

DIVINE

HAMMER

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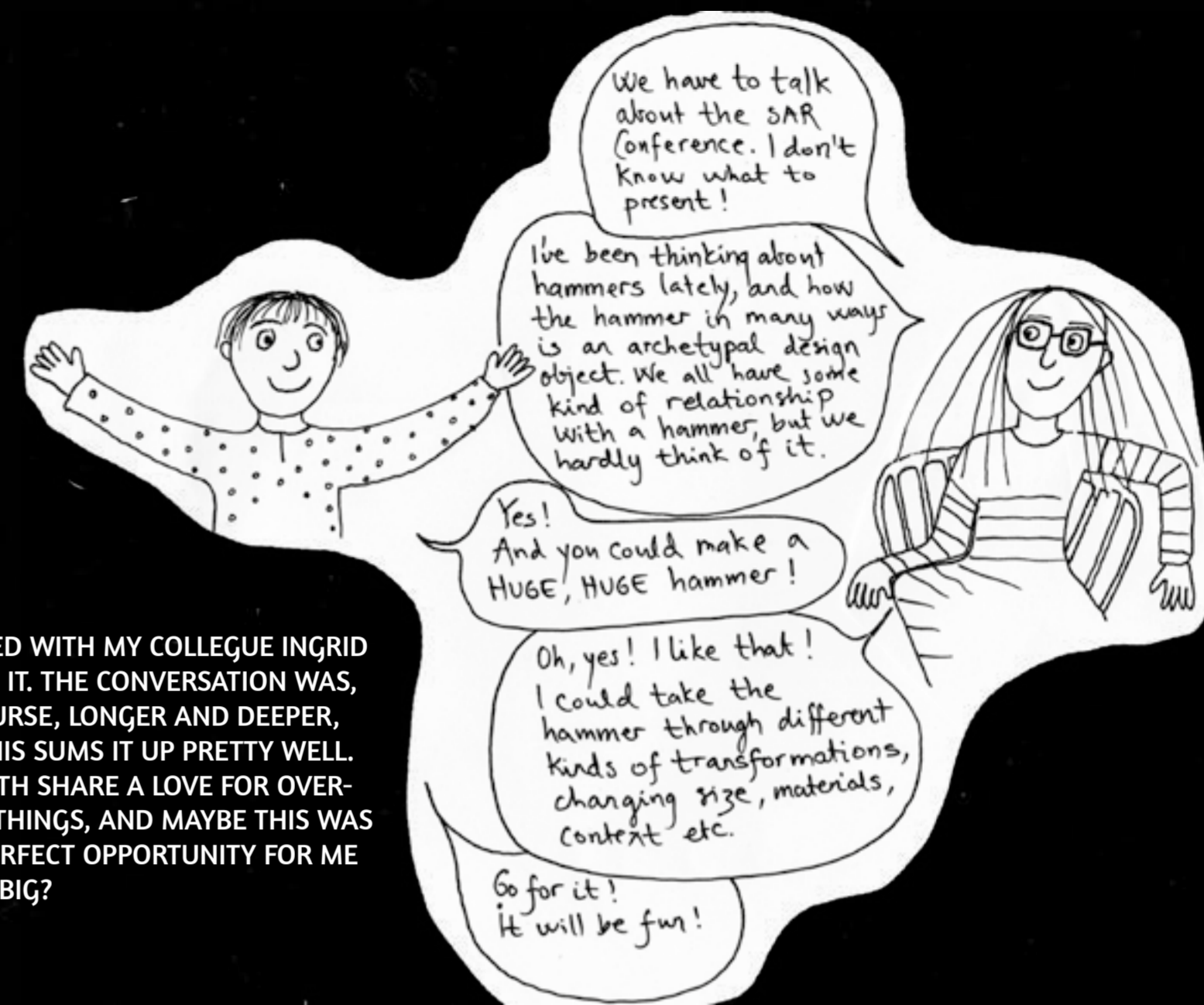
LIER



1 THE 11TH SAR INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ARTISTIC RESEARCH CALLED FOR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE CRISIS COLLECTIVE AND I WANTED TO BE PART OF IT. I AM, AFTER ALL, A PHD CANDIDATE IN ARTISTIC RESEARCH.



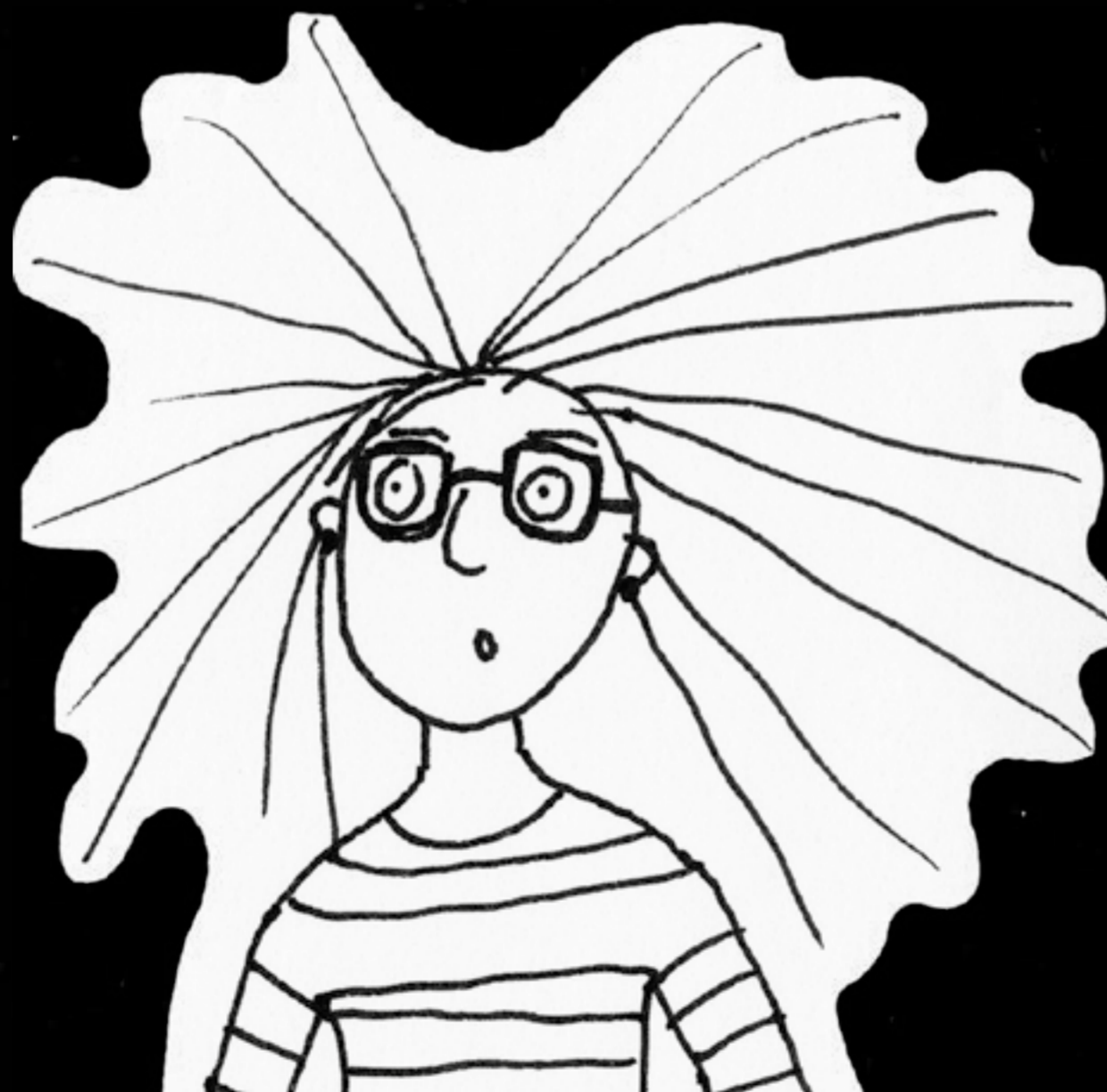
2 I THOUGHT OF WAYS TO FRAME MY RESEARCH FOR THIS CONTEXT. HM.... COLLECTIVE CRISIS... HAMMER AND MIRROR... HUMAN AND DESIGN...



3 I TALKED WITH MY COLLEGE INGRID ABOUT IT. THE CONVERSATION WAS, OF COURSE, LONGER AND DEEPER, BUT THIS SUMS IT UP PRETTY WELL. WE BOTH SHARE A LOVE FOR OVER-SIZED THINGS, AND MAYBE THIS WAS THE PERFECT OPPORTUNITY FOR ME TO GO BIG?



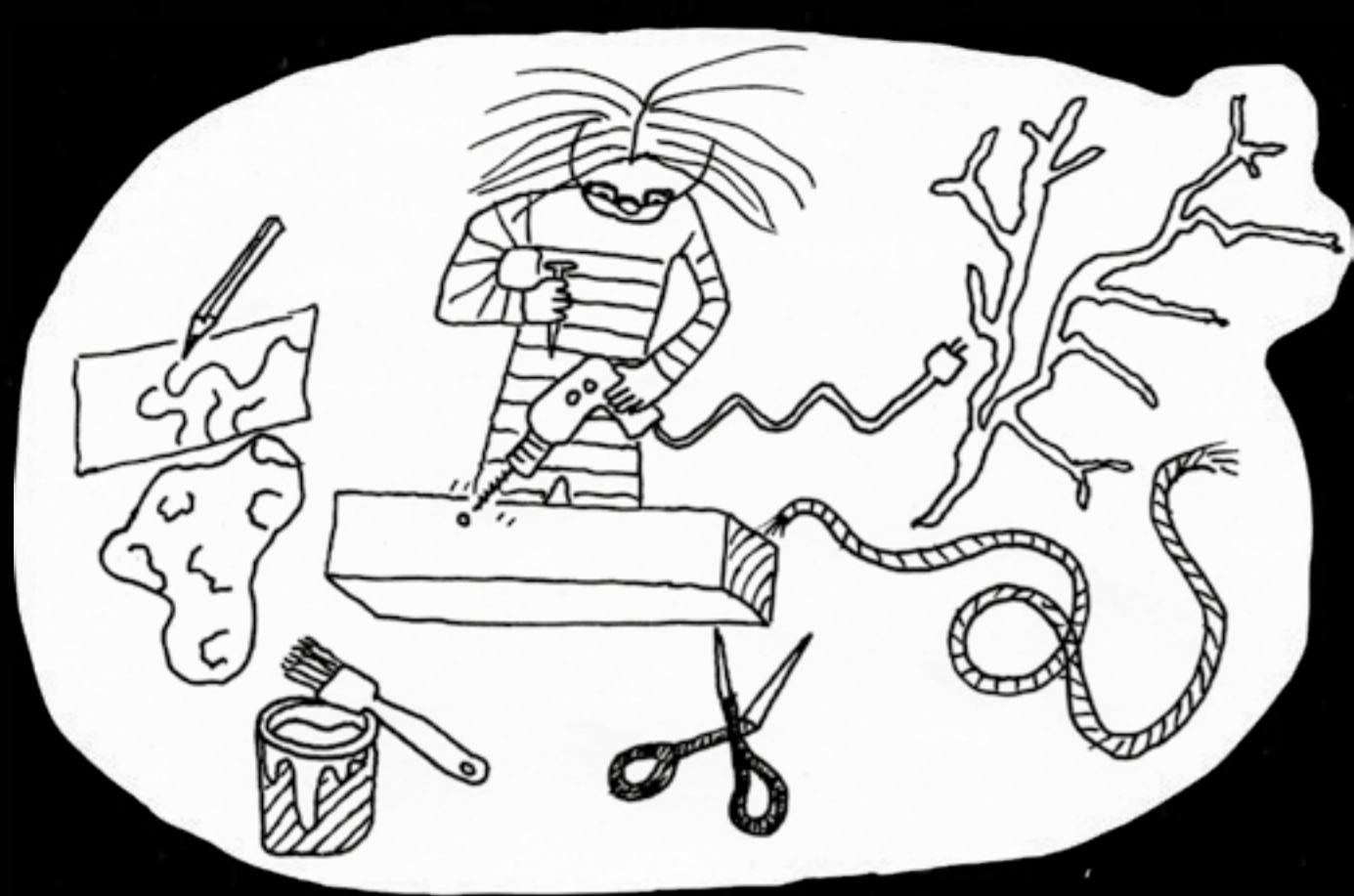
4 WRITING MY APPLICATION I REFLECTED ON ALL THE MEANINGS A HAMMER CAN EMBODY. MAYBE THIS OBJECT, SO SATURATED WITH SYMBOLISM CAN TELL US SOMETHING ABOUT WHO WE ARE? US AS HUMANS, I MEAN. I WANTED TO EXPLORE THE HAMMER AND ITS BOUNDARIES – WHAT IS 'HAMMERNESS'? WHEN DOES AN OBJECT START AND STOP BEING A HAMMER?



5 MY APPLICATION WAS ACCEPTED AND MY NAME APPEARED ON THE SAR2020 CRISIS COLLECTIVE PRESENTATIONS PROGRAM. I HAD COMMITTED MYSELF TO PRESENT A CONTENT TO THE TITLE 'DIVINE HAMMER: REIMAGINING THE POWER OF DESIGN' IN AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ARTISTIC RESEARCH. NO PRESSURE!!



6 I HAD TO WALK THE TALK, PUT WORDS INTO ACTION. NOTHING ELSE TO DO THAN TO START WORKING!

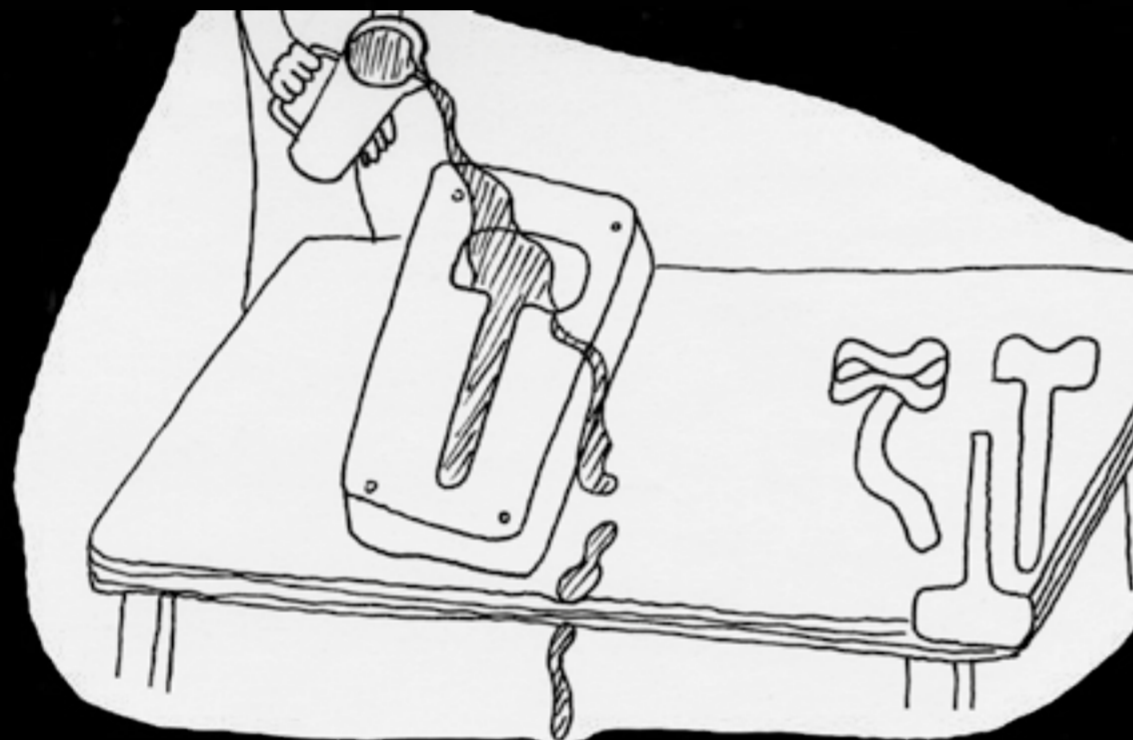


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I STARTED MAKING MY OWN VERSIONS OF HAMMERS FROM FOUND MATERIAL AND WASTE.

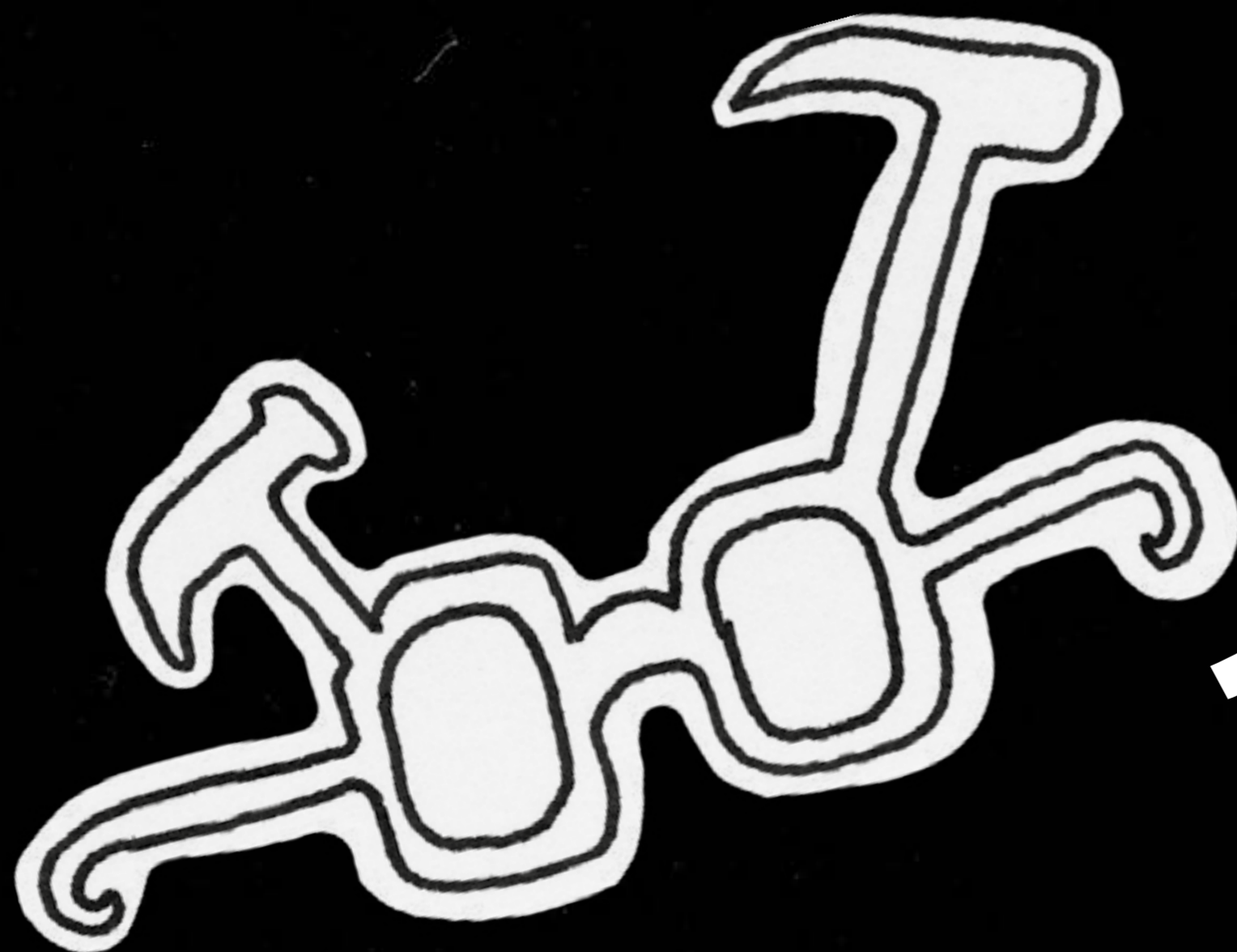
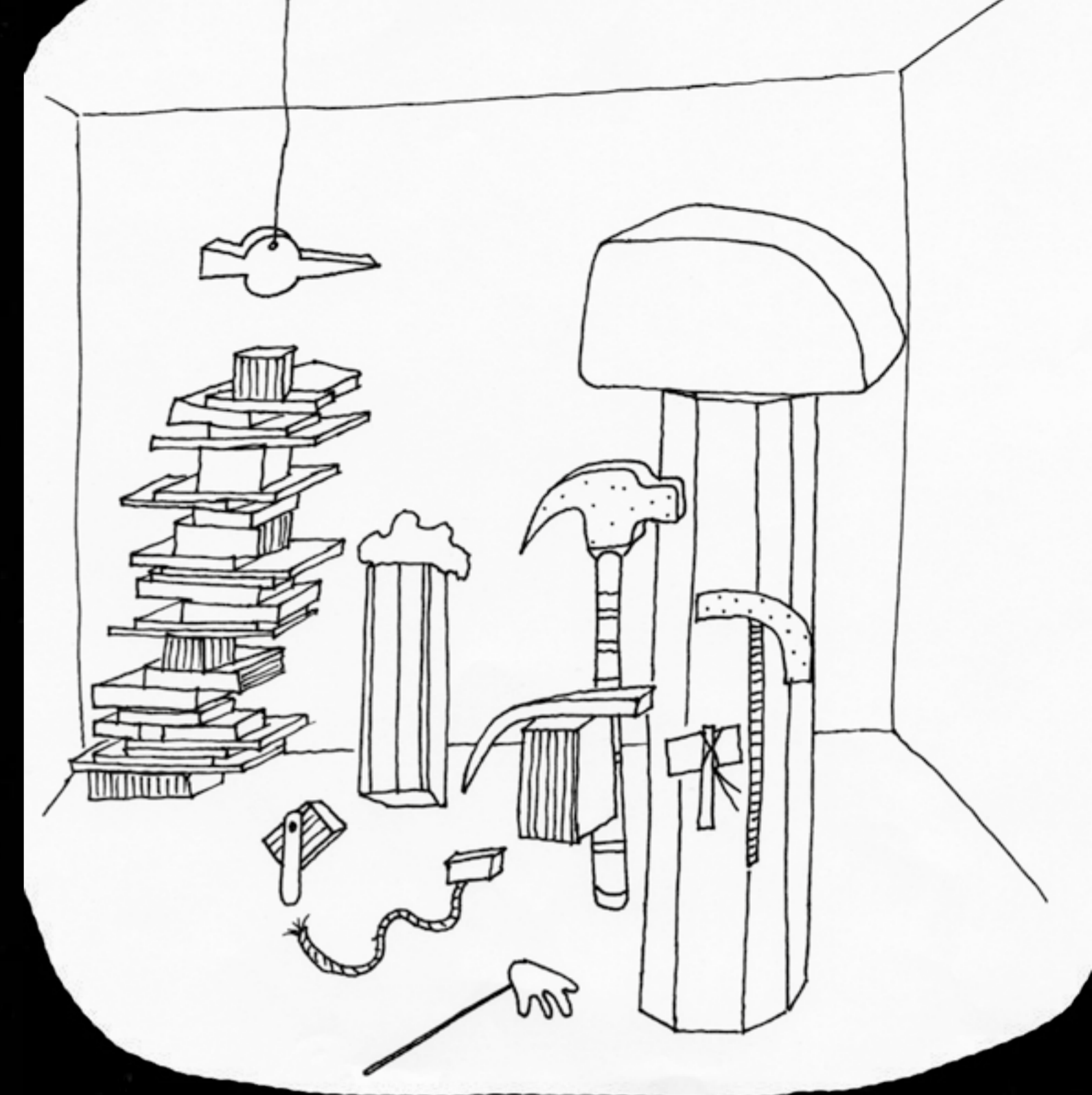
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I MADE FRAGILE HAMMERS, POURING PORCELAIN INTO HAMMER-SHAPED PLASTER MOLDS. USING THE RIGHT AMOUNT OF MATERIAL AND NOT BEING TEMPTED TO TAKE THEM OUT OF THE MOLD TOO EARLY IS A SKILL, AND I MADE A SERIES OF MISFIT PORCELAIN HAMMERS, WHICH I KIND OF LIKED.



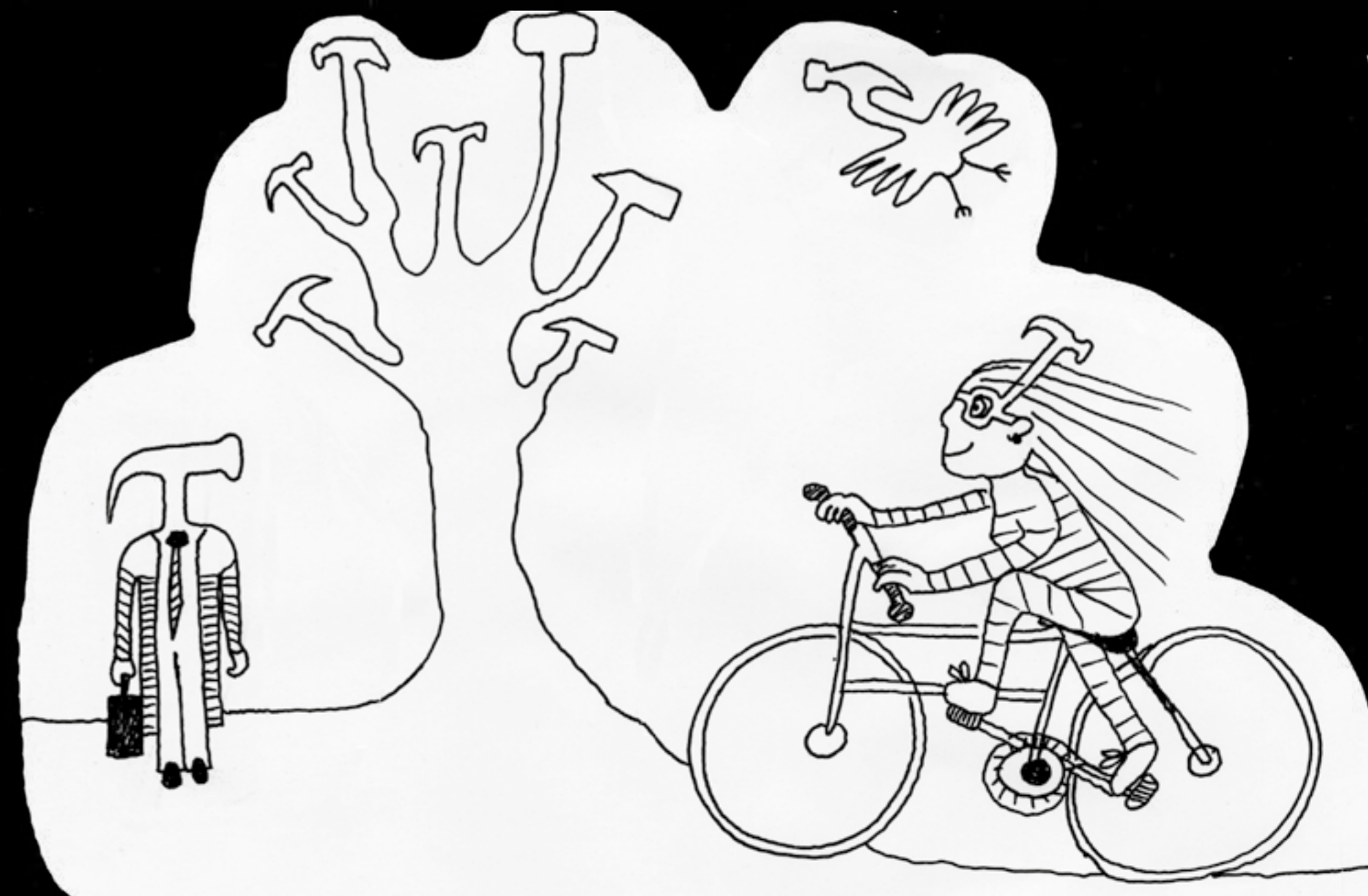
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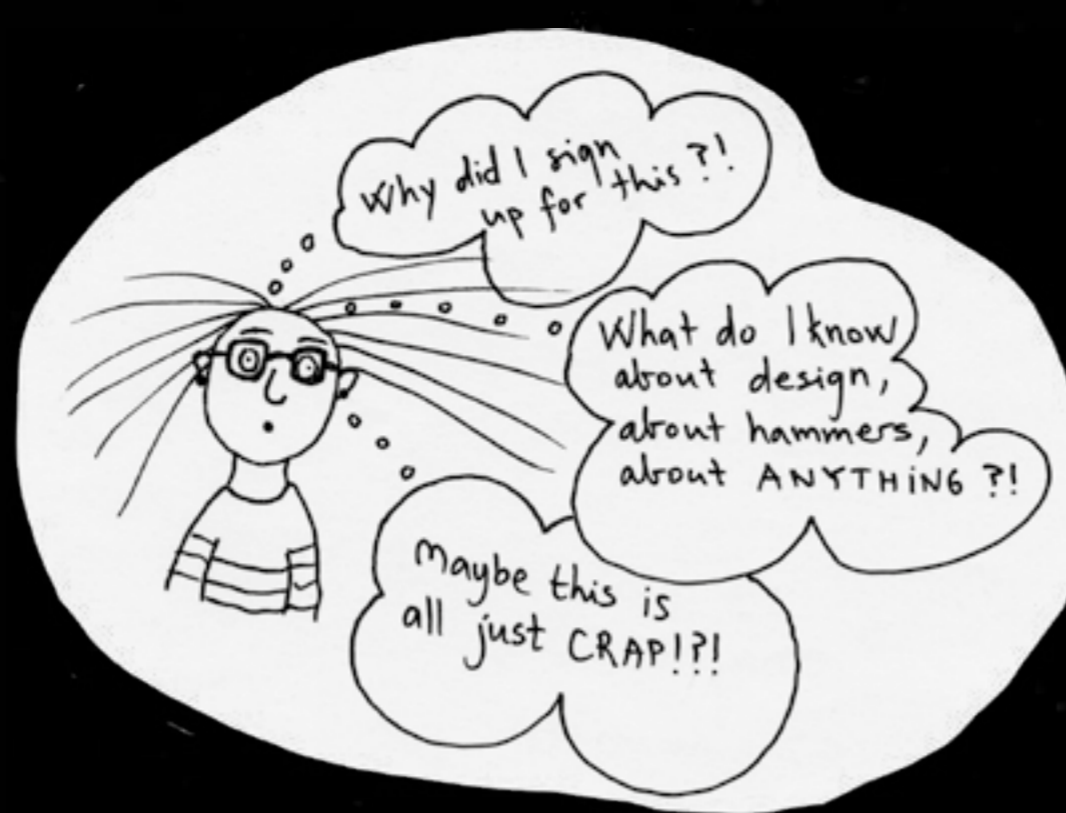
I WENT BIG SCALE MAKING HAMMER INSTALLATIONS AS WELL AS COLLECTING ALL THE HAMMERS AROUND ME AND ASKING PEOPLE TO DONATE THEIR HAMMERS.



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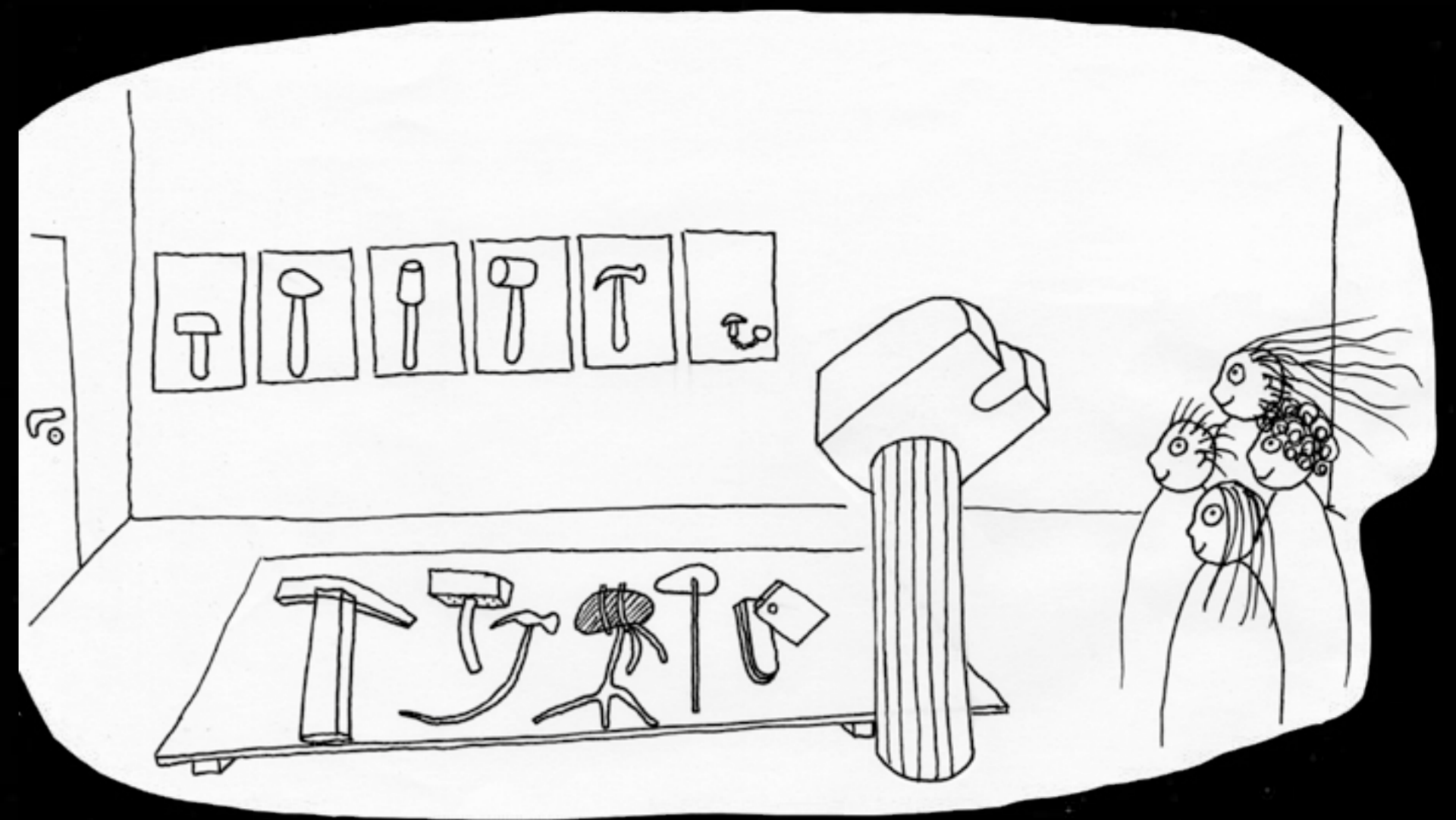
IT WAS LIKE PUTTING ON HAMMER GLASSES; I SAW HAMMERS EVERYWHERE AROUND ME.





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THE CONFERENCE DATE WAS GETTING CLOSER. IN THE MIDDLE OF MAKING, EXPERIMENTING, BUILDING, DRAWING, WRITING AND THINKING, MY MOOD CHANGED BACK AND FORTH BETWEEN AN EUPHORIC EVERYTHING IS POSSIBLE ATTITUDE AND THE ANGSTFUL FEELING OF IMPOSTER SYNDROME.

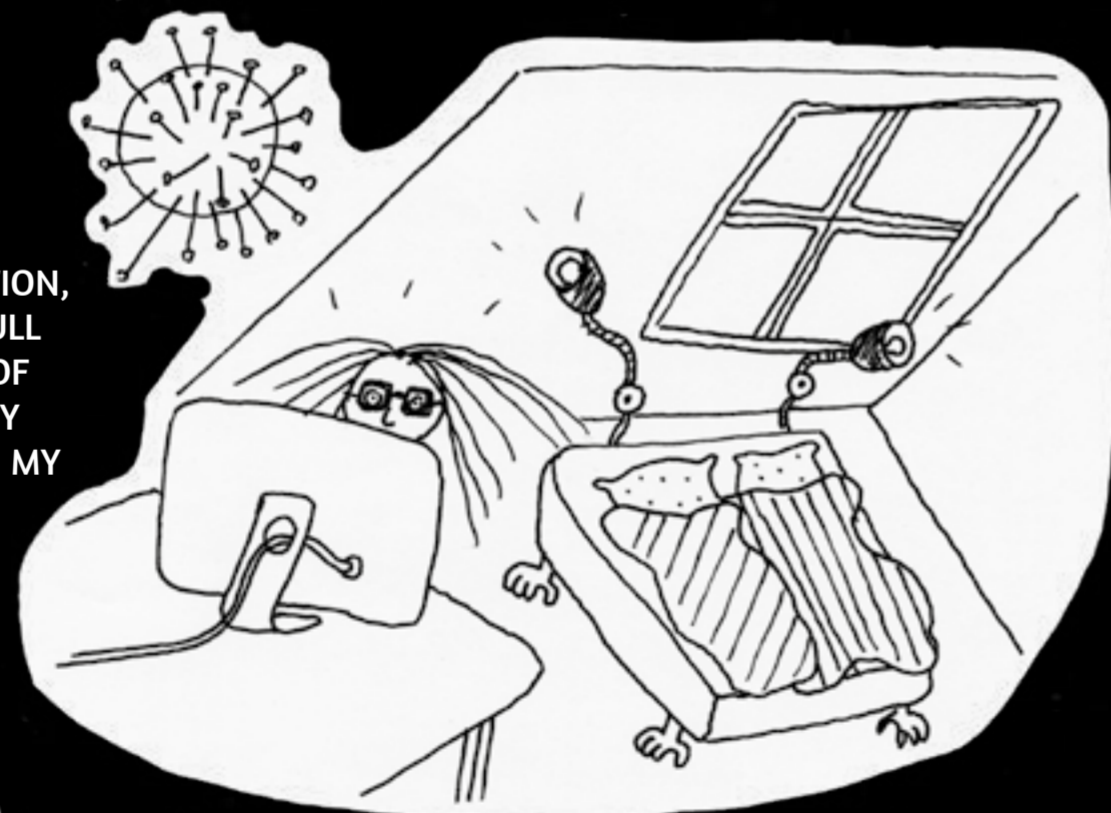


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I MADE AN EXHIBITION AT THE FACULTY OF FINE ART, MUSIC AND DESIGN AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BERGEN TO SHOW MY WORK, GET SOME FEED-BACK AND TO USE AS MATERIAL FOR MY PRESENTATION AT THE SAR CONFERENCE. I INVITED FRIENDS, FAMILY, COLLEQUES AND STUDENTS.

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JUST AFTER MY EXHIBITION, NORWAY WENT INTO FULL LOCK-DOWN BECAUSE OF COVID-19. LIKE SO MANY OTHERS I GOT STUCK IN MY BEDROOM OFFICE.



WHAT THE HELL IS HAPPENING IN THE WORLD?! HOW DID WE GET TO THIS?? IS THIS NATURE'S REVENGE OVER HUMANITY AFTER ALL THE SHIT WE HAVE PUT IT THROUGH? A WAY TO FORCE US TO TURN OF THE ENGINE, SLOW DOWN AND TAKE A LONG, HARD LOOK AT OURSELVES IN THE MIRROR?

THEN THE CONFERENCE WAS CANCELLED. OF COURSE. AND STILL; WHAT AN IRONY THAT A CONFERENCE ABOUT COLLECTIVE CRISIS GETS CANCELLED BECAUSE OF A COLLECTIVE CRISIS!

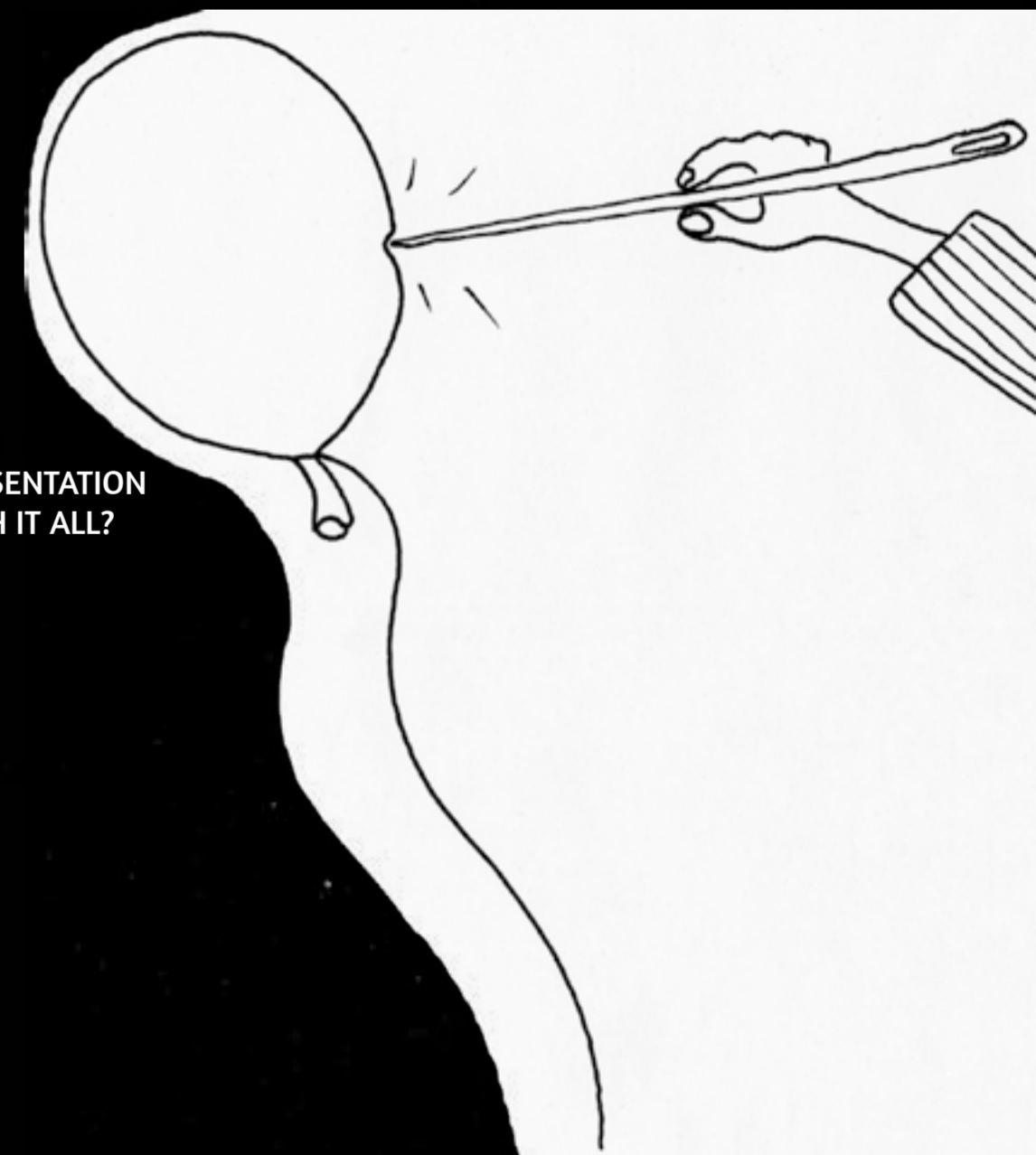
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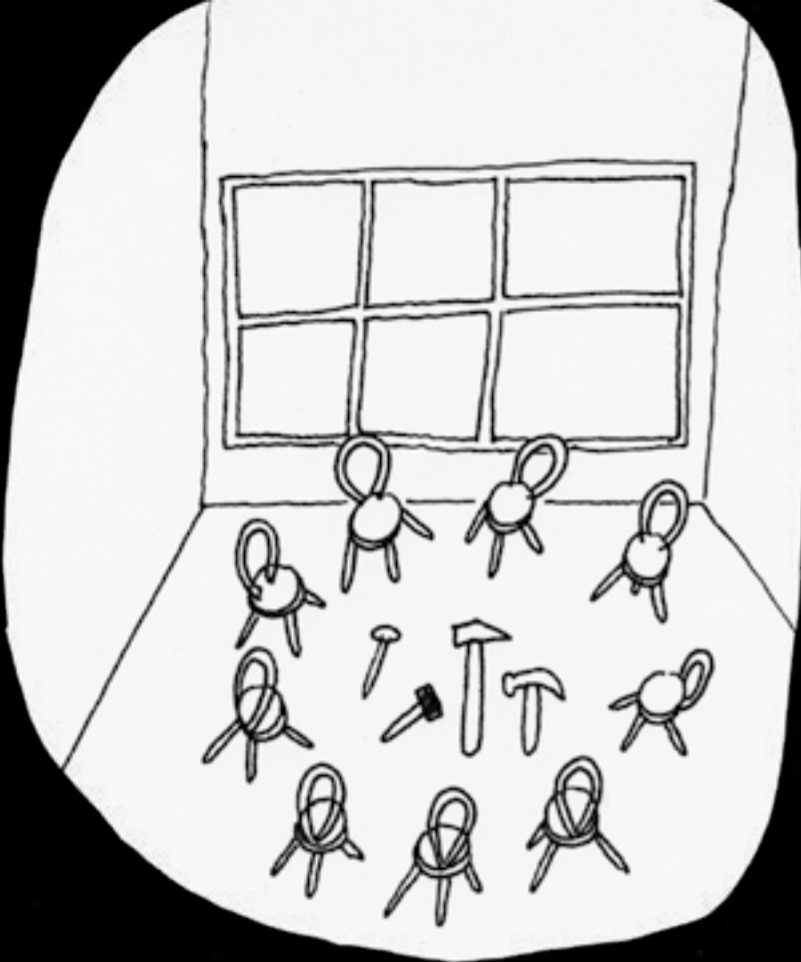
THE AIR WENT OUT OF THE BALLOON. IT WAS HARD TO KEEP UP THE CREATIVE ENERGY DURING LOCK-DOWN.

IT'S FUNNY HOW A PANDEMIC HAS THE TENDENCY TO DRAG YOU INTO A MAELSTROM OF EXISTENTIAL QUESTIONS CONCERNING LIFE AND DEATH AND POSSIBLE EXTINCTION. SUDDENLY A PHD PROJECT IN ARTISTIC RESEARCH SEEMED SO...UNIMPORTANT.

ALL THE PLANS I HAD MADE FOR MY PRESENTATION AT SAR2020, WHAT WOULD HAPPEN WITH IT ALL? DID IT MATTER ANYMORE?

I HAD PLANNED TO SHARE REALLY SMART AND INSIGHTFUL REFLECTIONS, TALKING ABOUT MY RESEARCH AND START A CONVERSATION ABOUT THE ROLE OF DESIGN. I WANTED TO SHOW IMAGES FROM MY HAMMER EXHIBITION AND ALL THE EXPERIMENTS WITH STRECHING THE LIMITS OF 'HAMMERNESS'.



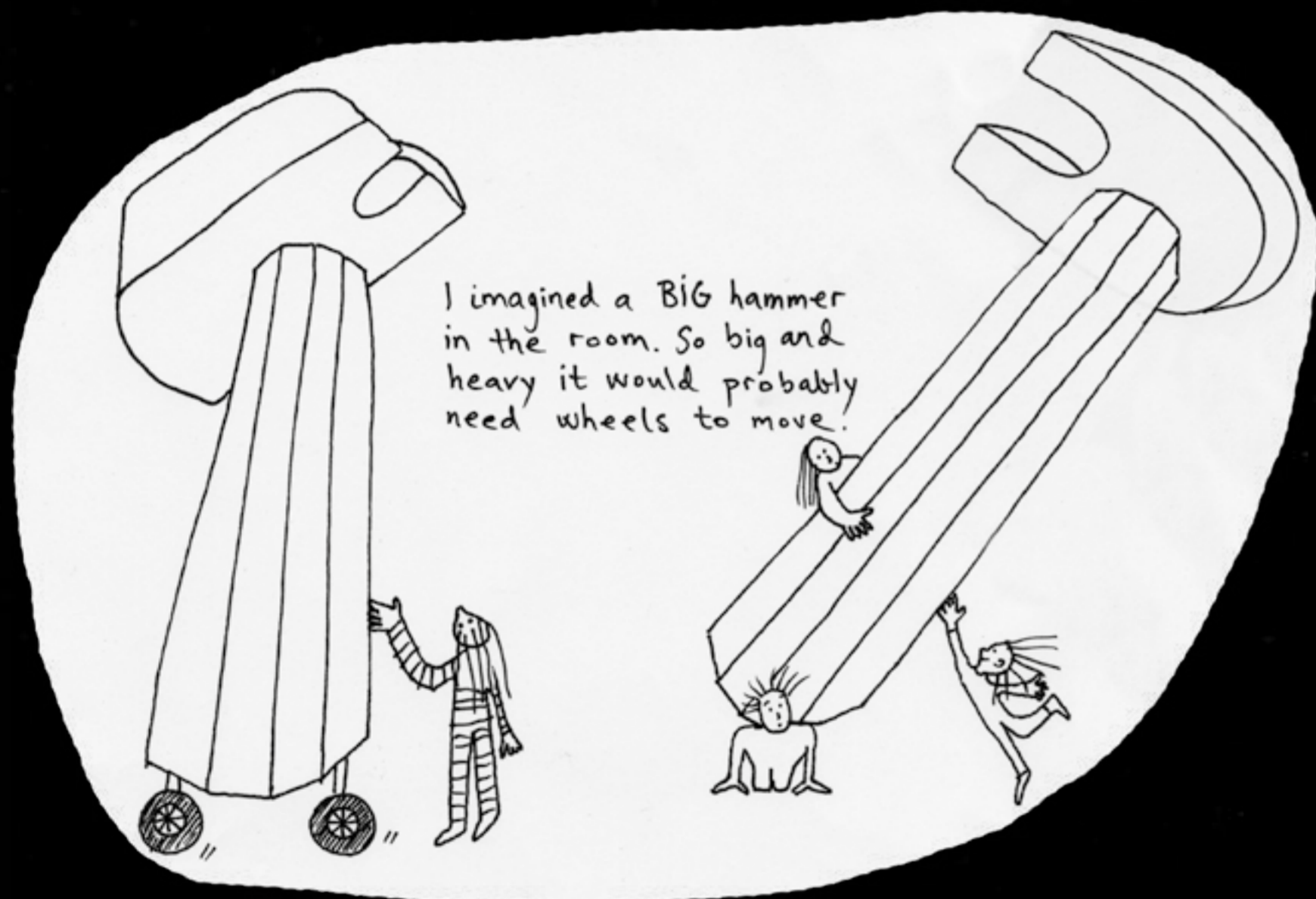


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I WAS PLANNING TO BREAK UP THE TRADITIONAL CONFERENCE PRESENTATION FORMAT, CREATING AN OBJECT BASED GROUP THERAPY SET UP WITH HAMMERS. PEOPLE WOULD SIT IN A CIRCLE WITH HAMMERS IN THEIR HANDS WHILE DISCUSSING, CONNECTING TO THE TOPIC OF THE CONFERENCE, I THOUGHT OF WAYS TO INSPIRE A COLLECTIVE ATTITUDE, REIMAGINING A DIFFERENT FUTURE AND ROLE FOR ARTISTS AND DESIGNERS.

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I IMAGINED AN INFORMAL ATMOSPHERE AND THE AUDIENCE BEING REALLY ENTHUSIASTIC AND OPEN MINDED, GIVING IT ALL THEY HAD.



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I IMAGINED A BIG HAMMER IN THE ROOM, SO BIG AND DIFFICULT TO MANEUVER IT WOULD PROBABLY NEED WHEELS TO MOVE.

I IMAGINED PEOPLE ENGAGING WITH THIS OVERSIZED HAMMER. NOT SURE WHY AND HOW, BUT I FIGURED I WOULD FIND OUT BEFORE THE CONFERENCE.

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IN BETWEEN HAPPY PLANNING OF MY PRESENTATION, A DARK, CREEPY THOUGHT CAME CRAWLING....



BUT HEY! I KNOW IT WOULD BE BOTH FUN AND SCARY TO PRESENT AT THE CONFERENCE. IT WOULD HAVE BEEN AN OPPORTUNITY TO PUT MYSELF AND MY RESEARCH OUT THERE AND BE PART OF SOMETHING BIGGER THAN MY OWN PROJECT. I ALSO KNOW THERE WILL BE OTHER CONFERENCES WHERE I CAN PRESENT MY WORK.

FOR NOW, YOU ARE WELCOME TO HAVE A LOOK AT SOME OF THE MATERIAL I WAS GOING TO PRESENT AT MY RESEARCH CATALOGUE PAGE: <https://www.research-catalogue.net/view/564937/1190495>

IT IS UNFINISHED AND, LOOKING BACK AT IT NOW, A YEAR AFTER THE CANCELLATION OF THE CONFERENCE, THERE ARE THINGS I WOULD CHANGE AND/ OR EXPAND ON. BUT I PRESENT IT JUST AS I LEFT IT WHEN THE PAUSE BUTTON WAS HIT ONE YEAR AGO – AS A TIME CAPSULE OF A STAGE IN MY PHD PROCESS.