

Emma B.

Truth becomes fiction when the fiction is true; Real becomes not-real where the unreal is real. 假亦真时真亦假，无为有处有还无

LiuRongRong:

“When you look at what is real as if it were unreal, that which is false it appears even more real than what is real; and the reverse is also true. When something that does not exist is said to be something that exists, that fabricated fact appears even more real than the fact that it exists. The reverse is also true.”

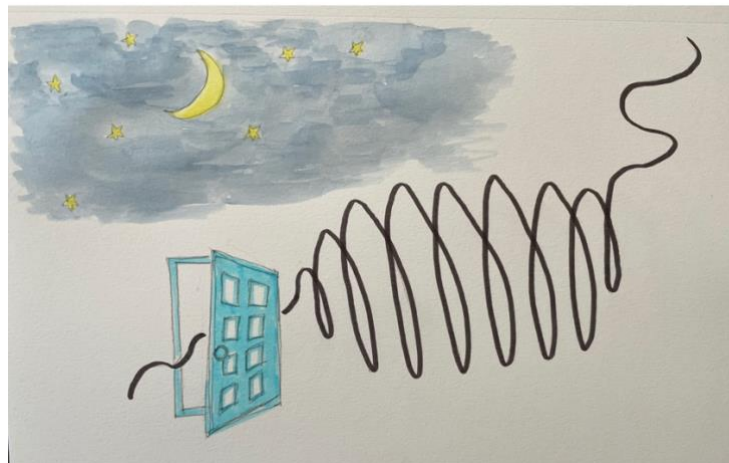
Brandon:

I know when fiction becomes true it can become hard to value the simple things in life.

Tomoko:

“I think of dreams as imagination while sleeping, yet it is interesting to think that dreams can be an indication of the future or could be some kind of message. Sharing my experience, my mother passed away a decade ago and I was devastated and crying while sleeping. Then, I saw her in my dream. She held me like a baby, and I felt her warm arms like real. It could be just my imagination or, it could be a ghost of her showing up in my dream. How can it be explained scientifically? So is destiny, many things in this world are hard to explain. I think the beauty of stories is generating and expanding our imagination, helping us to figure out things that can't be explained. Imagination is very important for all of us, especially for very curious children. Yes, Patriarchy, colonialism, supremacy, and "othering" exist in our society. However, we need to create new stories that give us hope. Also, it makes us expand our imagination with a flexible mind.

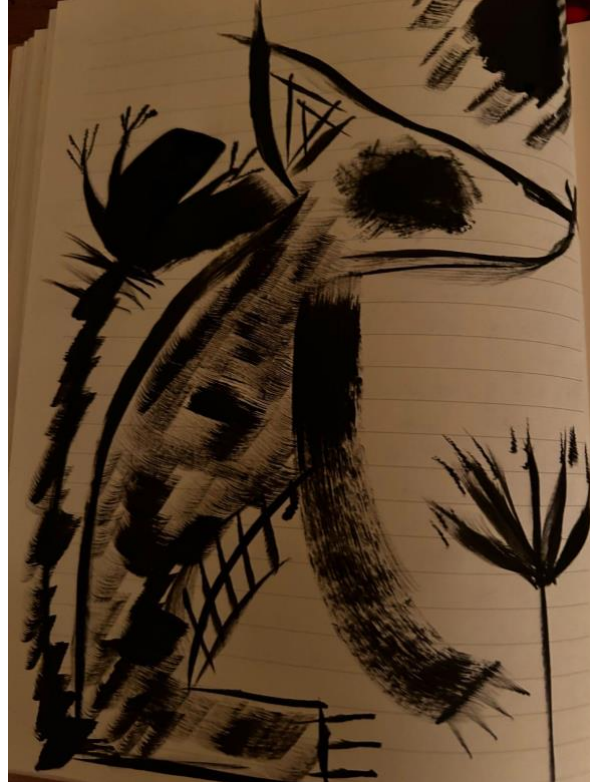
My art (below): my imagination of dreams. My mind escapes from the door and goes up to the sky.



Forest:

“Patriarchy, Colonialism, Supremacy, and "Othering" have all been stories that have shaped the world we live in today. These stories hold values and structure to society. Asking what stories serve us and what we need to tell, asks us what world we want to live in

and what knowledge we want to spread. I believe we should tell stories that teach us peace and understanding of people. When many are understood, the world becomes a safer place of self-acceptance. I would like everyone to learn stories that help us respect each other and the world, perhaps by understanding our intimate interconnection with everything around us.”



My drawing represents a creature around different flowers. I tried to vary my brush strokes to highlight the complexity and variety of my dreams.

Prompts: “What do you think of dreams? Do you believe in destiny? What is the “depth of tears” described in The Story of the Stone?”

Lily S:

“As The Story of the Stone conveys, dreams are intriguing and often meaningful.

They are not random. Dreams are your subconscious brain working to communicate with you, which is incredible. We can also see from the story that dreams may seem whimsical and hard to follow. However, you simply have to look for the underlying meanings. Similar to some tales you might read...

The meaning of the debt of the tears in the Story of the Stone refers to the rock watering the flower, and while she wishes to repay it, she doesn't know how to do it now that she is no longer a flower with “no sweet dew.” She turned into a girl, ate passion fruit, and drank from the pool of sadness.

So the only way she can repay him now is with her tears if destiny so happened to let them live together in the mortal world.

‘But most of his time he [the rock that will become BaoYu] spent west of Sunset Glow exploring the banks of the Magic River. There, by the Rock of Rebirth, he found the beautiful Crimson Pearl Flower, for which he conceived such a fancy that he took to watering her every day with sweet dew, thereby conferring on her the gift of life.

他却常在西方灵河岸上行走，看见那灵河岸上三生石畔有棵绛珠仙草¹，十分娇娜可爱，遂日以甘露灌溉，

‘Crimson Pearl’s substance was composed of the purest cosmic essences, so she was already half-divine; and now, thanks to the vitalizing effect of the sweet dew, she was able to shed her vegetable shape and assume the form of a girl.

‘这绛珠草’始得久延岁月。后来既受天地精华，复得甘露滋养，遂脱了草木之胎，幻化人形，仅仅修成女体，

‘This fairy girl wandered about outside the Realm of Separation, eating the Secret Passion Fruit when she was hungry and drinking from the Pool of Sadness when she was thirsty. The consciousness that she owed the stone something for his kindness in watering her began to prey on her mind and ended by becoming an obsession.

终日游于‘离恨天’外，饥餐‘秘情果’，渴饮‘灌愁水’。只因尚未酬报灌溉之德，故甚至五内郁结著一段缠绵不尽之意，

‘ “I have no sweet dew here that I can repay him with,” she would say to herself. “The only way in which I could perhaps repay him would be with the tears shed during the whole of a mortal lifetime if he and I were ever to be reborn as humans in the world below.”

常说：‘自己受了他雨露之惠，我并无此水可还；他若下世为人，我也同去走一遭，但把我一生所有的眼泪还他，也还得过了！



Drawing by Lily S.

Sarah A.

“The word culture is derived from the Latin term colere which means to grow something from the earth so when people interact with each other, they grow together which forms the culture” (<https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/relationship-between-language-culture-petrel-kong>)

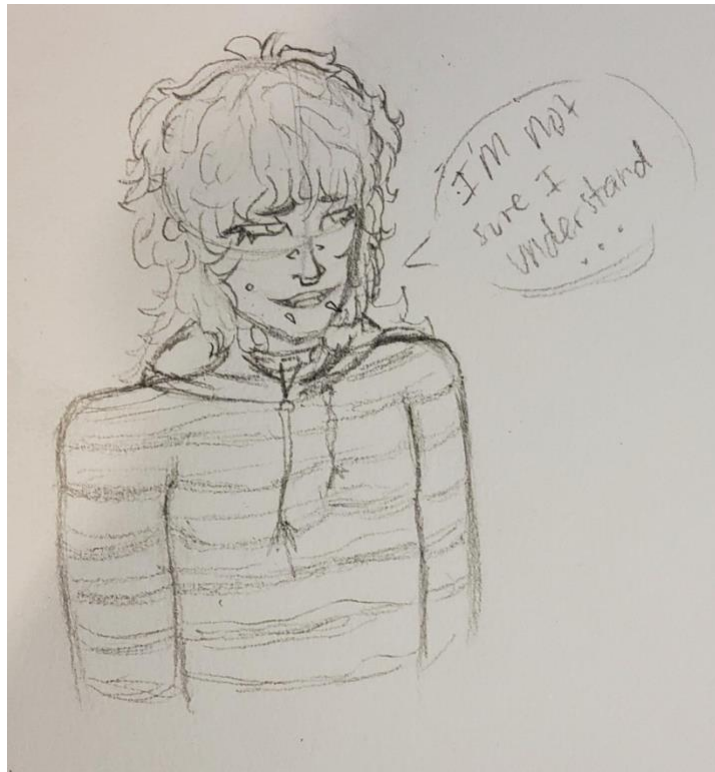


My artwork this week is “I Love You” in different languages!

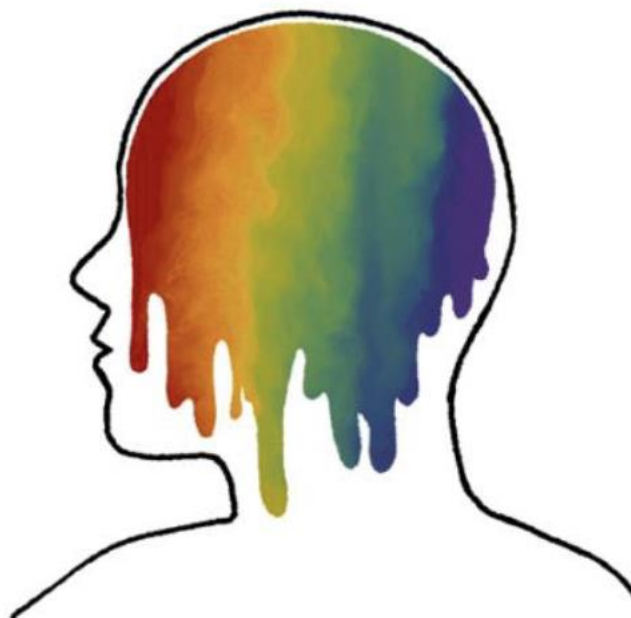
Rexxy:

“Whorf concluded that Europeans recognize the world as a “set of things”, while in Hopi language the world is a “collection of actions”. More so, categories such as “time” and “space” are not transcultural, but are part of our grammar” (Argos

Multilingual, 2016)



Whitney:



"I have drawn a featureless human head with a rainbow inside to represent the vibrant internal emotional lives people have."

Tomoko:

“... a Hawaiian saying, “Nana i ke kumu,” which means to “look to the source.” So, “Look to the source to create your heritage. The source can be God, your ancestors, or even nature. Create new traditions, culture, and values that motivate you and your descendants to live their best lives.”

Kelly:

“In my lifetime, I have had the privilege of spending countless days fishing in the majestic Pacific Northwest. This cherished tradition has been passed down through generations in my family, and I have been casting my line into the cool, pristine waters for as long as I can remember. I can vividly recall my earliest experiences, when the salmon runs were a sight to behold, and our rivers were overflowing with an abundance of these magnificent fish. It felt like one could almost walk across the river on the backs of the salmon. However, as time has passed, I have witnessed a significant decline in the number of salmon. The once thriving runs now start earlier and earlier, and the overall population has dwindled. This decline can largely be attributed to the impact of climate change and global warming, which have disrupted the delicate balance of temperatures in our oceans and rivers, posing a grave threat to the survival of these remarkable creatures.”



I recently created a sketch of a steelhead fish using pencil. Salmon and steelhead are crucial species in our ecosystem, and I have a deep connection to them as they symbolize the importance of water and life.

Remy:

“What is happiness? I am not sure! And yet it is my life goal to achieve happiness, as ever since I was a child it has been posited to me as the ultimate achievement. The Declaration of Independence itself suggested that the pursuit of happiness is a human right, not that that means anything tangible for anyone, nor does it even define what it means to obtain happiness. The term has been linked to luck and some see it as a reward for a faith in God,

but it has also been implied by many that happiness is simply unattainable for living people. That being said, James Madison said that the “object of government” is to ensure the “happiness of the people,” and happiness has also been associated with safety and security, thus American government constantly pushing for what they may believe to be a “lawful society.”

Amanda M.

“the “American Dream”, with its emphasis on competition and material success, is not well-suited to fostering happiness. Shifting towards valuing present moments, interpersonal kindness, and intrinsic goals may hold the key to a happier society. By realigning pursuits with these principles, Americans can work towards a more genuinely fulfilling life, akin to the happiness observed in more communitarian cultures...”

Lily:

1. Global warming and the effects it has on the earth. I depicted a half-healthy and prosperous planet and a half-burnt and destroyed planet.
2. The rock and the flower from the dream in the story of the stone. I love the emphasis on destiny and love, so I wanted to draw them together with a matched quote.
3. The food you eat matters; it has the power to heal. Herbalism is a thing for a reason.



Whitney:



Petals and numbers

D.J.

“I have created an image that represents the interconnectedness of cultural heritage, health, and the environment. The image features a tree with roots representing cultural traditions, a trunk symbolizing health, and branches depicting various global challenges like climate change. This symbolizes the idea that cultural heritage, health, and environmental sustainability are deeply interconnected and must be preserved together.”



Derek:

“Talking about the different definitions and approaches to health was really cool. I like how other places are more about prevention and healthy lifestyle choices rather than throwing medications or other substances at issues. They have a more health-conscious way of looking at health rather than trying to sell products.

When we explored happiness, it was like most of us were on the same page of defining and creating happiness. Getting to see that other people also believed that happiness comes

from within, rather than monetary or possessions. Although money and possessions can create momentary happiness for most, it is not the soul of happiness.

Reading other people's culture papers really struck gold for me. While lots of people may not feel connected to a specific culture, everyone felt connected to core values such as love, family, and generosity. If these are values that we can pass on to other generations and have it spread to new people, there may be hope for the future yet. “