolis, at Ephyra in Thesprotia, at Herakleia in Pontos, and in Ermioni. In Thracian and Dacian legends, it is said that there are underground chambers occupied by an ancient God called Zalmoxis. In the Mesopotamian religion there is a story of a man who, after traveling through the darkness of a tunnel in the mountain of "Mashu", entered a subterranean garden.















In 1818, John Cleves Symmes, Jr. suggested that the Earth consisted of a hollow shell about 1,300 km (810 mi) thick, with openings about 2,300 km (1,400 mi) across at both poles with 4 inner shells each open at the poles. Symmes became the most famous of the early Hollow Earth proponents, and Hamilton, Ohio, even has a monument to him and his ideas. He proposed making an expedition to the North Pole hole, thanks to efforts of one of his followers, James McBride. United States president John Quincy Adams indicated he would approve of this but he left office before this could occur. The new President of



the United States, Andrew Jackson, halted the attempt.

Jeremiah Reynolds also delivered lectures on the "Hollow Earth" and argued for an expedition. Reynolds went on an expedition to Antarctica himself but missed joining the Great U.S. Exploring Expedition of 1838-1842, even though that venture was a result of his agitation.







In ancient times, the concept of a subterranean land inside the earth appeared in mythology, folklore and legends. The idea of subterranean realms seemed arguable, and became intertwined with the concept of "places" of origin or afterlife, such as the Greek underworld, the Nordic Svartálfheimr, the Christian Hell, and the Jewish Sheol (with details describing inner Earth in Kabalistic literature, such as the Zohar and Hesed L'Avraham). The idea of a subterranean realm is also mentioned in Tibetan Buddhism belief. According to one story, there is an ancient city called Shamballa which is located inside the earth.

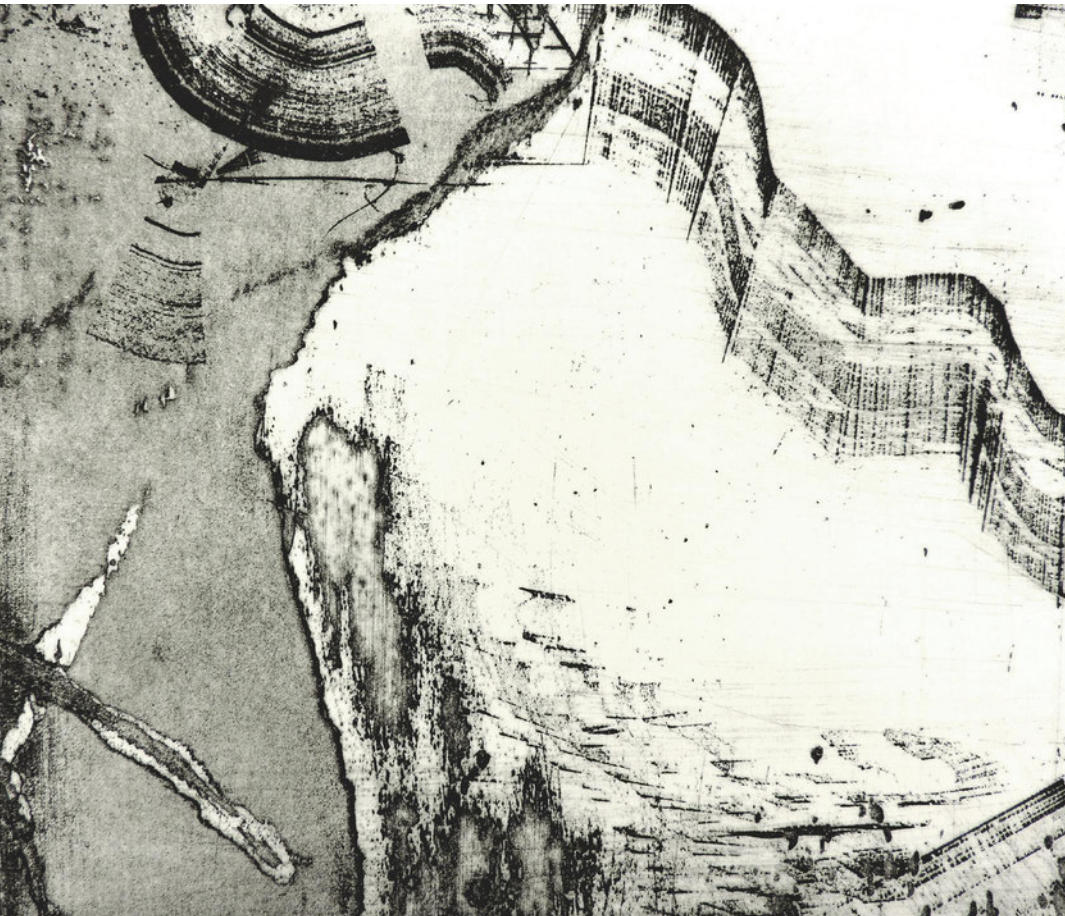




In Celtic mythology there is a legend of a cave called "Cruachan," also known as "Ireland's gate to Hell," a mythical and ancient cave from which according to legend strange creatures would emerge in ancient times and be seen on the surface of the earth. An ancient legend of the Angami Naga tribes of India claim that their ancestors emerged in ancient times from a subterranean land inside the earth.





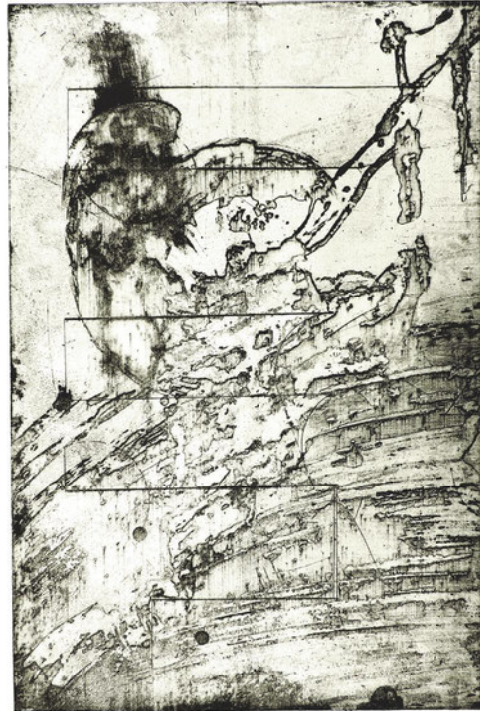












Instead of saying that humans live on the outside surface of a hollow planet—sometimes called a “convex” hollow-Earth hypothesis—some have claimed humans live on the inside surface of a hollow spherical world, so that our universe itself lies in that world’s interior. This has been called the “concave” hollow-Earth hypothesis.

Cyrus Teed, a doctor from upstate New York, proposed such a concave hollow Earth in 1869, calling his scheme “Cellular Cosmogony”. Teed founded a group called the Koreshan Unity based on this notion, which he called Koreshanity. The main colony survives as a preserved Florida state historic site, at Estero, Florida, but all of Teed’s followers have now died.

Teed’s followers claimed to have experimentally verified the concavity of the Earth’s curvature, through surveys of the Florida coastline making use of “rectilineator” equipment.





Edmond Halley's hypothesis. Edmond Halley in 1692[20] put forth the idea of Earth consisting of a hollow shell about 800 km (500 mi) thick, two inner concentric shells and an innermost core, about the diameters of the planets Venus, Mars, and Mercury. Atmospheres separate these shells, and each shell has its own magnetic poles.



The spheres rotate at different speeds. Halley proposed this scheme in order to explain anomalous compass readings. He envisaged the atmosphere inside as luminous (and possibly inhabited) and speculated that escaping gas caused the Aurora Borealis







Likely the first hollow Earth theory to be promulgated was that by Edmund Halley in 1692. As one of the most respected scientists of his day, his conclusions were taken seriously by the world. After all, had he not discovered, with the crudest of instruments, the comets who regularly visit our planet? If he could do that, while peering into the vast universe, why would he not be able to discover amazing truths closer to home? His ideas were an attempt to rationalize how the Earth's electromagnetic fields could fluctuate as widely as they did when tested. His conclusion was that there had to be at least four concentric shells inside the Earth, each with its very own magnetic field to account for the changes that occur.

Perhaps the most widely recognized hollow Earth theory consists of significant polar openings approximately 3,000 kilometers in size that allow access to the inside of the Earth. Numerous hollow Earth investigators have actually searched with all manner of vehicles for these openings. However absolutely nothing has ever been discovered. Some claim that modern satellite technology has actually confirmed that such holes have been spotted, but are not as easy to locate as some would have us believe; there have been some ambiguous readings.









In the Polar Holes Hollow Earth Theory, the center of the planet has a main source of energy and light – its own internal sun – that supplies light and warmth to the world within.

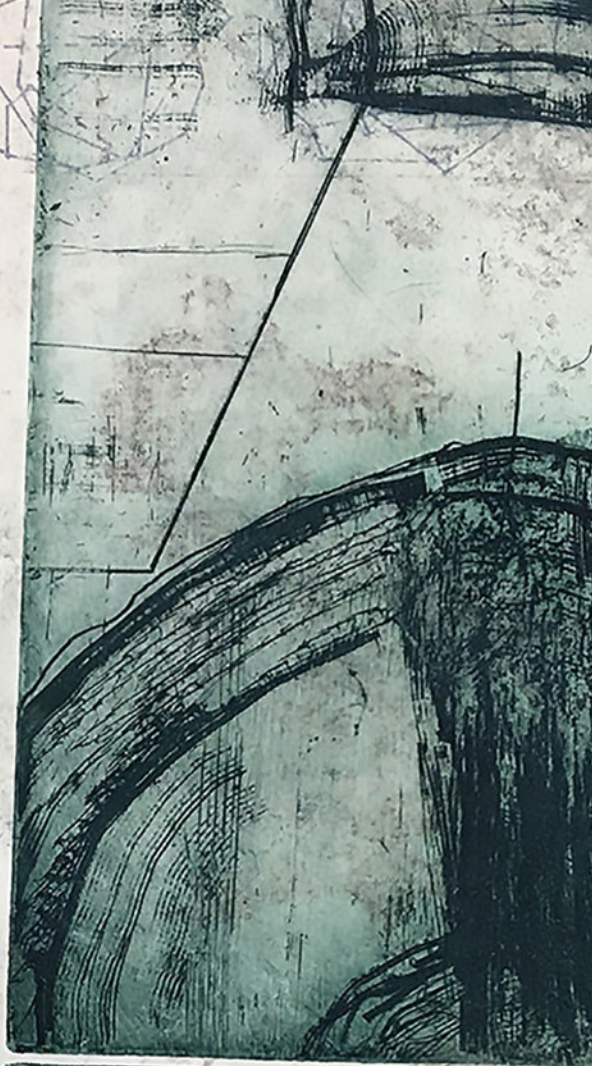
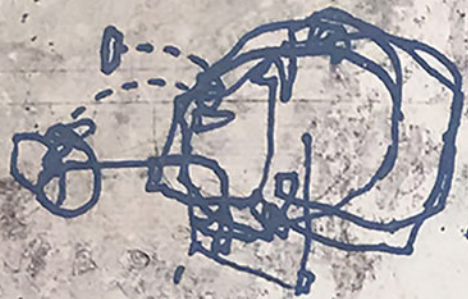




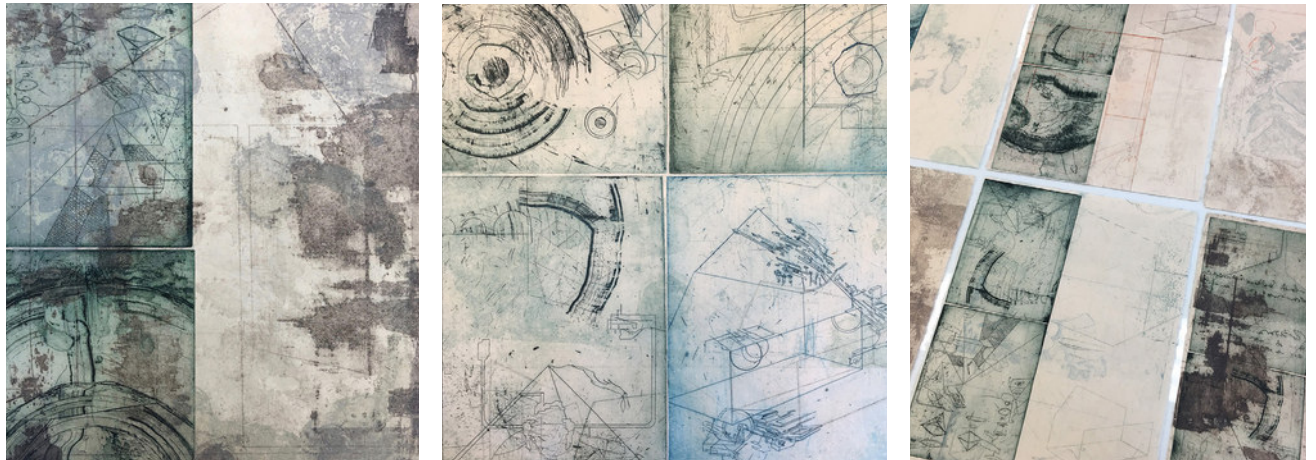












**Hollow Earth Prints**

17 x 21 Inches  
Intaglio on Kitikata  
2016



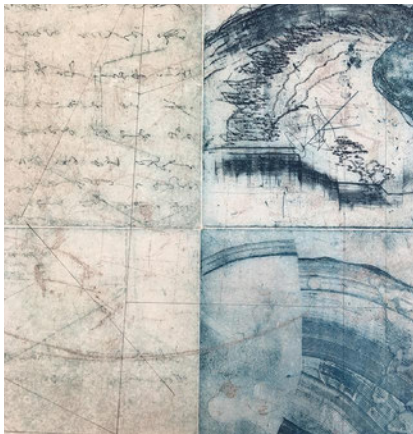
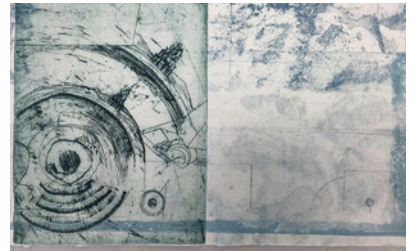


Hidden worlds beneath the surface of the earth figured prominently in ancient beliefs. Central Asian Buddhists spoke in muted tones of the kingdom of Agartha (also spelled Aghartha), made up of a worldwide labyrinth of subterranean passages. Stories of a civilization that dwelt in the hollow earth were passed from family to family for generations before writing instruments facilitated memory. Agartha was said to be a haven for the population of vanished continents. Agartha was considered a center of intellectual progress and enlightenment. Its holy leader became the King of the World, who, according to one devotee, “knows all the forces of the world and reads all the lost souls of humankind and the great book of their destiny.”





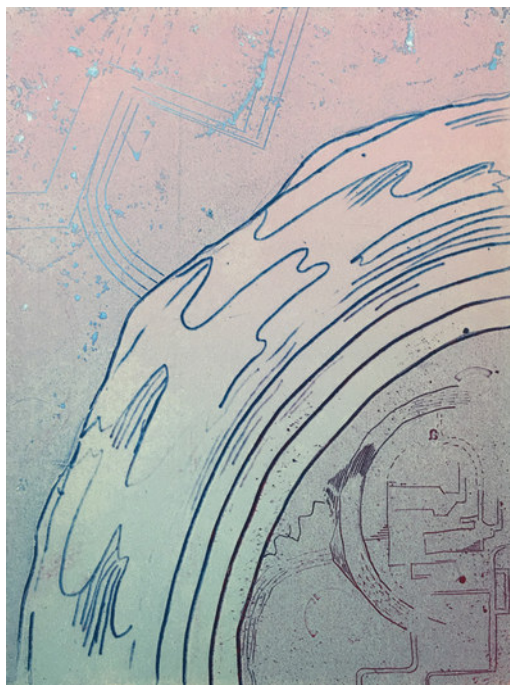
What is down there, in the inner core of the earth? There are a couple of competing theories about the contents of the earth, deep down.











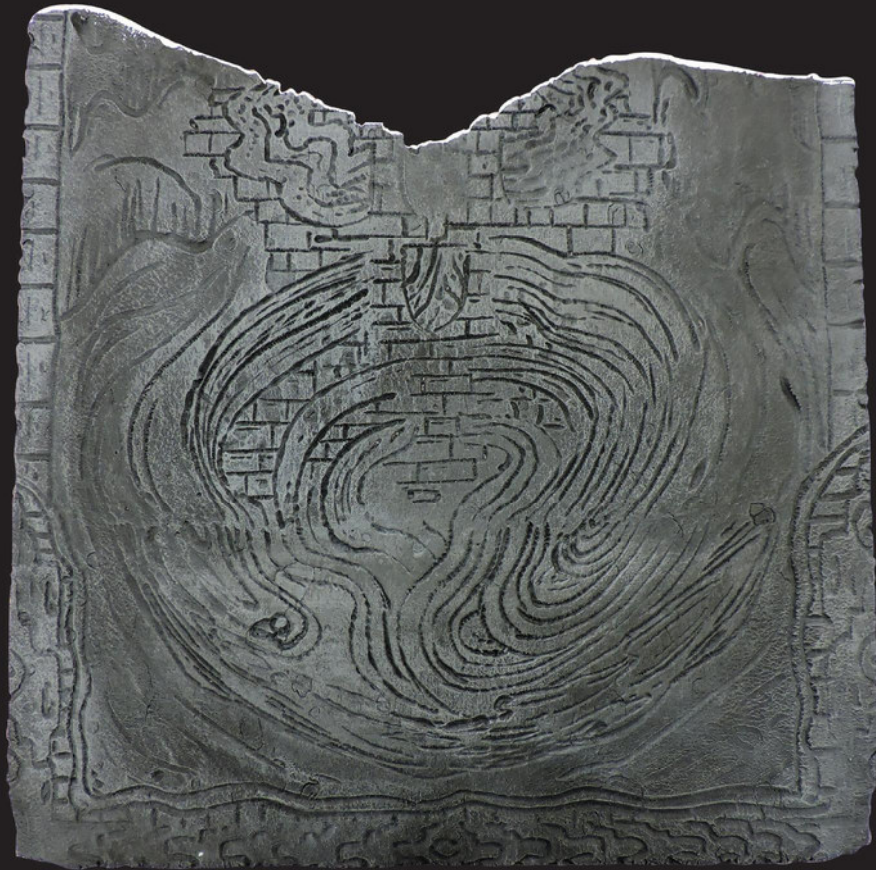
**Hollow Earth Bubblegum Center**

6x8 Inches  
Intaglio on Rives BFK  
2017



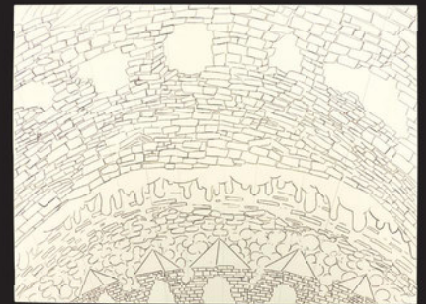
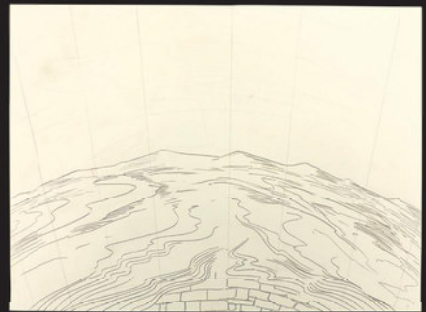




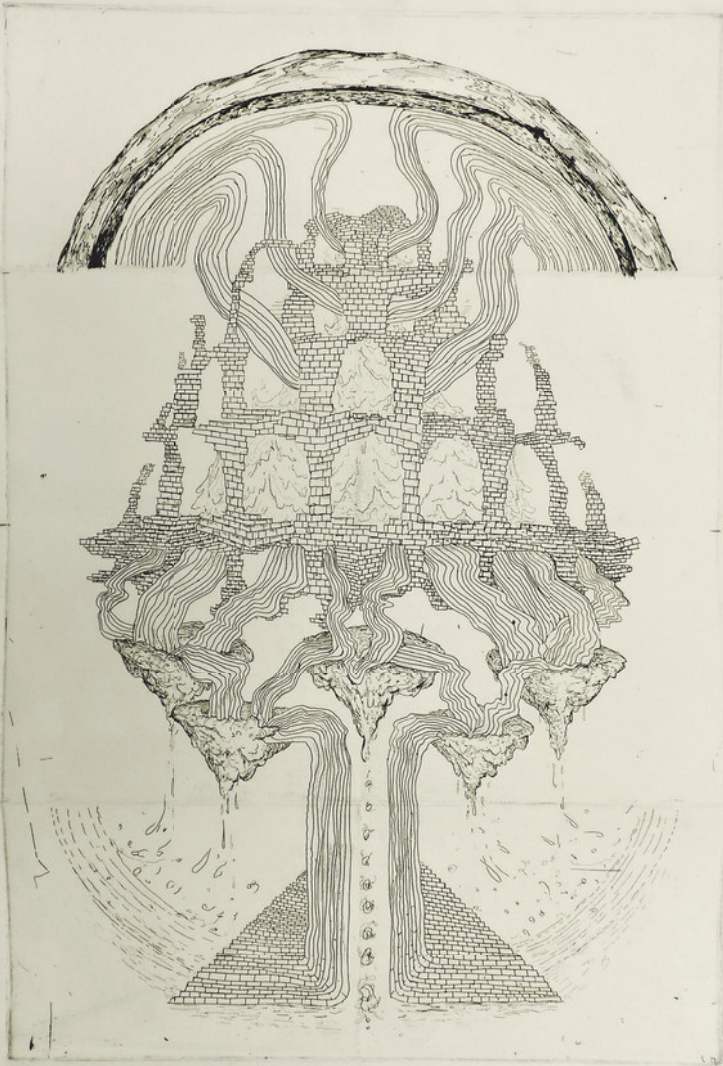


OBJECTS &  
SKETCHES

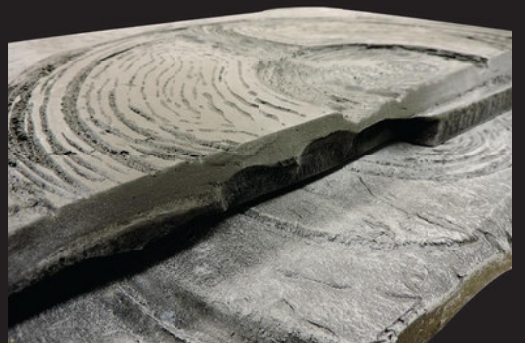




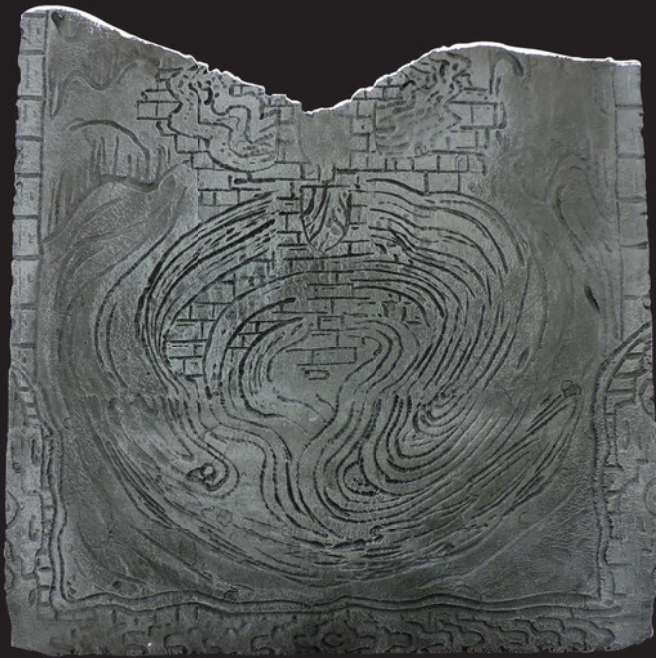




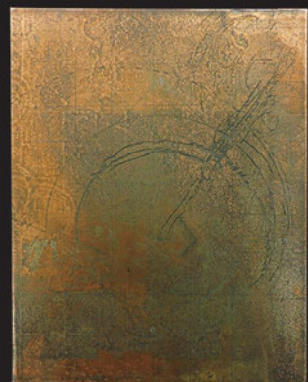
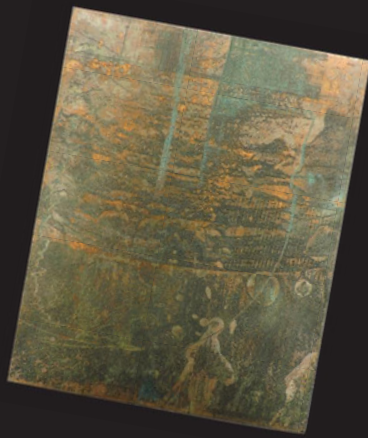




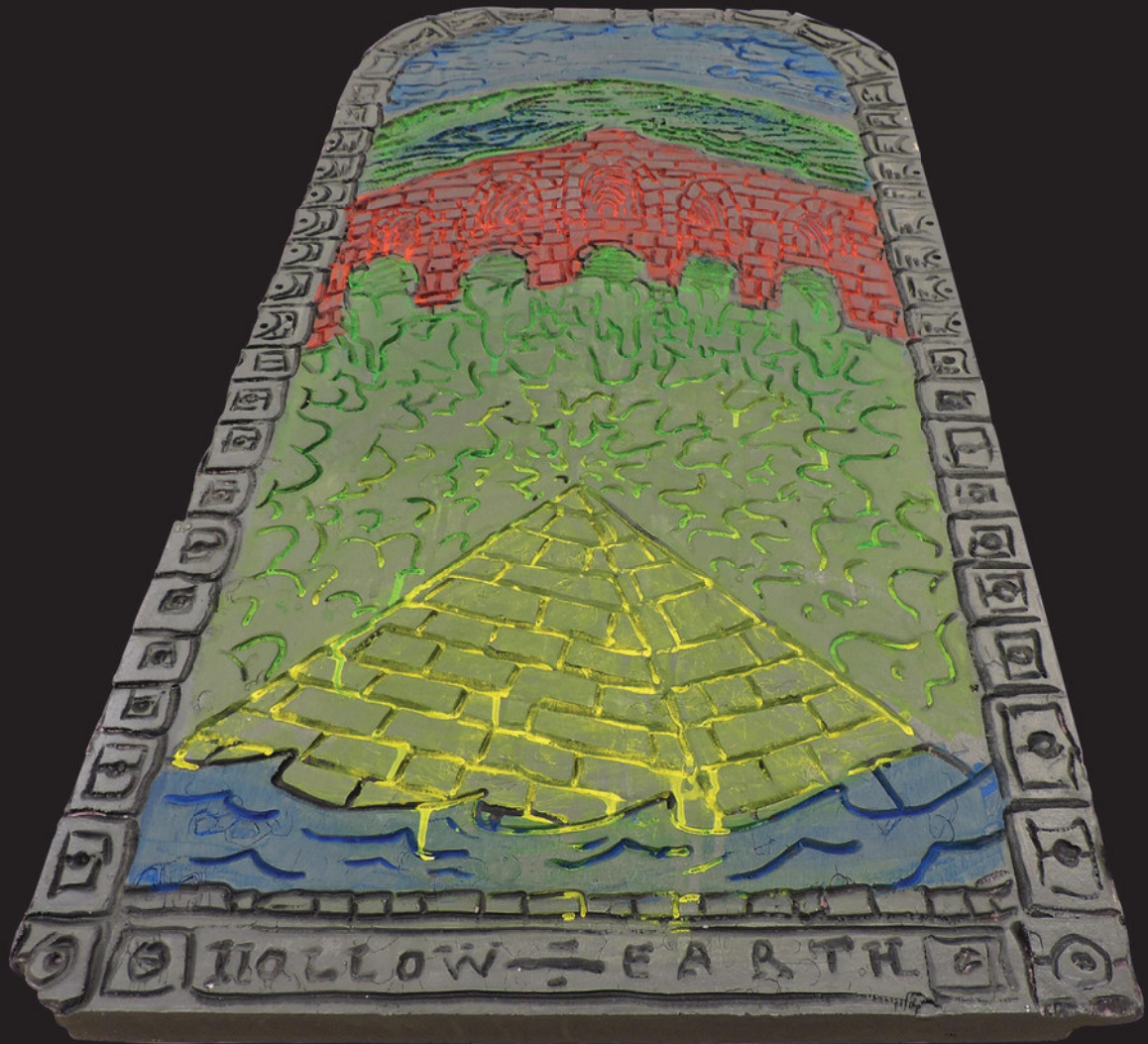




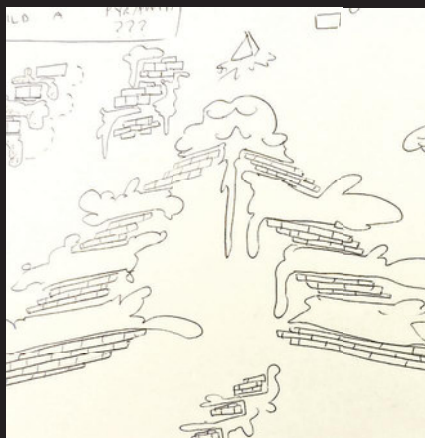
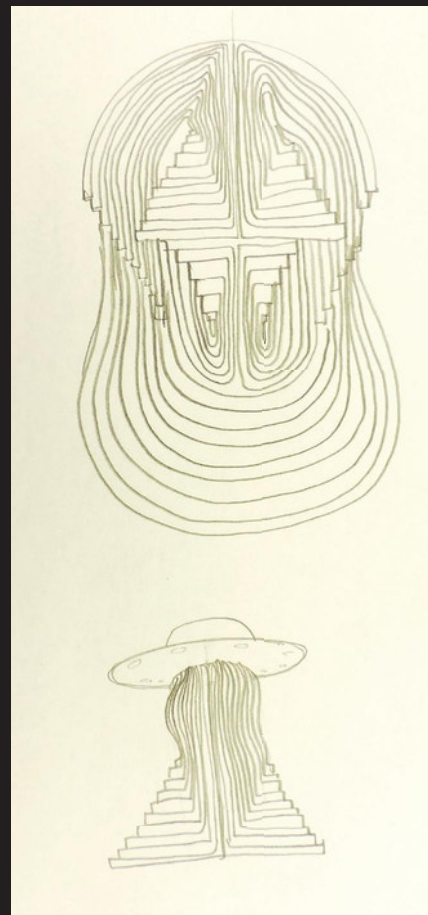
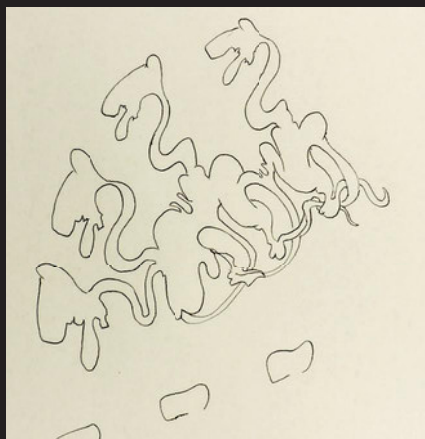


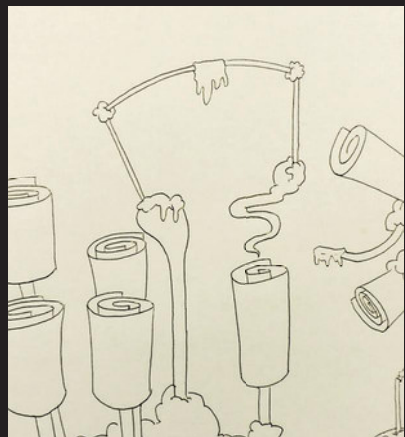
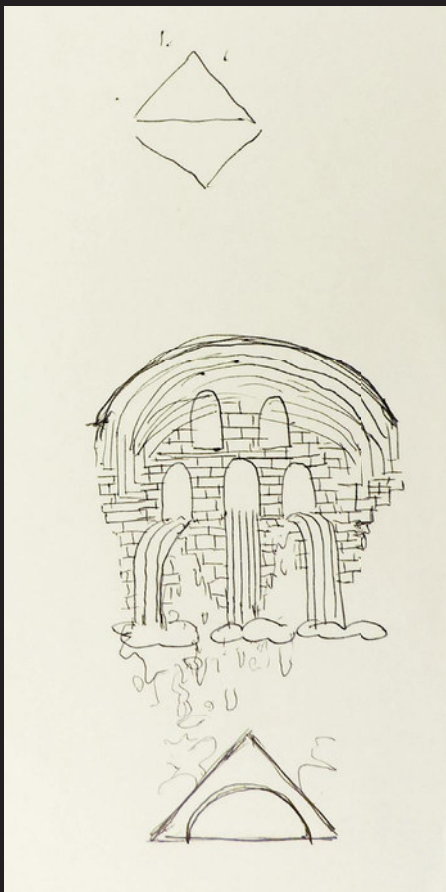
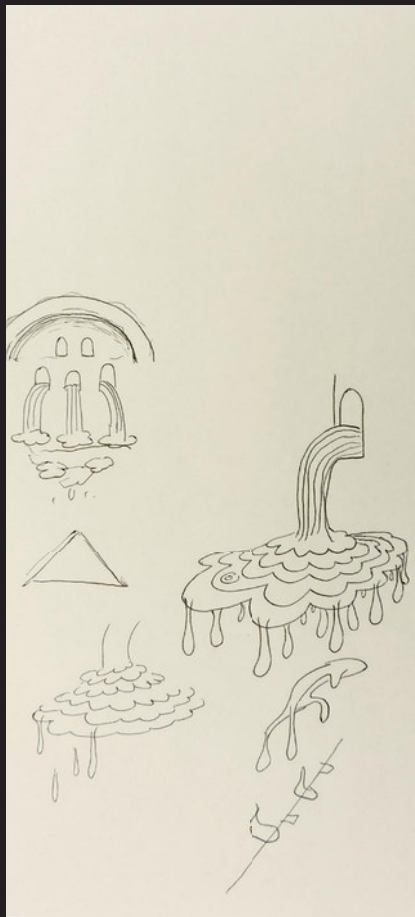




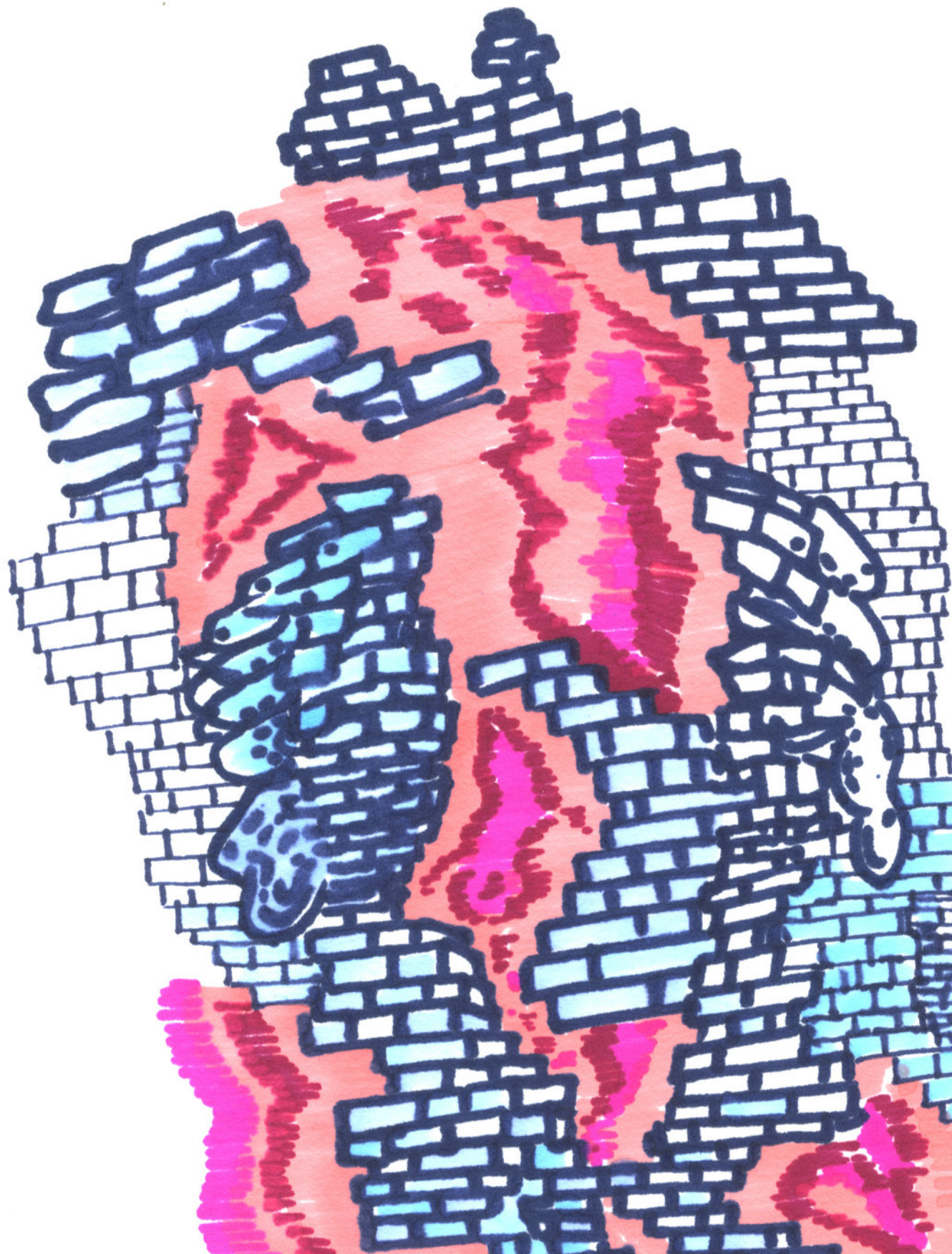


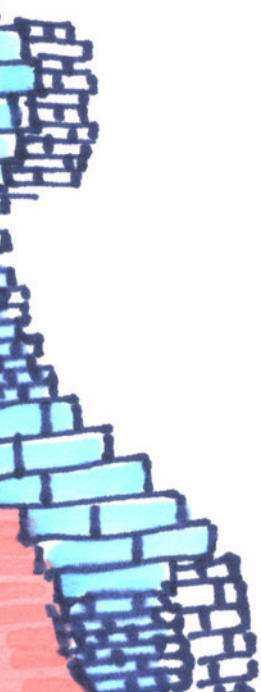






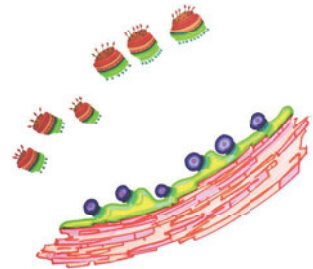
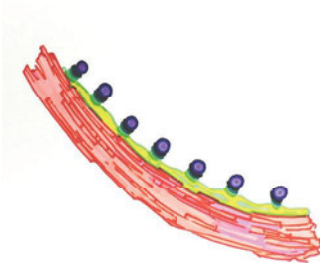
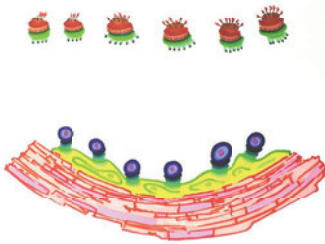
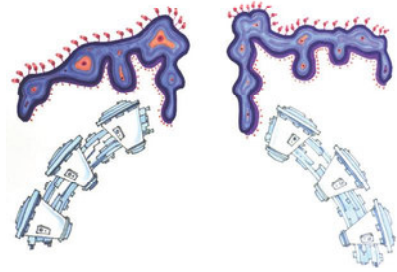
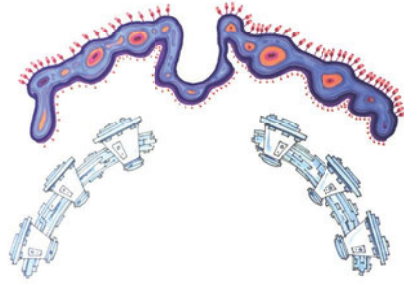
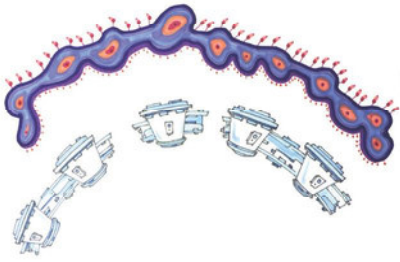


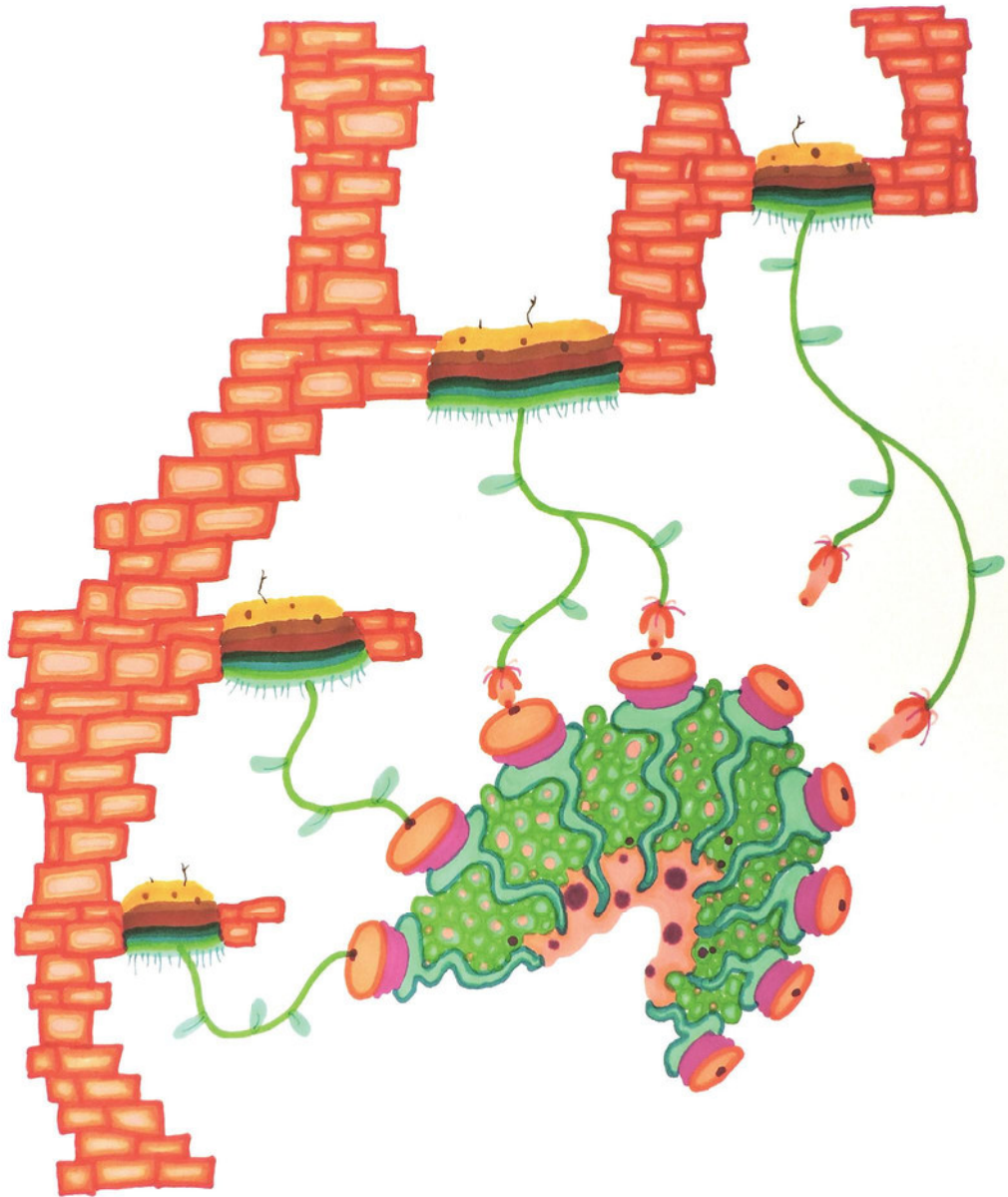




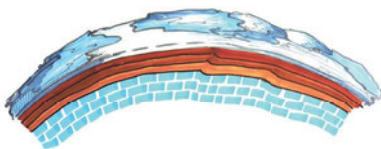
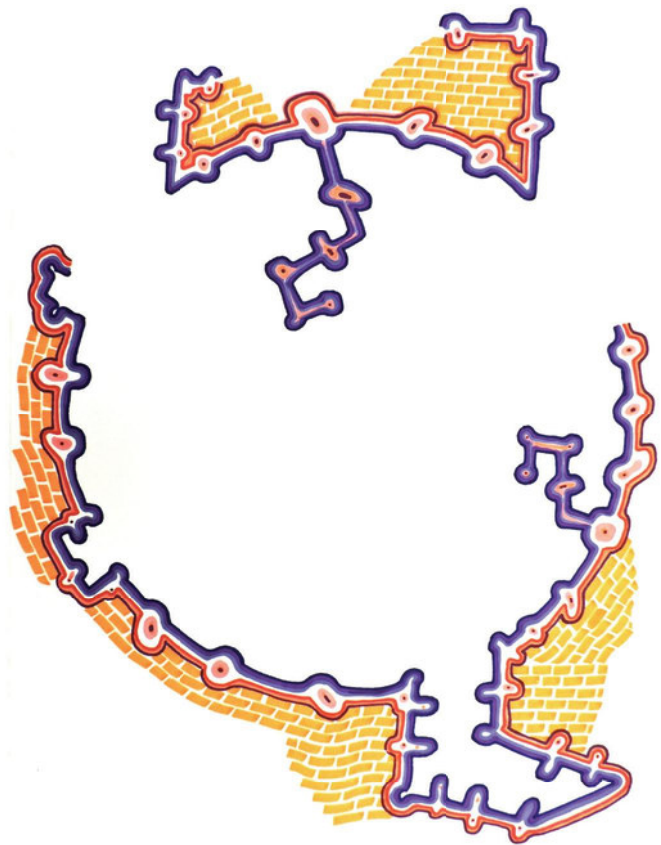
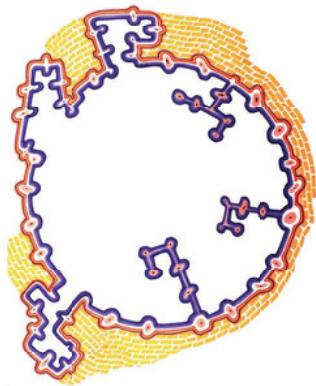
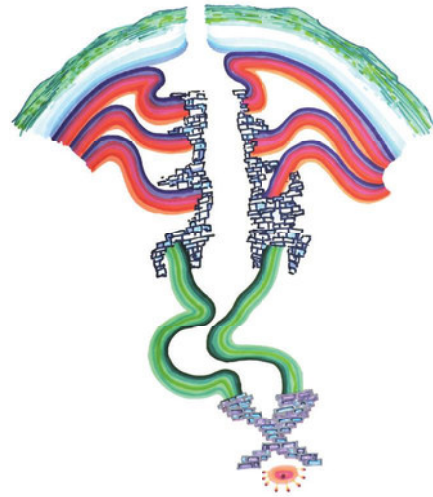
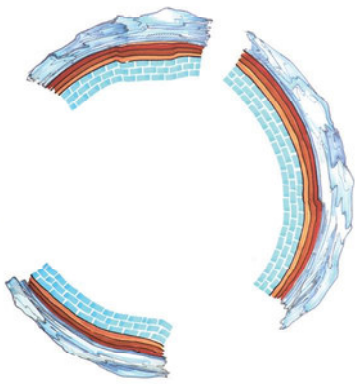
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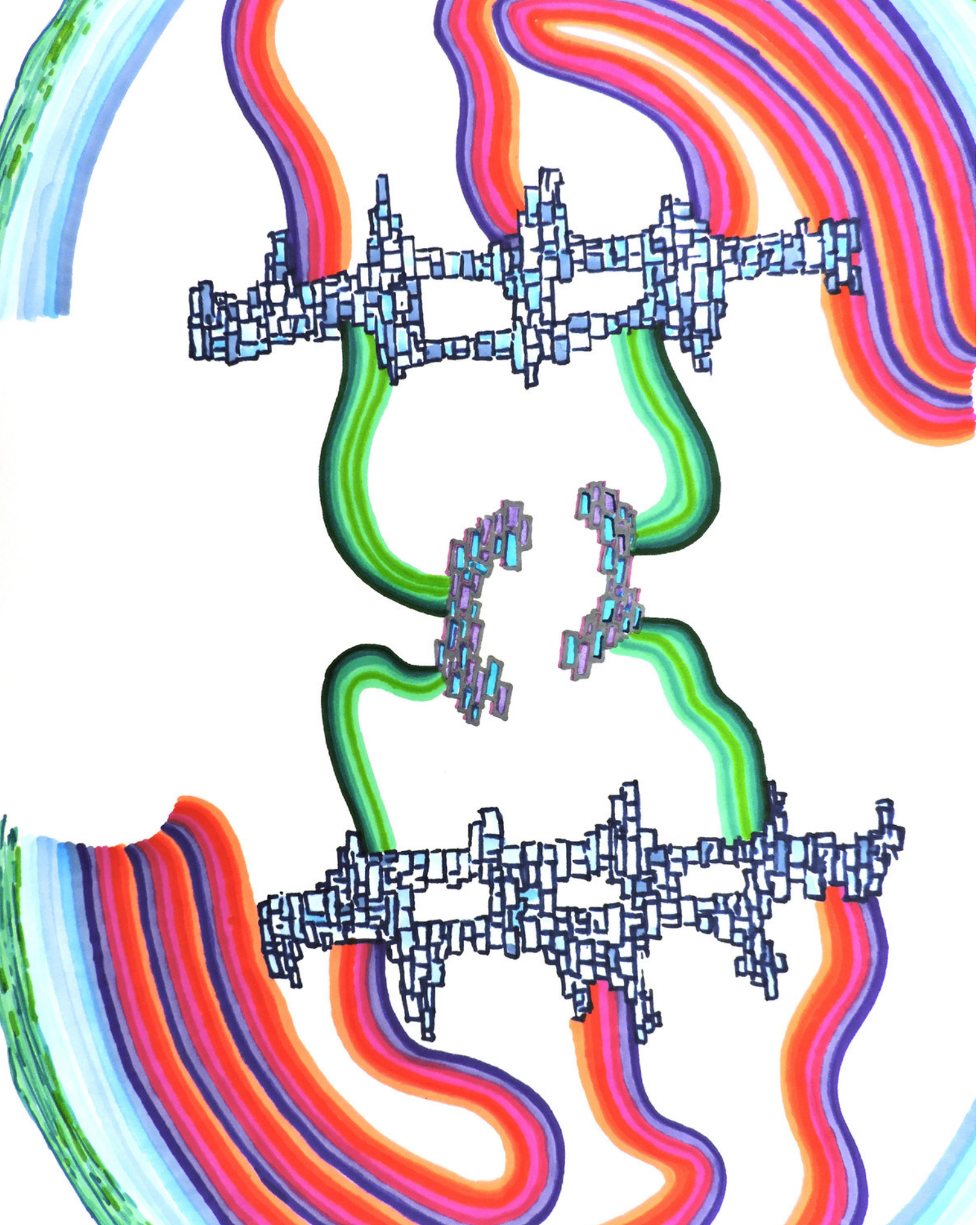


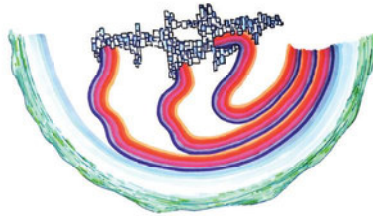
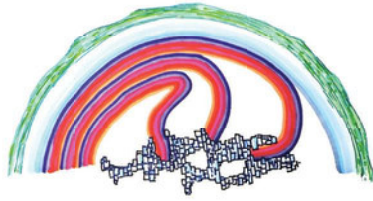




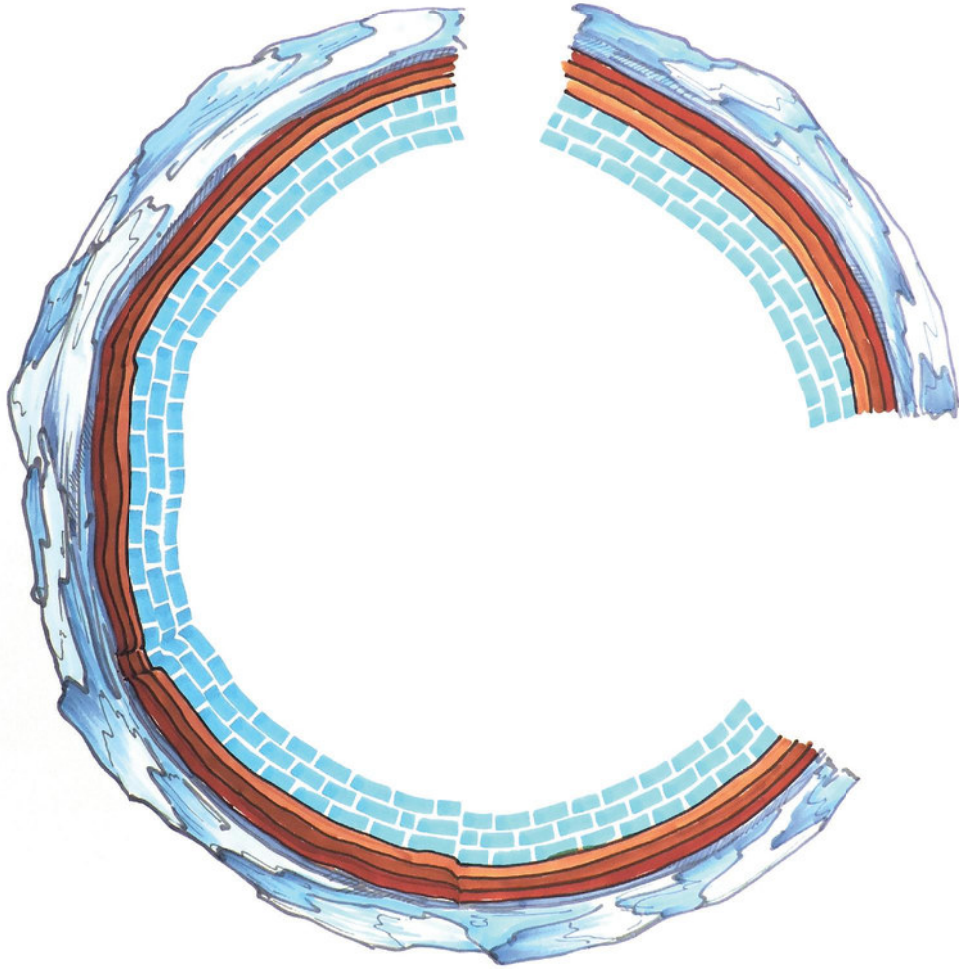


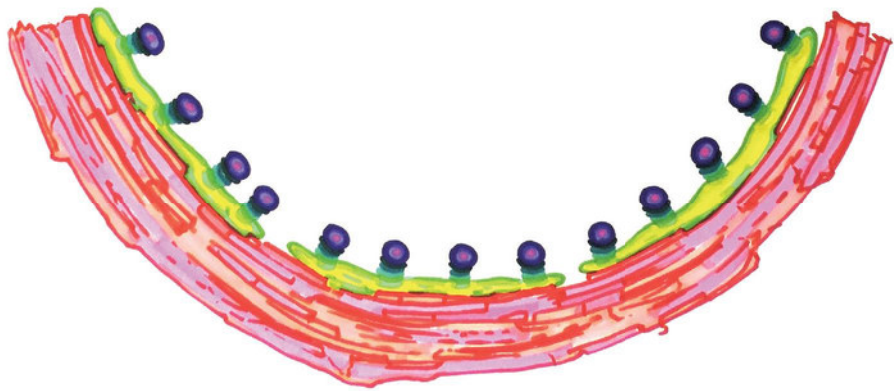




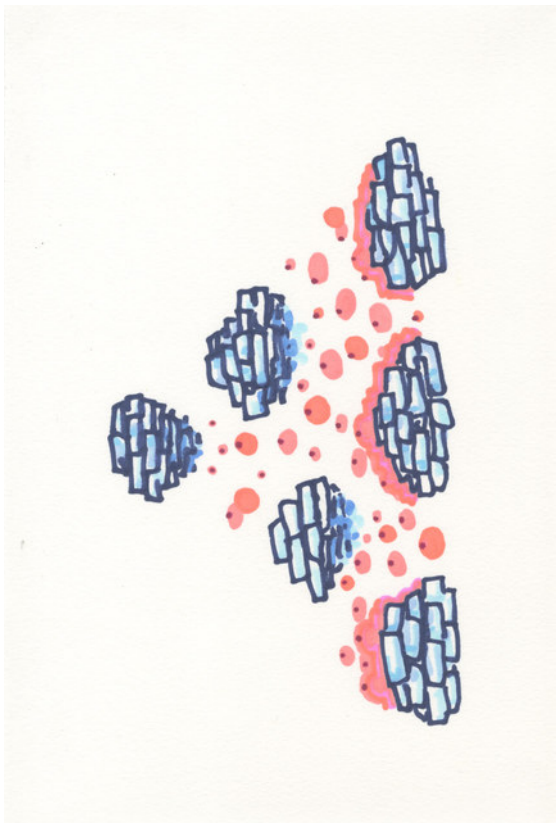
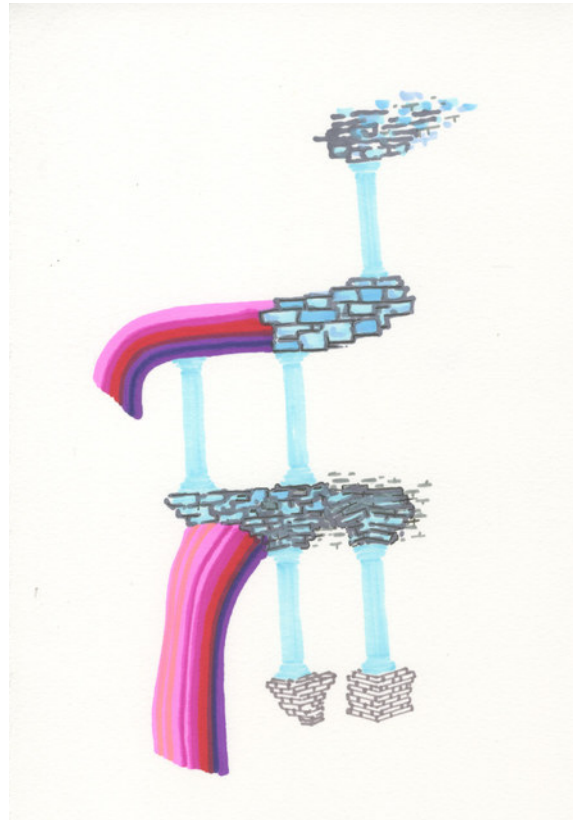
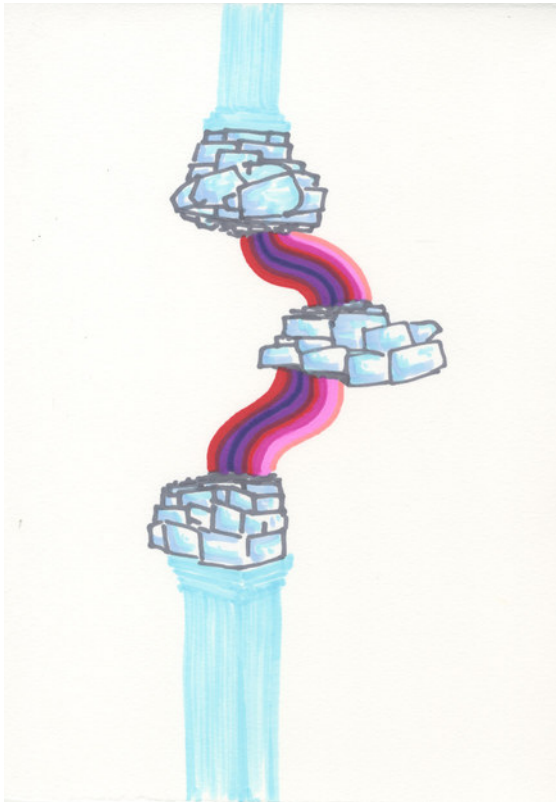


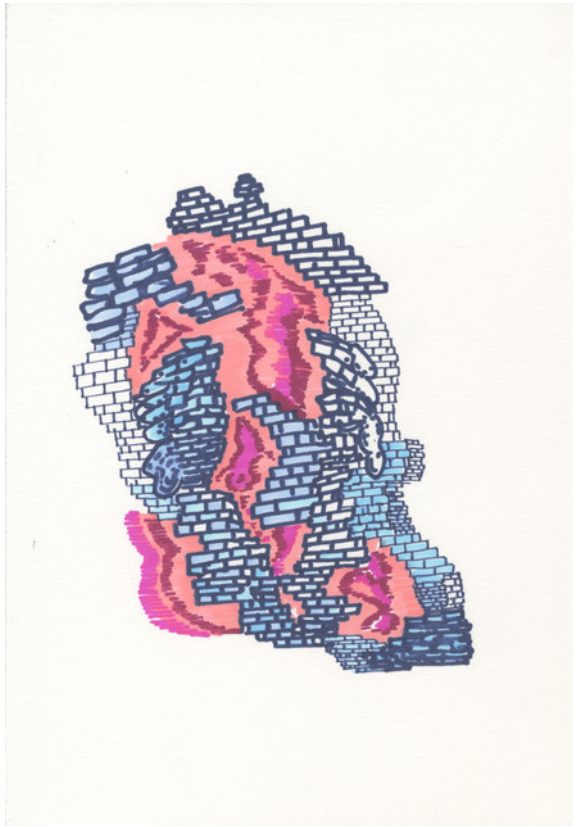




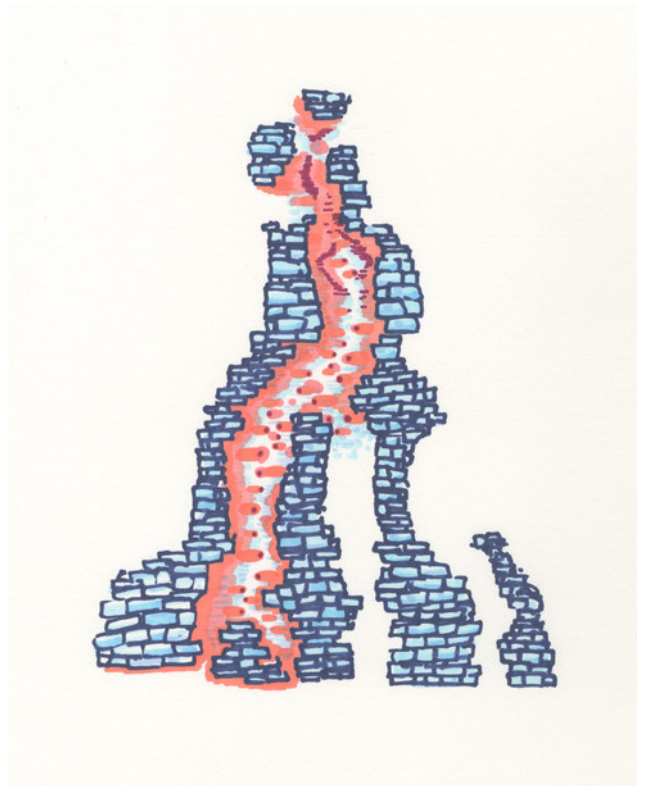
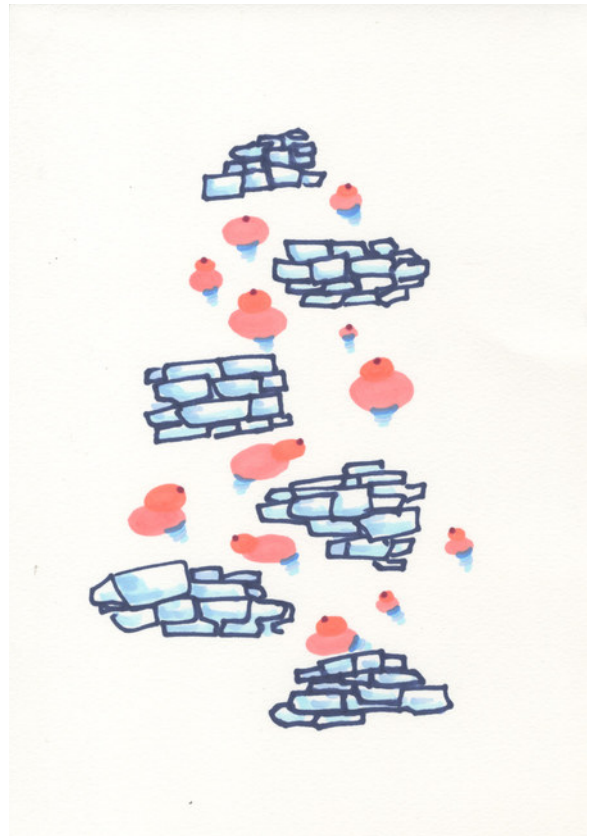
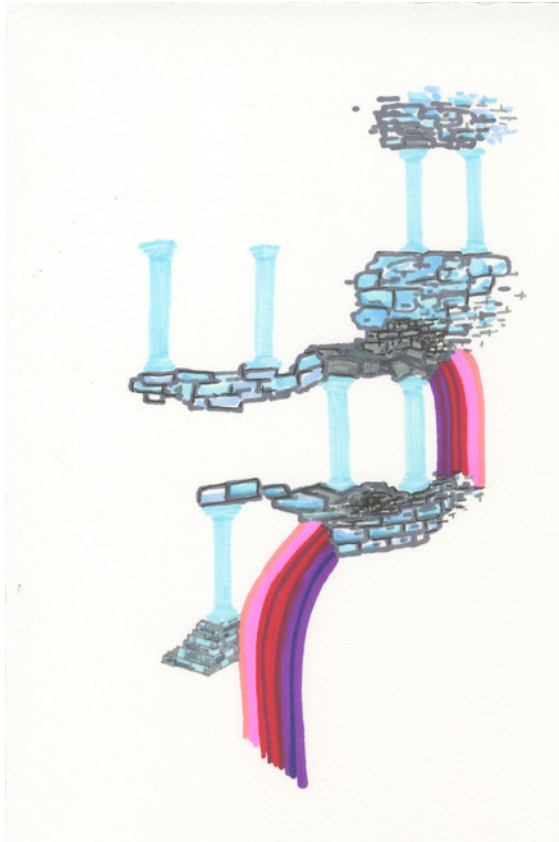


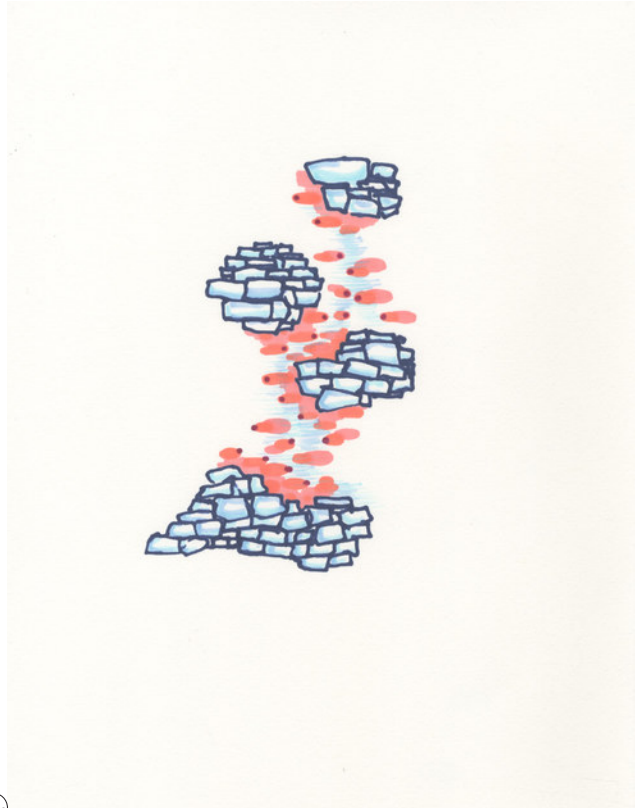
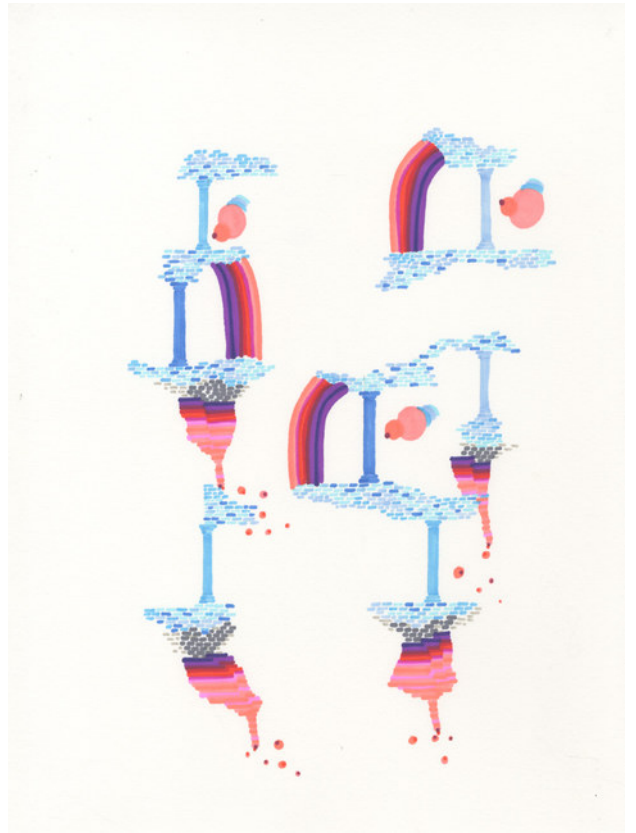




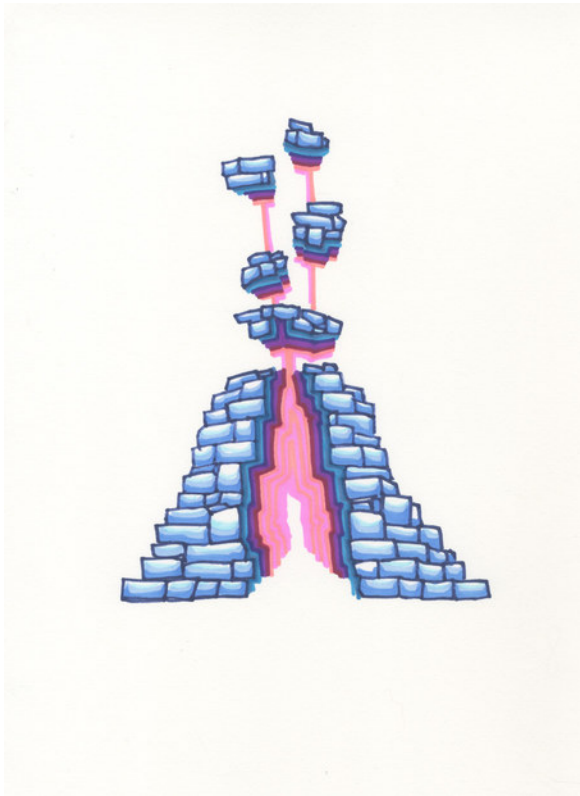
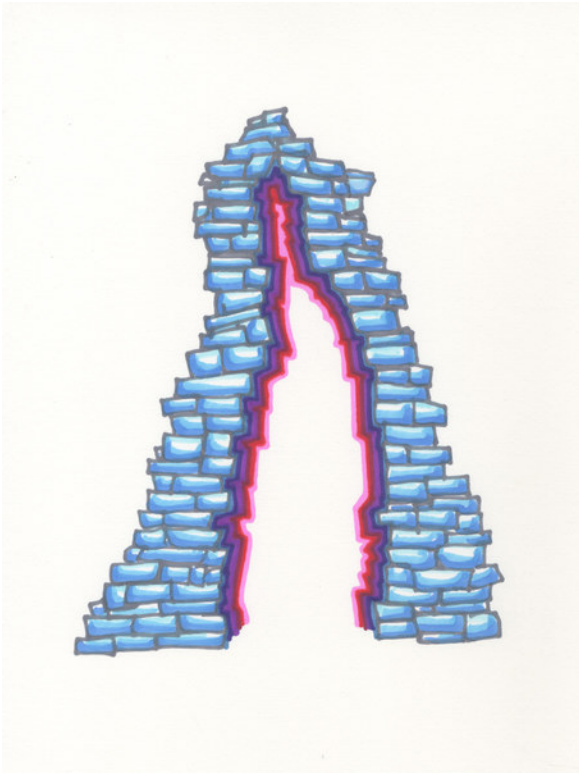


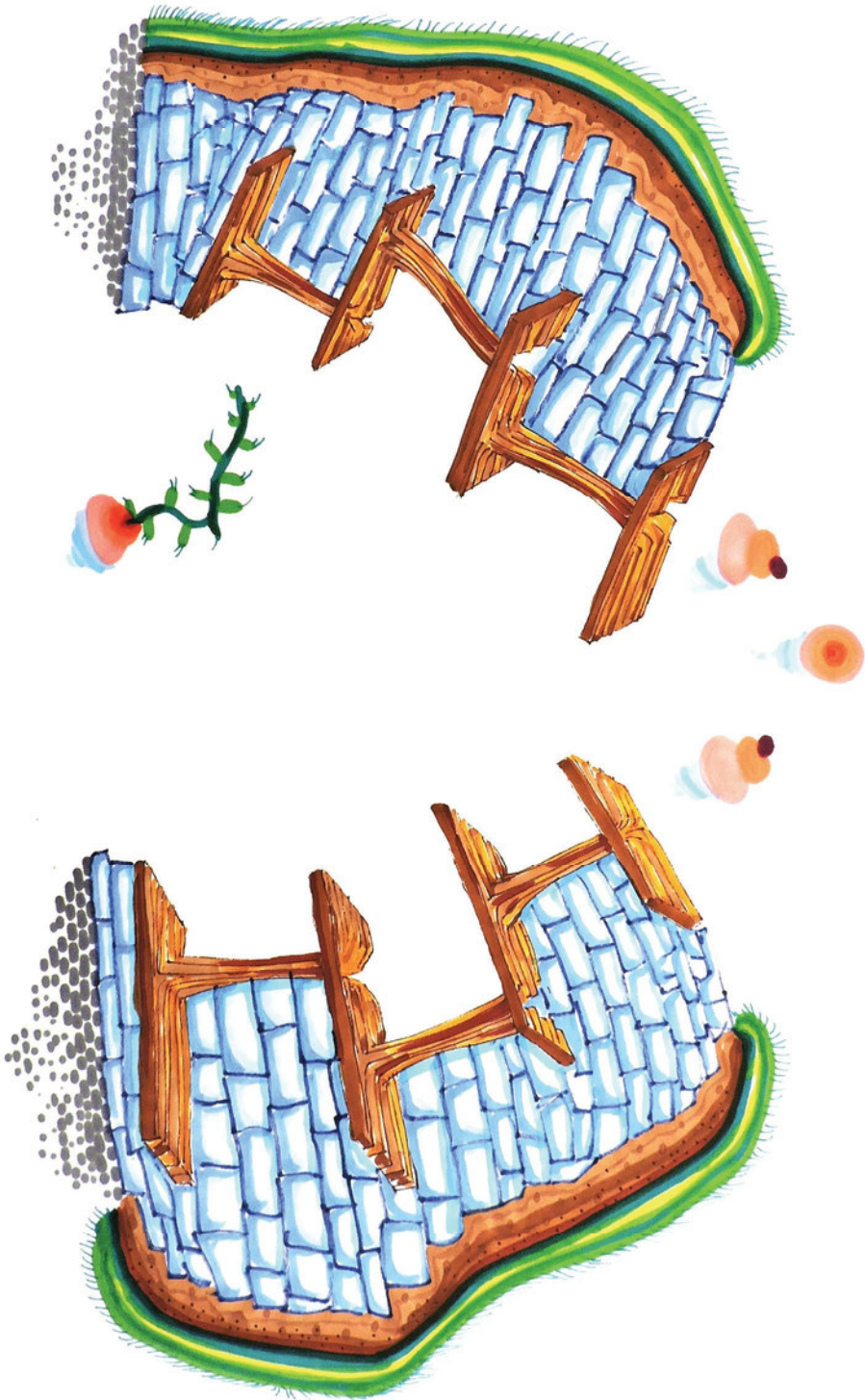




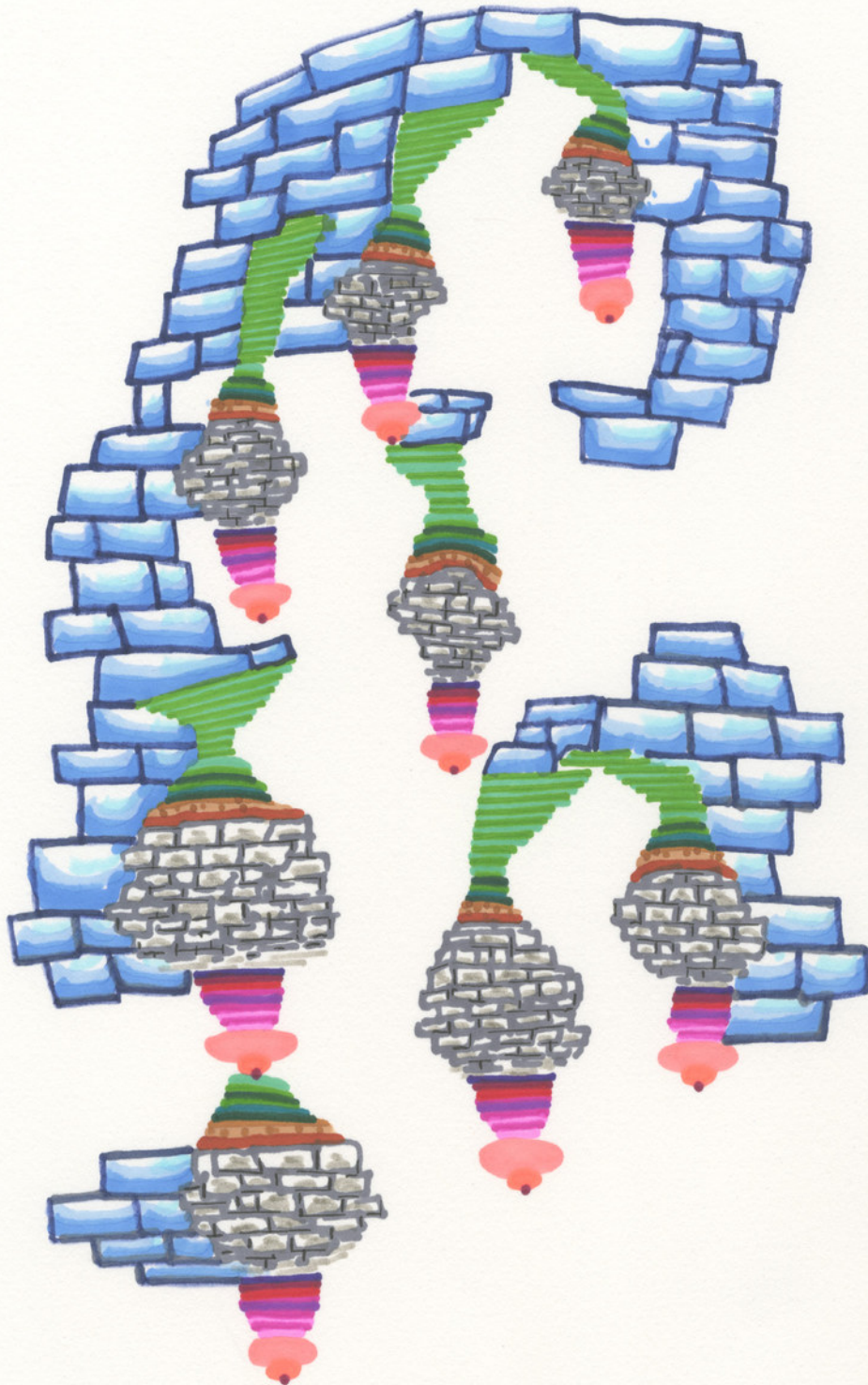


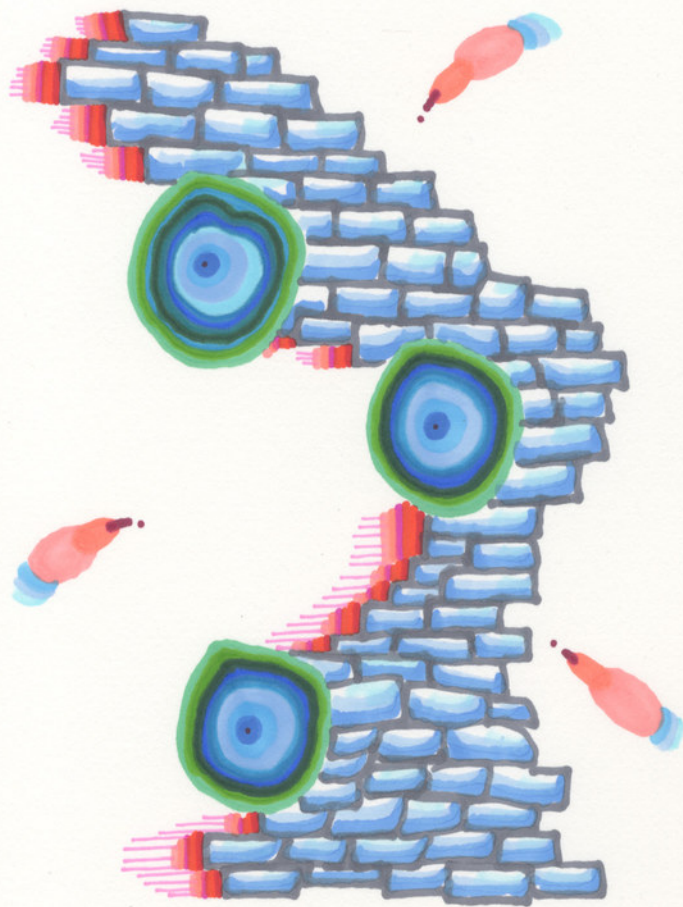




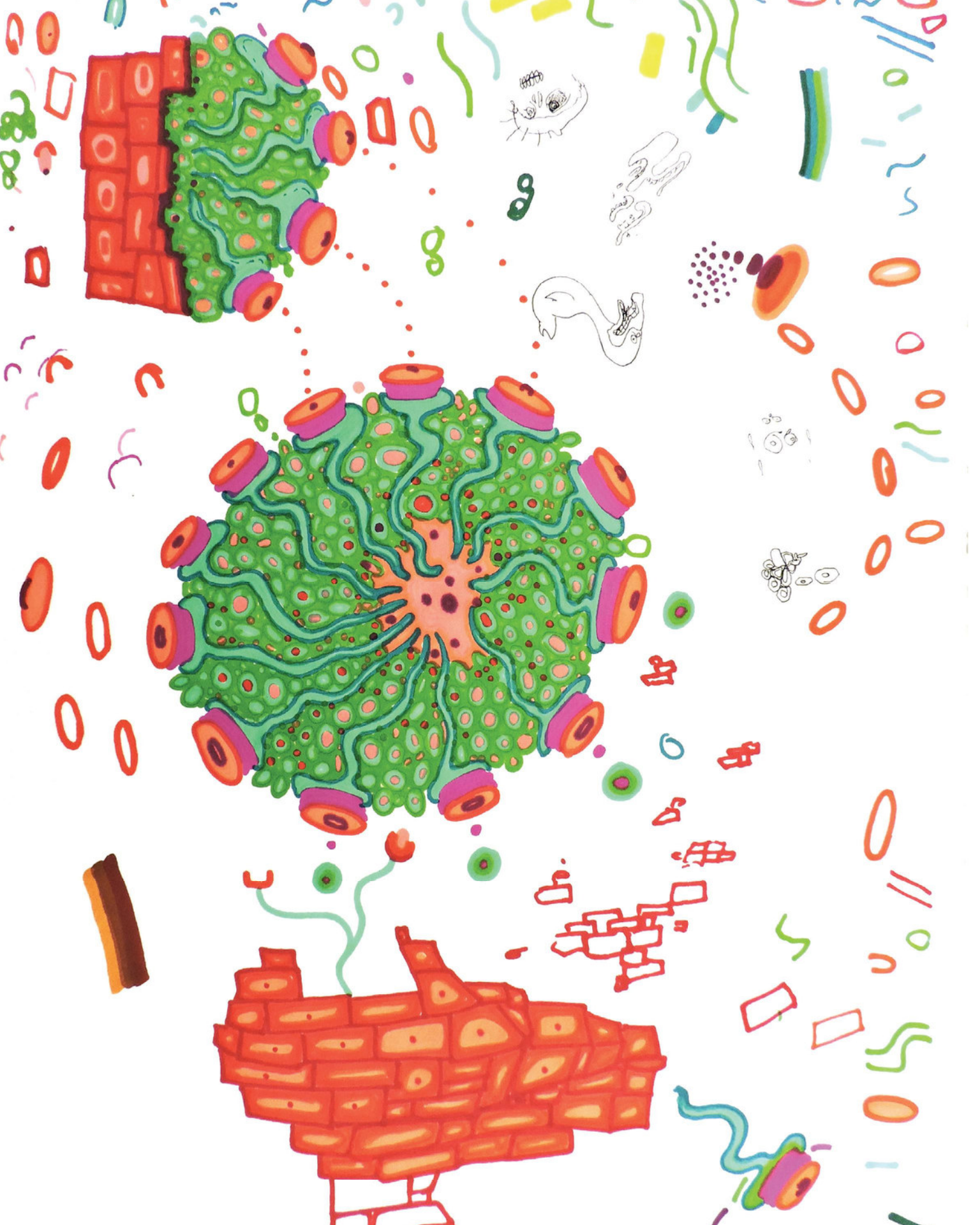


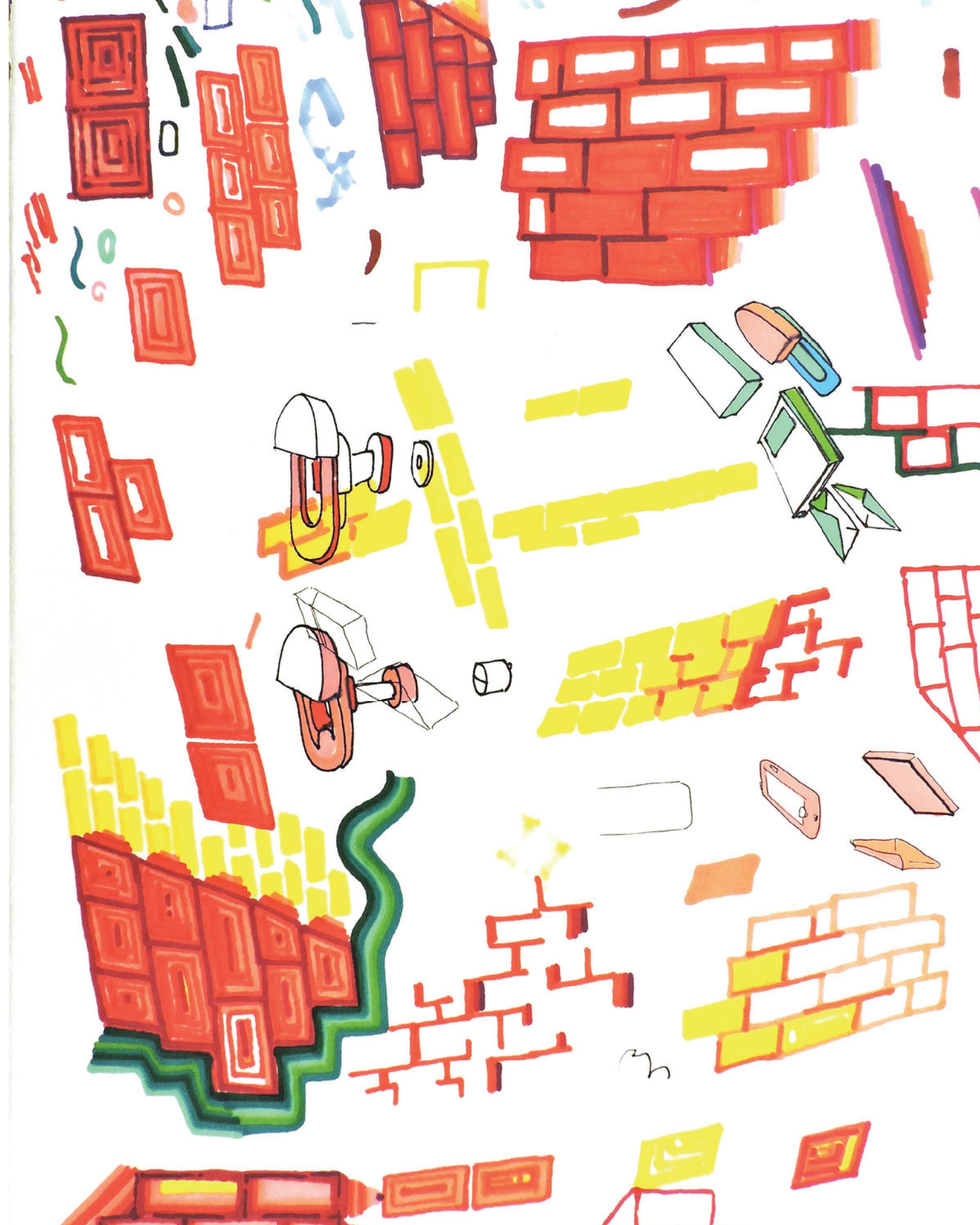




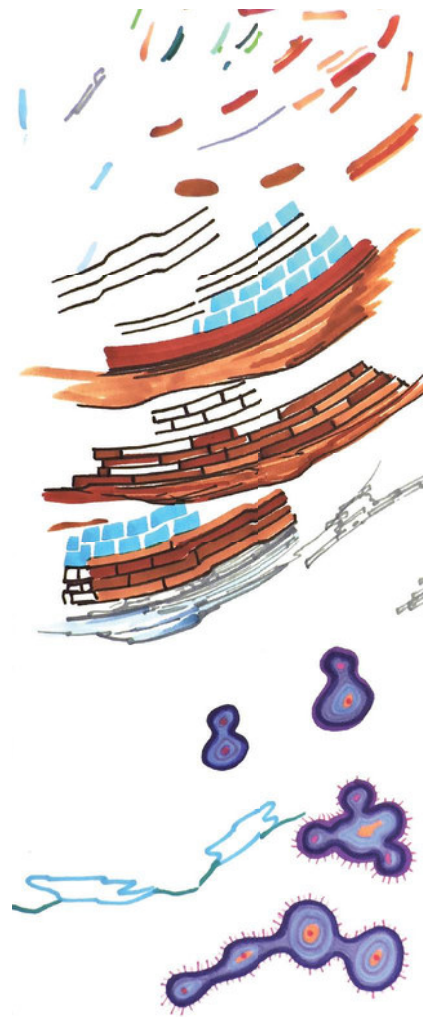
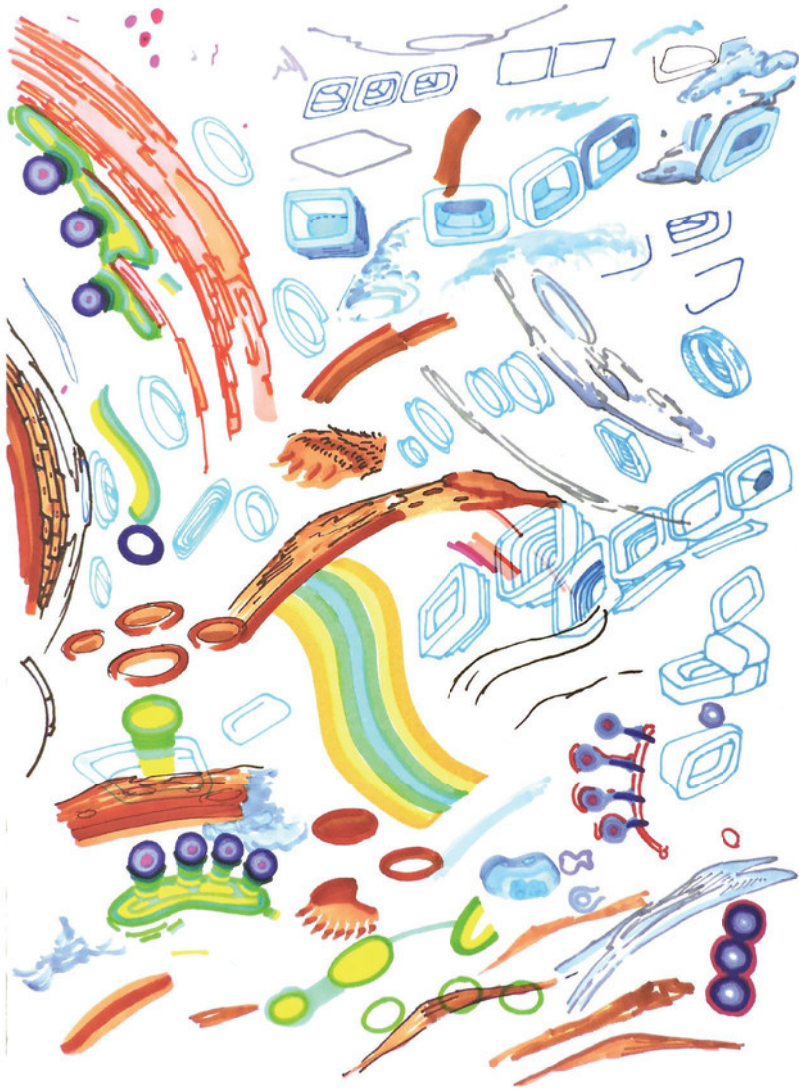


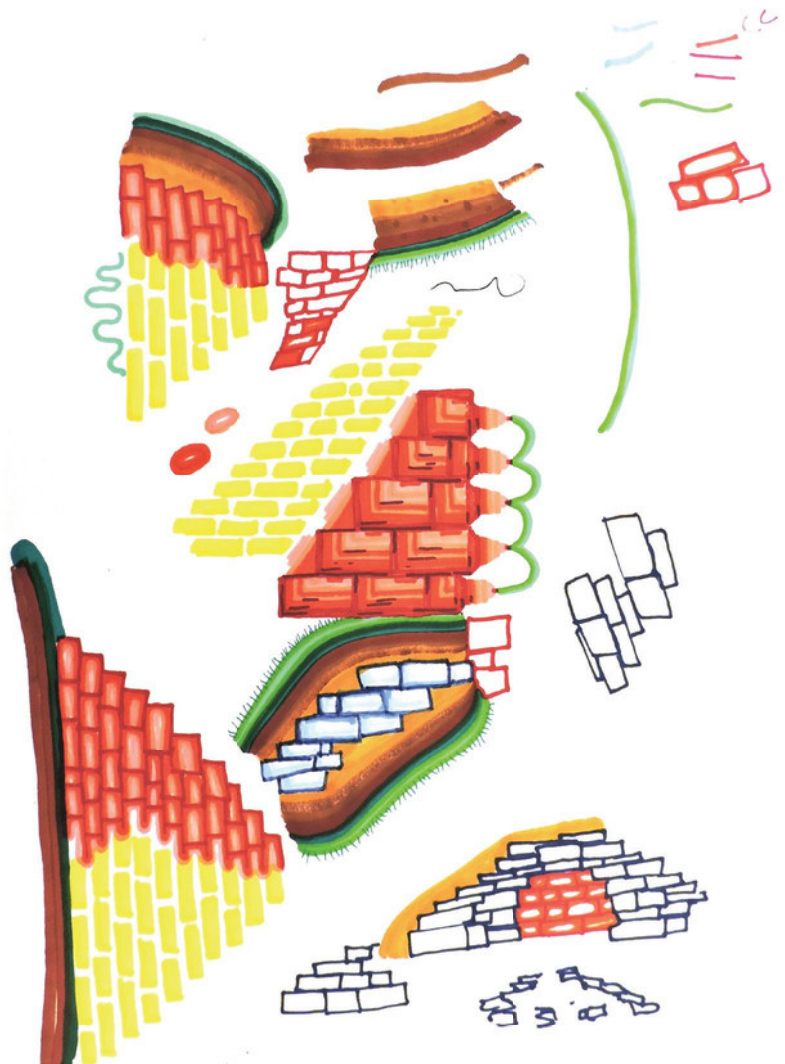




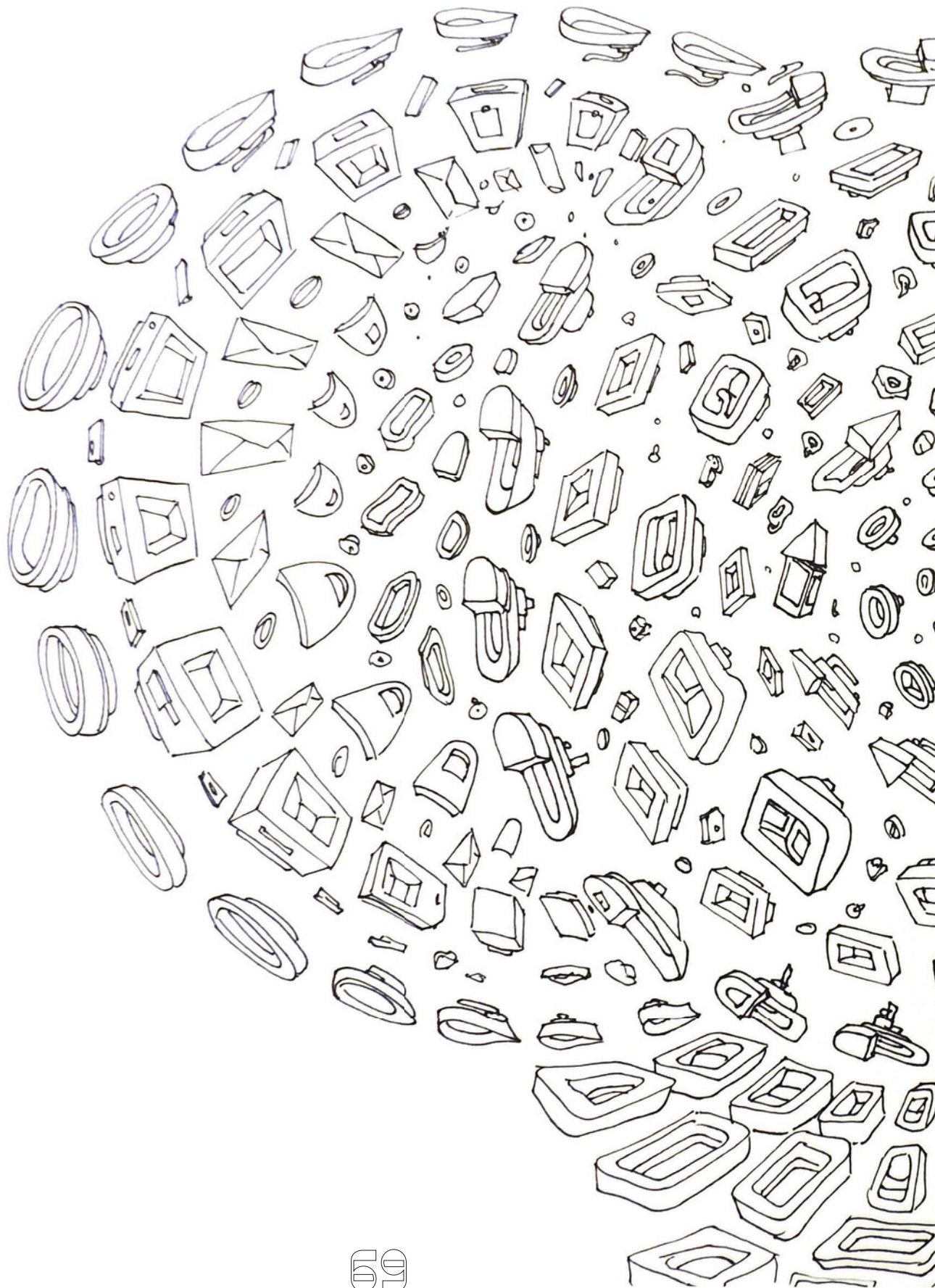








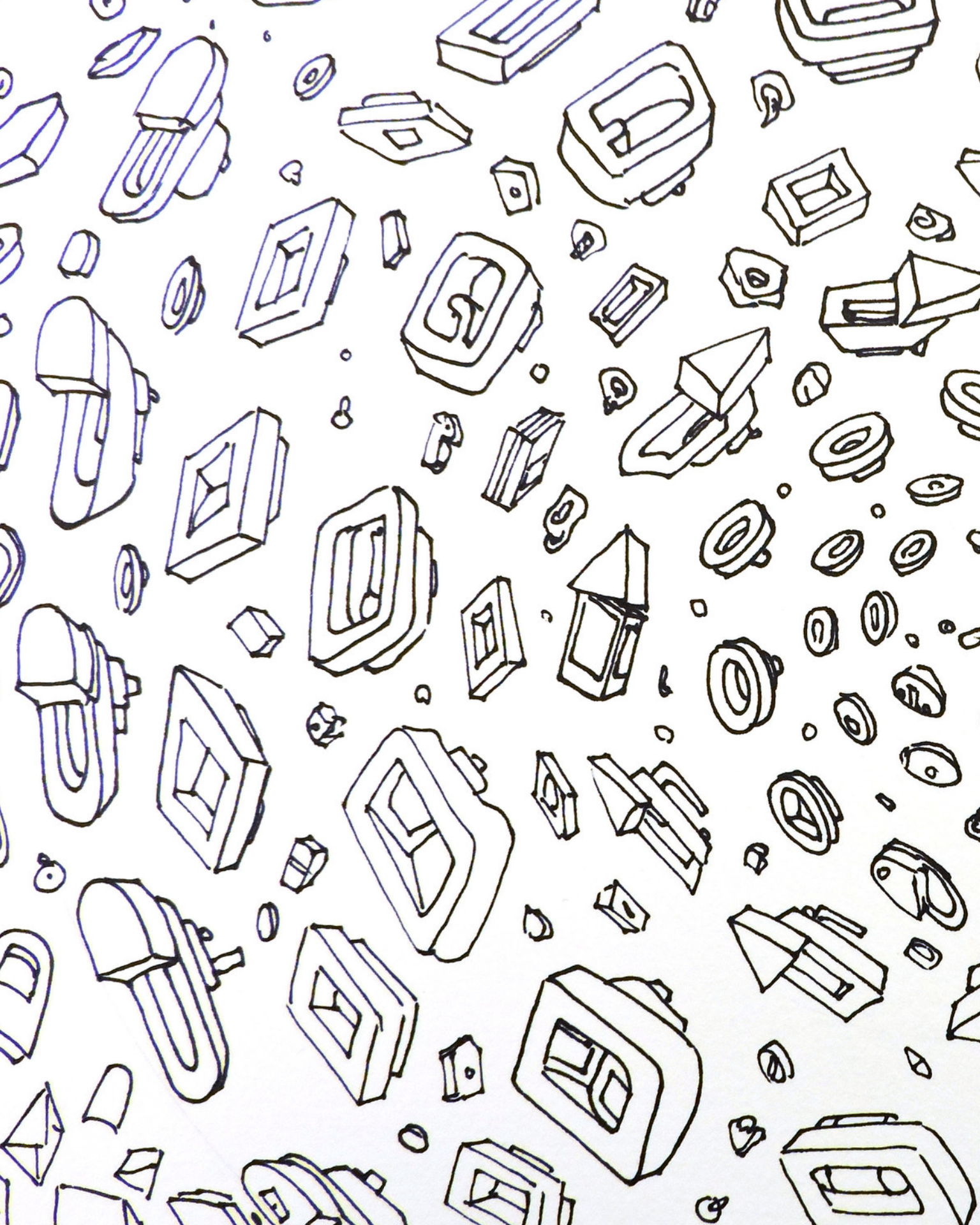




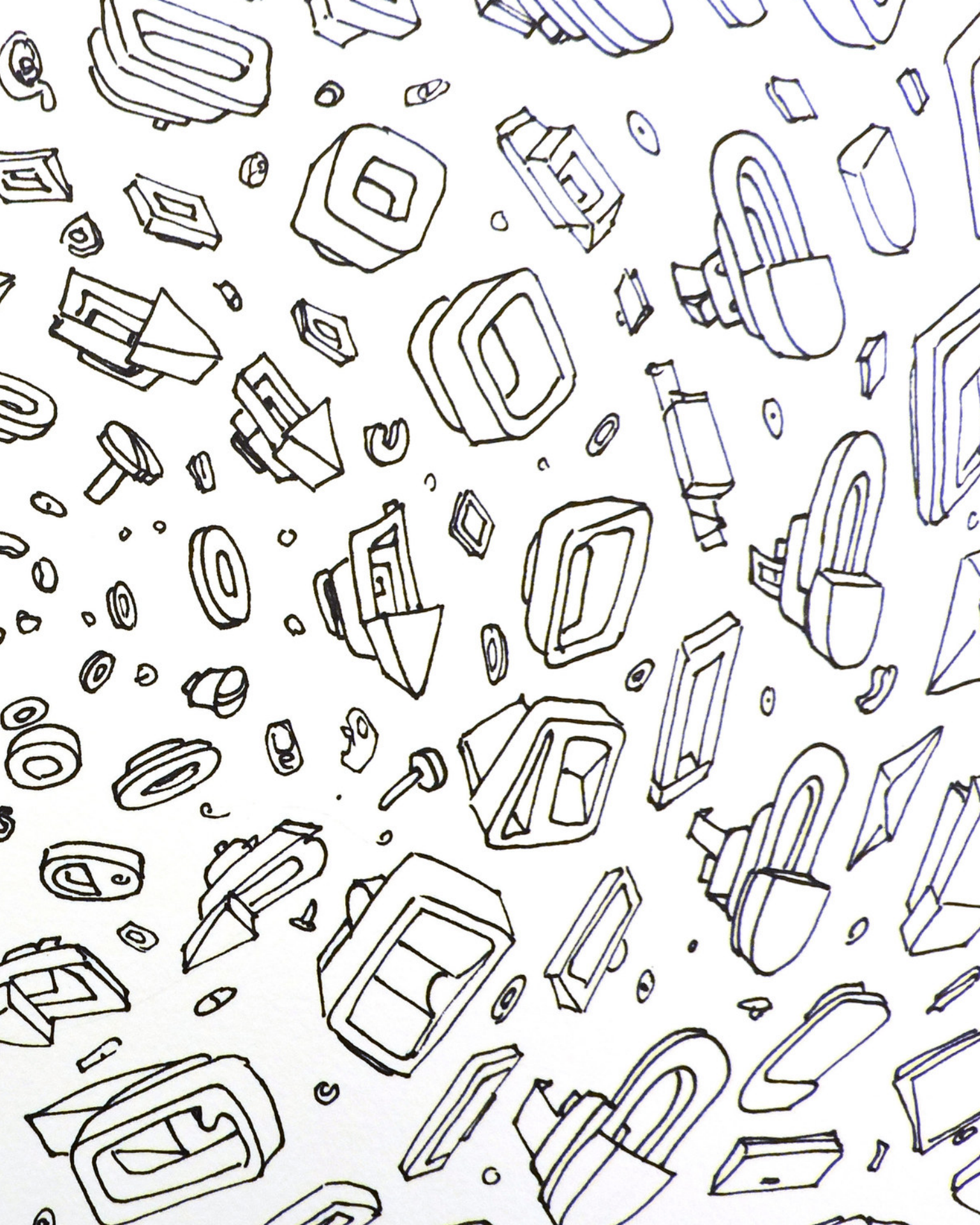




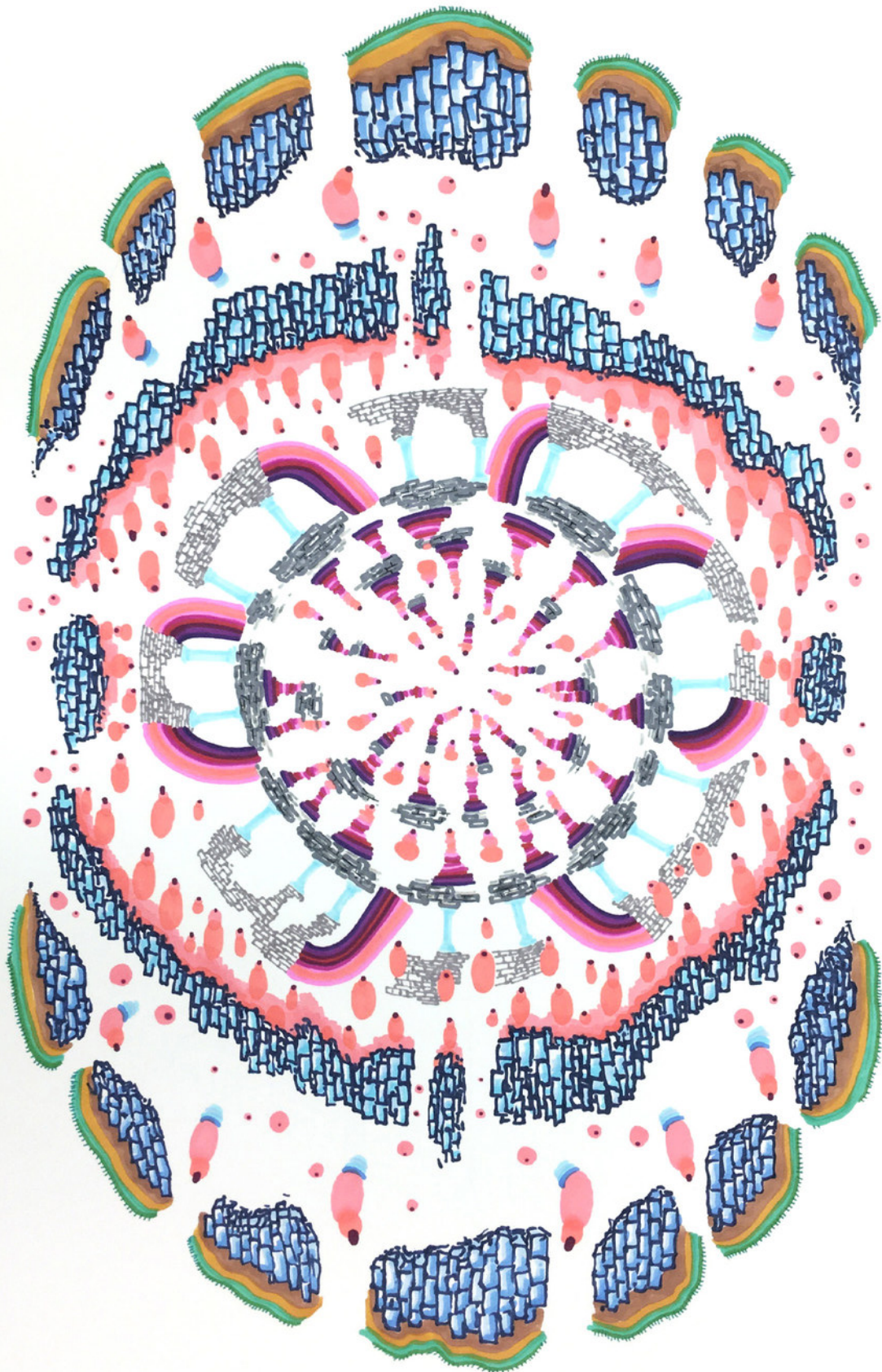


























This book was created to house the extensive collection of prints, drawings, and objects created by John O'Donnell's Hollow Earth findings and research.

It is a base for the sketches, the thinking and ephemeral pieces that all fall under the "process", forming the body of work and leading to new places, like the center of the Earth.

Made In Storrs, CT and Brooklyn, NY

Title Typeface in Pareto Rectangular by Dinamo Typefaces.

Design by Hunter French

For more information and projects by the artist, visit [johnodonnellprojects.com](http://johnodonnellprojects.com)

@buildface on Instagram

### **Hollow Earth: Documents**

Glass Box Gallery  
Seattle Washington  
2016







