POEMS AND DRAWINGS

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Introduction

I enjoy drawing and writing poetry in my spare time. I have selected three drawings and three poems that somewhat reflect emotions and ideas I have had in relation to the current pandemic and how it affects our personal lives.

The poems explore different ways of dealing with cataclysms or unavoidable ruptures of routines and personal relationships: running away, being patient, self-help. The overall tone is not particularly optimistic. For instance, in "Guide to Purpose", I parody self-help literature, perhaps questioning its limitations.

The collages juxtapose playful or comforting subjects (a cat, an amusement park, a family dinner) with otherworldly invasions. Familiar settings, pets, gatherings, food all become threats. For instance, in "The Family Dinner", the family meal, a lobster, towers above Prague's Old Jewish Cemetery, surrounded by a Norman Rockwell family, whose endeavour to be normal in these circumstances is not very much less uncanny than the monster itself.

My Dream

When the flood came the giant knew he wouldn't fit in he never had – and yet he carried in his hairy hands many to the safety of warm houses and safer lands

When the flood came barricaded in sinking cars drowned fathers drove swaddled passengers by the cove running away feet set in tar

So, the flood came.

We never thought it would come here from the highest branch, my cat saw the zoo of dignity and fear break out like the walls of our law and wild giraffes bleat, cry and laugh in streets made of paper and glass from Madrid to Warsaw

The Fog

I sit in the fog with you

I want to be here.

It is a little scary the way fog interrupts time and interrupts space but it doesn't need to interrupt us

the sound of teacups and hiccups and beer would travel even through milk

I'll be back soon, rejoice you could not be alone if you tried

I dream of a summer day

if the fog ever rolled out from the feathers you hide in your pillow you would find it at your feet the thing you believed was far away and out of reach sleeping like a newborn sparrow

Guide to Purpose

Sit

down. Make a list of seven activities you enjoy. If this proves difficult, search for "fun things to do" on the Internet. You will be surprised at how many things people find fun. If you do not have the Internet, ask your friends for a piece of yarn. If you have no friends, call your mother. If she is on a safari, buy a puzzle. Sort pieces by colour until you feel pleasure.

List as many goals as you can.

I want: <u>To stay in bed</u>

I want: ____To be reincarnated

Make sure your goals are gender-specific.

I want: To be reincarnated as Central Park

Stay two meters away

from people above your social class and aneurisms.

Write poetry

"If you were a lake I'd never want to breathe air again"

Don't quit your day job. Buy

a cat. Name it after a shortage of canned goods. Prepare 51 gallons of fish stock. Survive the war. If there is no war, consider pretending.

Be aware of mental health stressors:

Absence of people People Everything that is not purple

Brainstorm solutions:

79

Assimilate Exterminate Learn Italian

Walk in the forest, listen to birds, make peace with the sea, befriend ants and sharks. God only disappoints with occasional deluges.

Try

running. If this is not possible, hide. If hiding is not an option find a sharp object and commit to violence.

Кеер

a gratefulness diary. Write a letter to someone who helped you.

"Dear [Name],

Thanks for: helping me get in your neighbour's apartment._

l am: <u>not a janitor.</u>

I will: bring organs to orphans

who need them more than we do. When all this is over perhaps you will be a bench in Central Park."

vuoi sposarmi?

— "will you marry me?"

si prega di chiudere la porta

— "please close the door"

non lasciare che la morte entri dentro

— "don't let death come inside"

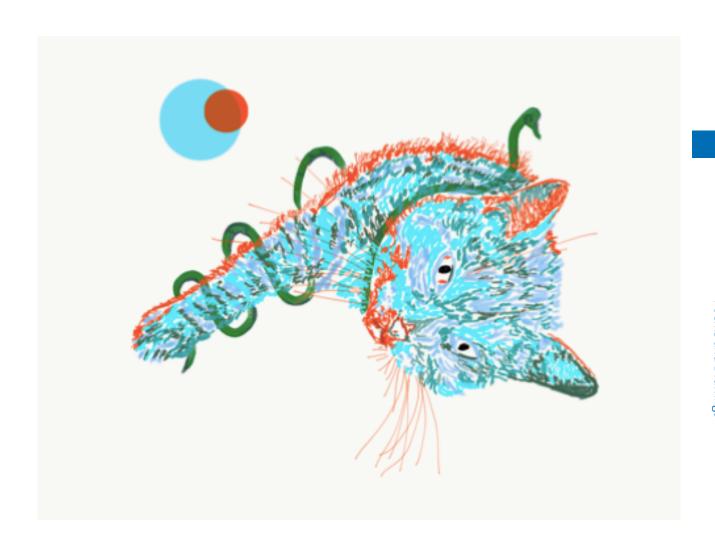
Remember

You do not need to forgive. Gently Focus your mind on the task at hand let it go back and forth like a serrated leaf.

The inescapability of bliss concludes Disk 1 of the *Guide to Purpose*. To find everlasting love Insert Disk 2.

80

The Giant Blue Cat





The Family Dinner

