

John Baselmans' Lifework part 5



John Baselmans' Lifework
Part 5

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Drawings and illustrations are from the hand of
John Baselmans

I hope you will be the new generation upcoming artist.

With thanks to all those people who are supporting me.

Copyrights

I won't put all the usual 'don'ts' here, but I hope that you respect my work.

At least let me know when you use any part from this book.

For my address, please visit my website <http://www.johnbaselmans.com>

There you can also find other free courses and explanations of my drawings.

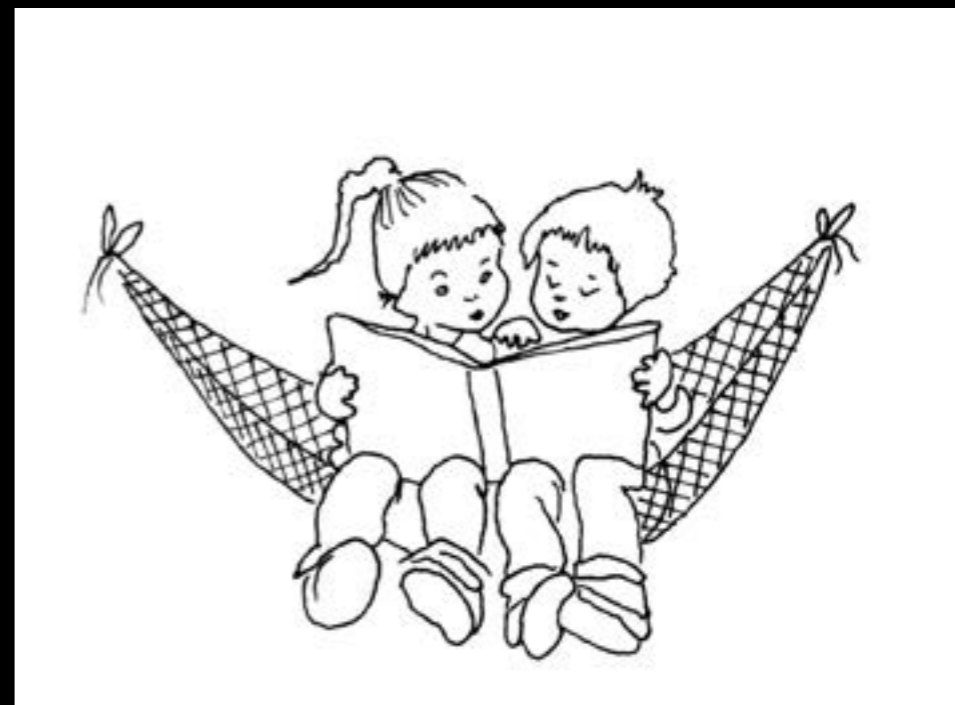
Thank you.

ISBN 978-1-291-64973-4

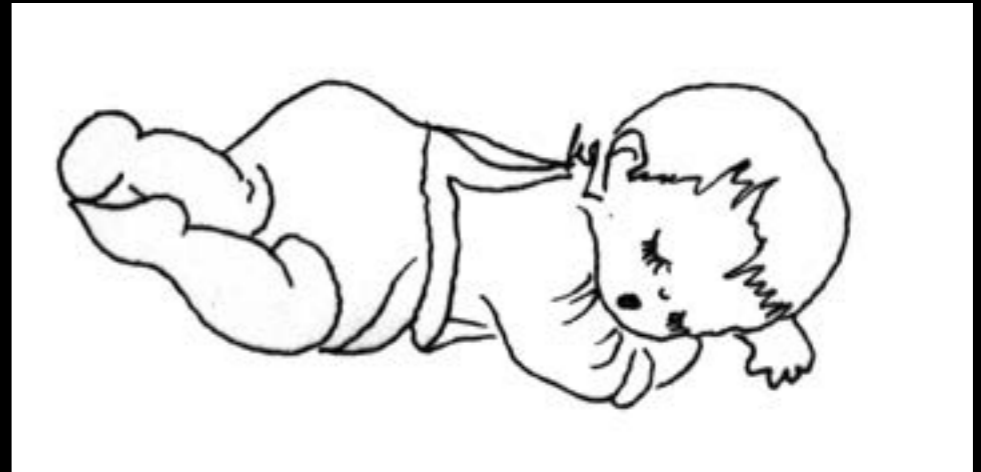
INDEX John Baselmans' Lifework part 5

Index	5
Old sketches	6
Old pendrawings landscape	66
Mixed technique	78
Old pendrawings animals	84
Old pendrawings people	94
Newest pendrawings people	99
Graphic work	126
Curriculum Vitea	129

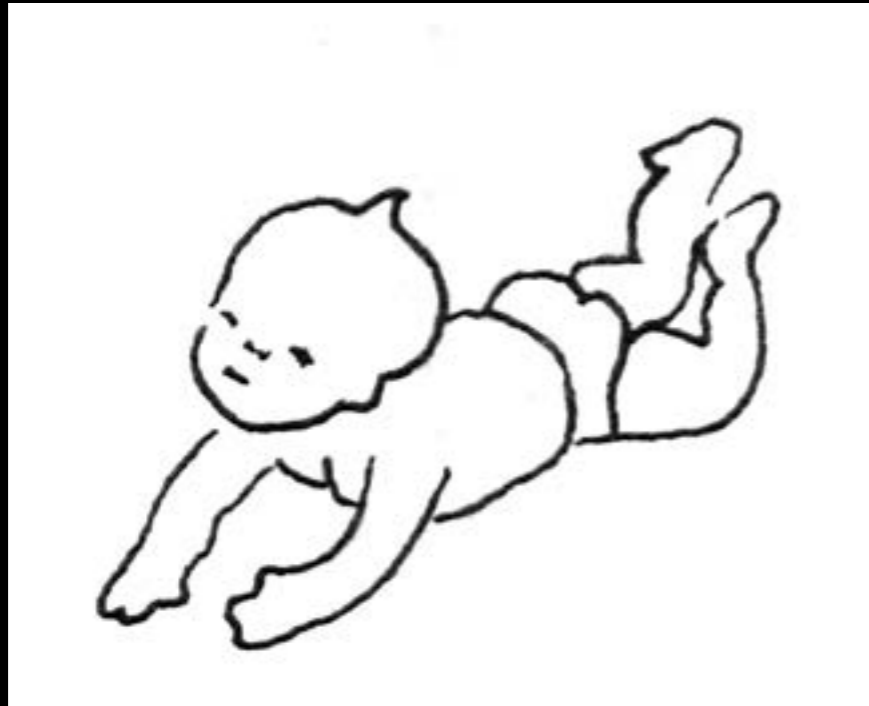
Old pen sketches









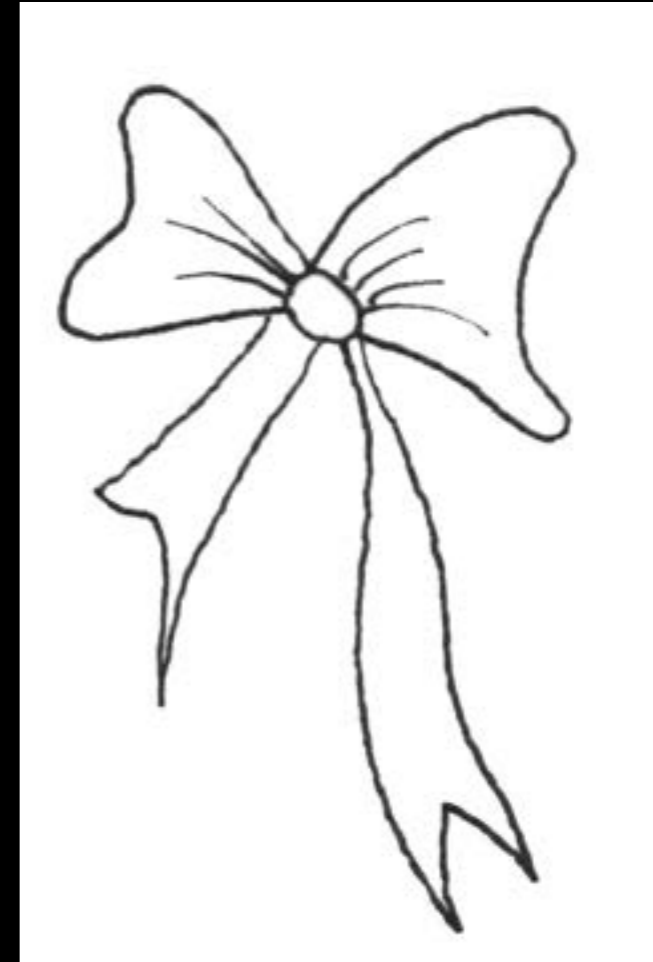


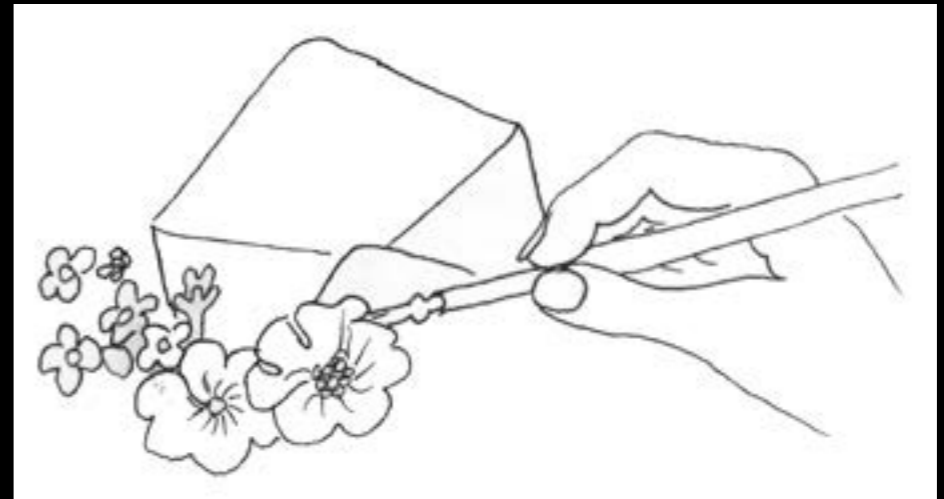


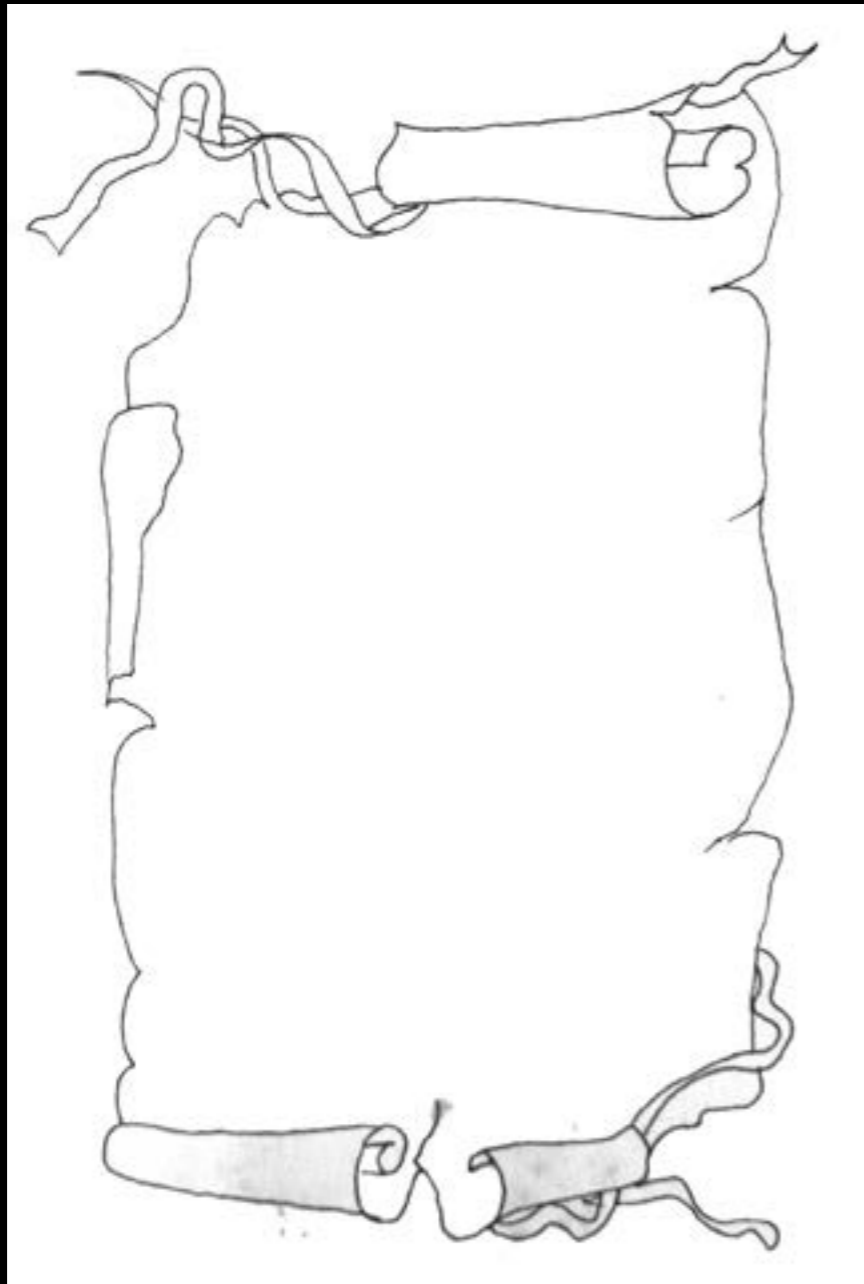








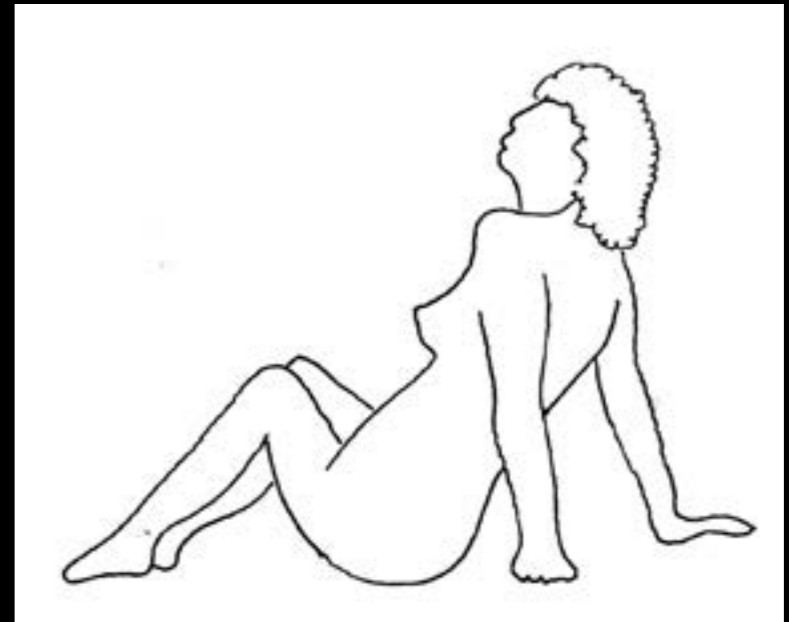


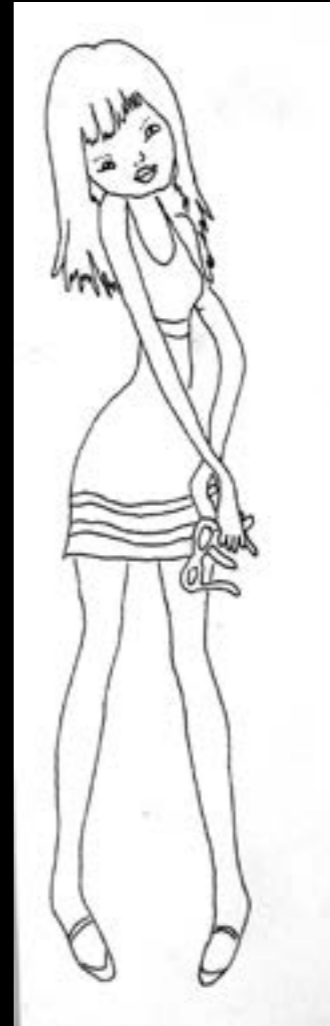
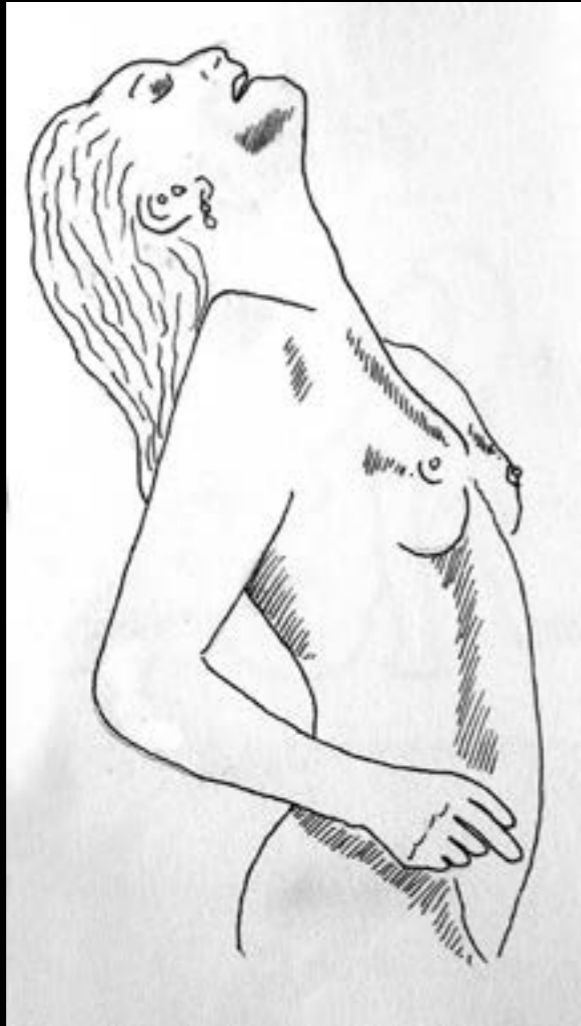






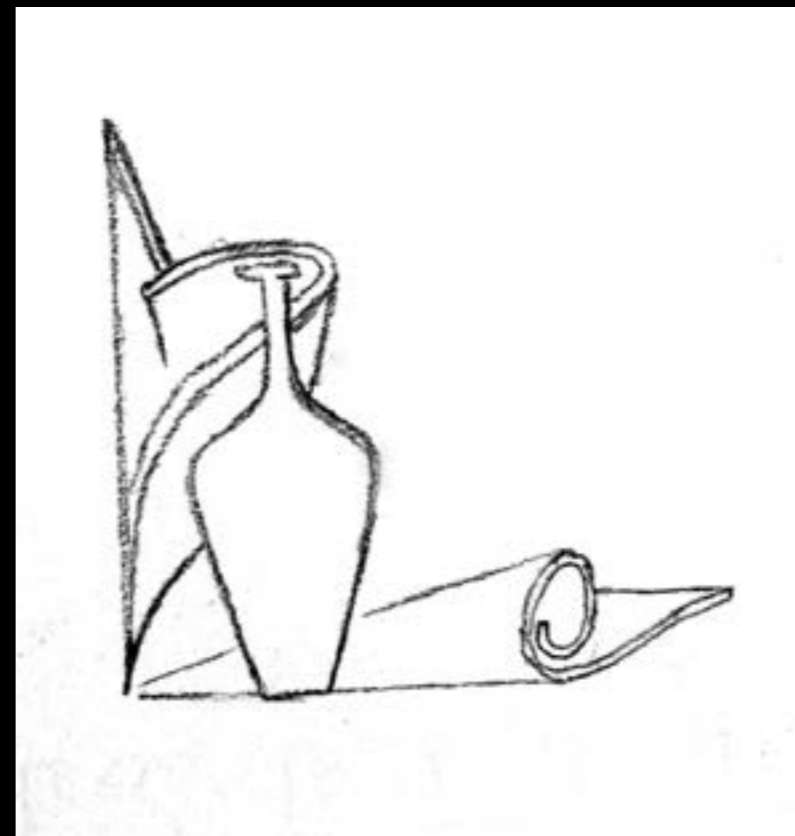
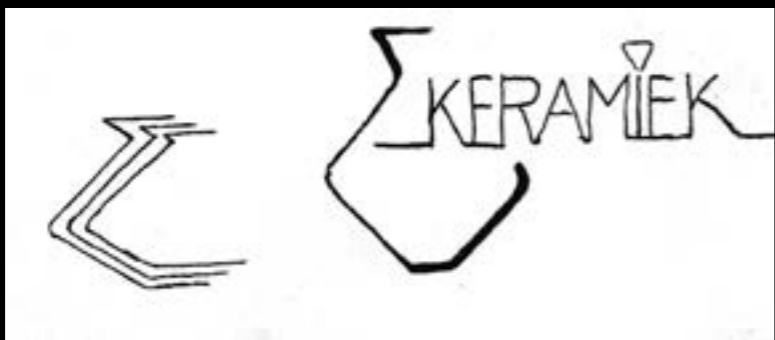


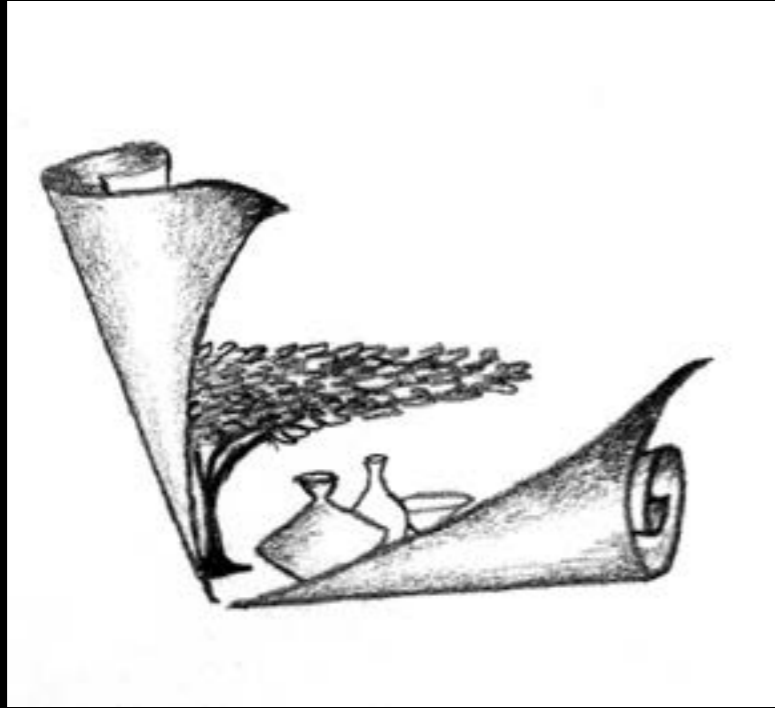


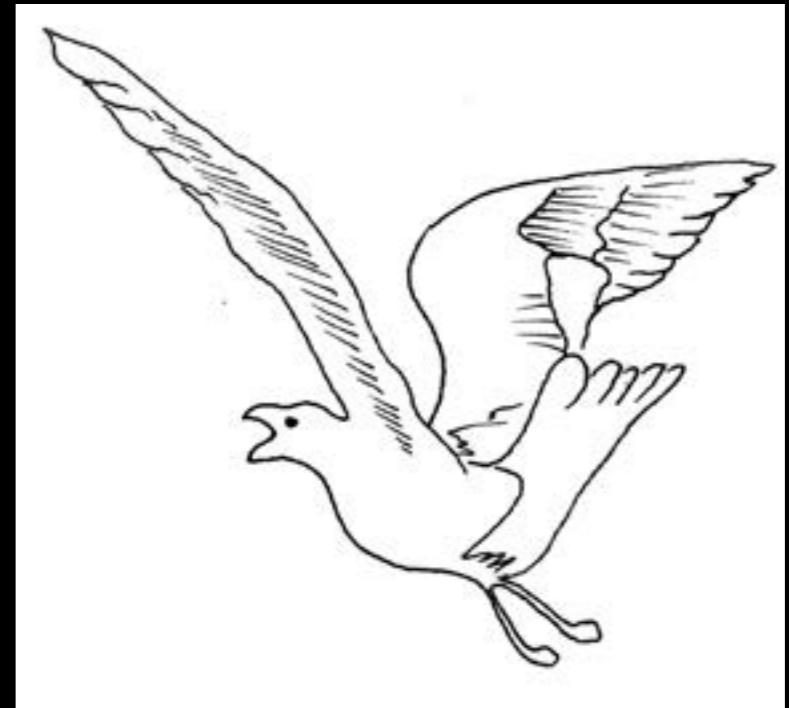
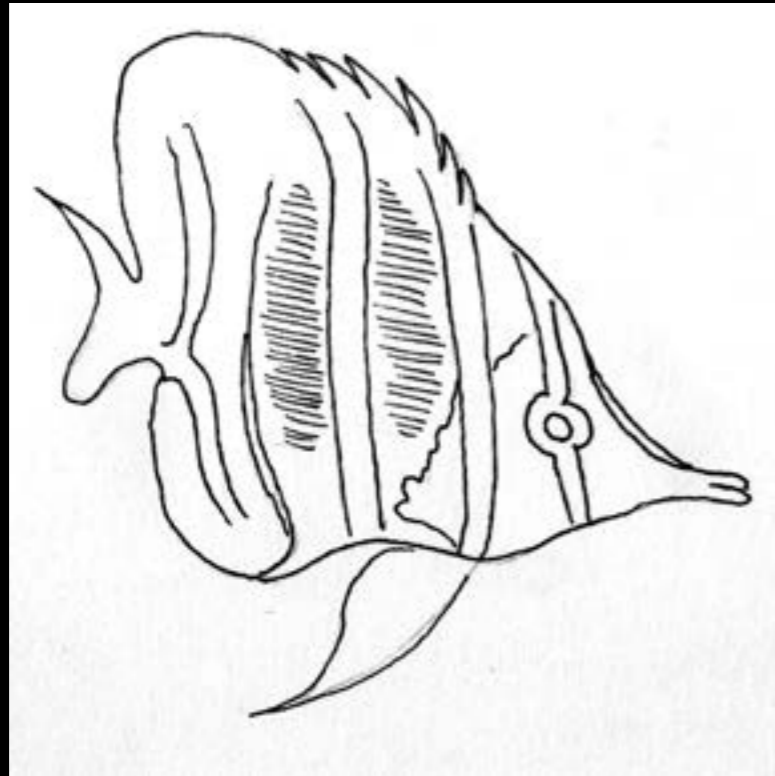


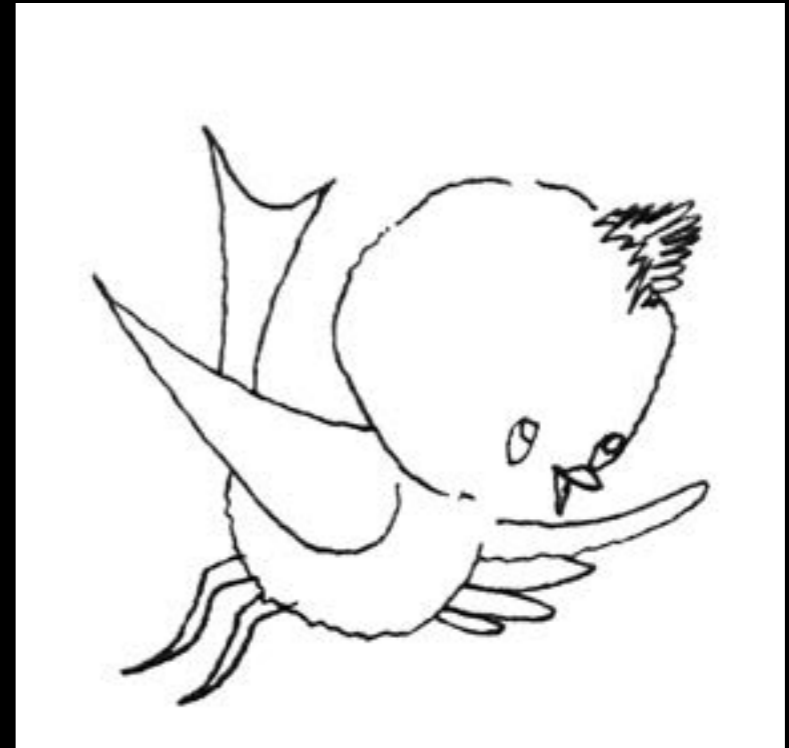
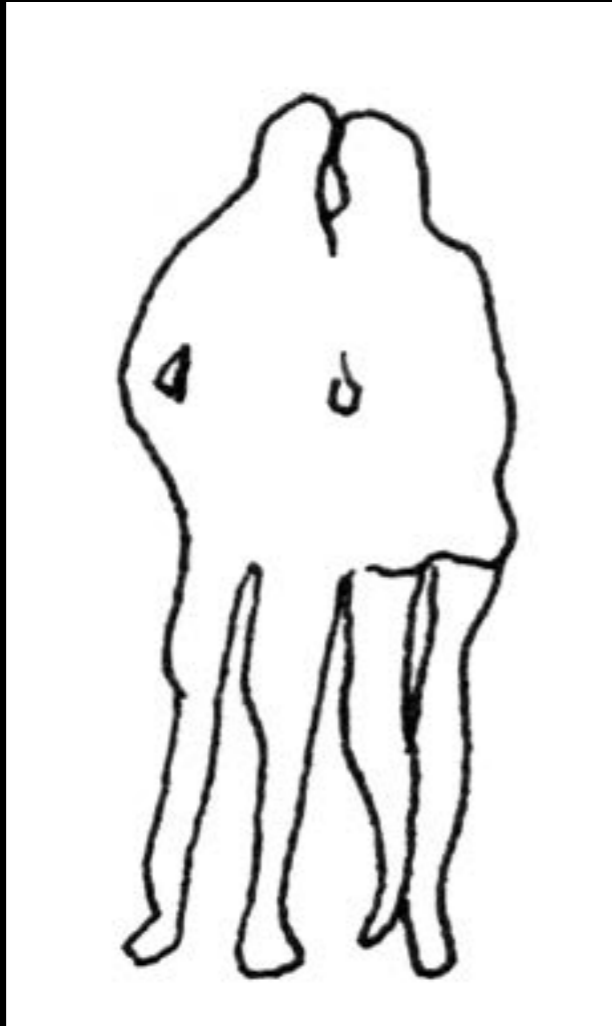


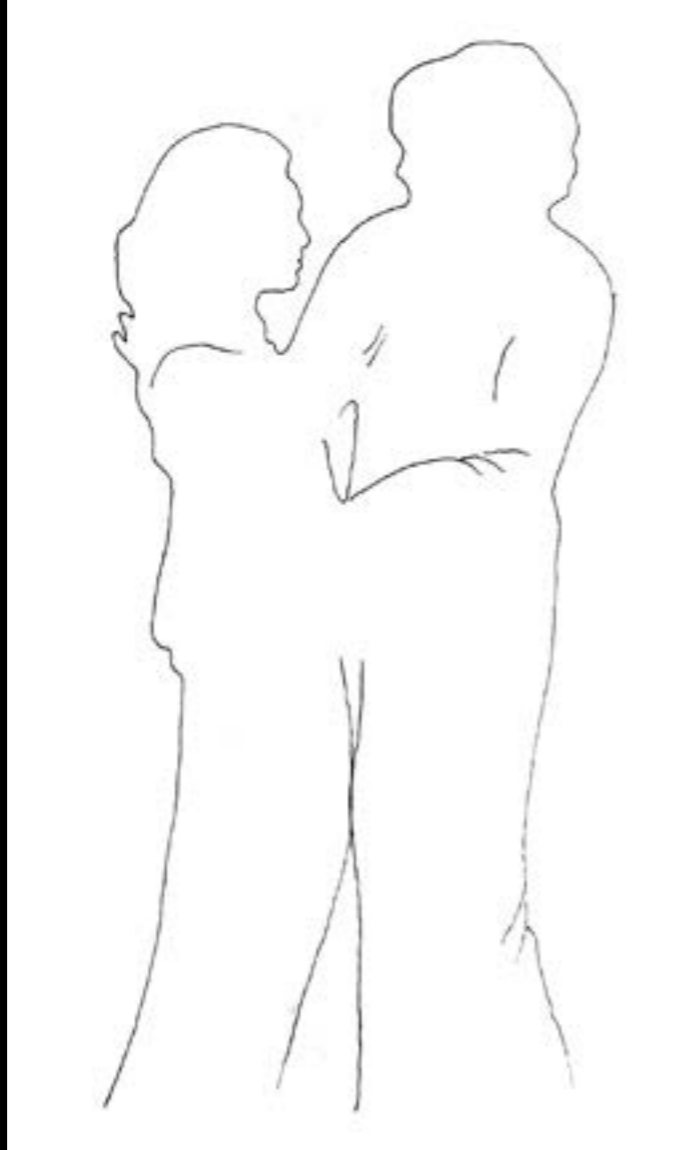


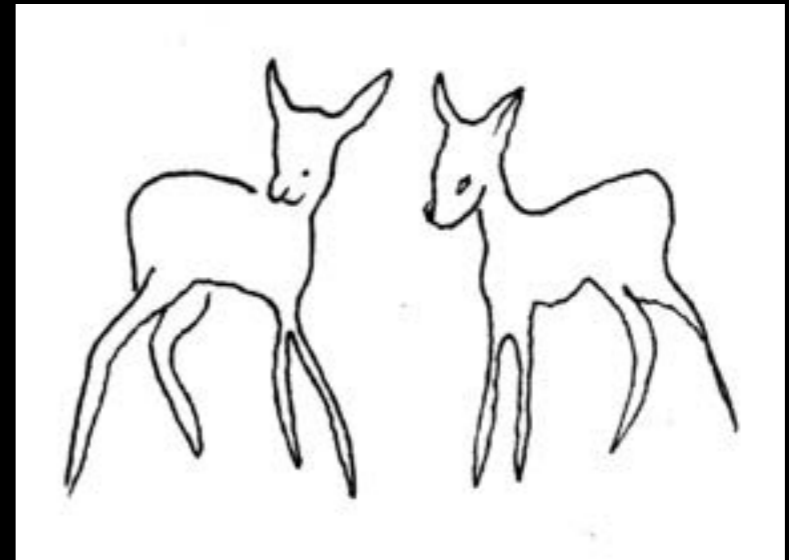
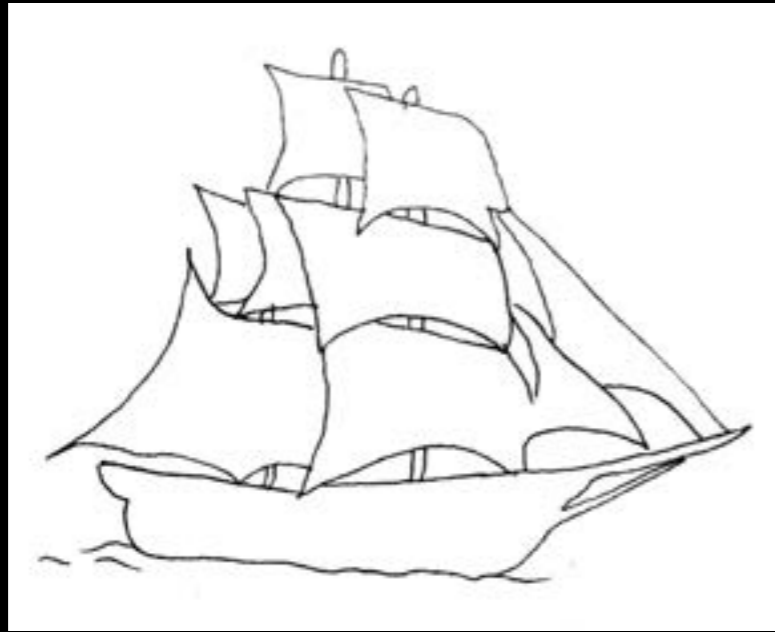


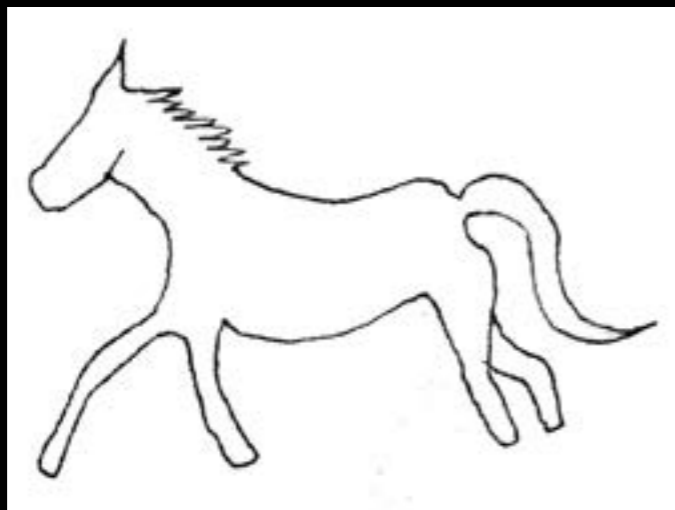






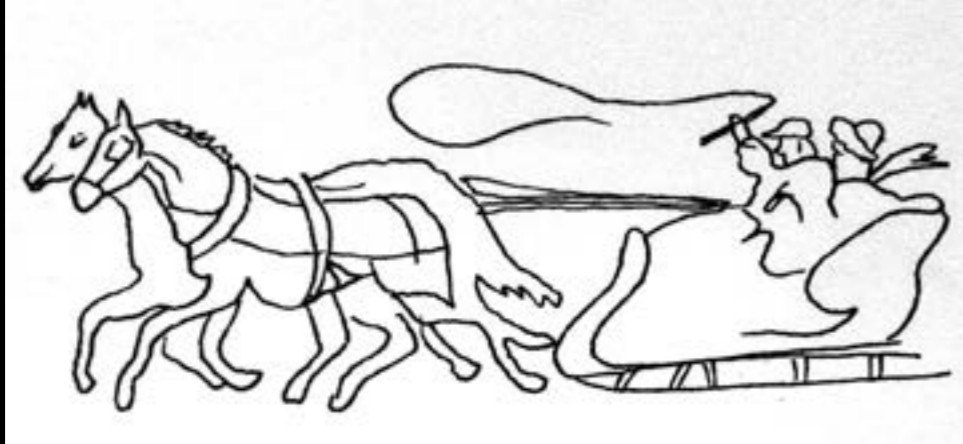


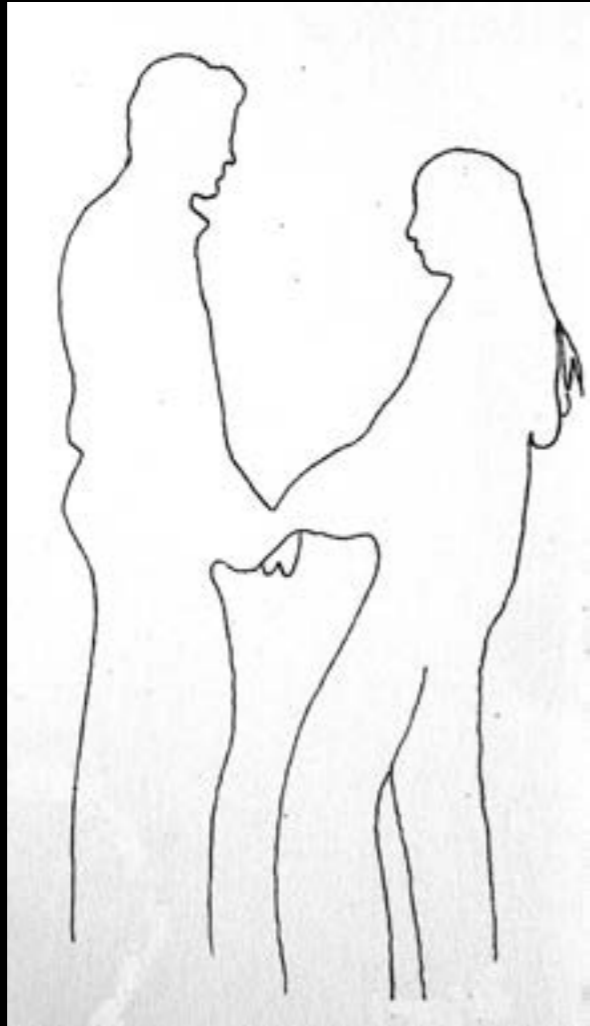










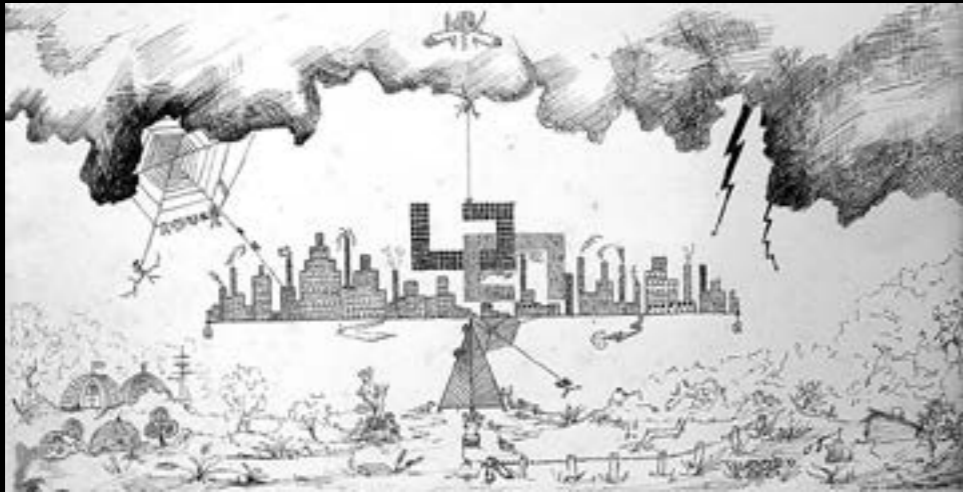


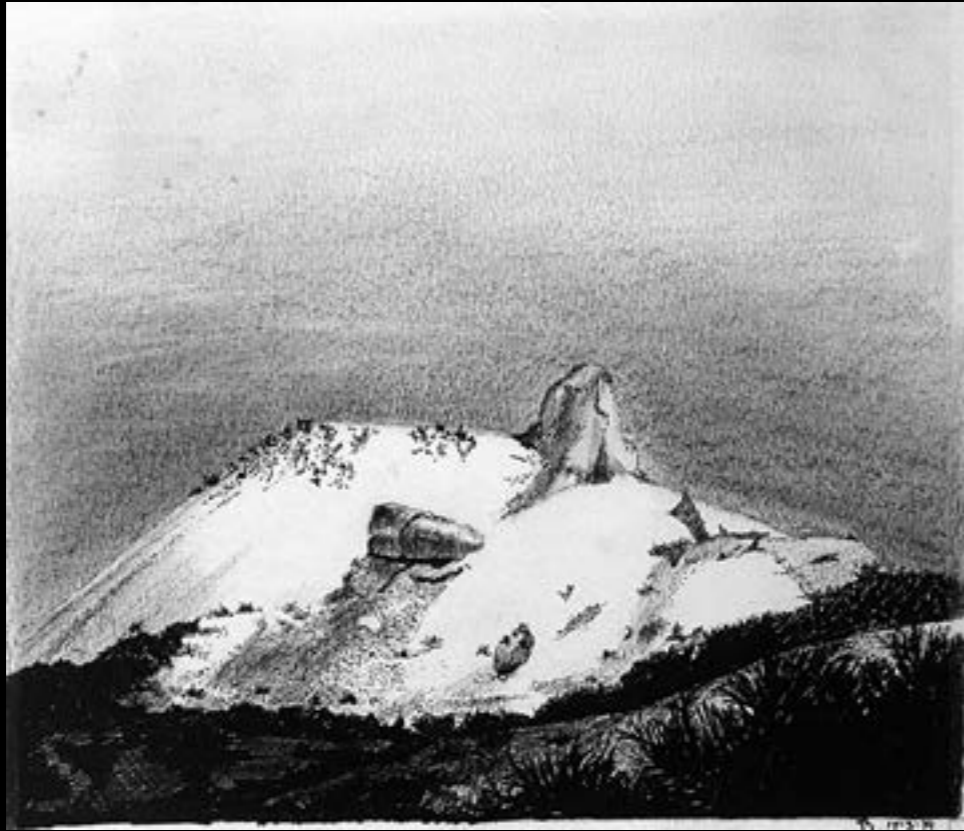
Old pendrawings landscape





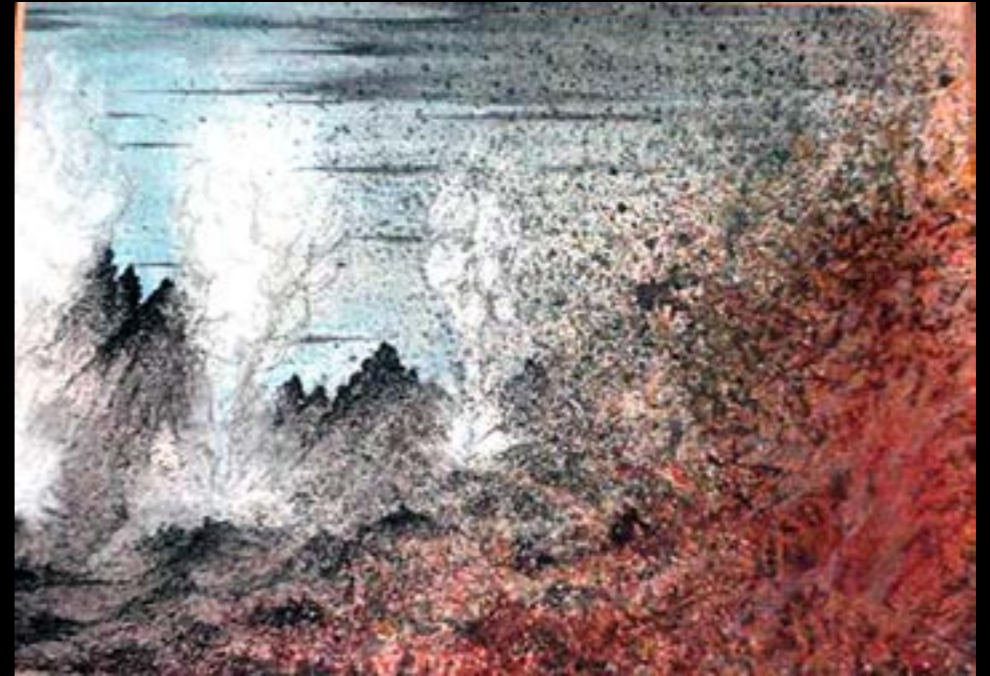








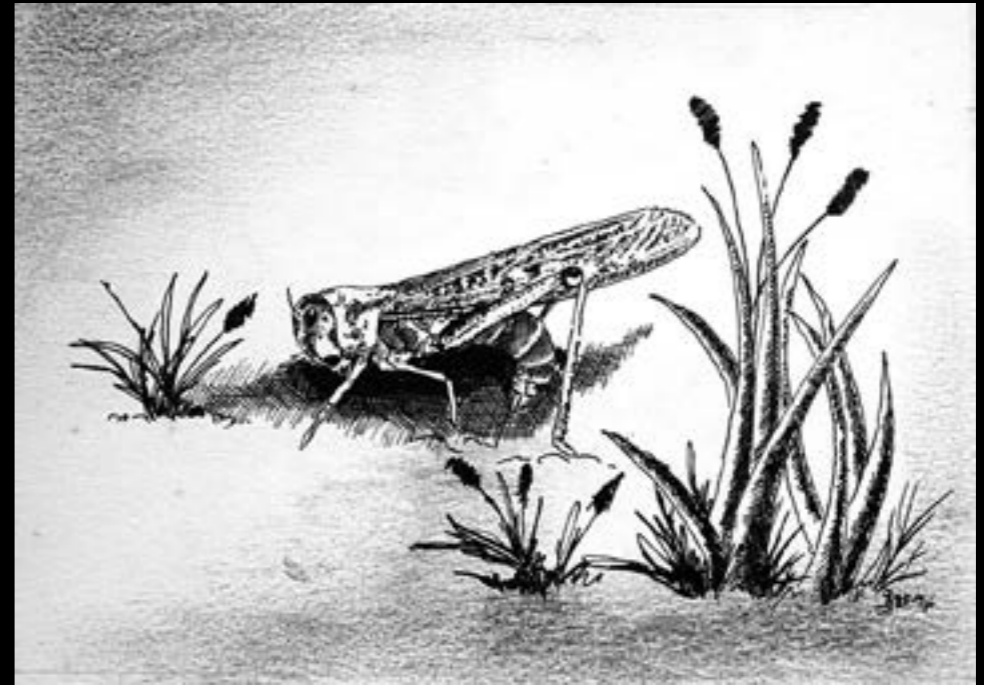
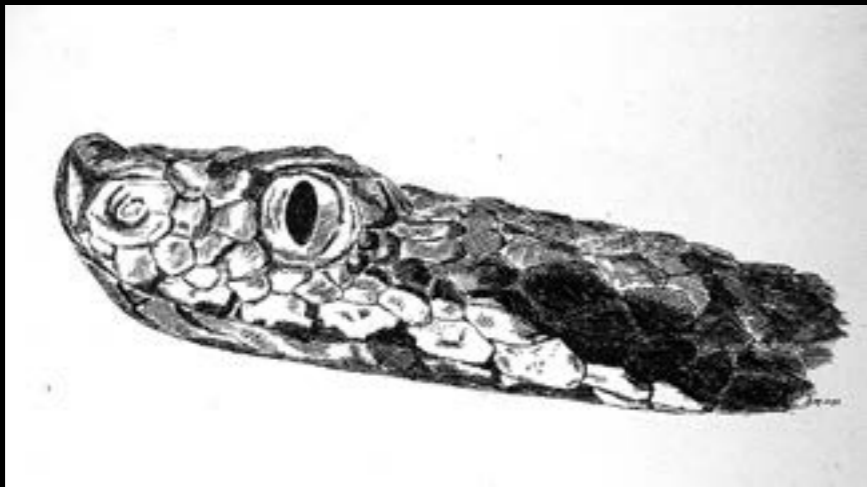
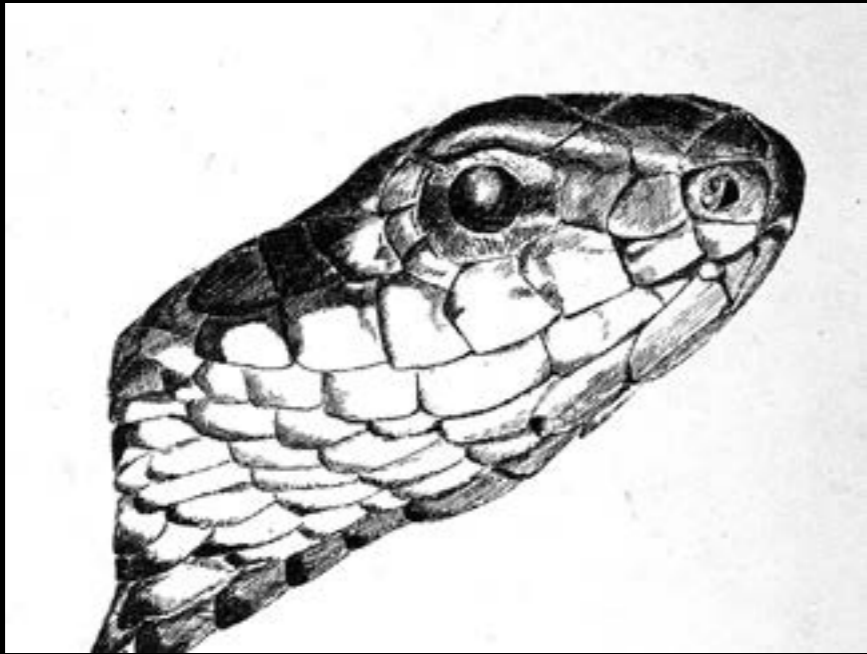
Mixed technique

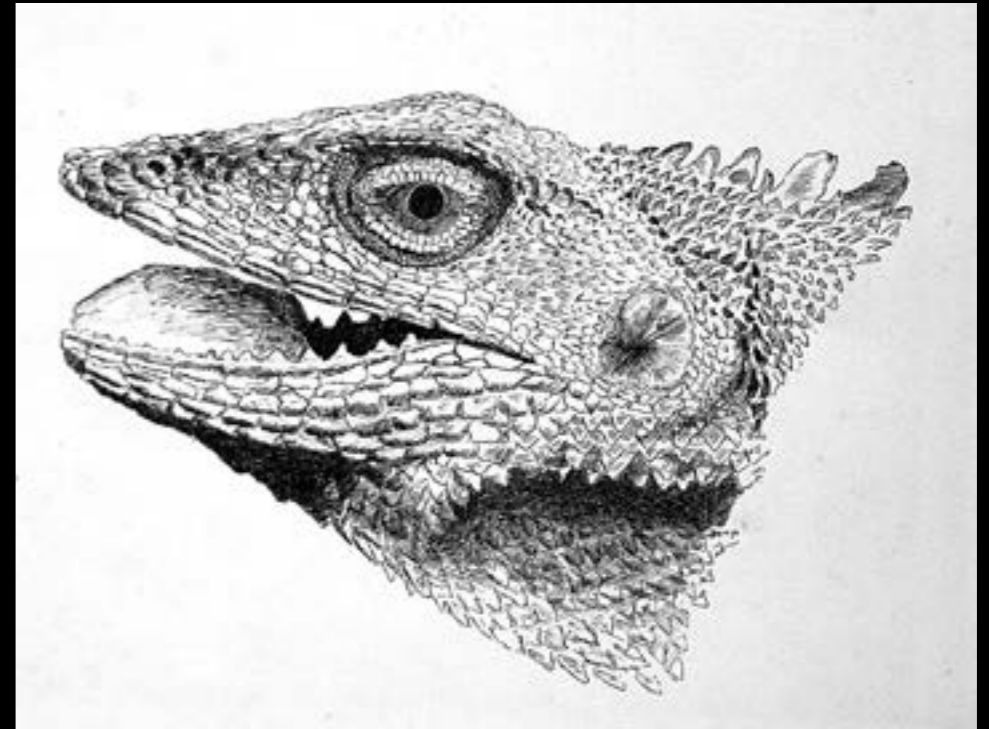






Old pendrawings animals











Old pendrawings people



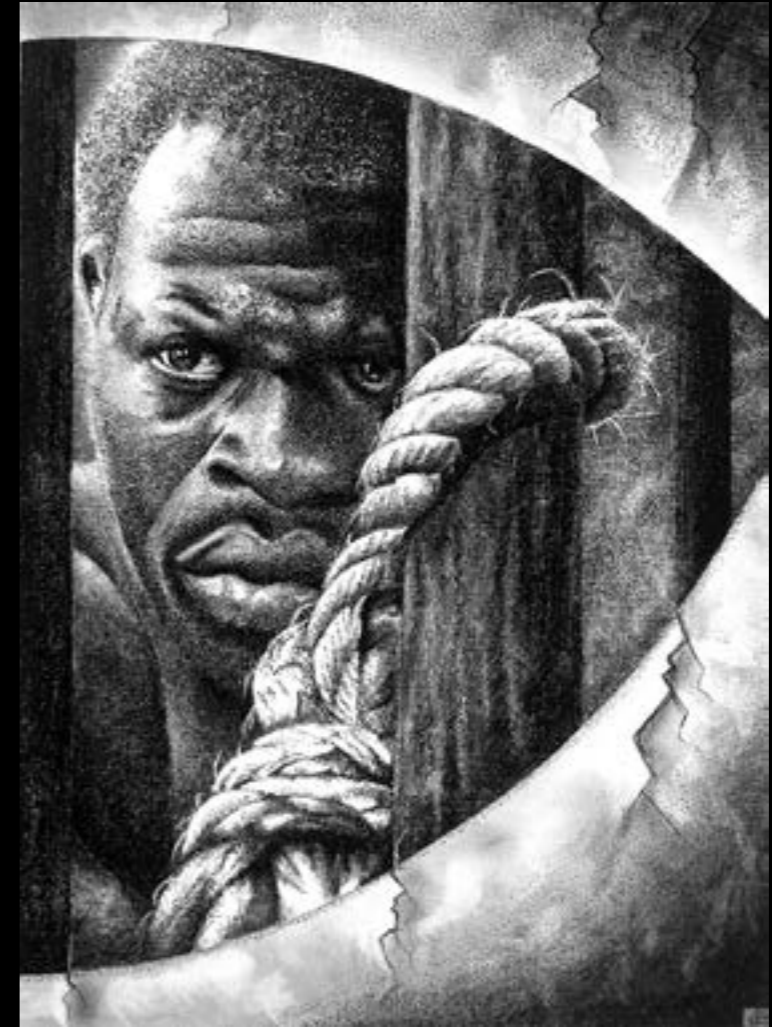


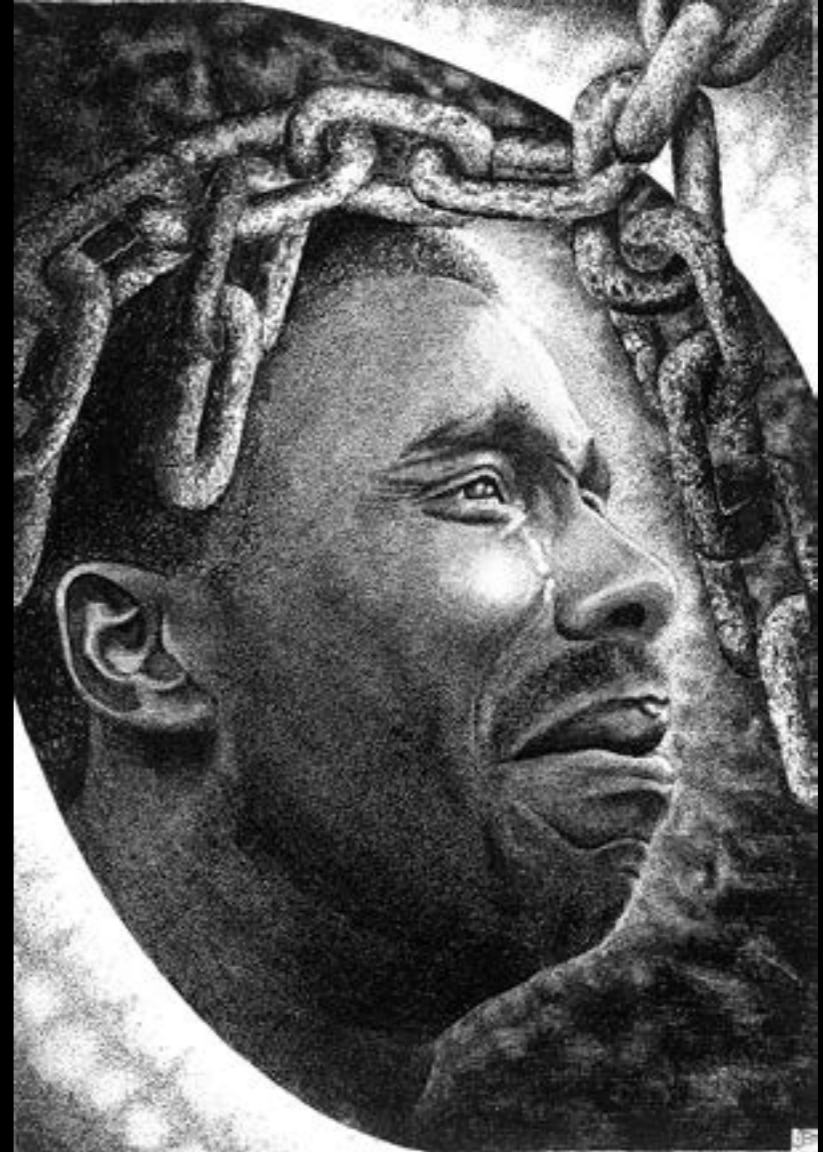


Newest pendrings people



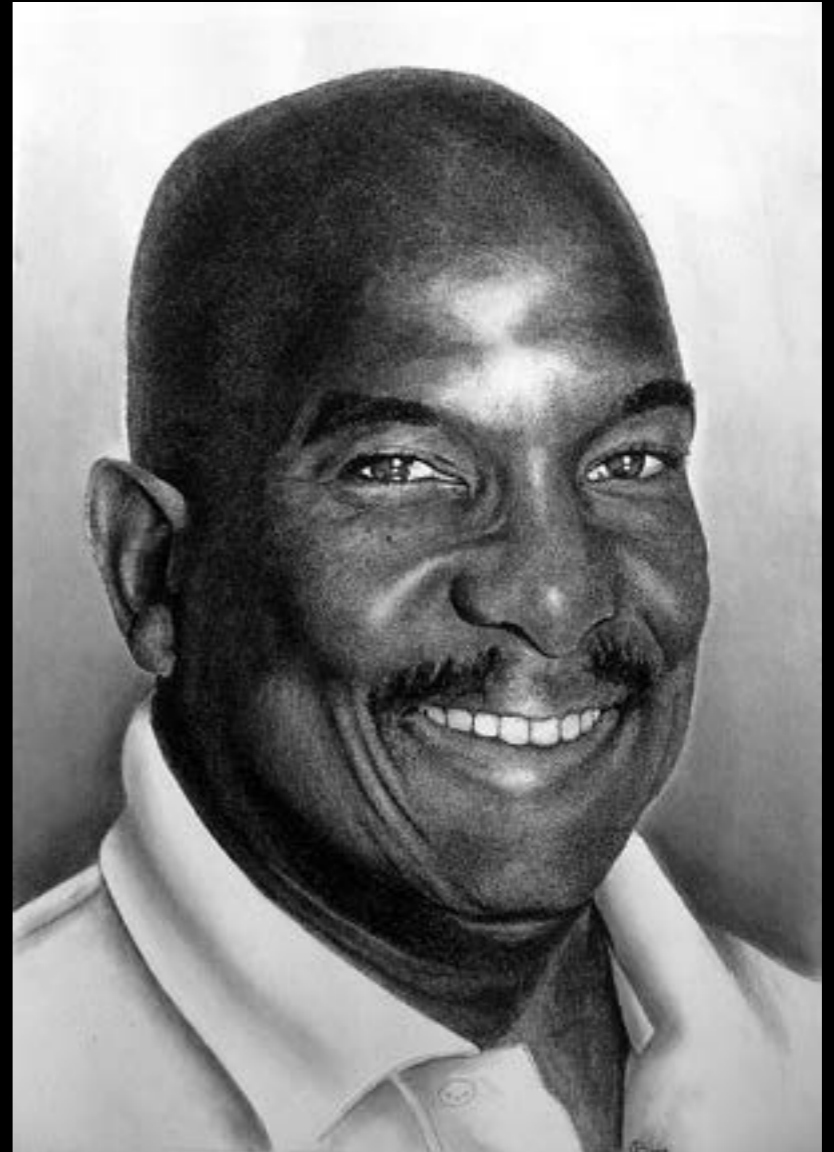


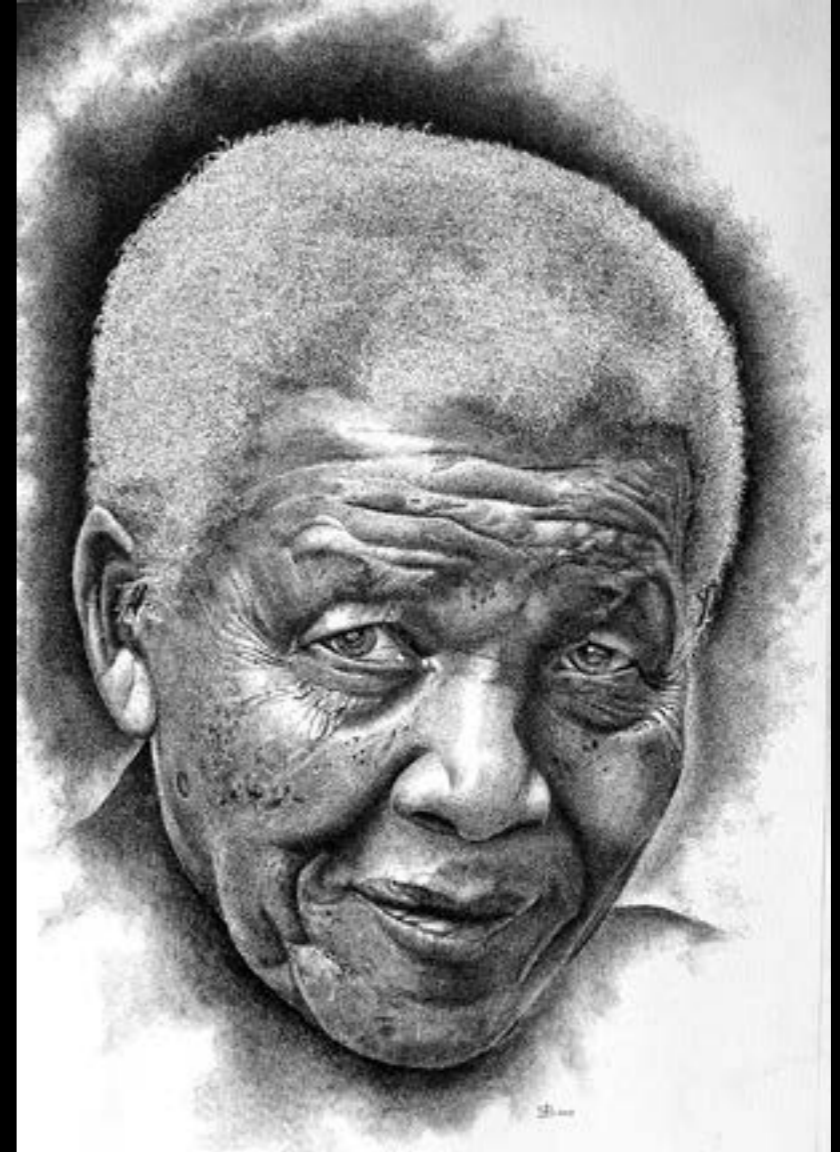
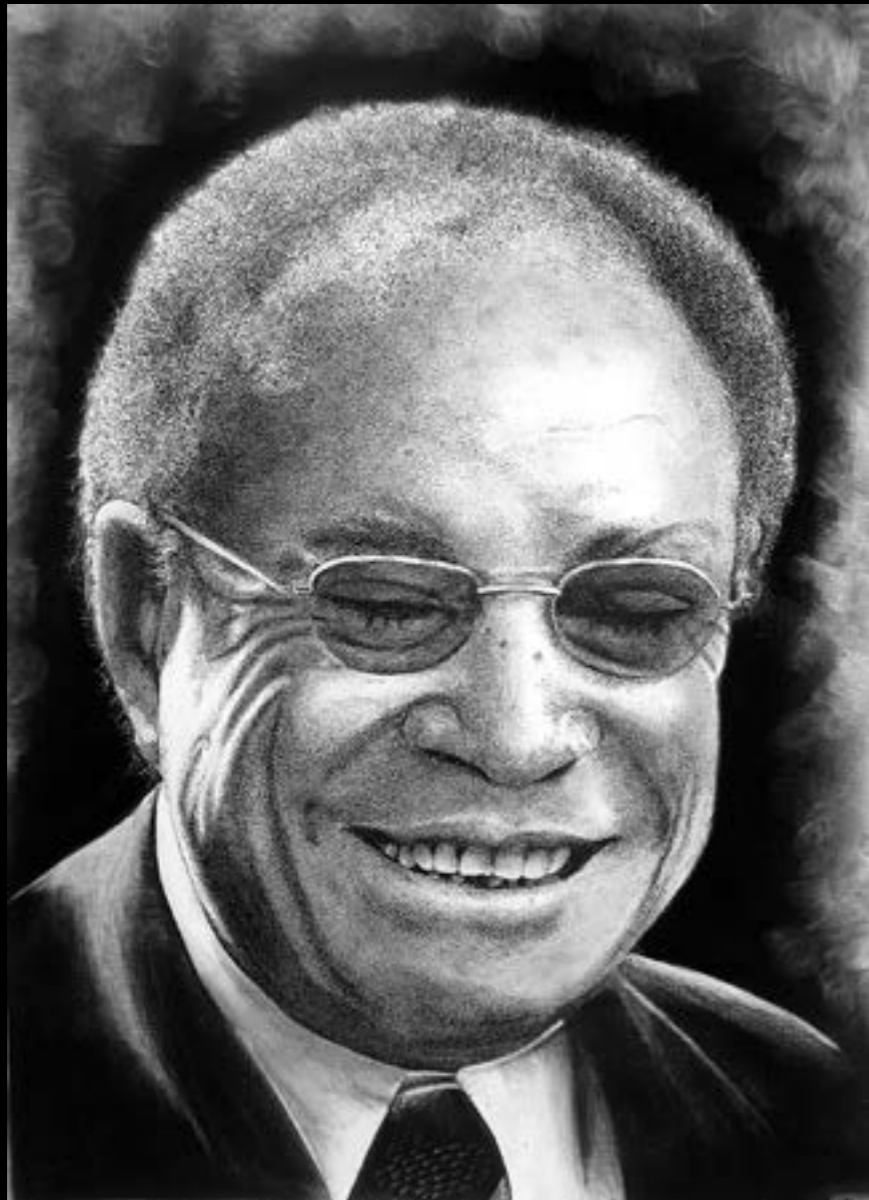




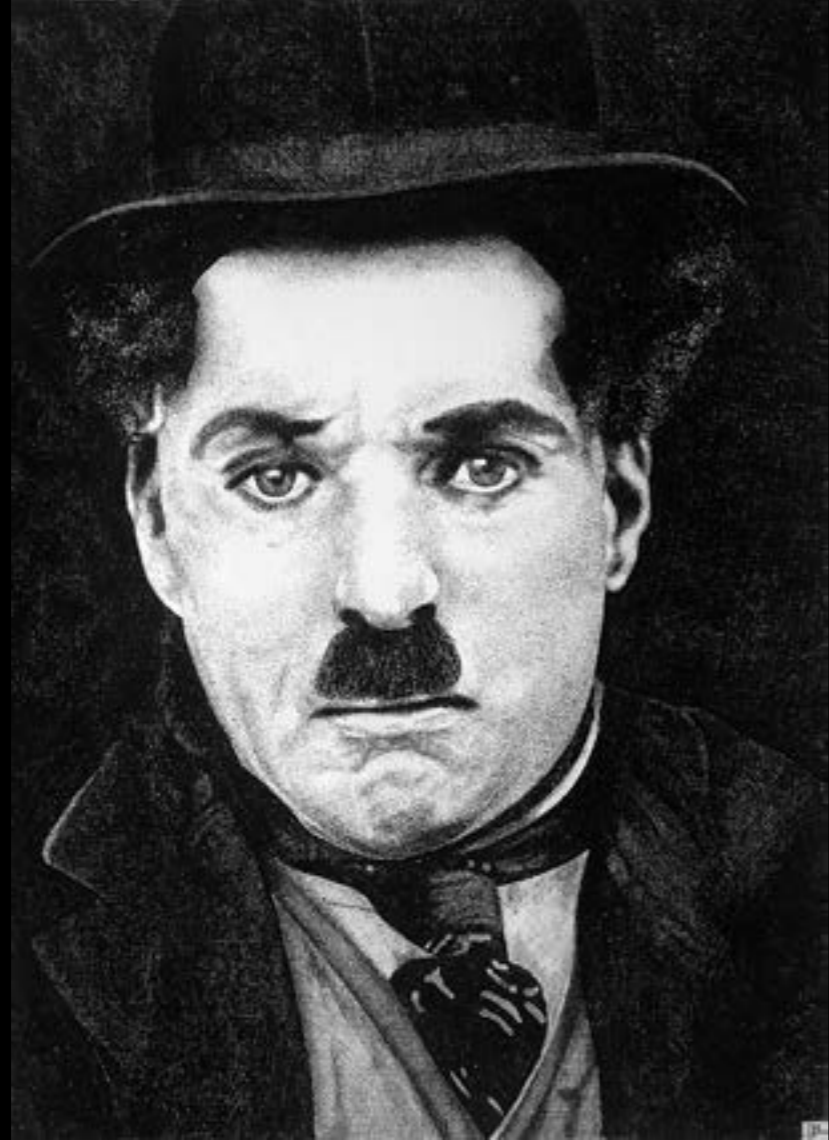




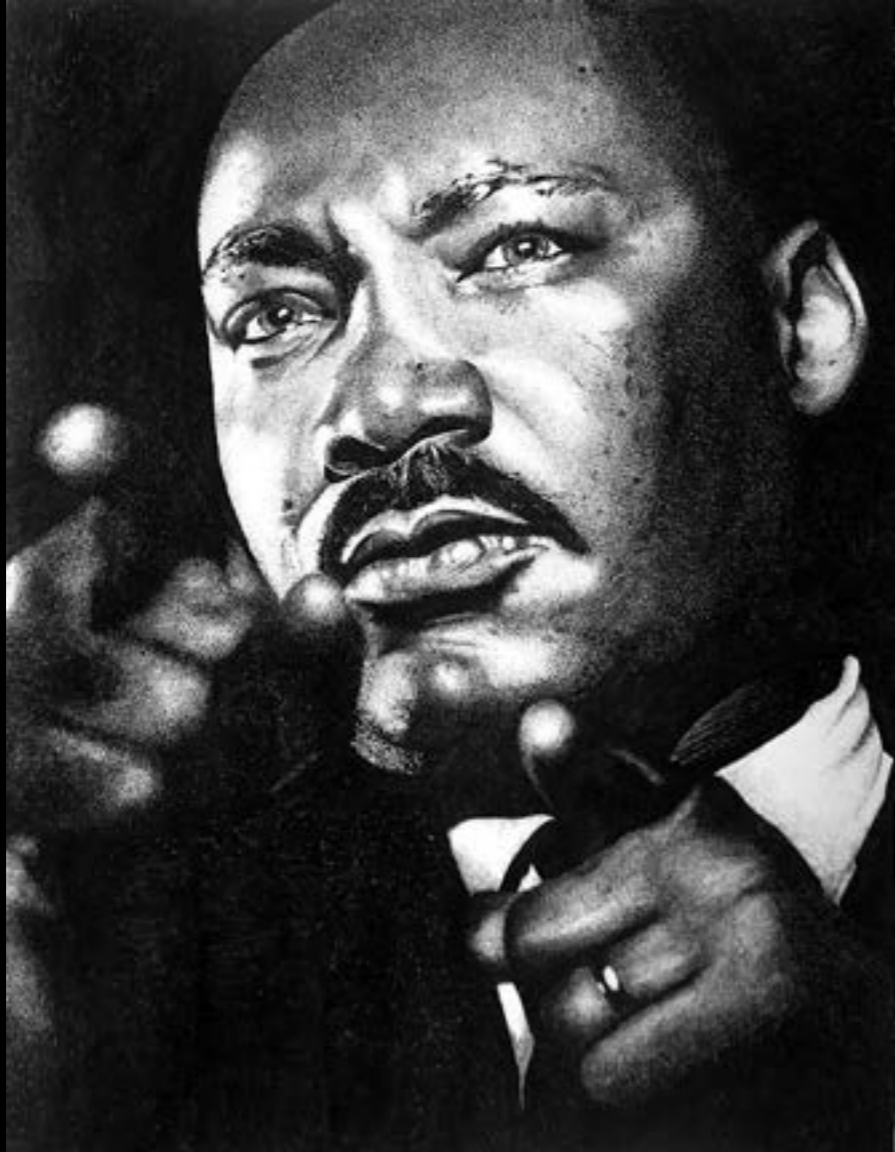
















Graphic work

De Theaterschool van het KunstenHuis presenteert:

Koopman van Venetië



Regie: Esther Overts

Cast: Beverly Klo, Carl Tels, Anne van Duijn, Marjolij Seinen-Peet, Marjo Aalder, Hanneke Stoop-Bedden, Truusje Vrijland, Wandy de Feyter, Willem van den Broek

Productie door: Productiegroep veldhoven



BLOED, ZWET & THEATER

IK?

KLIK OP DE BLOED, ZWET & THEATER / BILJETTEN VOOR BLOED, ZWET & THEATER EN SPEELDOK

Productie door: veldhoven

Twee theatervoorstellingen in één. De uitvoeringen zijn op 27 April om 15:30 en 19:30 uur.
Kaarten à €6 te koop aan de deur. KunstenHuis theater, Egginglaan 2B, Zelst.
Meer informatie op www.kunstenhuis.nl of 030-6958393.



CURRICULUM VITAE

John Baselmans

He was born on 20 May 1954,
in Aalst (Waalre), the Netherlands

He is an Artist / Philosopher / Writer / Graphic Designer / Illustrator who attended the “Graphic School (high school) “ and “The Free Academy” in Eindhoven, the Netherlands. After that, he attended several drawing courses, including Airbrush and Architectural Rendering, in the USA. His pen drawings are made in a combination of pen and ink, color pencils, watercolor pencils and soft pastel chalk. This technique, which he developed himself, is unique and has been well received around the world. In his career, he has created thousands of drawings and illustrations. He designed more than 200 stamps for the Post Office of the Netherlands Antilles. He has presented his artwork in more than 56 exhibitions worldwide.



At the age of three, he began to draw like any child does, without any shyness. His family: Baselmans (father) - Verhoeven (mother). Both of them were creative people. His grandfather on his father’s side was a textile designer, like his father, but his father was also creative in many other areas. They talked a great deal about drawings and all that was important for him to know about art. His grandfather on his mother’s side was a man who had many hobbies and did everything he wanted to do. John learned playing the violin and piano from him, as well as photography - development, painting, etc. He taught him “how to see” in order to create drawings and paintings. His grandfather died too soon for him and with his death his teacher was gone and John’s world was empty and lonely (he thought). The best thing that ever happened was around his 15th birthday. When his father began to redraw an old drawing of his grandfather’s. Pen & Ink was not father’s “forte”. John observed him using that medium on paper, and after many mistakes, he took father’s pen and made his first pen drawing. Six years later, John drew Rembrandt van Rijn’s “De Nachtwacht” (The Night Watch). From his father he learned woodcarving, (clay) modeling, painting and many other techniques that he still uses today. His books are well received and the briefings about health are read by many people around the world.

“An artist sees not only with his eyes, but also with his heart and soul”.

(John)

Exhibitions

Kabbendans -	Eindhoven -	Netherlands,	1972
Abbenhuis -	Eindhoven -	Netherlands,	1972
Market Vaartbroek -	Eindhoven -	Netherlands,	1973
Kabbendans -	Eindhoven -	Netherlands,	1973
Kluytmans -	Eindhoven -	Netherlands,	1974
Kabbendans -	Eindhoven -	Netherlands,	1974
Gallery "de Kubus" -	Eindhoven -	Netherlands,	1975
Unilever -	Duiven -	Netherlands,	1977
Gallery "Gouden Handen" -	's-Heerenberg -	Netherlands,	1997
Gallery "v. Bruggen" -	Neederwetten -	Netherlands,	1998
Huis in 't Park -	Eindhoven -	Netherlands,	1980
Piazza center -	Eindhoven -	Netherlands,	1981
Gallery "Lodewijks" -	Eindhoven -	Netherlands,	1981
Stadhuis zaal -	Eindhoven -	Netherlands,	1981
Stadhuis -	Gouda -	Netherlands,	1981
De Tempel -	Curaçao -	Netherlands Antilles,	1981
Centro Bolivar Y Bello -	Curaçao -	Netherlands Antilles,	1982
Hart's Gallery -	Curaçao -	Netherlands Antilles,	1982
Taveerne -	Curaçao -	Netherlands Antilles,	1983
Assencion -	Curaçao -	Netherlands Antilles,	1983
Curacaosche museum -	Curaçao -	Netherlands Antilles,	1984
Sentro Pro arte -	Curaçao -	Netherlands Antilles,	1984
Landhuis Bloemhof -	Curaçao -	Netherlands Antilles,	1985
Curacaosche museum -	Curaçao -	Netherlands Antilles,	1985
Gallery 86 -	Curaçao -	Netherlands Antilles,	1986
Zeelandia -	Curaçao -	Netherlands Antilles,	1986
Gallery 86 -	Curaçao -	Netherlands Antilles,	1987
Seaquarium -	Curaçao -	Netherlands Antilles,	1988
Gallery ABN -	Aruba -	Netherlands Antilles,	1989
Gallery Artishock -	Aruba -	Netherlands Antilles,	1989
Zuikertuin	Curaçao -	Netherlands Antilles,	1982 till 1996
Graphic Art Gallery -	Curaçao -	Netherlands Antilles,	1990 / 2000
Fist Digital exhibition -	Website		2001 Link on site
Villa Maria -	Curaçao -	Netherlands Antilles	2003 Link on site
Gallery 86 -	Curaçao -	Netherlands Antilles	2004 Link on site

Articles about Exhibitions

Publications Exhibition the Netherlands (1972 until 1984), Netherlands Antilles (1981 Till 2007) ; Groot Eindhoven, Eindhovens Dagblad, Woensels Belang, Dagblad van het Zuiden, AD, Amigoe Curacao, Beurs en Nieuwsberichten, Extra, Ultimo noticia, De starnd courant, Amigoe Aruba.

Most of the articles are also stored in the National archive of the Netherlands Antilles		Bloemhof 2	1985
		Curacaosche museum 1	1986
First exhibition "Krabbandans"	1972	Gallery 86 1	1986
First exhibition "Krabbandans"	1972	Gallery 86 2	1986
First exhibition "Krabbandans"	1972	Gallery 86 1	1987
Abbenhuis	1972	Gallery 86 2	1987
"Krabbandans"	1973	Gallery 86 3	1987
Kluytmans	1974	Gallery 86 4	1987
Unilever	1977	Seaquarium 1	1988
In 't Park 1	1980	Seaquarium 2	1988
In 't Park 2	1980	Seaquarium 3	1988
In 't Park 3	1980	Seaquarium 4	1988
In 't Park 4	1980	ABN	1989
In 't Park 5	1980	Atichock	1990
In 't Park 6	1980		
In 't Park 7	1980	Articles about Stamps	
In 't Park 8	1980		
In 't Park 9	1980	Eleanor Roosevelt 1	1984
In 't Park 10	1980	Eleanor Roosevelt 2	1984
In 't Park 11	1980	Eleanor Roosevelt 3	1984
In 't Park 12	1980	Eleanor Roosevelt 4	1984
In 't Park 13	1980	Friar Tilburg 1	1986
In 't Park 14	1980	Friar Tilburg 2	1986
Gouda 1	1981	Amnesty 1	1986
Gouda 2	1981	Amnesty 2	1986
Gouda 3	1981	Childcare 1	1987
Gemeentehuis Eindhoven 1	1981	Childcare 2	1987
Gemeentehuis Eindhoven 2	1981	Netherlands (Eindhovens dagblad)	1987
Piazza Center 1	1981	Rotary1	1987
Piazza Center 2	1981	Rotary2	1987
Piazza Center 3	1981	Netherlands (Eindhovens dagblad)	1988
De Tempel 1	1981	Program 1	1988
De Tempel 2	1981	Childcare 3	1988
De Tempel 3	1981	Childcare 4	1988
Sentro Bolivar y Bello 1	1982	Childcare 5	1988
Sentro Bolivar y Bello 2	1982	Childcare 6	1988
Taveerne 1	1983	Childcare 7	1988
Taveerne 2	1983	Childcare 8	1988
Taveerne 3	1983	Childcare 9	1988
Asencion 1	1983	Famous People 1	1988
Asencion 2	1983	Reception 1	1988
Curacaosche museum 1	1984	Reception 2	1988
Curacaosche museum 2	1984	Reception 5	1988
Bloemhof 1	1985	Reception 6	1988

Famous People 2	1989	starnd courant, Amigoe Aruba, Groot Eindhoven,	
Famous People 3	1989	Eindhovens Dagblad, Woensels Belang, Nieuws-	
Childcare 8	1989	blad van het Zuiden	
Childcare 9	1989	John 17 year	1972
Card postal office 1	1989	First published drawing	1972
Reception 7	1989	Tapestry	1985
Reception 3	1989	Sandcastle 1	1999
Reception 10	1989	Sandcastle 2	1999
Reception 11	1989	Sandcastle 3	1999
Refinery 1	1990	Sandcastle 4	1999
Childcare 10	1990	With the Prime Minister of the	
Childcare 11	1990	Netherlands Antilles 1	1999
Card pope 1	1990	With the Prime Minister of the	
Healthcare 1	1990	Netherlands Antilles 2	1999
Nature 1	1990	Rendering	1999
Nature 2	1990	Drawing bear	1999
Reception 4	1990	K-Pasa Nov	2004
Various 1	1990		
Childcare 12	1991	John Baselmans in Dutch, English, Spanish and	
Reception 8	1991	Papiamento Wikipedia July 2007	
Reception 9	1991		
50 years of secondary education	1991	Other newspaper articles	
Various 3	1991		
Wish well 1	1991	Markt Vaartbroek 1	1972
Wish well 2	1991	Markt Vaartbroek 2	1972
Columbus 1	1992	Markt Vaartbroek 3	1972
Columbus 2	1992	Markt Vaartbroek 4	1972
Columbus 3	1992	Website 1	2000
Program 2	1992	Website 2	2000
Queen Beatrix 1	1992	Website 3	2000
Dogs 93	1993	My second life (Support 2007) (Dutch)	2007
Dogs 94	1994		
Article 1 Dogs	1994	Newspaper articles plane crash	
Article 2 Dogs	1994		
Article 3 Dogs	1994	Plane crash 1	1959
World stamp expo Korea 1	1994	Plane crash 2	1959
Dogs 95	1995	Different references	
Corals	2005		
Horses and mules	2006	Shows	

Different articles

	Passar Malam from 1975 till 1980 / 2 times monthly - Netherlands
Newspapers; AD, Amigoe Antillen, Beurs en Nieuwsberichten, Extra, Ultimo noticia, De	Passar Dalam from 1975 till 1980 / 2 times monthly - Netherlands

Art markets around the Netherlands	Numbers: *168 *184 *198 *188 *190 *181 *199
Private shows on schools and school exhibitions	*199a *212 *213 *213a *217 *217a *219 *223 *224b *224a *229b *229a *231 *232 *235a *235b *237 *238 *242 *246 *247 *250 *252 *257 *257a *260 *263 *267 *274 *274a *276 *281 *282 *288 *296 *297 *301 *306a *306b *308 *313a *313 *321 *323 *363 *363a *365 *367a *367 *373 *377a *377 *378 *380 *403 *405a *405b *422
TV	
Tele Korsow	1984
Tele Korsow	1987
Radio/interviews	

Radio Hoyer, Curacao	1981	Publications Books
Radio Curom, Curacao	1983	
Radio Paradise, Curacao	1989	Newspapers; AD, Amigoe Antillen, Beurs en Nieuwsberichten, Extra, Ultimo noticia, Amigoe Aruba
Radio Paradise, Curacao	2004	
Radio Top, Curacao	2007	
Radio Paradise	2008	
Radio Z86	2008	Introduction new book AD February 2008
Radio Dolfijn fm	2009	Introduction new book Amigoe February 2008

Posters / Invitation cards

Unilever	1977	Book Slaverny AD February 2009
De tempel		Book Slaverny Amigoe March 2009
Sentro Bolivar y Bello		Book presentation UNA/Public library
Taveerne		La Prensa March 2009
Bloemhof		Book presentation UNA/Public library
Curacaosche museum 1		Book presentation UNA/Public library
Curacaosche museum 2		AD March 2009
Gallery 86		Book presentation UNA/Public library

Schools

“Grafische school” Eindhoven, Netherlands, 1999 until 1971, Special drawing classes G2E and G3E, Director Mr. Janssen	Book presentation UNA/Public library
“Vrije Kunstakademie” Eindhoven, Netherlands 1971 until 1975, Director Mr. Jan Kuhr	Amigoe March 2009
	Book Help, de Antillen verzuipen
	Amigoe May 2009
	Photos presentation Public Library
	February 2th 2009
	Photos presentation Library UNA (University of the Netherlands Antilles) February 4th 2009

Publications postal stamps 1984 until 2009

“Special catalog Postal stamps” ISBN 90-73646-00-6, Philately department Postal Netherlands Antilles, Director Mr. S. Paulina, Series designed by John Baselmans.

Published books of John Baselmans:

Eiland-je bewoner Deel 2	ISBN 978-0-557-00613-7
Eilandje bewoner - Luxe edition	ISBN 978-1-4092-2102-9
Eiland-je bewoner Bundel	ISBN 978-0-557-01281-7
John Baselmans Drawing Course	ISBN 978-0-557-01154-4
The secrets behind my drawings	ISBN 978-0-557-01156-8
The world of human drawings	ISBN 978-0-557-02754-5
Drawing humans in black and white	ISBN 978-1-4092-5186-6
Leren tekenen met gevoel	ISBN 978-1-4092-7859-7
Ingezonden	ISBN 978-1-4092-1936-1
Moderne slavernij in het systeem	ISBN 978-1-4092-5909-1
Help, de Antillen verzuipen	ISBN 978-1-4092-7972-3
Geboren voor één cent	ISBN 978-1-4452-6787-6
Pech gehad	ISBN 978-1-4457-6170-1
Zwartboek	ISBN 978-1-4461-8058-7
Mi bida no bal niun sèn	ISBN 978-1-4467-2954-0
Curacao Maffia Eiland	ISBN 978-1-4478-9049-2
De missende link	ISBN 978-1-4710-9498-9
Curatele	ISBN 978-1-4717-9319-6
Curacao achter gesloten deuren	ISBN 978-1-304-58901-9
John Baselmans' Lifework part 1	ISBN 978-1-4092-8941-8
John Baselmans' Lifework part 2	ISBN 978-1-4092-8959-3
John Baselmans' Lifework part 3	ISBN 978-1-4092-8974-6
John Baselmans' Lifework part 4	ISBN 978-1-4092-8937-1
John Baselmans' Lifework part 5	ISBN 978-1-291-64973-4
Mañan	ISBN 978-1-4092-8949-4
He oudje leef je nog?	ISBN 978-1-4092-8482-6
De wijsheden van onze oudjes	ISBN 978-1-4092-9516-7
Makamba	ISBN 978-1-4461-3036-0
Onze Cultuur	ISBN 978-1-4475-2701-5

The world of positive energy	ISBN 978-0-557-02542-8
Words of wisdom (part 1)	ISBN 978-1-4452-6789-0
Words of wisdom (part 2)	ISBN 978-1-4452-6791-3
Words of wisdom (part 3)	ISBN 978-1-4461-3035-3
Het energieniale leven	ISBN 978-1-4457-2953-4
Dood is dood	ISBN 978-1-4476-7213-5
Zelfgenezing	ISBN 978-1-4709-3332-6
NU deel 1	ISBN 978-1-4092-7691-3
NU deel 2	ISBN 978-1-4092-7736-1
NU deel 3	ISBN 978-1-4092-7747-7
NU deel 4	ISBN 978-1-4092-7787-3
NU deel 5	ISBN 978-1-4092-7720-0
NU deel 6	ISBN 978-1-4092-7742-2
NU deel 7	ISBN 978-1-4092-7775-0
NU deel 8	ISBN 978-1-4092-7738-5
NU deel 9	ISBN 978-1-4092-7768-2
NU deel 10	ISBN 978-1-4092-7708-8
NU deel 11	ISBN 978-1-4092-7759-0
NU deel 12	ISBN 978-1-4092-7661-6

Jonathan en Shalimar ISBN none

Website information:

His "Complete website in art" was visited by over 15 million people last year. Schools, teachers, artists and - most importantly - children visited the 700 pages with drawings, information and work. You will find several styles that will certainly interest you. He has one goal in his life: "To make a better world with art".

Blogs:

Watamula: <http://www.place4free.com/Watamula/Watamula.htm>
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 The last updates of my Curriculum Vitae can be find at:
<http://www.johnbaselmans.com/Curriculum/Curricul.htm>

Techniques

During the course of the many years in which John has been drawing, painting and sculpting, he has developed various techniques. We would like to mention briefly these various techniques.

Pen and ink drawing

Pen and ink drawings are made with a very fine quill pen, which makes it possible to create very fine lines. The technique has been refined and pen drawing need no longer be broad ink lines. They are now very thin lines, created in a variety of ways. In addition to the regular 'wet' technique, John has also developed the dry pen technique. As a result of the small amounts that remain on the back of the pen, it is possible to create extremely thin lines allowing a full range of grey shades on white paper. In addition to this, he also masters the technique of pen drawing using only dots. Pointillism is a very time-consuming technique, in particular when carried out with a pen. Using the combination of wet and dry pen techniques, he is able to create thick and thin dots, each with its own character.

Pen and pencil in color

To add some color to his drawings, John slowly but surely introduced color using coloring pencils. Initially, this would often be a single colors applied lightly, so that in some cases it was difficult to see that color had even been used. With time, the colors became brighter, which meant that the black ink and pen had to be done a second time on top of the colored parts to enhance the shaded areas. These became very colorful drawings, with the colors that abound on the Caribbean islands.

Pen, pastel and pencil

A technique that gave rise to many questions and one which makes people wonder how the dust from pastel chalk can be combined with Indian ink. Yet, this is possible and John has shown many times just how well these two opposing techniques can be combined. Pastel chalk is mostly used for the backgrounds of his drawings and in areas where you would actually expect soft colors. The 'deep' colors are made with coloring pencils, after which the black areas are enhanced with ink. This combining of techniques gives the drawing a unique character.

Pen, pastel, pencil and water color

A logical outcome, one might think, but why this combination? Pastel was not bright enough and so a drawing came about in which he played with coloring pencils that were suitable for water colors. With some experimentation, the water and paint proved their use and drawings were created that started off with areas in water color. After that, areas in pastel chalk, over which he used coloring pencils, finishing with the black Indian ink. This method makes parts of the drawing stand out brightly, suppressed where necessary by using pastel chalk, while an extra dimension is given with colors using coloring pencils. This technique has started to live its own life and can be found in much of John's work.

These are the four main techniques used regularly by John in his drawings. Using his judgment as to whether one thing or another is improved by applying these techniques. Depending on the work that he wants to create and the drawing that he already has in his mind.

Painting

During the first years of his life as an artist, John had already made a remarkable debut with some paintings that attracted great interest. Being someone who likes to experiment and is always searching for something new, John introduced paintings in the Netherlands that consisted, on the one hand, of the main color blue or red, which usually meant the sky, and a full landscape underneath it in black. He then created relief in the black, which was difficult to see if the light did not fall on the painting in the right way. But by positioning a small spotlight or some other suitable lighting on the painting, a whole world opened up in the black, a landscape appeared. Using this technique, which had never been done before, he won a number of prizes.

Pastel

The old medium of pastel is also used by John in his work. Not only in combination with other techniques, but also as a technique on its own. As pen and ink drawings have the disadvantage that larger works are too costly because of the hours spent on them, he came up with an alternative of creating many very large pastel drawings. Drawings that are very sought after by large companies. It is an old technique which is easy to work with and yields beautiful results. The pastel-like colors, as well as the possibility to create bright colors, appeal to many.

Surrealistic work

This work was done by John with bright colors but also using a different technique. At a certain point, he experimented with paint and paper. Spraying and splashing, controlled by an airbrush, a technique came about that he could develop further. Splashes on paper with one or more colors, then put aside to dry for a few weeks. The paper recovered from the shower by that time and work could begin again. Depending on the splashes and the shapes, John highlighted some shapes and emphasized certain colors. This would become a painting that even he didn't know what the end result would be. Eventually a work was produced that was at times very remarkable or sinister, or very jolly.

Graphic design

His graphic designing has also always found its way on the island but also in the rest of the world. In addition to being an artist, there were times when he took up graphic designing. There was always an itch, which is why he had his own studio for fourteen years. During those years, drawing never faded, on the contrary, good use was made of his drawing skills but also his computers skills. Being one of the first pioneers, he combined conventional drawing with the new medium, the computer. He managed to bring together these two completely different aspects, even though computers at the time were extremely slow. Much of his knowledge was used in drawing as well as designing skills. Many posters, advertisements and other items were woven together in a beau-

tiful way. This often exasperated the many printers with their very old-fashioned devices, lacking processing power for his very large files. There were many sleepless nights trying to get the section printed exactly as he had designed it.

Stamps

John has designed postage stamps for the Nieuwe Post NV on the Netherlands Antilles since 1984. At the request of the then director Mr. Hernandez, he was asked to design all postage stamps that depicted portraits. After that, he designed many - more than 200 - postage stamps on various themes. In those first years, designing stamps was mostly done by hand, and the graphic design had to be completely finished before the sheets with text and its value were put on top. With the arrival of the computer, he continued to draw and very few postage stamps were made by him completely on the computer. The main illustration is generally drawn by hand, even today. The many designs show his versatility both in the use of color and composition. The drawing techniques vary from pen and ink, pencil, paint to airbrush. The technique used depends on what he wants to create.

Airbrush

As time went on, John developed another interest: the airbrush technique. As usual, he prepared himself well this time too. He acquired everything he needed and the relevant documentation should teach him the rest. John's motto is that everything can be learned if you spend enough time on it. And so he did. Practice makes perfect, so he also became a master in airbrushing, including masking and covering, and a feel for using paint and ink. Having sweated for many hours and having failed a few times, he entered a period in which he could be found almost every day in the space that he had created especially for airbrushing. With some music on, he would start on yet another piece.

Having mastered the airbrush, he received many assignments from an unsuspecting corner. He was and is the only person on the islands who can restore old photographs using the ancient method and the airbrush. A difficult technique, because he usually has to work with old material, sometimes even with photographs that have been around for almost a century, and the only remains of some family or other. Time and again, it was a challenge to restore a half faded photograph to its original splendor. Today, all that can be done digitally by Mr. Photoshop.

Sculpture

Later on in life, John started to sculpt. At the age when most sculptors decide to quit the business, John decided to make a long-cherished dream come true at the age of fifty. As there were no suitable stones on the island, and suitable ones from abroad were hard to come by, he had the idea to use concrete. Why not, he thought, ultimately it is all about a shape that appeals to people. And so his first statues came about. Firstly, a substance of cement with some additives was poured into containers of 250x80x60 cm to ensure a solid final product. After a drying period, these huge blocks were hauled onto tables and attacked with grinders, chisels and various sanding machines. As the shapes in his head were sterile and smooth, he came to use these types of tools. Sterile, smooth and reaching for the unknown.

Today there are many sculptures in the Baselmans family garden. Shapes that came to him over the years and ended up in sketchbooks, but have now finally materialized later on in his life.

Books

Drawing was not enough, neither was sculpting, so John also started to write. He had been writing for some time in the local newspapers, but writing books was something new for him. There came a time when he decided to publish a book and in doing so he would use up the last of his savings. That one book, which contains his wisdoms and views, totaling about 400 pages. After a visit to the printer, he was given a tip which meant that he did not have to make a huge investment himself. He came in contact with an Internet publisher who supplies books per copy and so the road to writing was open for him. He currently has 26 ISBN numbers to his name, for as many titles.

John never really found his way in society. A society which he does not really believe he needs, but in which he has always fought for his freedom, until today. A person cannot create if he cannot move freely. Certainly not if there is no connection with the roots of a person, nature. He has always fought against everything that felt like compulsion, in particular if it meant having to work for a company or society and earning huge sums of money. You can see this in his early years, when he was clearly searching. The fact that even before he had completed the study of graphic design he was offered a good job as a designer in one of the larger advertising agencies in the city of Eindhoven. He accepted the job but handed in his notice after a short while. The reason was that he wondered when he would spend all that money if he had to start at 8 o'clock in the morning and come home at 11 o'clock at night. He left and first used the money he had saved. Free again, he started to draw and was one with nature, fishing and walking. Not long after that, all his money was spent, so he started to work in a supermarket where he was soon promoted to greengrocer because, being a fast talker, he was able to sell all the products to customers in no time. Again, the motto was 'enough money, quit while ahead'. So he returned to drawing. In the meantime, he met a guy who had a business selling Indonesian statues, as well as clothes. John drifted around the Netherlands with him for a few years. Earning next to nothing, but always having enough to stay alive. Then there came a time when he had had enough of the markets and decided to work in a record shop. For free, because he wanted to determine his own working hours. He did that for approximately 2 years, but money was always a big problem, because everything was becoming more and more expensive. His father and mother were not well-off either and certainly not able to pay for the upkeep of a growing teenager. He took on a job selling hobby articles in the VEDA department store. It was a fun job but when trade was slow, he would almost fall asleep. They did not take too kindly to the fact that he was found sketching in the boss's time, so he had a talk with the management and he was given a second job on the same floor, in the sports department. Two jobs for one salary! At least he had something to do. Holiday time came around and John wanted to explore Mexico for five weeks, which was not appreciated by his present boss. So no more work, quit and take off after all. When he came home again, he looked around for a while and was offered a job as a manager in a do-it-yourself store. He also worked there for a number of months, until he wanted to take a day of paid leave, and he was fired because they said the business could not be run without him. That was the moment when he became a full-time artist and spent all his time drawing. His work as an artist really took off after arriving in Curaçao. The work was new and everyone wanted to own something that he had made. The fact that he regularly sat drawing

in supermarket Zuikertuintje also made him famous in no time. After a while, he accepted an offer to work in a clinic for alternative medicine where medicines were produced. He wanted something new and thought that this might be it. Before long, he became the financial director and then general director, which kept him busy negotiating and dealing with many medical issues. But John would not be John if he had stuck at this long, so once again he turned back to drawing. This time in combination with his past love, advertising. He set up his own agency, which existed for 14 years. He was able to combine his drawing with his work and his freedom. The freedom that had always been so important. He worked when the children were at school or when they were asleep, and the rest of the time he spent with them fooling around and travelling around the island. After 14 years in advertising, he'd had enough and the very large accounts had become too much for him. His slogan 'always on time' became more and more difficult to live up to and his freedom diminished along with his drawing. Stopping, taking emergency measures and from one day to the next, his office was closed. Nothing was left, no office, no work and... as you might guess no income.

Still, John nevertheless found his path in life again. He worked/helped out as a manager at an animal shelter and also as a deputy financial director. He had regained his freedom and was able to give himself completely to his drawing. This time he was an artist with his heart and soul, and no longer doing what was expected from him by society or what he expected from himself in the form of boring suburban bliss. He lives on a minimum amount of money and is freer than ever before. He has found his path, after many professions and many stops in a round-about way, as an artist who will not be stopped or numbed by a society.

In this present life as an artist, a new love has been born: writing books. These days, anyone can write down what comes up in their minds, and even turn it into a book that everyone can read. With today's technology of the Internet, on Amazon and Lulu, anyone can write and be read, and hence John now has 26 books to his name. Another one of his dreams has come true and become reality. Speaking of dreams, they do obviously always come true for him because he does actually what comes into his head and what suits him too.

His hobbies

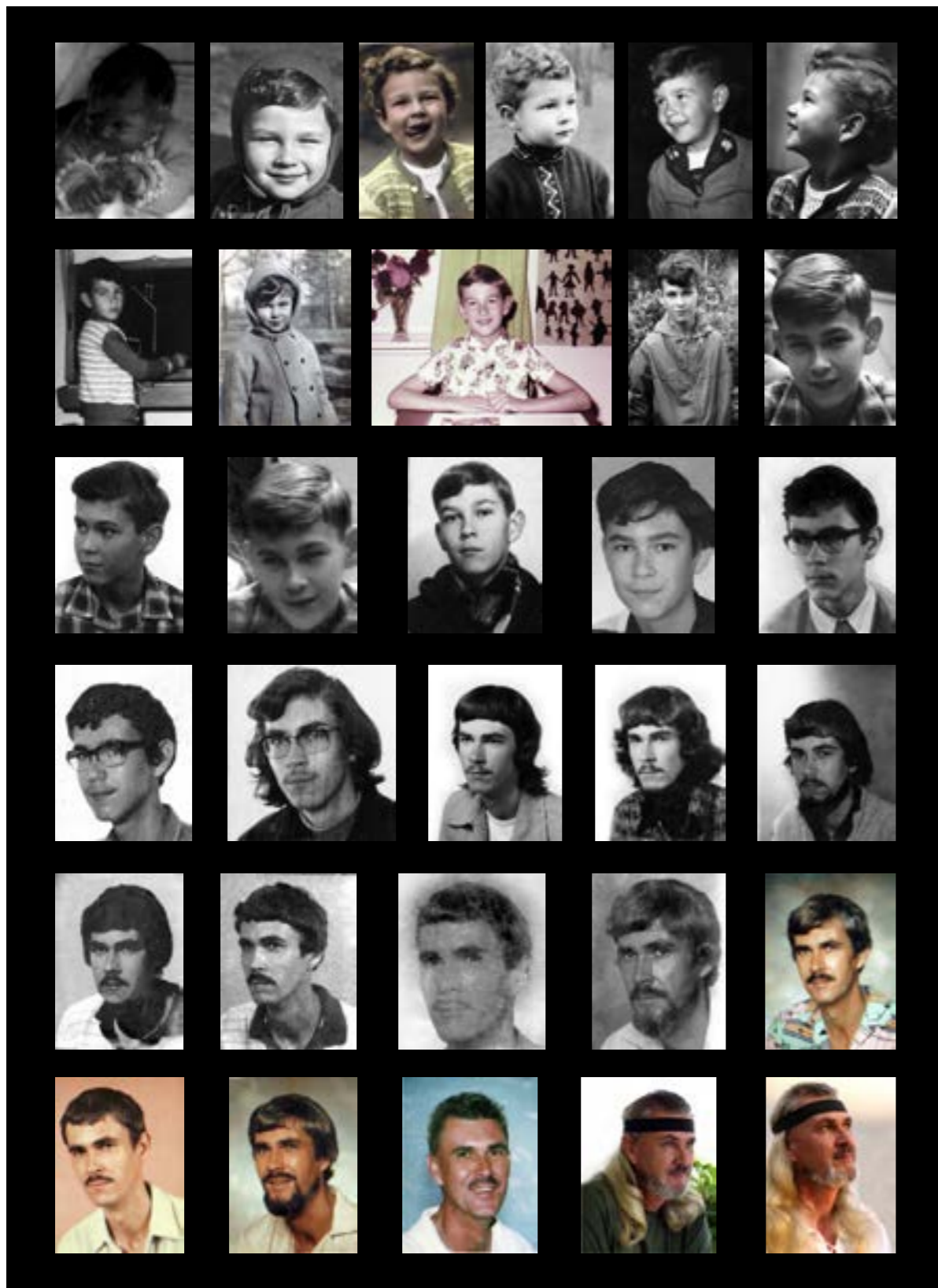
When you look at John's life, it is really a hobby. He does what comes into his head whether it is as a greengrocer, as director or as an artist. He sees everything as a hobby. As soon as the work is running smoothly, he stops and ends his career only to start another one. Whether it is painting a house or a canvas, building a house or sculpting concrete, everything is a development towards the next step. Painting, photography, metalwork, welding, molding, glasswork, gardening, music, woodwork, enamel, diving, walking, riding, animals, bricklaying, making rugs, retouching, you name it. There is little he hasn't undertaken. Everything was done and is being done as the next step in his life.

Nature

When you look at John's work, you can see he is intimately connected with nature. Nature, according to him, is the true way of life and the way that every person should follow. He has always been strongly attracted to nature, which is also the reason why he never stuck it out anywhere for

long with his work. There were always spaces during his work so that he could flee into nature. He was always busy with animals and plants. He was never attracted to society and despite his successes and occasional material wealth, he was happiest when he was close to nature. His 'small hut on the prairie' and his contact with plants and animals are more important to him than a hefty bank account. His freedom, as a human being but also as an animal, are important to him. Nothing can beat the laws and rules of nature and he proves every day that money and society are coming to nothing with all their rules and laws. Animals and plants have always had his full attention and even now it hurts him to see how people (who are not human) use the wonder that is 'nature'. He will go on until the end with his actions against animal suffering, dolphins and the widespread abuse of nature. He will not give up. The same goes for his drawing, which he will never let go, just as he will continue to sculpt and write. Giving up is not a phrase that exists in his vocabulary so all of his dreams will ultimately come true, if they haven't already. Nature is our life and we must live according to the laws and rules of nature.







"This work is my life,
my feelings, my soul.

No other words are needed."

John