

RUST & MOTH

ARTIST SPOTLIGHT



Janet Reeves

From the Editor:

As part of our mission to present exciting, innovative, and creative works of art in varied form, we offer a new series: *Spotlight...*

This online series will be published on special occasions when we find an artist whose work is especially captivating and fresh. It allows us an opportunity to comprehensively survey the catalogue of an artist, focusing more intimately upon his or her work, life, and unique perspective. Even more, the *Spotlight* series affords us the ability to present works in a variety of media that may not otherwise fit in our quarterly poetry journal.

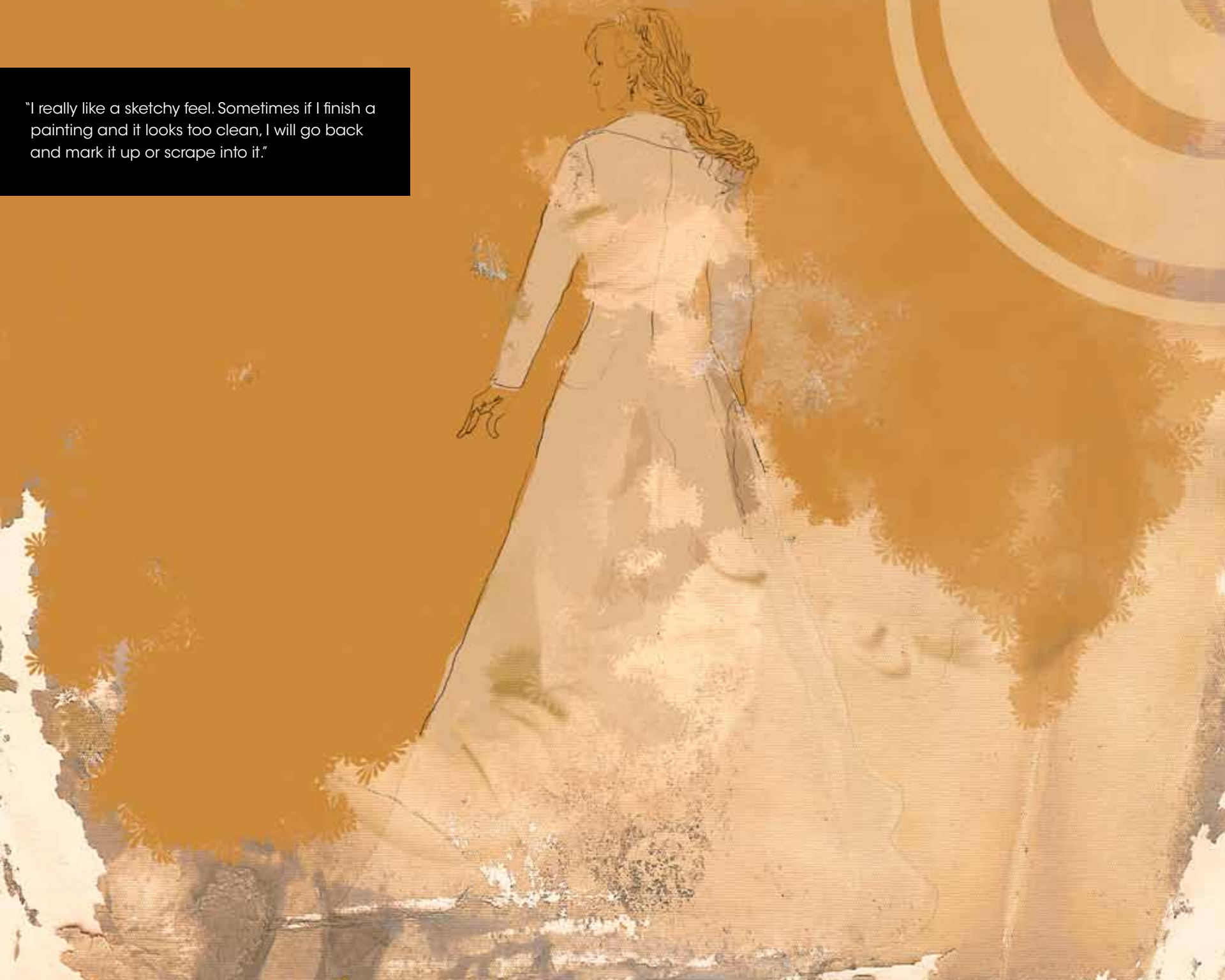
In this first *Spotlight*, we take a detailed look at [Janet Reeves](#), an illustrative artist working on digital canvases. We sat down with her for a conversation over coffee here in Austin, Texas and discussed her work. In the following pages, you will see not only selections of her artwork, but her words as we captured them that afternoon in a casual conversational setting.

We trust that you not only will enjoy the caliber of art that Janet displays, but that you'll get a more intimate sense of her personality and perspective on art. There is no doubt that she is a tremendously talented graphic design artist and illustrator who offers inspiring images and imaginative designs. And, we are honored to shine our *Spotlight* on [Janet Reeves](#).

Matthew Payne
Editor



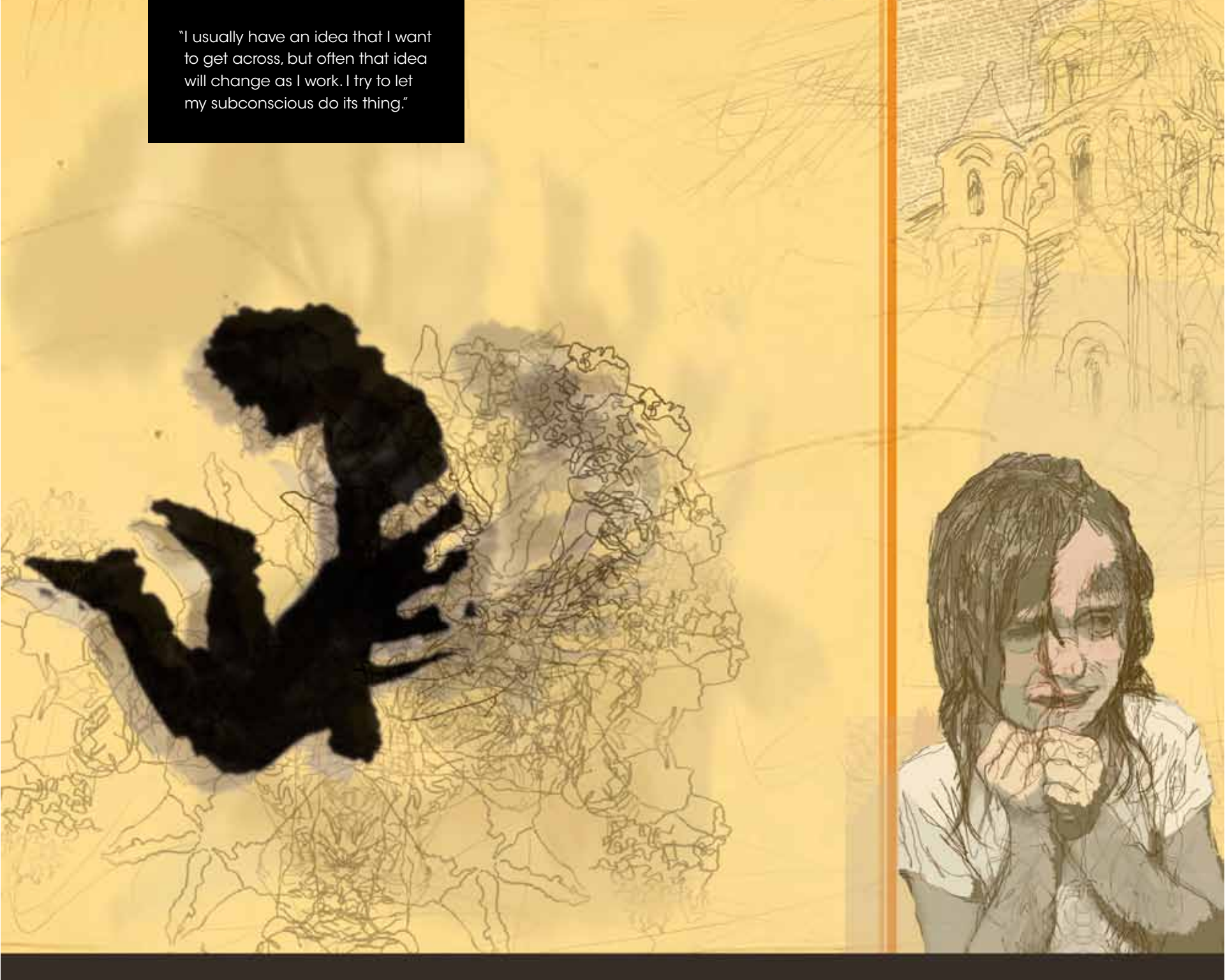
"I really like a sketchy feel. Sometimes if I finish a painting and it looks too clean, I will go back and mark it up or scrape into it."





"I try to move things to a place that is uncomfortable and asymmetrical. These are things I might never try if I was trying to do things *correctly*."

"I usually have an idea that I want to get across, but often that idea will change as I work. I try to let my subconscious do its thing."





I work by building up a piece, taking it back down, and building it up again. So the art kind of forms on its own. I try not to have any preconceived notions about where it is going. I like to let it mold itself.

MORE WORDS FROM THE AUTHOR

Art is intuitive. You develop a feel for what's lacking in the piece.

It's all about looking at a piece and saying, "What's the problem?" Then, learning how to solve the problem.

I try to push my composition toward stuff that I normally don't do, that I was taught not to do. I just keep playing with it until I feel that it is right.

You learn tricks along the way to solve different problems. As you work more, you get a bigger bag of tricks.

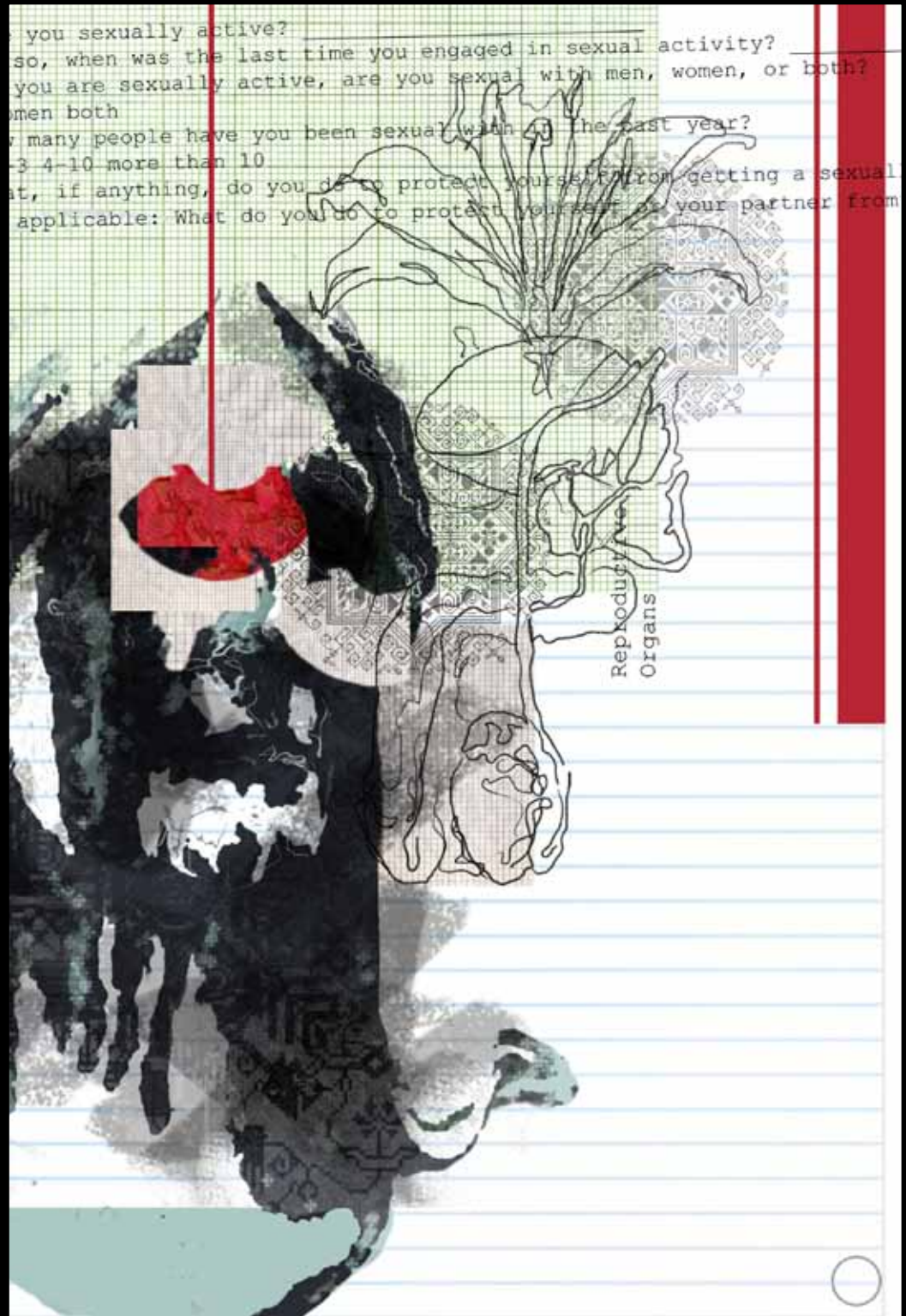




"This image is based upon *The Masque of the Red Death*, when the musicians stop on the hour to look at the eerie clock."

"When I was little, I was really into writing. Edgar Allen Poe's poetry really helped me to open up. He was kind of my muse."





"In this piece, I wanted to evoke that feeling of going to the doctor. They ask you all these really personal questions but they do it in an impersonal way."

I respond to aspects of other people's artwork I like. I'm kind of taking off where they left off, and pushing it forward a little bit.

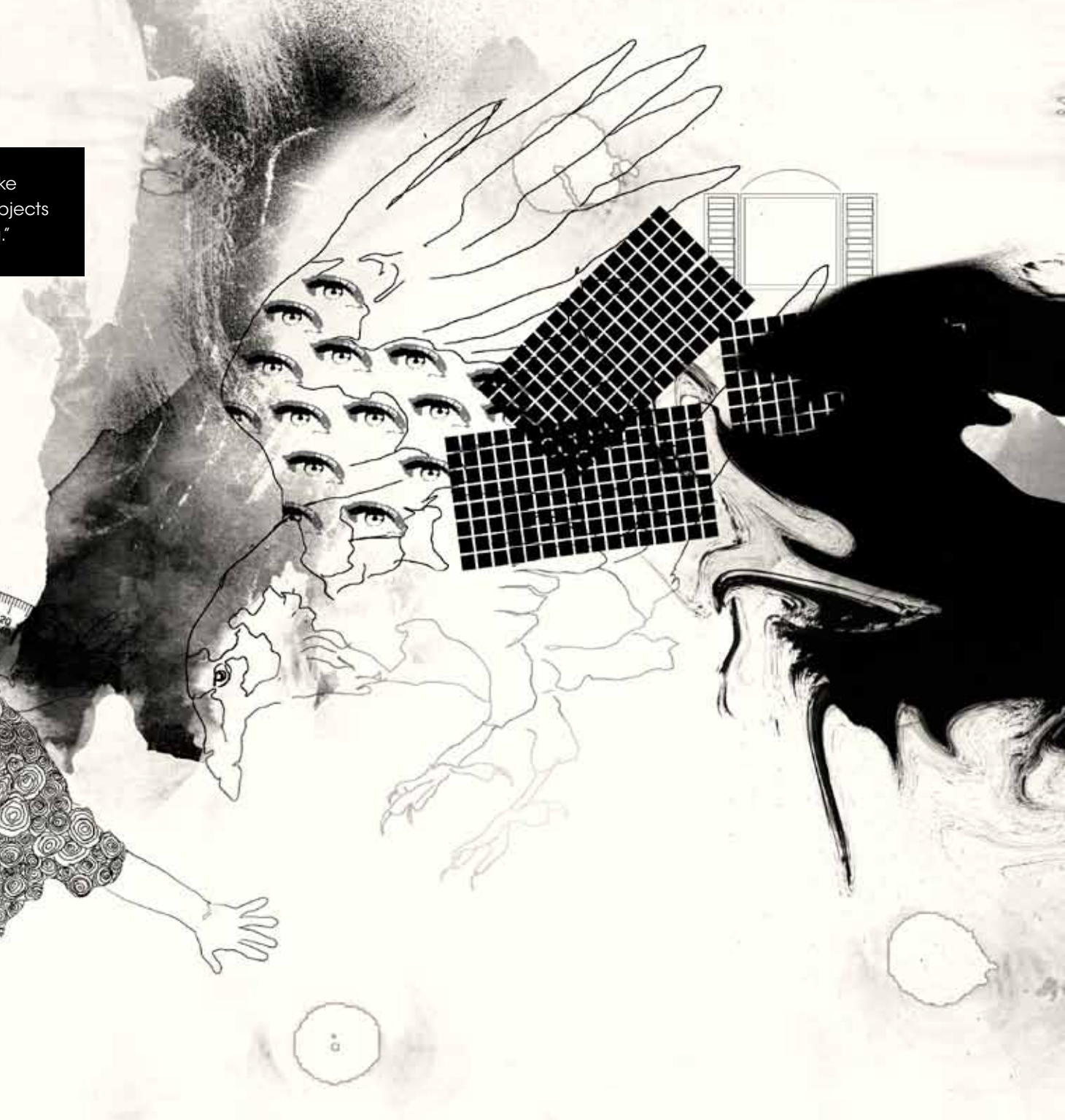
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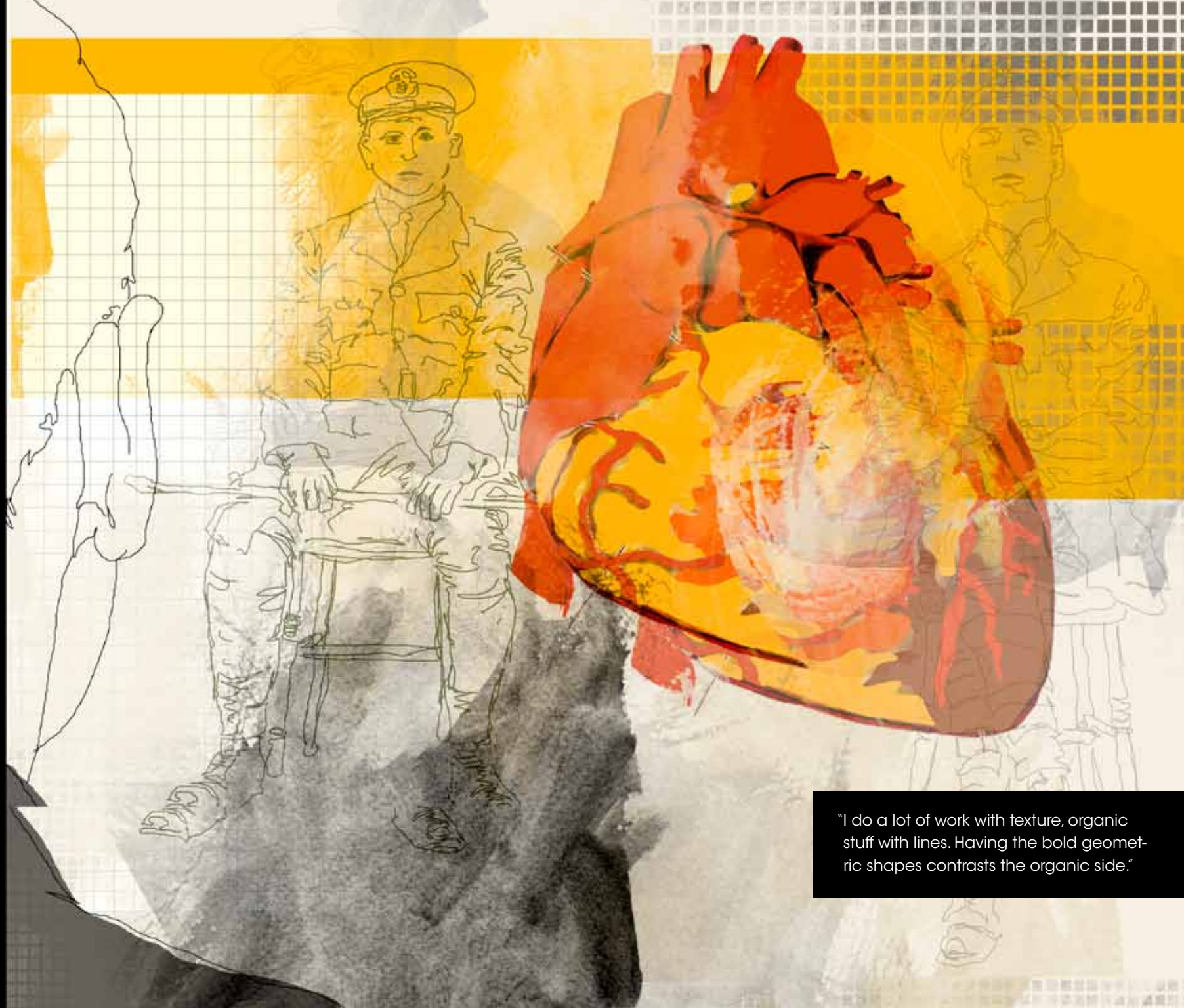
It's easier for the art to come out when you're doing it daily- at least doing an hour a day. It really helps the creative juices flowing.

Music and art therapy are things I've always been interested in. They have such an affect upon the body and the mind. It's therapeutic. It's a way to help people.

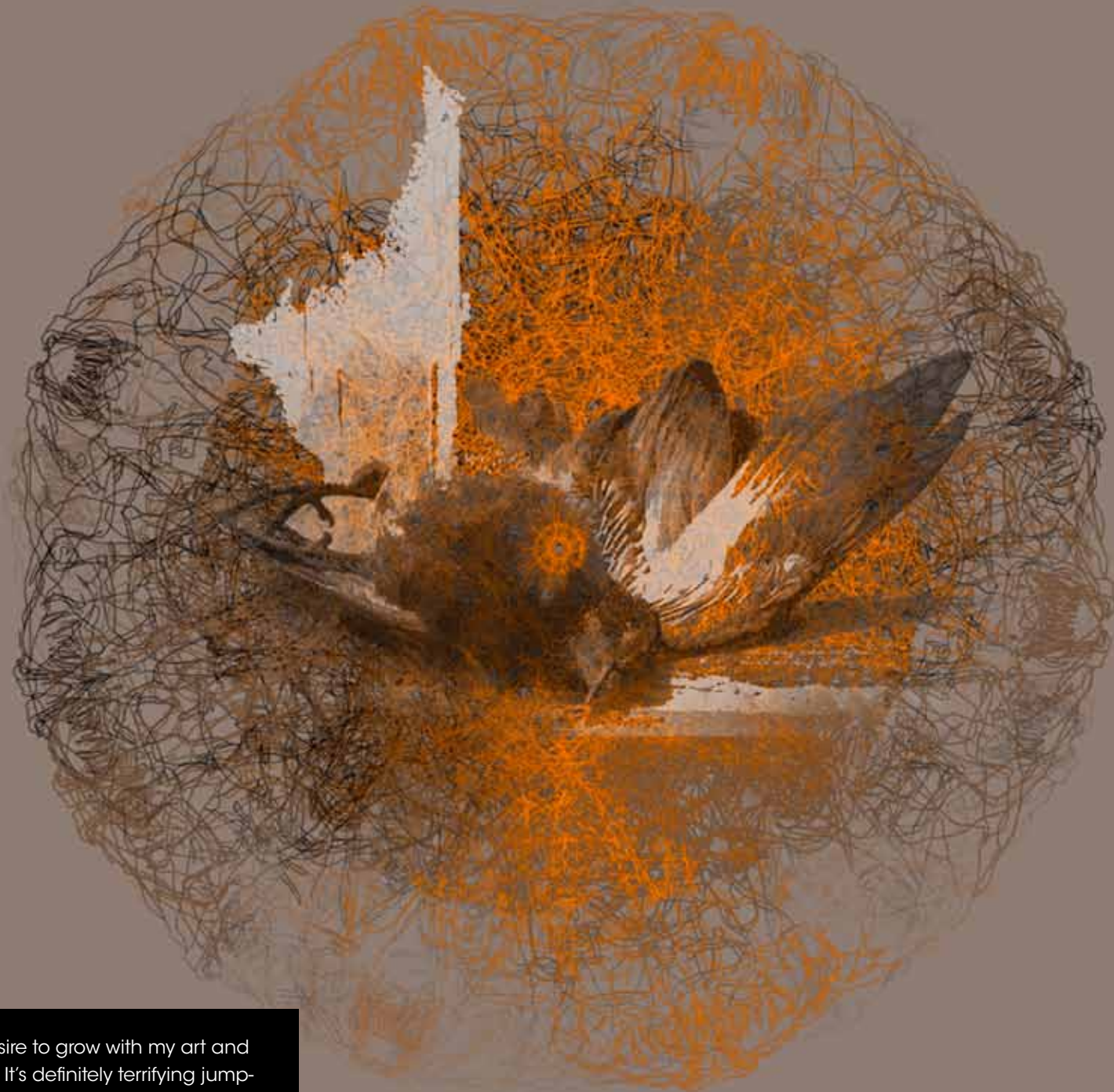
I think art is a dialogue. I notice aspects of other people's artwork I like and I continue it in my own artwork and in my own ways. I'm kind of taking off where they left off, and pushing it forward a little bit.

"I'm really interested in stencil stuff like graffiti artwork. I kind of did these objects like they were done in print-making."





"I do a lot of work with texture, organic stuff with lines. Having the bold geometric shapes contrasts the organic side."



"There's a desire to grow with my art and expand. But, It's definitely terrifying jumping from something you're familiar with."

“Just be open to having a dialogue with art. Have a conversation with it.”