

Digital Miniature Paintings

Visual Communication
Project - 3

Submitted in the partial fulfillment of the
requirements for the Master of Design degree
in Visual Communication by
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Approvalsheet

The Visual Communication
project 3 entitled:

Digital Miniature Painting

by *Sherline Michael Pimenta*

is approved in the partial fulfillment of the
requirements for the Master of Design Degree in
Visual Communication.

Guide.....

Chairman.....

External examiner.....

Internal examiner.....

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank my Guide Prof. Kirti Trivedi for his keen interest, guidance and patience throughout the course of this project.

I would also like to thank the faculty of IDC for their suggestions and cooperation and the other staff for all the help.

I am most thankful to all my classmates and friends who have been a constant encouraging source and provided emotional support in times of “give up” situations.

Most of all I would like to thank my parents and brother who have been reassuring, supporting and backing me throughout this project.

At the outset of this report I express my gratitude towards all the people who have helped me complete this project.

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Prologue

It all began with my summer training at the museum, that's when I came across the world of miniature paintings. While I worked there my curiosity got the better of me and I began reading up books and collecting more information about this painstakingly created miniscule art form.

Being an illustrator myself, I tried to copy the drawings and began studying the techniques involved in painting a miniature. Later, I took up miniature paintings as my project 2, this gave me even more opportunity to make a detailed study and further explore the paintings. As part of my project 2, I looked into the various aspects of miniature paintings such as how they came into existence, their purpose, how they were created, the materials and tools used, the categories, the themes and topics and finally what is happening on the contemporary scene today. Going through works by the Singh twins, I made a note of the treatment and themes.

At the time of my project 3, an interesting suggestion was put forth by my guide Prof. Kirti Trivedi that by using digital medium for creating miniature paintings and exploring the possibilities of painting and viewing.

The concept is to create a digital miniature painting to be explored and experienced in a new way by the viewer.

Thus began to experiment with my illustrating capabilities on the computer and finding new software possibilities to create 'digital miniature paintings'.

At the end of it I created visual stories with 'digital miniature paintings' that allowed the viewer to explore the paintings in a new way.

Abstract

Miniature paintings are viewed through a magnifying glass, where one sees the finer details of the painting. Taking a cue from this, the idea of 'digital miniature paintings' got evolved. These paintings are created by digital illustrations which are to be viewed on the computer screen. One can explore the painting by clicking on certain areas, which zooms out to reveal a new painting.

Aim & Objective

To create an interesting digital miniature painting where one can explore, experience and reveal the new visual story.

Miniature paintings

There is something about this intricate piece of art that has always drawn me towards it and left me mesmerized. These paintings, fit for the eyes of a king have lovely stories in them... They tell a story or is a record of a particular event. These paintings were mainly as part of folios. There was a certain way in which these paintings were executed, they had some characteristics that distinguished them from other art forms. Some of them are...

Miniature paintings



Colour is filled either flat or gradient.



Every figure is enclosed within an outline that can be thick or thin.

Miniature paintings



Unique way of using perspective

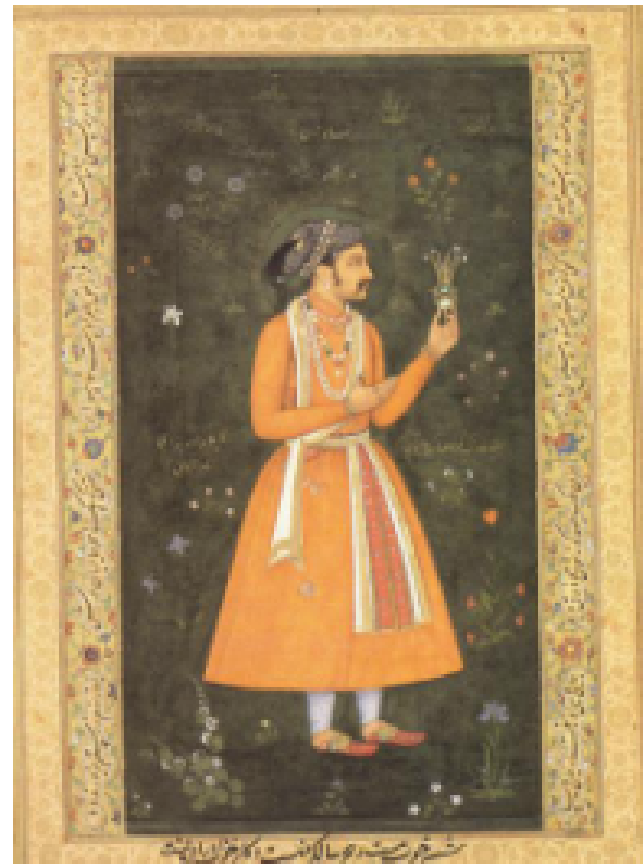


Patterns are not in perspective but are drawn as they appear

Miniature paintings



Objects are constructed to give a feel of what they are for eg. the leaves of trees.



Decorative border





Unrealistic picturization to make a point.

Miniature paintings



Repetition of the same figure in the picture to narrate multiple incidents in the same picture.

Digital Miniature Paintings'

“A painting is created by using digital illustrations and it tells a story which can be zoomed into to reveal further stories”

Features

- Decorative border
- Illustration in detail
- There are certain predefined areas where one can click and reveal the new visual story
- One painting will lead to another that may not be connected to the painting which you initially started viewing
- Presence of an element of surprise in every new painting
- Animation and Music

Constraints & Considerations

Viewing medium: computer screen

Keeping this in mind the dimension of the illustration is decided and judged. Colours and animation are also accordingly decided.

Decorative border:

A border which stimulates the viewer and gives an introduction to the image it encloses. Therefore care is taken while deciding the elements of the border.

Exploring areas:

Certain predefined areas are created in the painting which on a click opens up to reveal a new zoomed in level of the visual story. This new painting will in turn have other clickable areas that will open up still other paintings to reveal the whole story.

Other effects:

One will be able to experience certain animated graphics and music will accompany the painting.

Options panel:

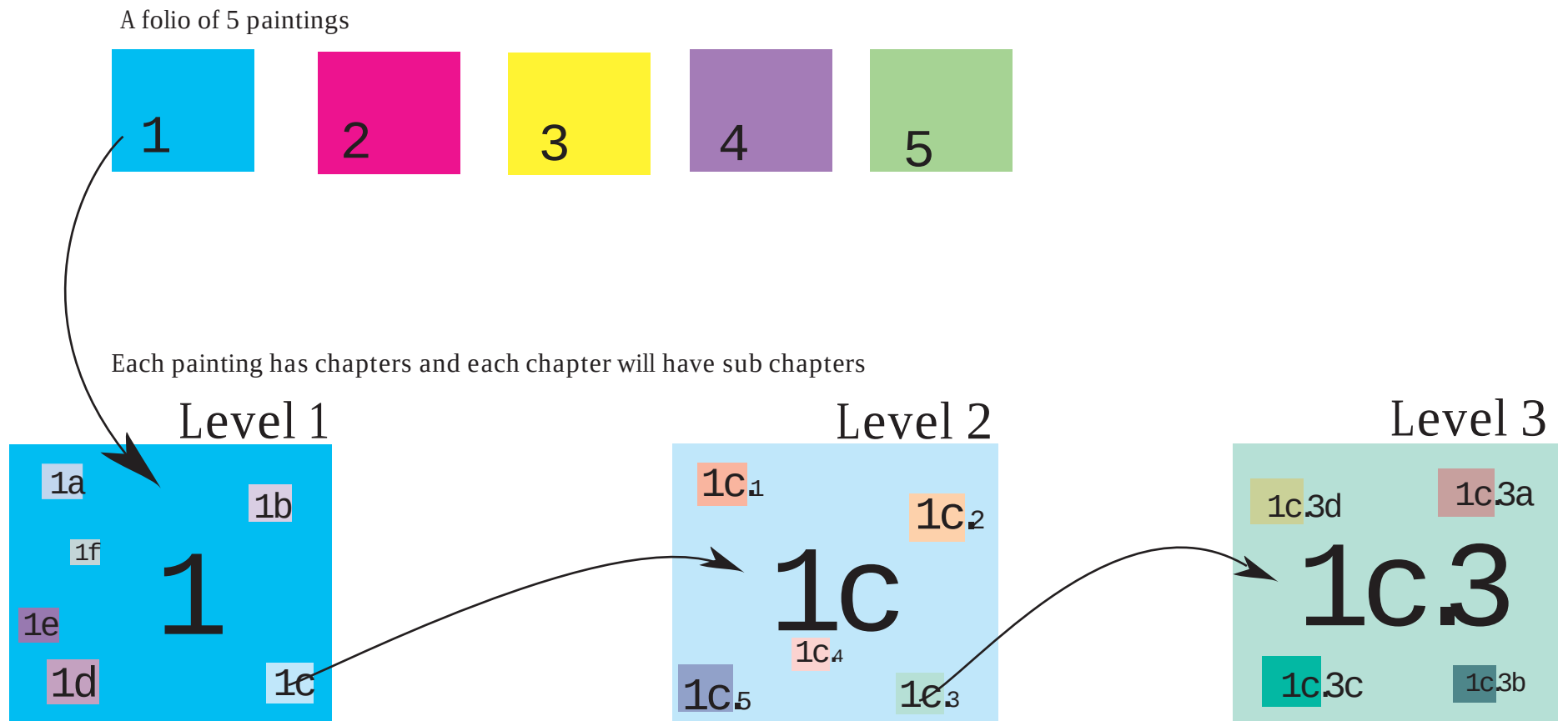
The main focus should be in the painting and the presence of an option panel will not only be distracting but will also create unnecessary confusion. Therefore a very minimalistic panel will be provided that will give very basic options to explore.

Constraints & Considerations

Ease of use:

Anyone should be able to view the paintings with ease. This group would include children, elderly and even who does not know how to use the computer very well. Moving the mouse and exploring (by clicking) is the only activity required to view the story.

Ideation



Software exploration

The softwares had to be very carefully selected to meet the requirements that were decided. Macromedia's Freehand and Flash were the softwares thus decided would be suitable. Being sister products from the same company they would be compatible with each other.

Parameters for selection of the softwares were:
Image quality: Freehand being a vector based software the pixelation possibility is low.

Low file size: once the file is converted into an executable file (.exe), the file size reduces drastically and it thus becomes easier and faster to load.

Viewing possibilities: Being a Flash exe. file it can be easily viewed on most computers.

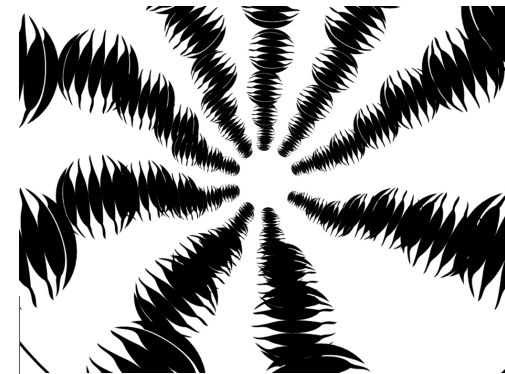
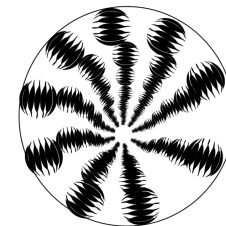
Other positive points: animation, buttons for creating clickable areas and a lot other actions are possible in Flash.

Illustration possibilities: Freehand being easy to pick up helped me to quickly realize the possibilities and limitations of illustrating in this software.

Technique exploration



Overall shape of something enlarges to reveal new shapes



Shape repeated at decreasing scale within itself

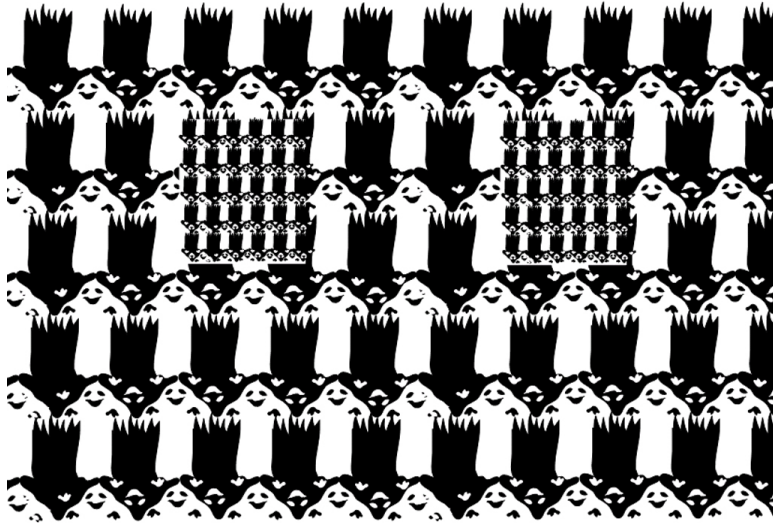
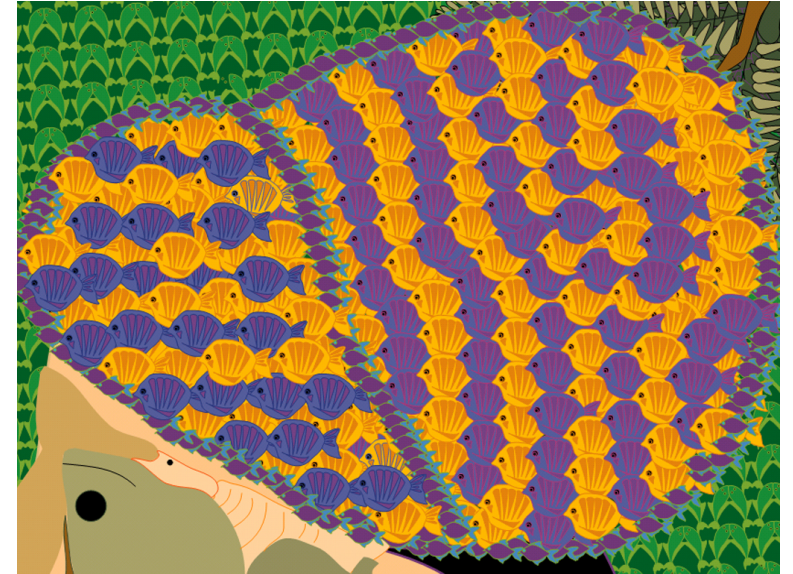


Image as foreground and background

Technique exploration

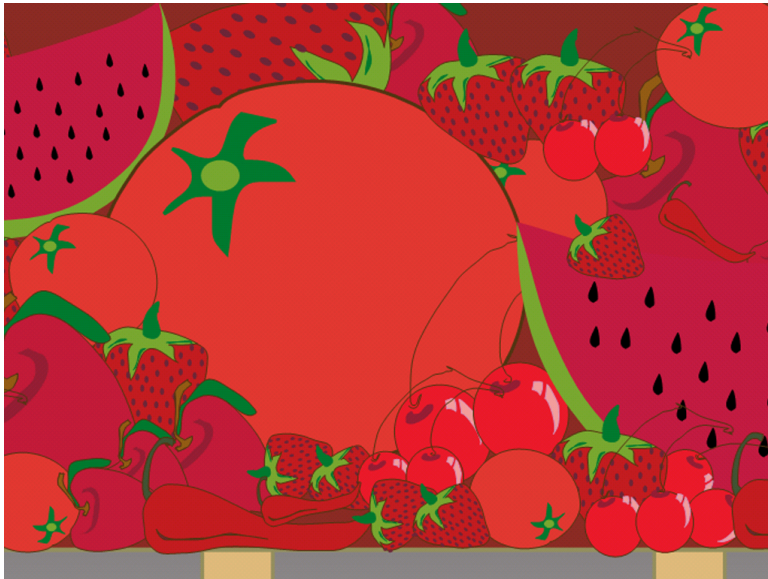


Colour changes on zooming in to a different level



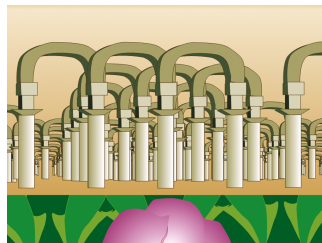
Technique exploration

Unexpected new objects same colour

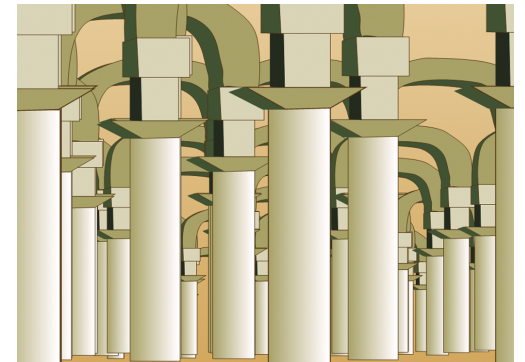
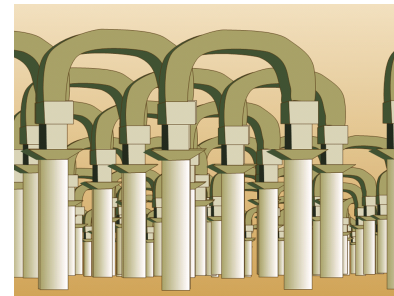


Repetition of same form with variation in colour and size to create new object

Technique exploration

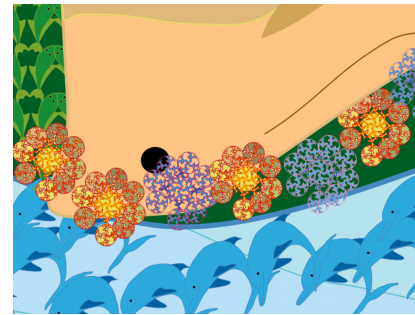


Mass of colour zooms in to reveal objects having dual meaning

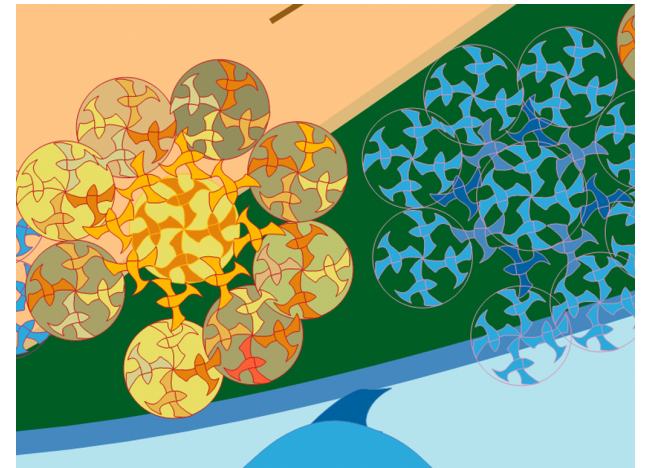


meaning change when zoomed in

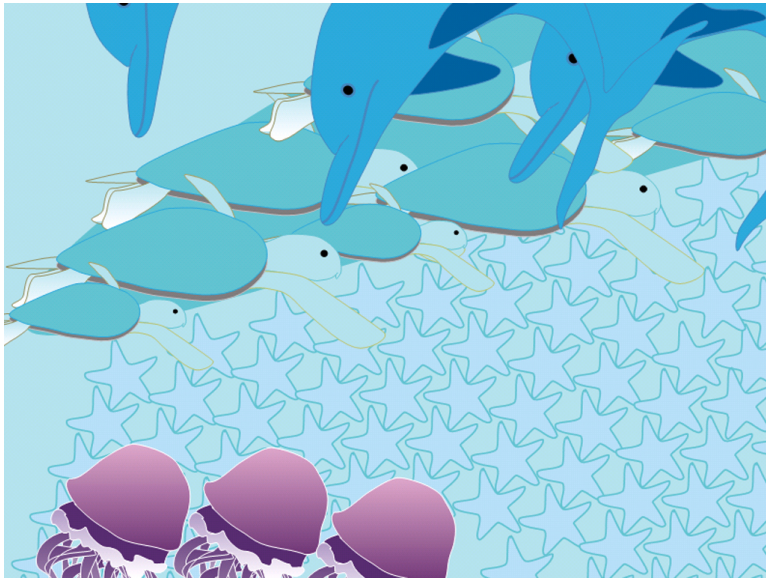
Technique exploration



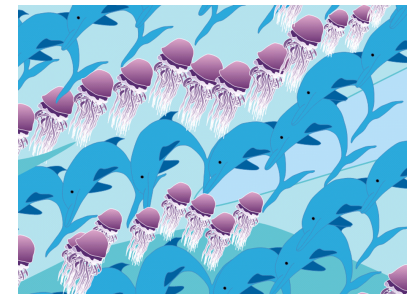
Outline colour defines the object but when zoomed in there is actual object colour is different



Technique exploration



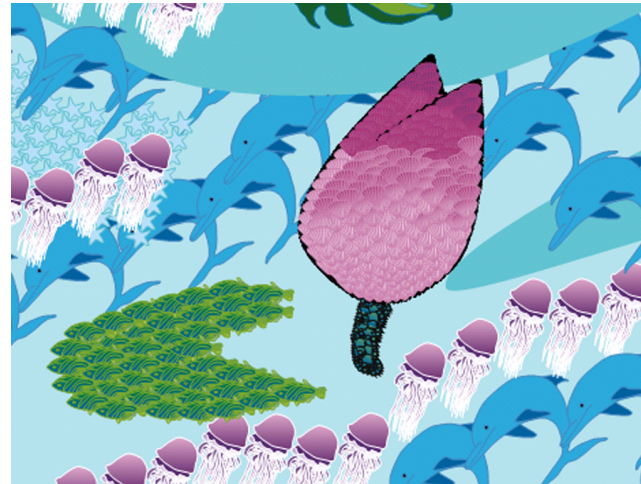
Cluster of various objects to give a feel of some entirely different picture by repetition and arrangement.



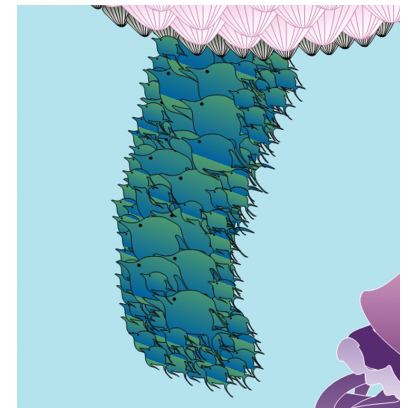
Technique exploration



An object when zoomed into is made of a cluster of objects.

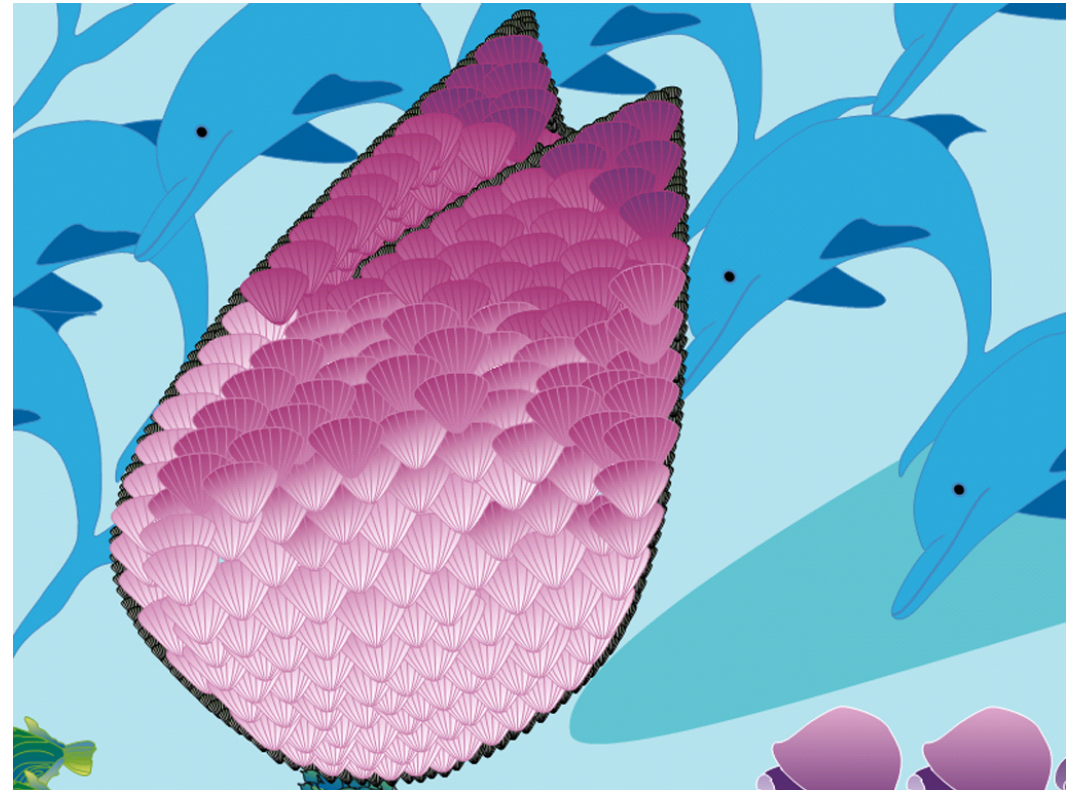
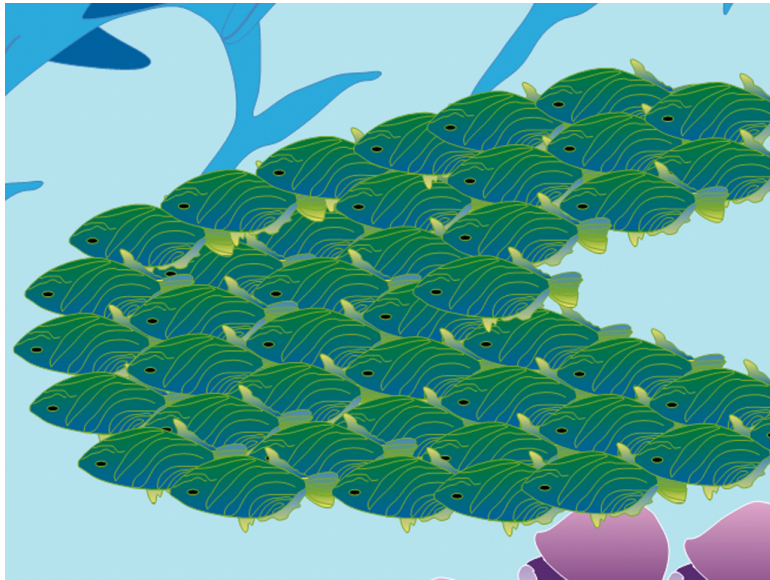


Cluster of objects varying in size



Technique exploration

Cluster of objects in same size



Cluster of objects in same size but variation in colour

Technique exploration



The form retains the same shape but reveals a different object on zooming in



Repetition of the same shape to create a texture

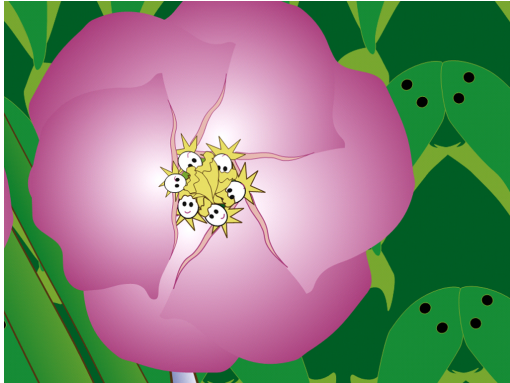
Technique exploration



Objects arranged in a particular manner to get an intended form.



Change in meaning associated when zoomed in



Technique exploration

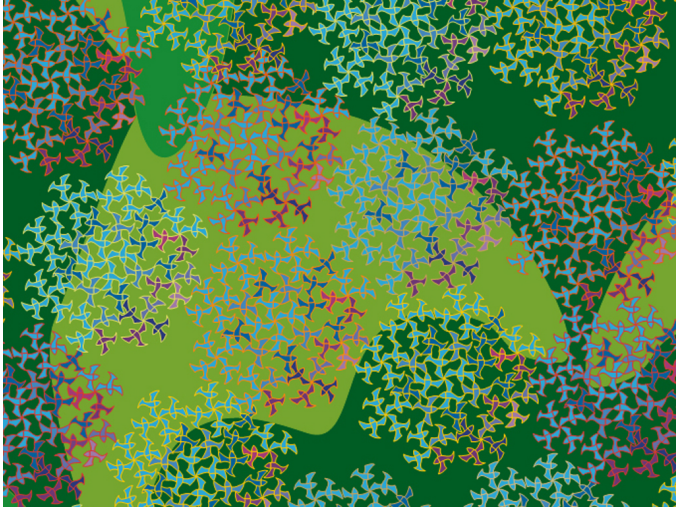


Technique exploration



An object when zoomed in tells a different story

Technique exploration



Object enlarges and transforms into something else as hidden details become visible

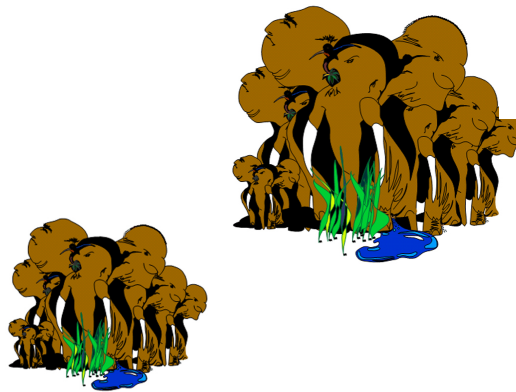
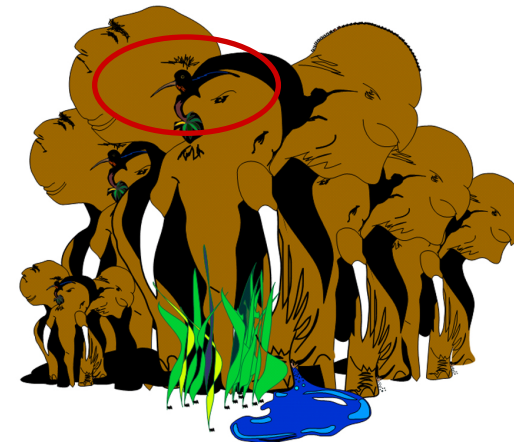




Technique exploration



Various zoom levels



Technique exploration

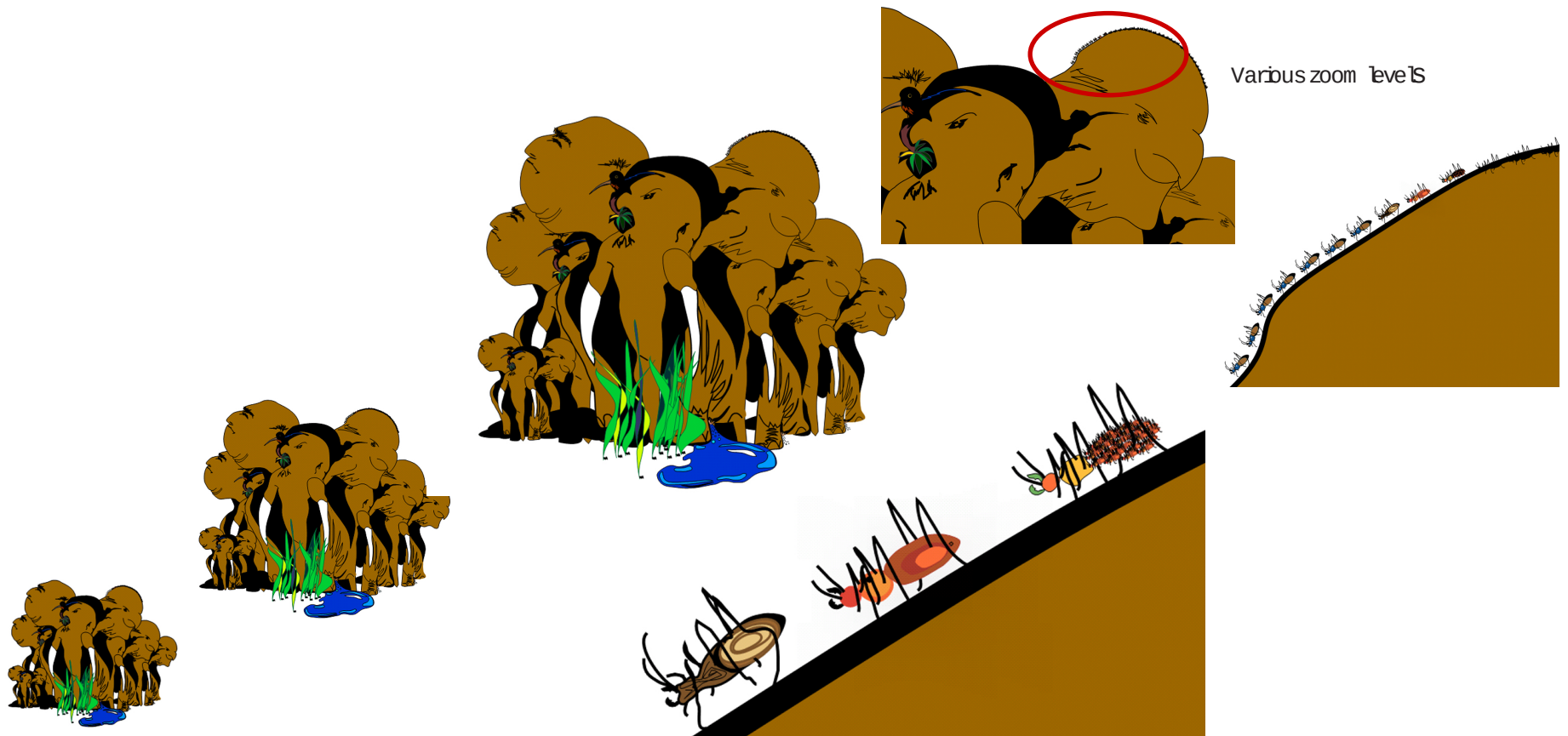
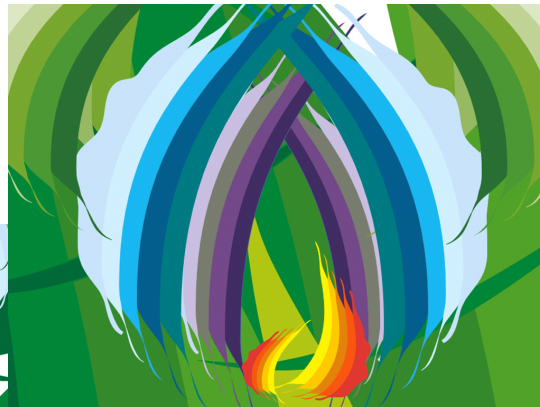


Illustration styles



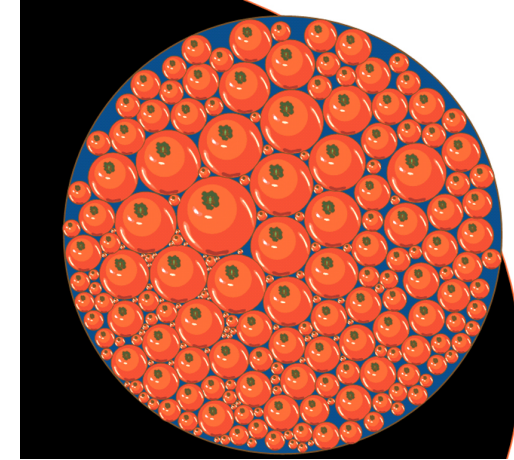
I just drew one basic stroke and experimented by varying size, color and composition.

Illustration styles



This experiment let me to explore just what one type of stroke can do.

Illustration styles



What can only fill without
an outline let me do?

What can I do with only one color and black (fill and
outline only)

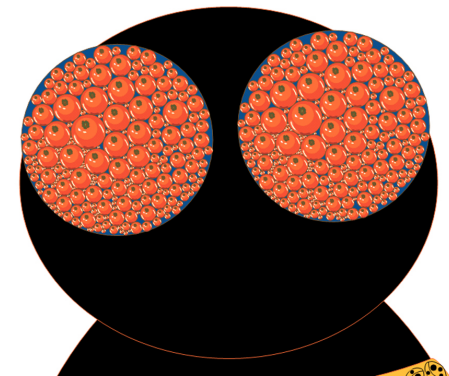
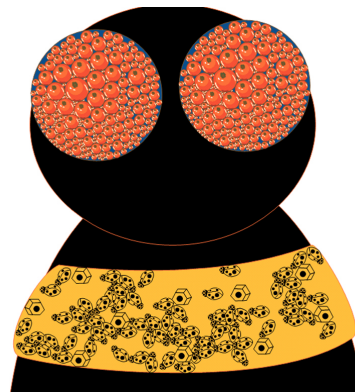
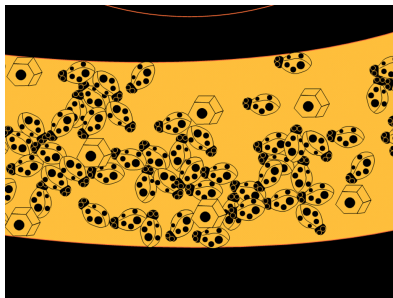
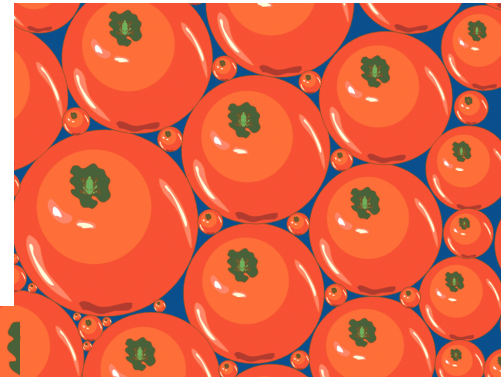
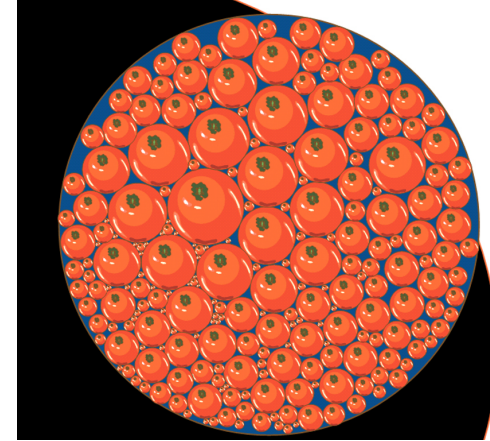
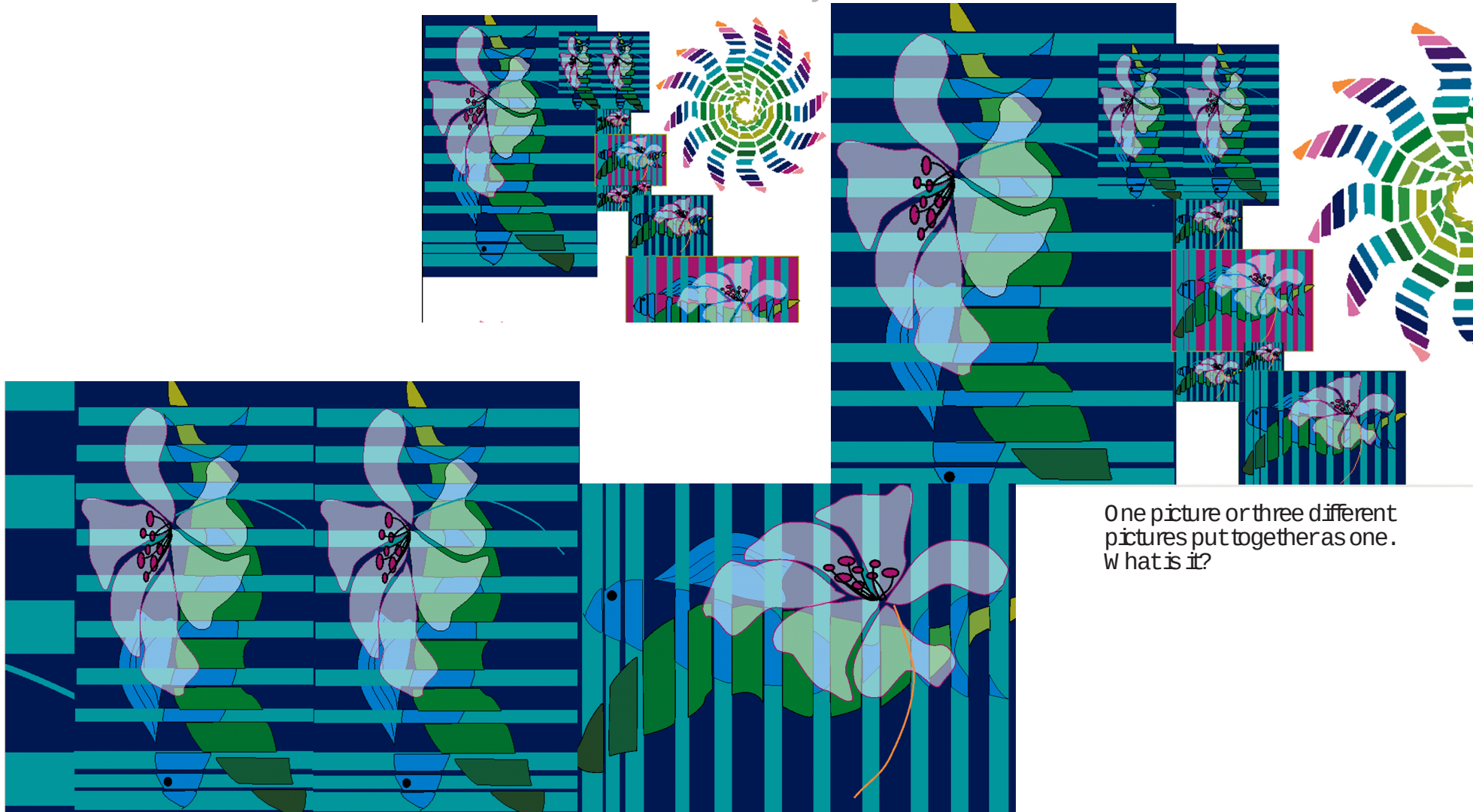


Illustration styles



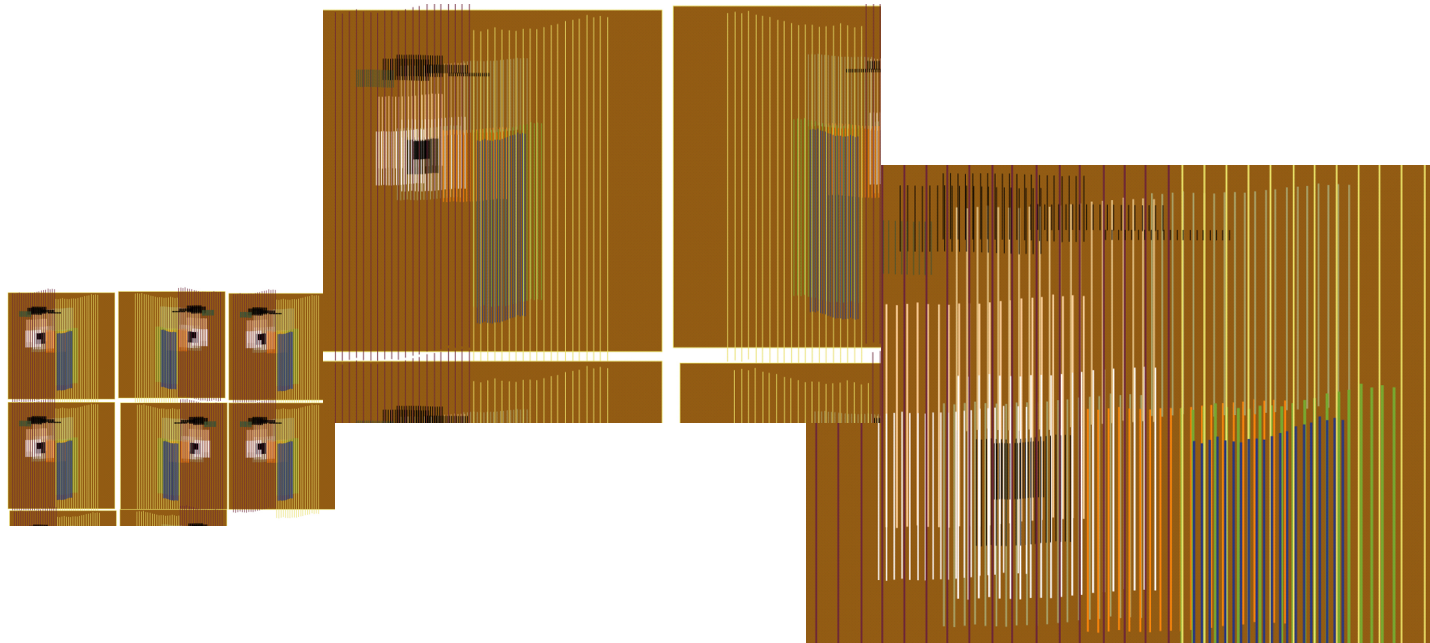
To what level can i zoom in and still have a clear image was the exploration with this painting

Illustration styles



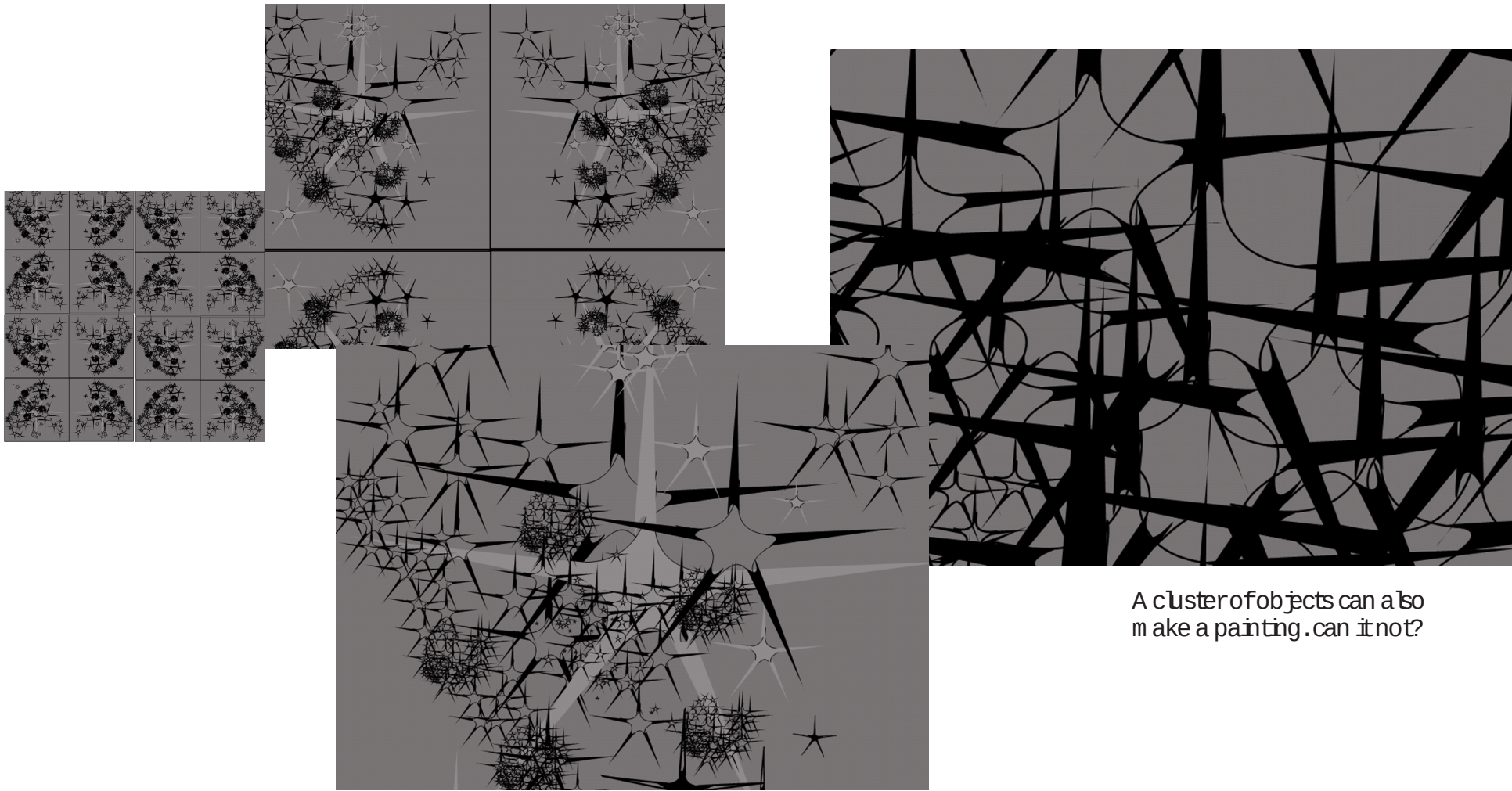
One picture or three different
pictures put together as one.
What is it?

Illustration styles



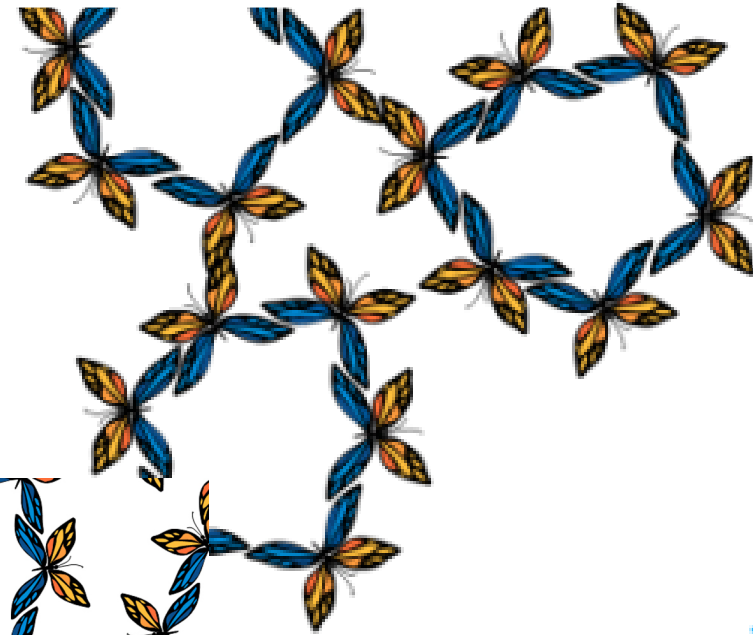
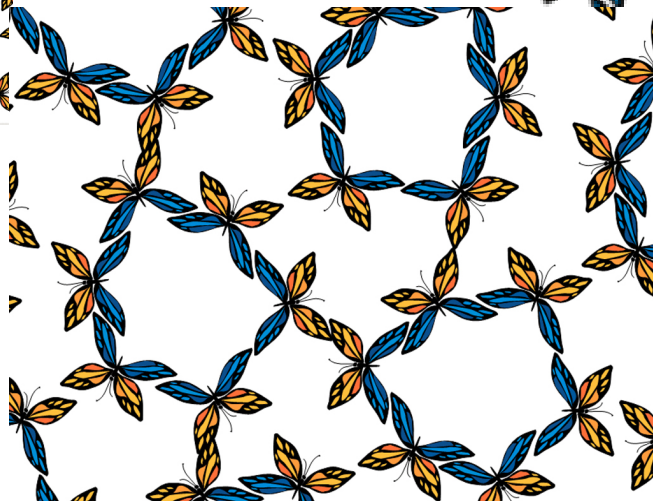
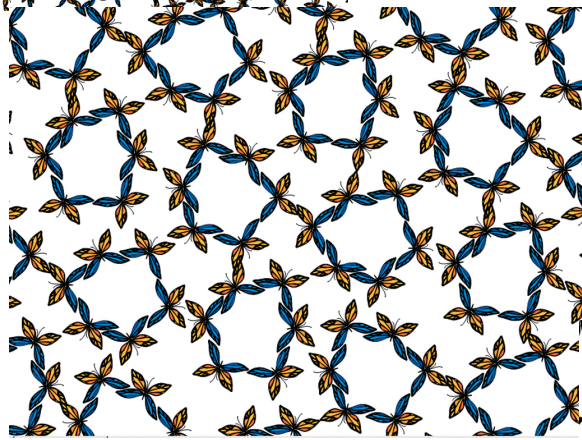
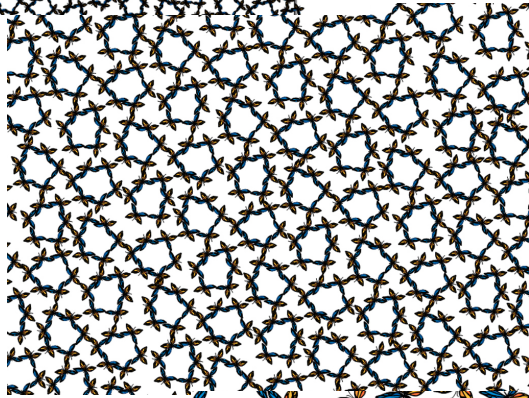
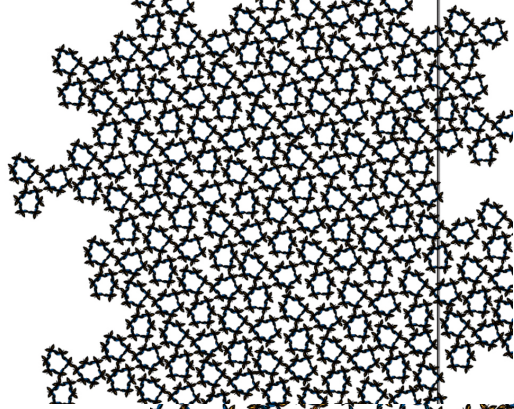
What can straight lines do?
that was the question i was
looking to answer while
exploring this possibility.

Illustration styles



A cluster of objects can also
make a painting. can it not?

Illustration styles



A lot of butterflies together
can make wonderful patterns.



Illustration styles

Flat fill with outline..what can
I make it do for me?

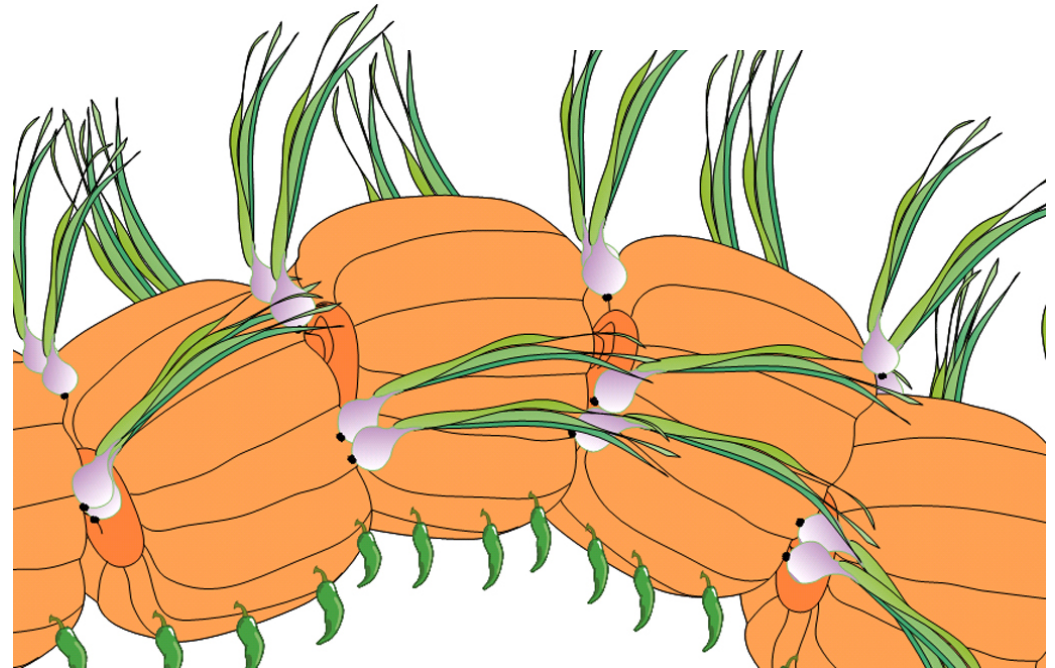
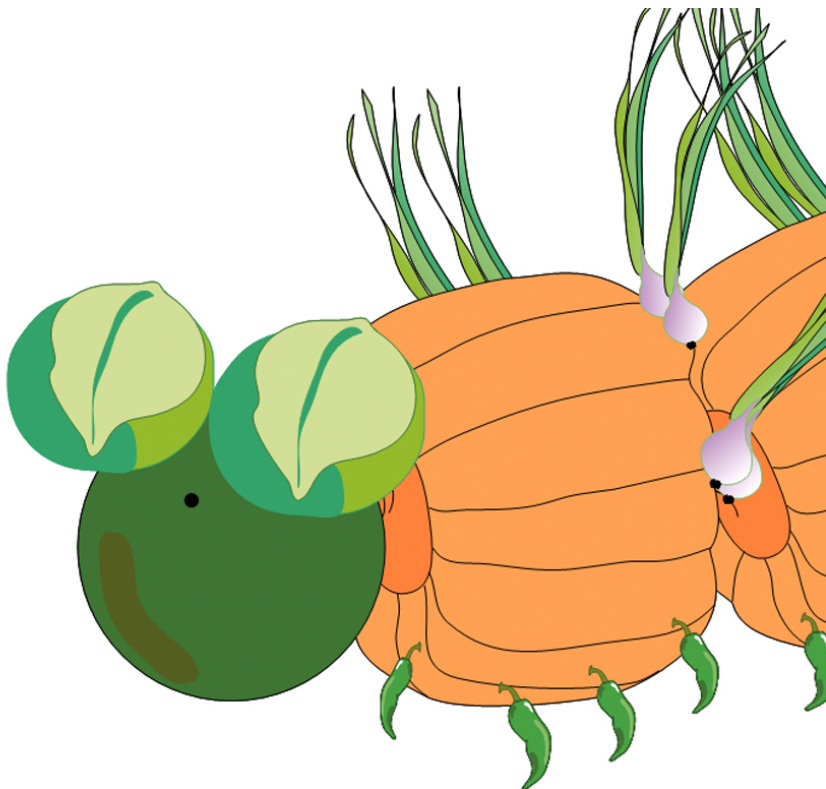
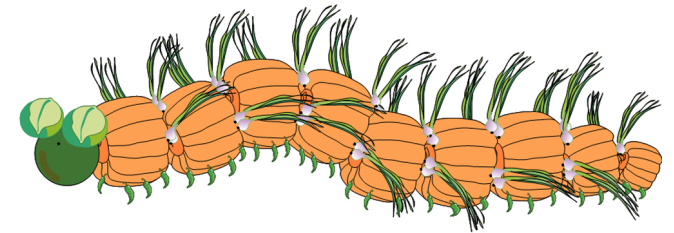


Illustration styles

Are they butterflies or are they
leaves and maybe there are
a few dragonflies too.
I was experimenting with the
various effects offered in
'freehand'.

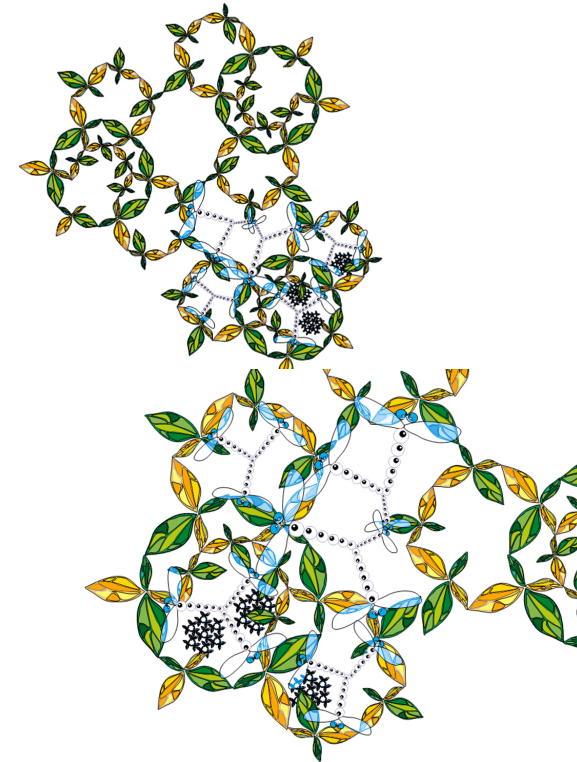
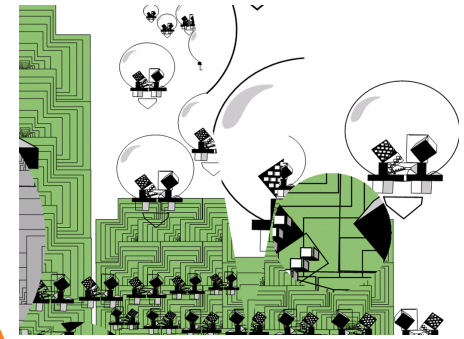
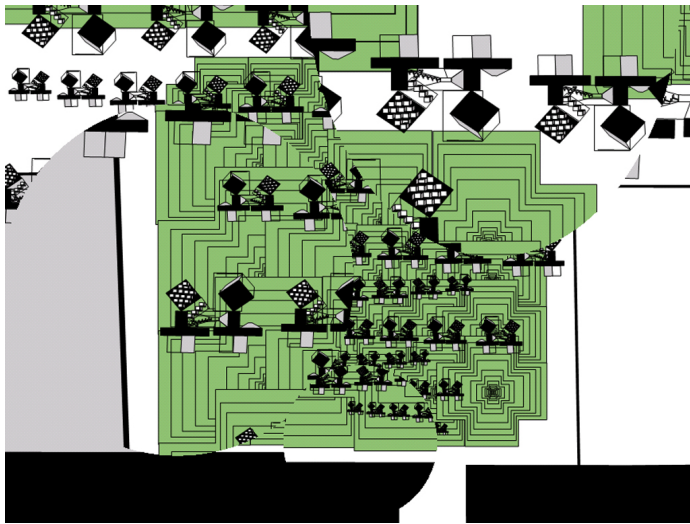


Illustration styles



Playing with geometric forms to create a painting and get a 3d feel to it.

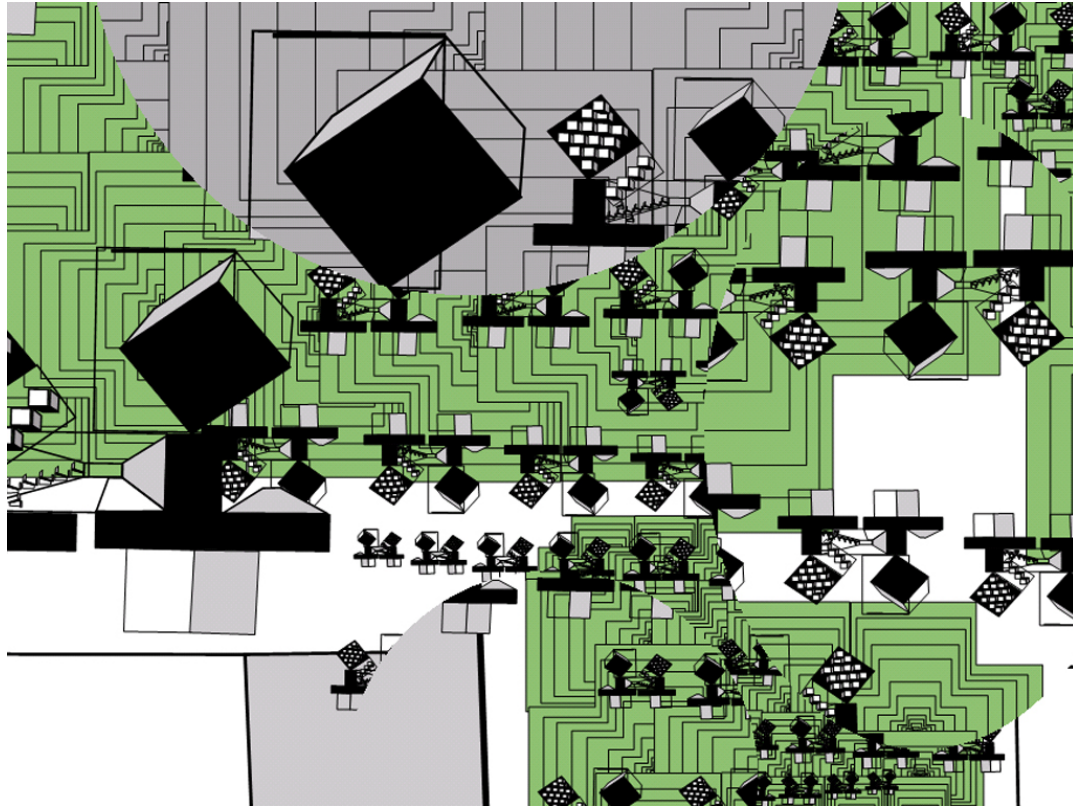


Illustration styles

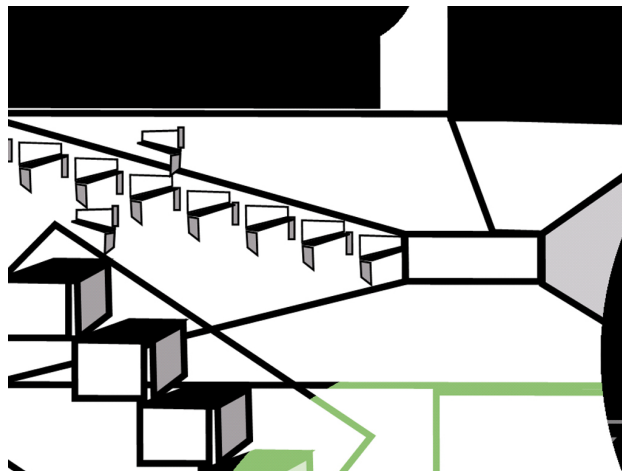
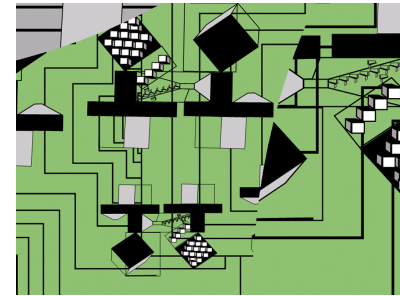
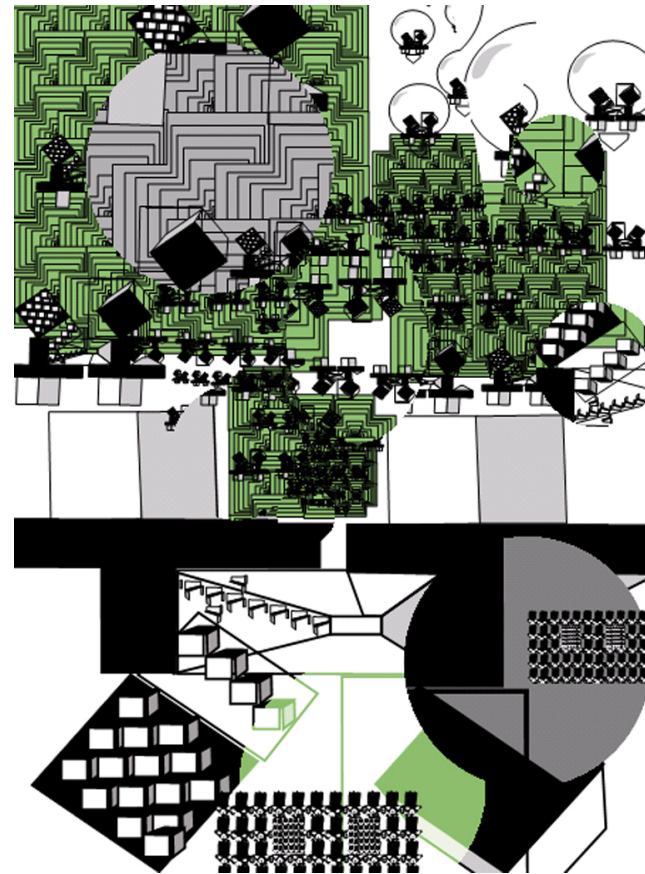
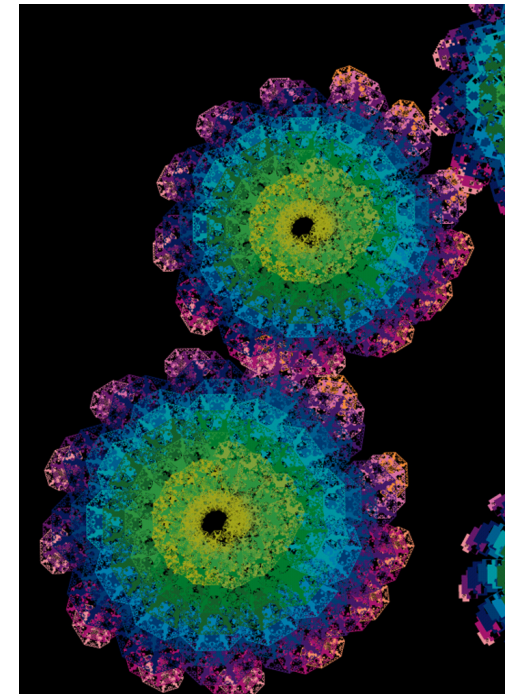
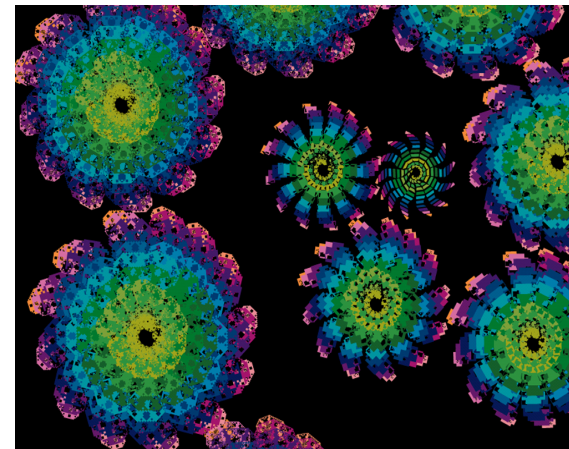
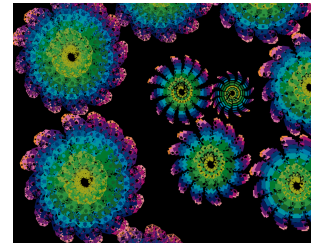
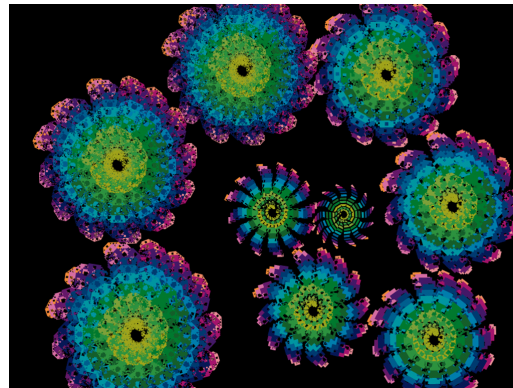
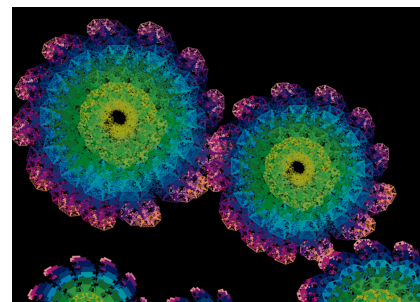
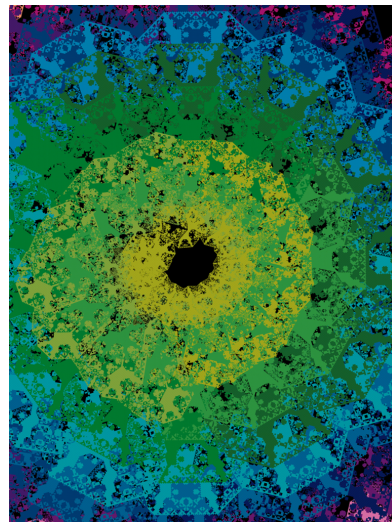
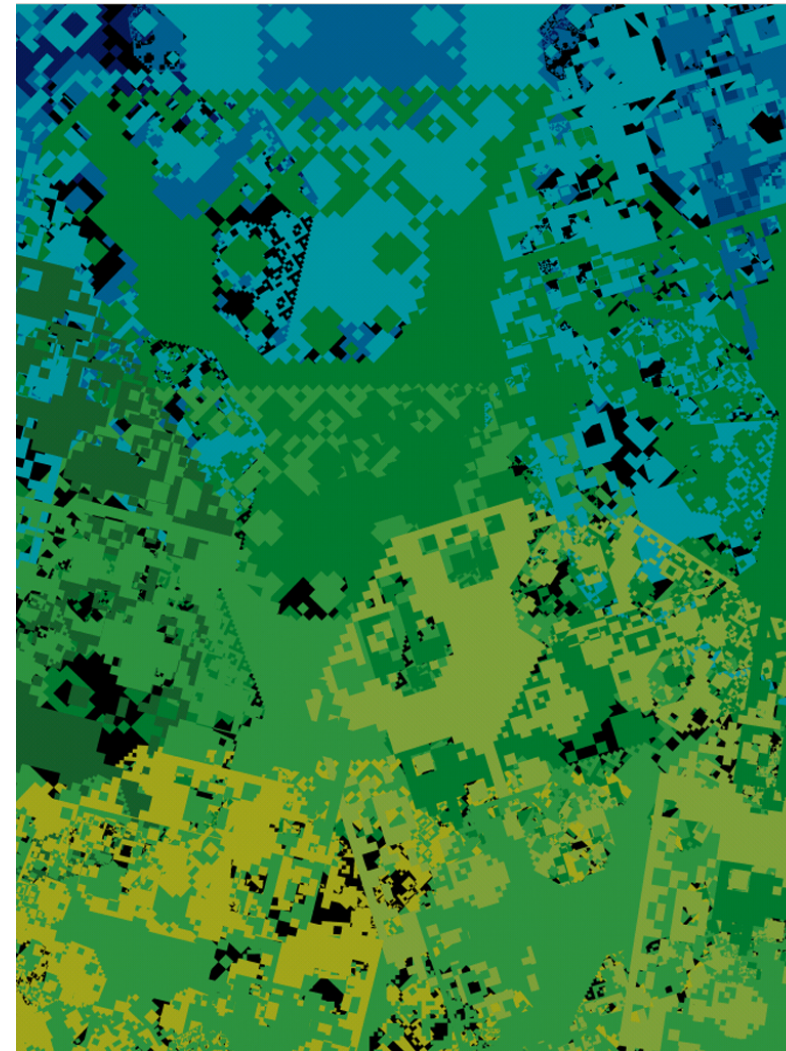
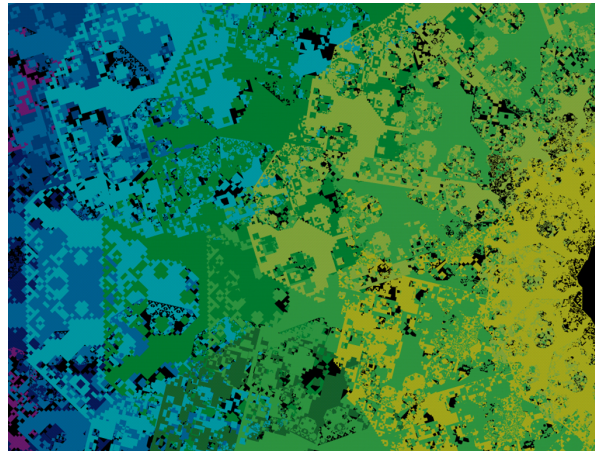


Illustration styles



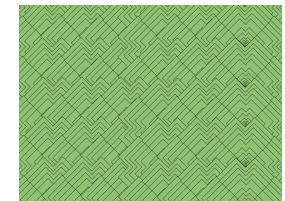
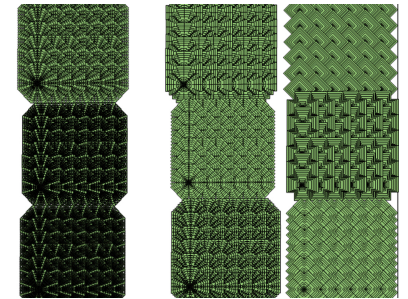
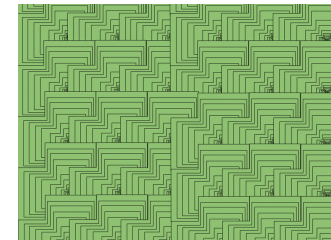
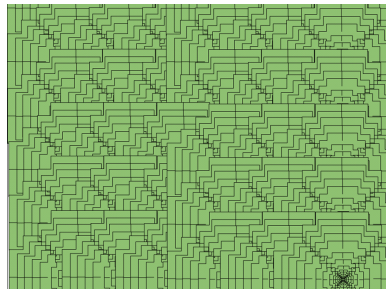
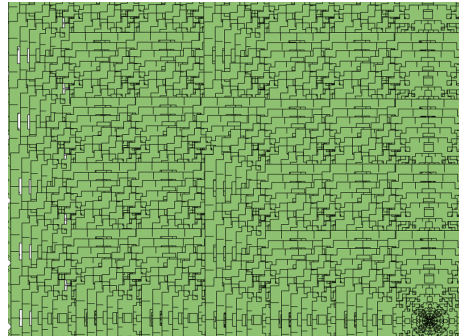
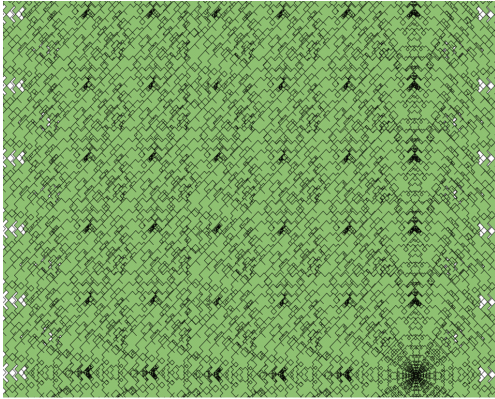
A basic shape was first created and at each step as the shape increases in size the complexity of the shape also increases.

Illustration styles



Continued increment in
size and complexity allowed
kinds of patterns to emerge.

Illustration styles



Squares get fractalized and complex patterns emerge which when zoomed into creates an visual illusion of depth.

Illustration styles



I wanted to create a feeling of depth and 3d objects. This was also to see how I could get a transparent effect, like that of bubbles.

A neverending journey that takes you through a series of spears.

Illustration styles



Solid strokes that by themselves are just an individual mass of colour. Look at them together and a shape is formed that is not quite but looks like something you can identify.

Illustration styles



I tried out a combination of styles to find out the possibilities I can achieve.

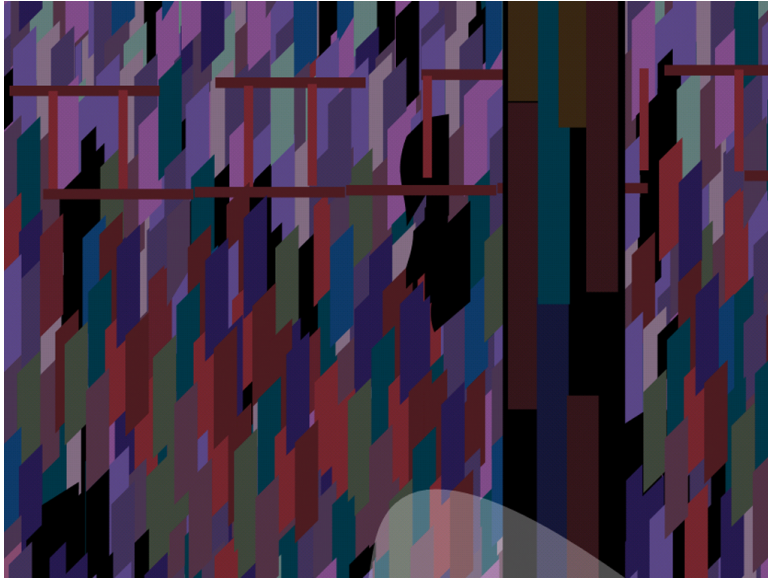
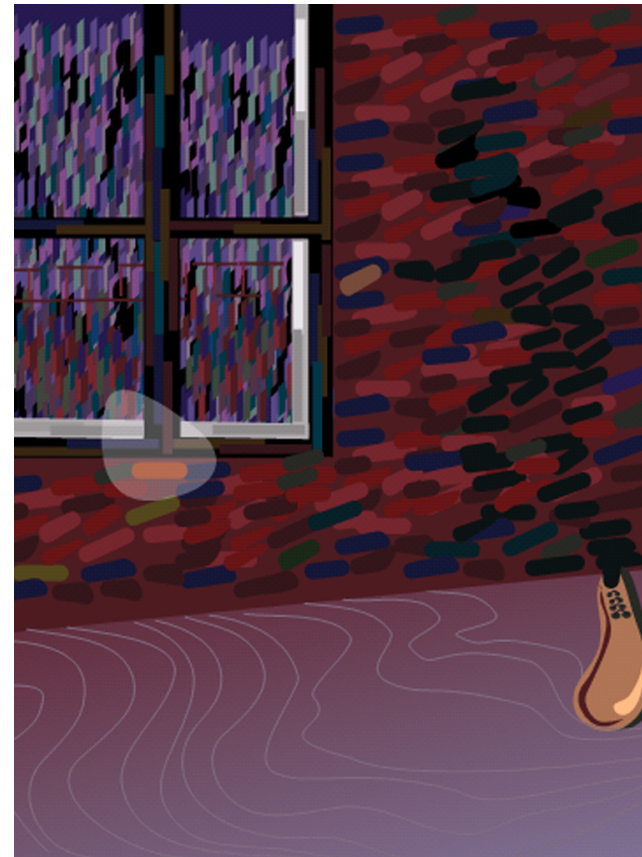


Illustration styles



Using a lot of unequal strokes of various colours that are almost similar in tone a picture has been painted. The shoe is realistic to create interest and find the relationship and link in the background.

Concept generation

"Living Water" is a folio of digital miniature painting' revolving around the theme 'water'. Water provides life to many beings. It is something that makes me happy, I love playing with water and it's surroundings from a dew drop to a tear..to the vast ocean.

Our "blue planet" is covered with 75% of water. This precious liquid creates new forms and reflects various moods. I have tried to capture some forms that water takes and the different moods.

There is a story involved in each of the painting that unfolds as the viewer explores it.

'Living Water'

- One fine rainy day
- Deep under the ocean
- By the pond
- In tears
- Mystic water

Concept generation

One fine rainy day...

One fine rainy day as i walked through the
forest. There was a light drizzle, the flowers
were in full bloom .
Everything looked pleasant and fresh .
Life was awakening,
Sparkling rain drops were falling all over the
place like diamonds, emeralds and sapphires.
To compete against this were the ruby red bugs
coming out of hiding to have a look and
butterflies singing songs of happiness
But what is this when I have a closer look...

Concept generation

Deep under the sea

One day I decided to go and see what
I would find under the deep blue sea.
An amazing splatter of colours I found,
fishes of the most beautiful hues,
shells that opened to mysterious places and
a sea horse with a tattoo.

Concept generation

At the pond

I followed a toad one day,
he took me to his place of stay,
it was a little lotus pond,
and I was off on a journey
that took me way beyond...

Concept generation

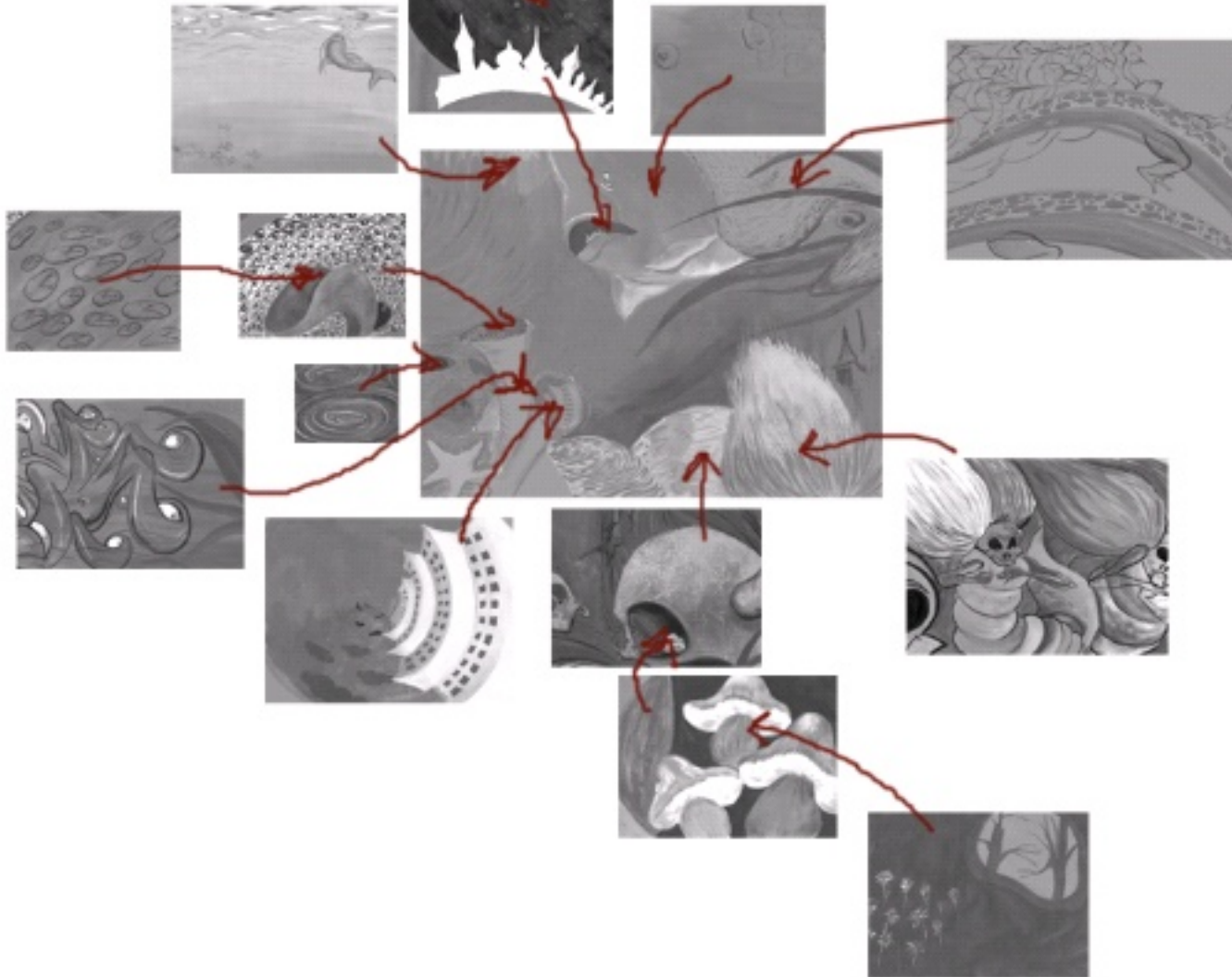
In tears

In the depth of her eyes I saw it,
some sadness ... I don't know what,
the eyes overwhelmed with an emotion,
an ocean of tears are ready to drop ...

Concept generation

Mystic water

Then one night i had a dream ,
I was in a very mystic land,
something I had never seen before ...
so marvelous ...
there were magical creatures and a very
mysterious waterfall..
at least it looked like water,
I'm not sure though ...



Visualization

Deep under the sea



Visualization

Deep under the sea





Visualization

Deep under the sea



Visualization

Deep under the sea





Visualization

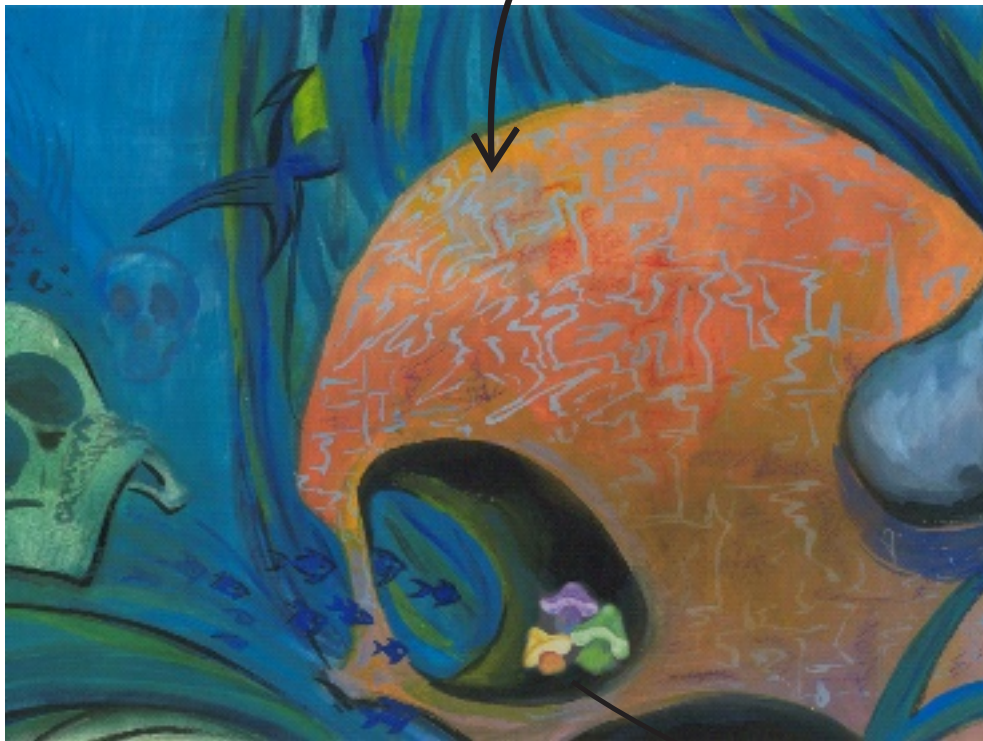
Deep under the sea





Visualization

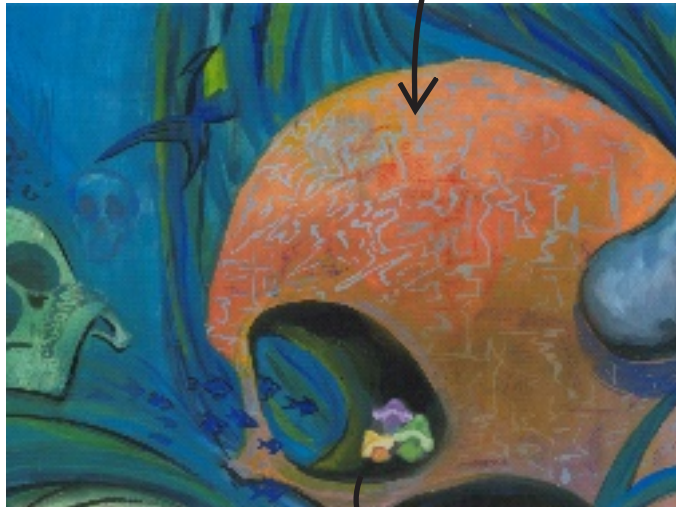
Deep under the sea





Visualization

Deep under the sea





Visualization

Deep under the sea



Visualization

Deep under the sea



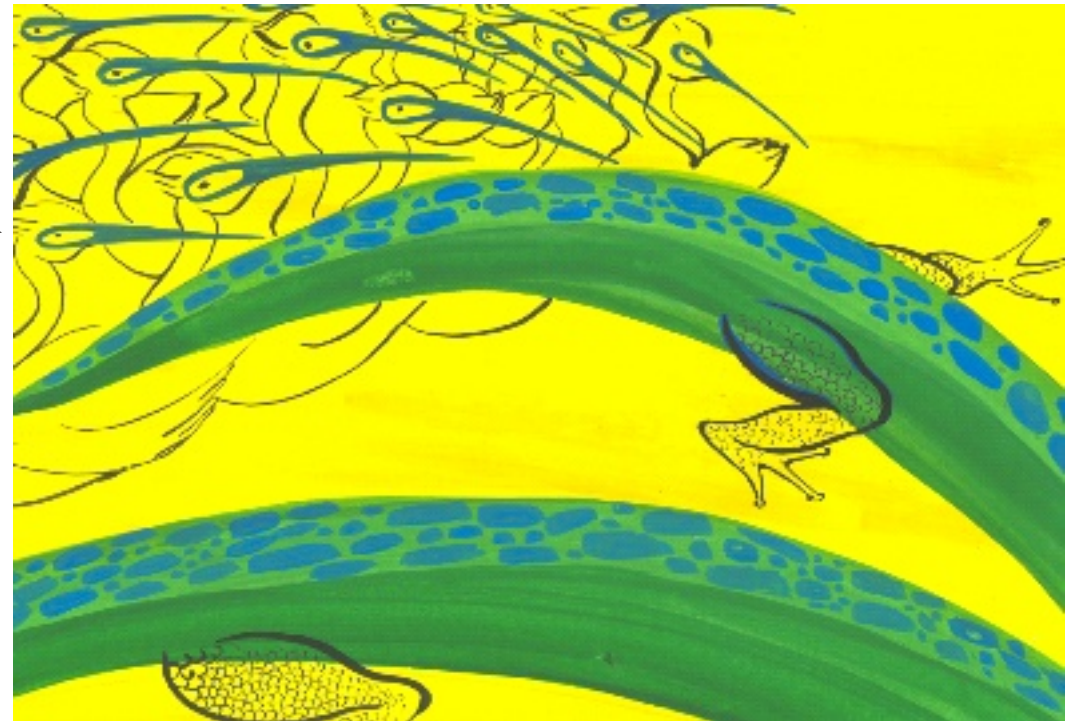
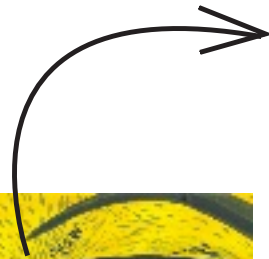
Visualization

Deep under the sea



Visualization

Deep under the sea





Visualization

Deep under the sea



Visualization

Deep under the sea



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