

defying
integrity
of continuity

Journey Planet 47

Thank you for reading this. I know that people don't necessarily seek out poetry, or not that much. For me it's a bit different. Since I was little I sensed life is deeply poetic in itself, and if you listen and watch you notice rhythms and rhymes are forming on their own, effortlessly. This is where my poetry originates – not from heart or soul – for I am merely a string resonating to the world.

Synchronicity and coincidences have worked hard to see this issue occur. I've been drawn to Ireland as an epitome of a magical land of stories. In Russia, we have a term 'green wave' starting in the 90s with folk music about Ireland, mostly by people who've never been to any of the Isles. It's also known as an 'Inner Ireland', the land that's made up, a mix of fantasy straight from Tolkien, with dragons, fairies and freedom. This was my Ireland, too, for many years. I even became the Director of the Irish Film Festival before I went to Ireland. And then I got acquainted with the real deal, the magical land of stories and freedom.

My first Worldcon was Loncon 3, where I wandered around in awe, cosplaying beaten-up Hawkgy and Newt Geiszler too well, so people would come up to me, their eyes watering with sympathy, and ask me if I was alright.

Coming into contact with Irish fandom at Helsinki and Dublin 2019 was another round of synchronicity for me. It seemed like everything came together with two of my favourite things coinciding: Worldcon coming to Ireland! I was so hyped, when I got my badge and would be asked for a normally 4-digits members number, I would be confused, because mine was 33.

Another highlight of Irish Worldcon was reading a poem from my 'Space Bride' series at the open invitation from Prof Jocelyn Bell Brunel to a room full of people, who, like me, are writing and thinking about space, transcending the limitations of humanity, and our verses reaching out to places where no one has gone before...

Then another chance – meeting about fan activities in Europe with James once again in Dublin this November as I was in Ireland for Subtitle, a European film festival in Kilkenny. It was one of those coincidences that weave into our lives seamlessly, both passing through and from it, his and Chris's support and enthusiasm was incredible. James also introduced me to fantastic art by Sara Felix, which is on the beautiful cover.

I am humbled by this publication and it leaves me joyful to the core and only silent fangirl squealing can describe completely what I feel.

I hope you enjoy this poem and my art that goes with each line. It is one of the most important pieces I've produced so far and it was largely inspired by the Irish Worldcon with all the readings, writings and conversations. I trust you to fill in the lines that follow with your own meanings.

If you want to read more of my poetry and support me, you can find me on Patreon by Ann Gry or directly at <https://www.patreon.com/AnnGry>

Thank you, friends, for inspiration!

Ann Gry

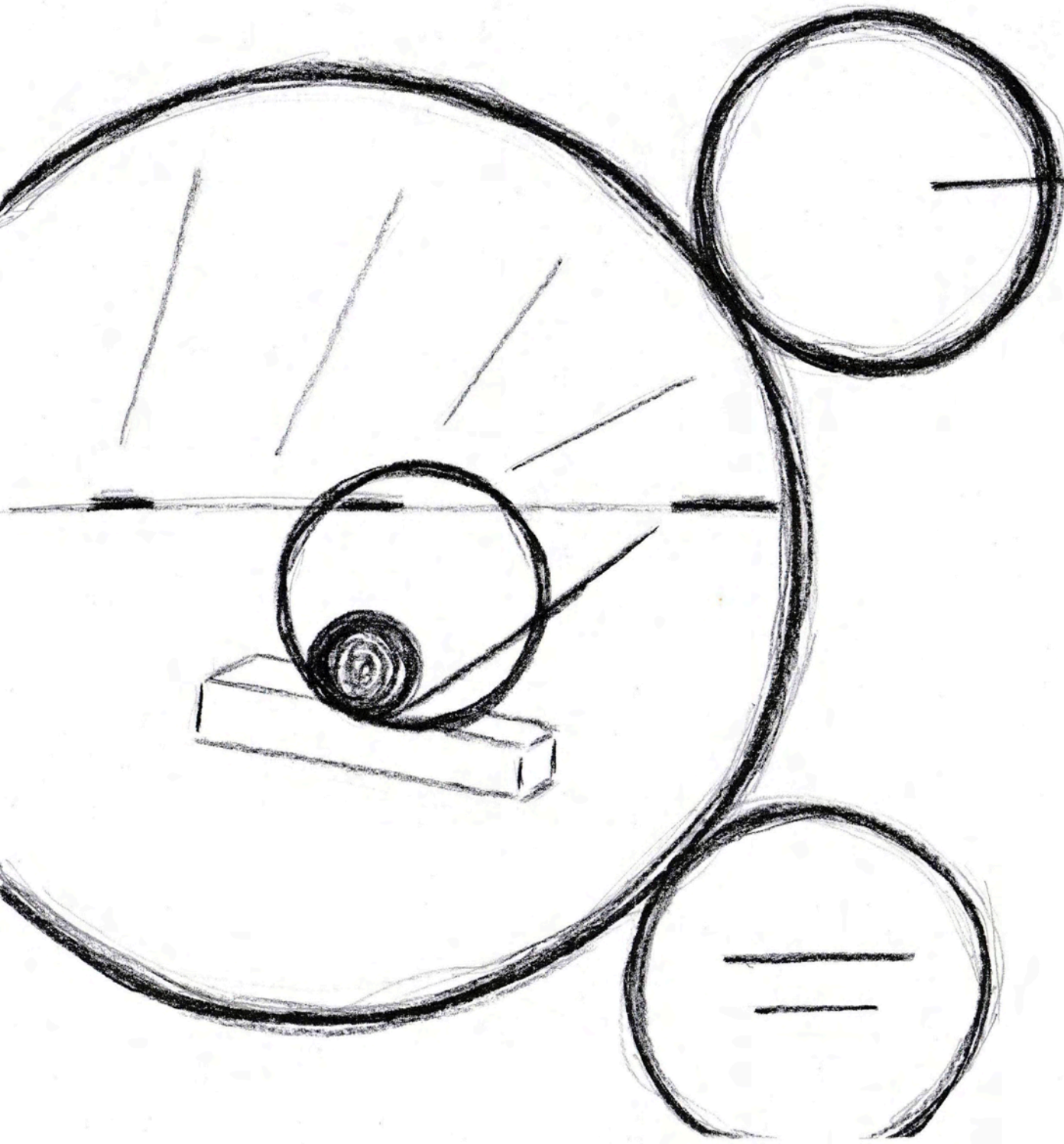
Journey Planet 47 ~ Dec 2019

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DEFYING INTEGRITY OF CONTINUITY

BY ANN GRY

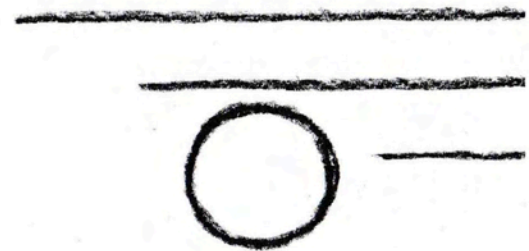


TIME &
SPACE

ARE

UNNECESSARY

CONSTRUCTS



WE MARK THE WORLD



WITH OUR FLEETING PRESENCE

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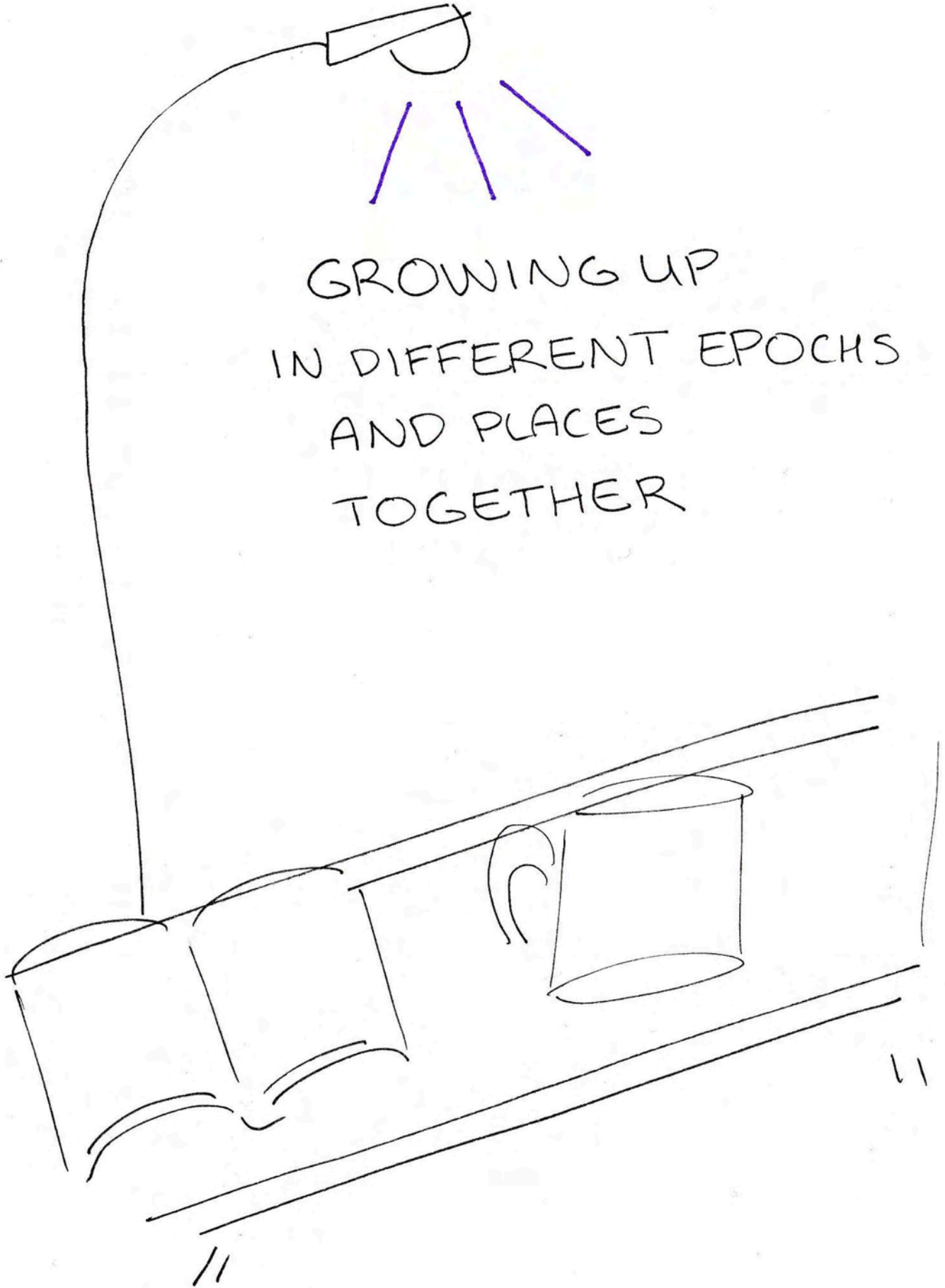
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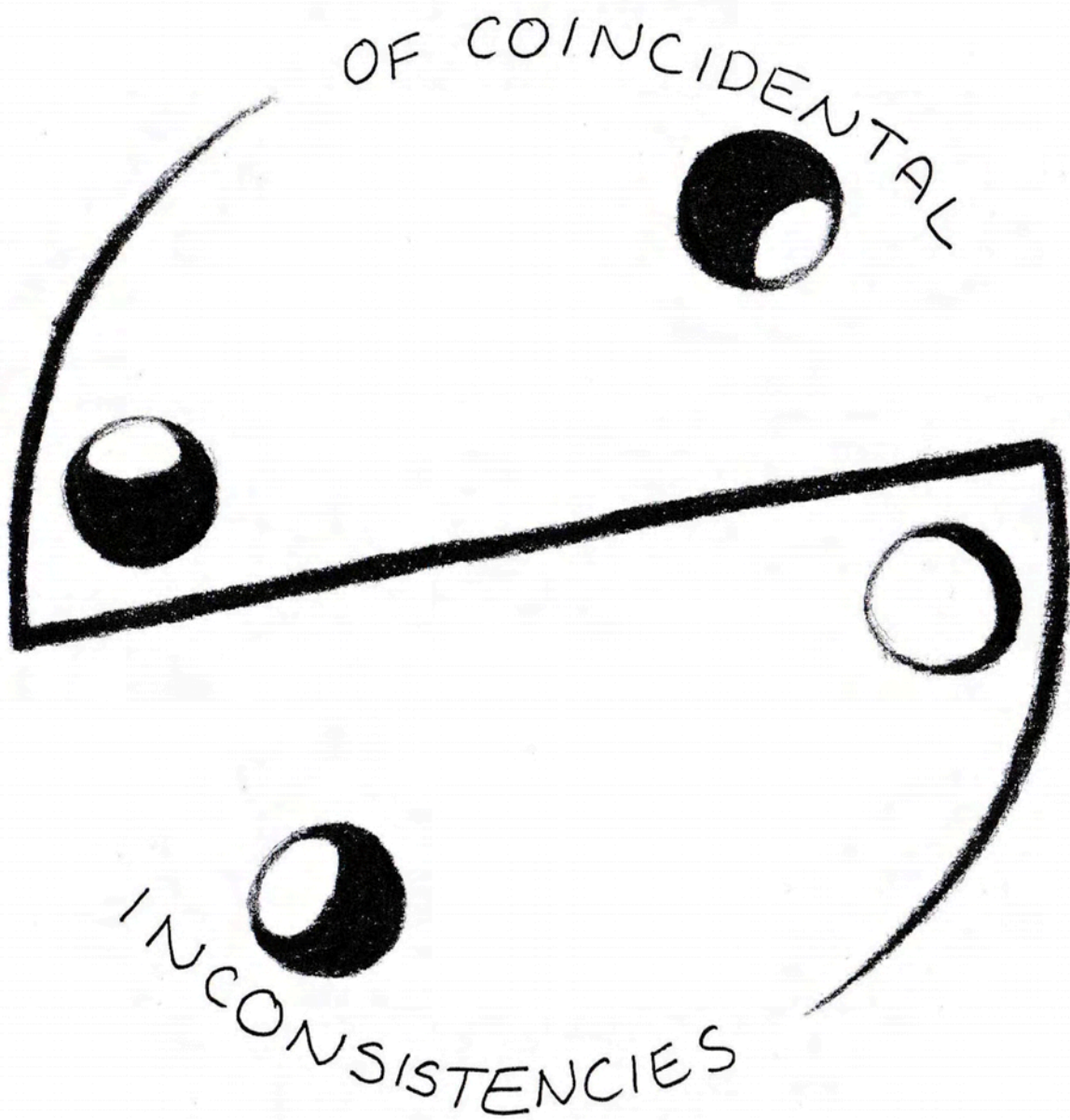
OF



GROWING UP
IN DIFFERENT EPOCHS
AND PLACES
TOGETHER

DEVASTATING
OUR
FAMILIES
AS IF FROM OTHER
PLANES OF
EXISTENCE

ADMIRING THE BEAUTY



INSTALLING

MEMORIES

WITH

ARTIFICIAL

HOPE

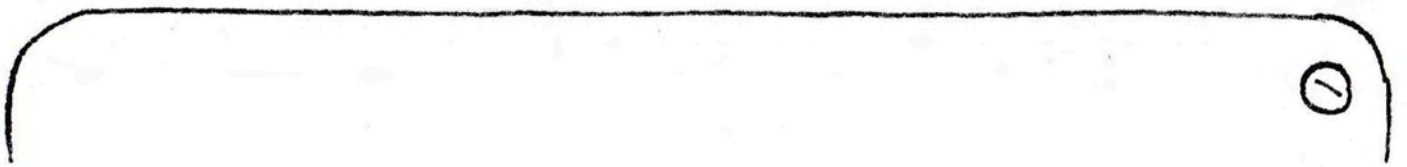
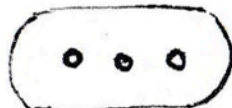
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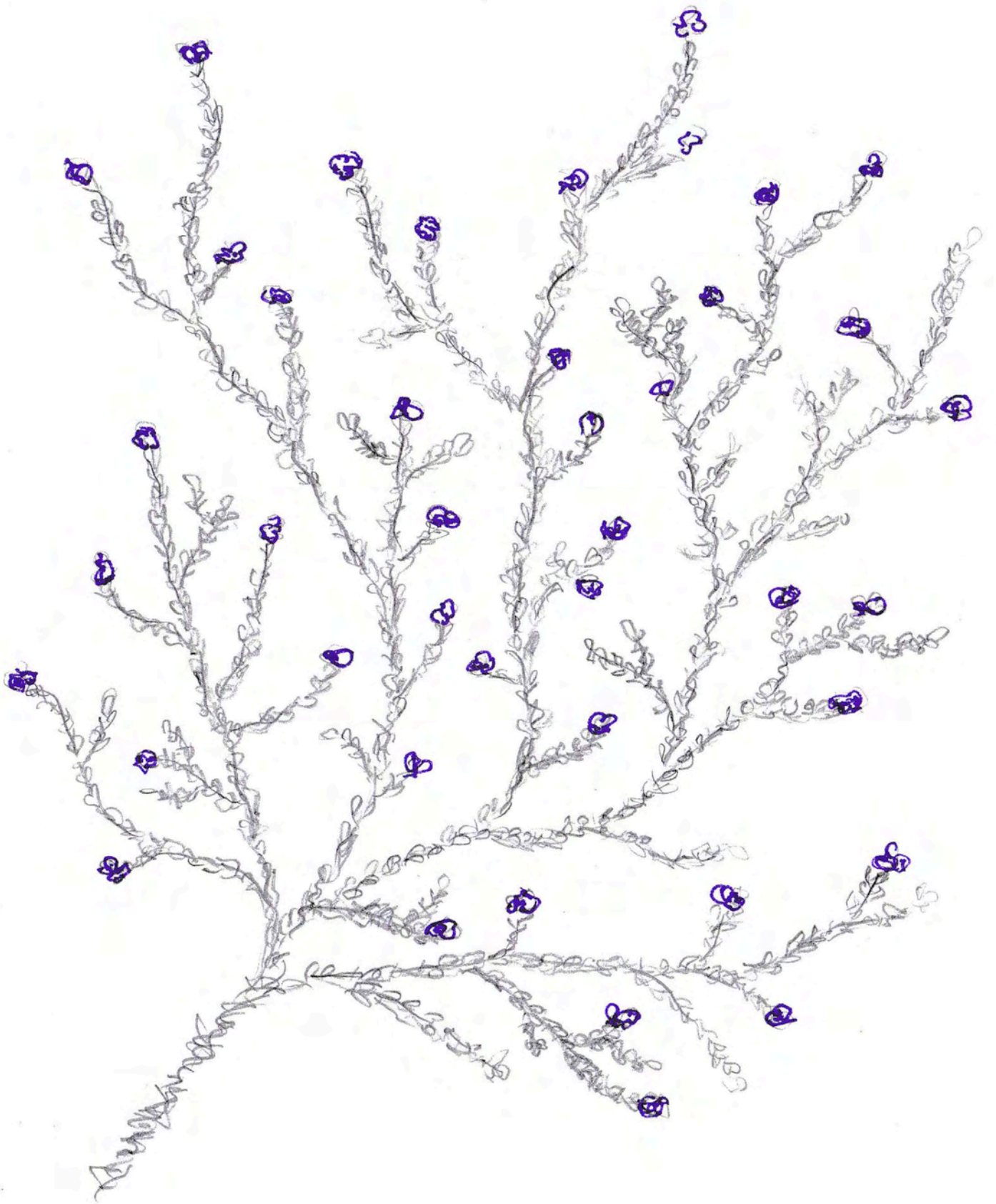
DAY BY DAY

IN

EPHEMERAL

ETHER





MASKING ACCIDENTS WITH FATEFUL MEANINGS.

Time and space are unnecessary constructs
We mark the world with our fleeting presence
Defying integrity of continuity
Growing up in different epochs and places together
Devastating our families as if from other planes of existence
Admiring the beauty of coincidental inconsistencies
Installing memories with artificial hope
Living day by day in ephemeral ether
Masking accidents with fateful meanings

Время и пространство - ненужные конструкции
Мы лишь слегка касаемся Земли
Внося в континуум поправки за редукцию
И тут и там в эпохи разные росли
Разрушая семьи как из иных планов бытия
Восхищаясь красотой внезапных нестыковок
Мнимой надеждой меняя воспоминания
В эфире эфемерном вдоль кротовых норок
Маскируя случайности знаками судьбы

Enditorials

I was enjoying my time in Dublin in November, as you do, with no pressures of a Worldcon and having a nice time meeting fans and friends and family.

C.E. Murphy had a Thanksgiving gathering to which I went with Emma J. King and Lynda E. Rucker, and we were meant to have Maura McHugh with us, but she was ill, and it was lovely to chat about comics, and of course browse someone else's collection, and meet fans.

I got to hang out with Marguerite Smith which was very productive, getting Dublin tasks cleared, the inertia sets in, but Marguerite is a woman of determination and initiative, and so has taken on tasks beyond her role.

I hung out with Monkey, Pdraig O'Mealoid and James Mason, and enjoyed a lunch talking about *The Mandalorian*, which I am loving and of course, I had not yet watched *Watchmen* which is a conflict and *Rise Of Skywalker*, was only on the horizon. I love Dublin, and especially love the comic and book shops, and so when I entered and shop owners such as Rob Curley, John Wyse Jackson and John Hendrik all greeted me with a congratulatory air, and speak highly of Dublin 2019, it was so nice. The positivity so pleasant and so lovely to have so much wonderful feedback on Dublin 2019. I trekked up to Northern Ireland for a Titancon meeting and that was great to work with Jo Zebedee, Tommy Ferguson, Kerry Buchanan and Eugene Docherty. Next year sees the 40th anniversary of so many things, that might feed the cons programme as well as welcoming exciting new guests.

I am now co-chairing a Smofcon Europe Bid. I am now on the Octocon committee, just in time for it's 30th anniversary, and I am now on the Titancon 2020 committee.

22 days with no committee of a future convention was not much time. It went by fast.

Dublin 2019. We lost the Hugo, but I had Chris at an Irish Worldcon. So it evens out. Mostly. Congratulations to all the winners, and those who lost with honour, best of luck.

Once again - thank you to all of you who nominated, contributed, edited or helped *Journey Planet*, we are very grateful.

During my time in Dublin in November, I was speaking with Anna Gryaznova about her amazing work with Irish Week cultural festival in Moscow and St Petersburg every March. Having supported the Dublin 2019 bid and convention, and knowing her activities were a new community to us, I was keen to get Anna involved with the bid to hold the conrunners convention, Smofcon in Europe.

The mention of a poetry project came up, and I stole a look at a notebook, and was suddenly incredibly taken by the line - defying integrity of continuity - which I saw clearly written down, and was captured imaginatively by the four words. It felt so oddly science fictional, and I am not sure why, but there and then, I said, this could be a *Journey Planet*. And so it is, and I am proud to present this issue and the work of Anna.

It is true that this issue is perhaps our most pure in terms of just giving you art, and immediately I thought of Sara Felix's work, another artist who captures the right ambience of the outward look and brilliance and so we asked Sara and have an incredible cover.

For reasons unknown I just loved the whole concept of a tight single purpose issue, and so here it is. I never anticipated I would be publishing Russian poetry, but am very pleased to do so. It is an unexpected but also very exciting move, and I am grateful that Anna was happy for us to take her ideas and publish them in a *Journey Planet*. You can read more of Anna's poetry and support her on Patreon: <https://www.patreon.com/AnnGry>

How do people find poetry?

Well at Dublin 2019, Prof Jocelyn Bell Burnell asked fans and writers to bring their favourite astronomy-related poetry pieces and welcomed personal performances of poems and Anna was one of the people who read. We had other poetry elements, Cardinal Cox, poet extradonaire was on hand, and we had open mic, and where speculative poetry was read and we had a showcase by poets, participants at Dublin included Jenny Blackford, Sandra Kasturi, Geoffrey A. Landis, Mary Soon Lee, Nigel Quinlan, Dr Anatoly Belilovsky and Sazib

Bhuiyan, while discussions on the challenges of poetry and the use of poetry as part of a larger prose work featured.

And we have never really considered poetry, but like all things, it is a fleeting read that somehow sparks the interest, makes one think, and in this case, bring it forth.

Or do I mean, how do you find it?

My thanks to Anna and Sara for this lovely issue. We hope you enjoy it. A lot on the Horizon, we are working on various issues, Star Wars, Swamp Thing, an Art issue and Battle Picture Weekly, although as ever we have other plans and ideas, and we welcome input and contributions and hearing from you.

As ever my very best to you.

James



This issue of Journey Planet

A departure

is more like the zines
I'd read in scummydark
Boston coffee houses
in the 90s

I dabble with poetics

in verse

but honestly who has time
these days

Journey Planet is

at least in part

an experiment

in form

in content

in personel

Frankly

I'm shocked it took us this long

to finally tackle a little

poetry

2019 was rough

and joyful

and loud

and painful

and hurried

and magical

and devastating

just like every other year

Chris