Justin Carey Artist, Designer, Educator





I am an artist, designer, and educator living in Brooklyn, New York, working across a range of interdisciplinary methodologies, including graphic design, painting, and writing. My work currently draws from queer identity, ethics, current events, and the unreliability of our biological filing systems.

Raised in the rural plains of southern Vermont, I pursued and obtained a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the Maine College of Art & Design. This journey later took me to Wrocław, Poland, where I spent a formative period teaching English and freelancing before relocating to New York City. For the past six years, I have collaborated with clients of various sizes and industries, including Milk Studios, Lexus, Pfizer, and Monument, as well as with small businesses and community initiatives.

I am also the founder of Want Studio, a Brooklyn-based design studio dedicated to crafting conscious designs that serve social good and foster a creative culture.

Through my personal work, my aim is to capture the subtleties of place and time in a contemporary context while drawing inspiration from historical narratives. I deliberately avoid over-explaining my work, preferring my audience to discover their own meanings organically. This approach stems from my experience as a professional designer, where there is a constant need to justify and sell every decision. In contrast, my art embraces ambiguity, letting it unfold naturally. I often find new interpretations in my paintings, influenced by my daily experiences and learnings. This continuous opportunity for reflection is why I let my work speak, positioning myself as a conduit for interpretation rather than its definitive voice.

Statement

In my series "Species," I delve into the nature of memory as a biological screenshot, portraying it as a curated collection of vivid yet unreliable stills where reality entertains the unreal. My work serves as a dynamic archive, with each composition forming a portal to the next. These pieces reveal our neuroses and obsessions both societally and interpersonally—depicted as transient visions that emerge from different brain regions, akin to how dreams and memories coalesce during our sleep cycles. I am fascinated by the ways in which we recall memory, reconstructing rather than retrieving fragmented images from our biological filing systems. The mechanisms from within churn new and potentially false iterations of reality. Nonetheless, these fragments have been made "real" through their recompositioning.

This series forms a narrative thread, each scene building on or extrapolating from the last to craft a story told by an unreliable narrator. Through my work, I invite viewers to insert themselves into the unfolding events. Employing a neo-surrealist approach, this series explores the profound impact of memory on our understanding of both the tangible and the elusive. In doing so, they confront our deepest fears and the murky interplay between reality and fantasy, evoking a past that is both feigned and foraged, and a future in which we shape our perception of the physical and metaphysical.



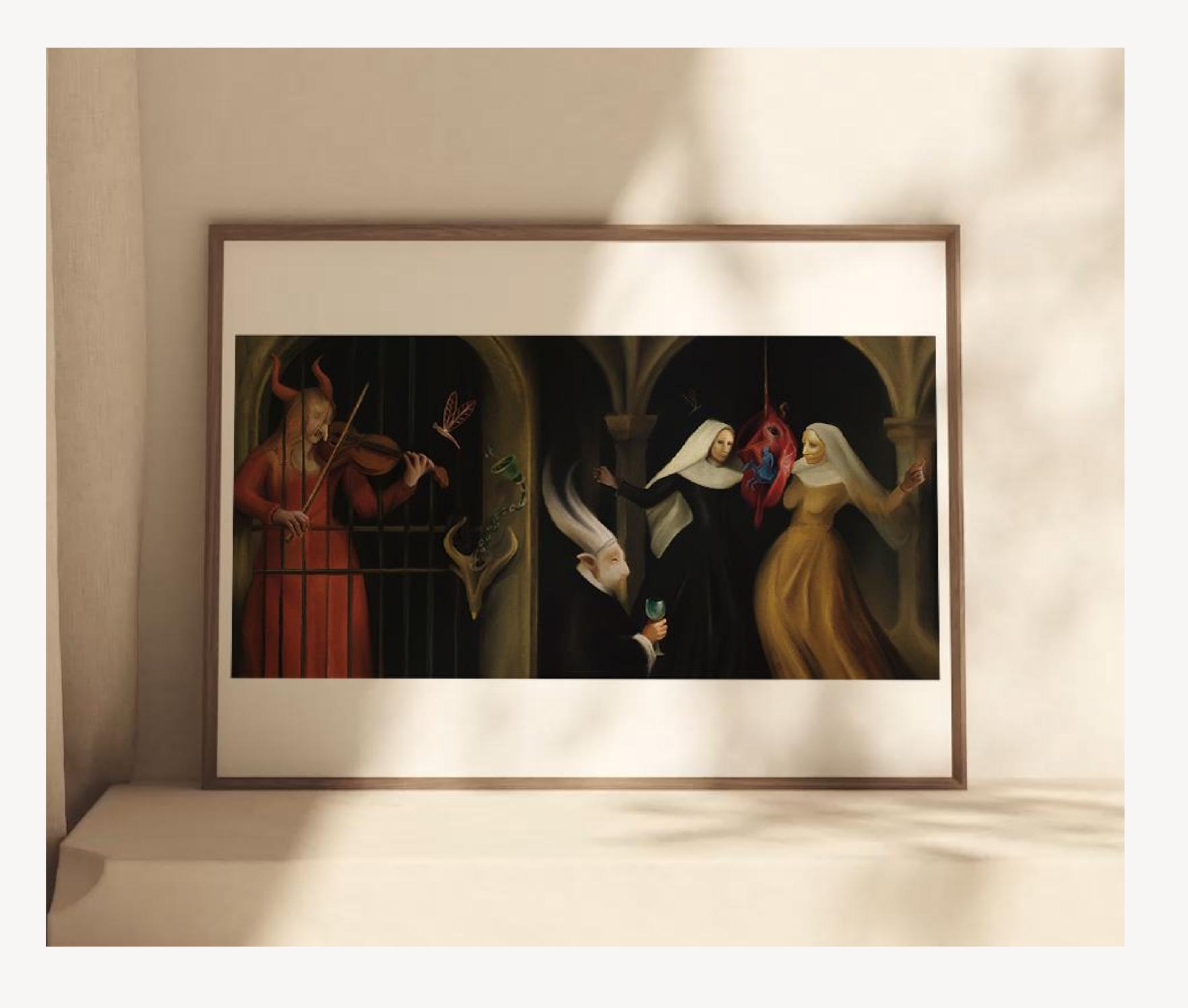




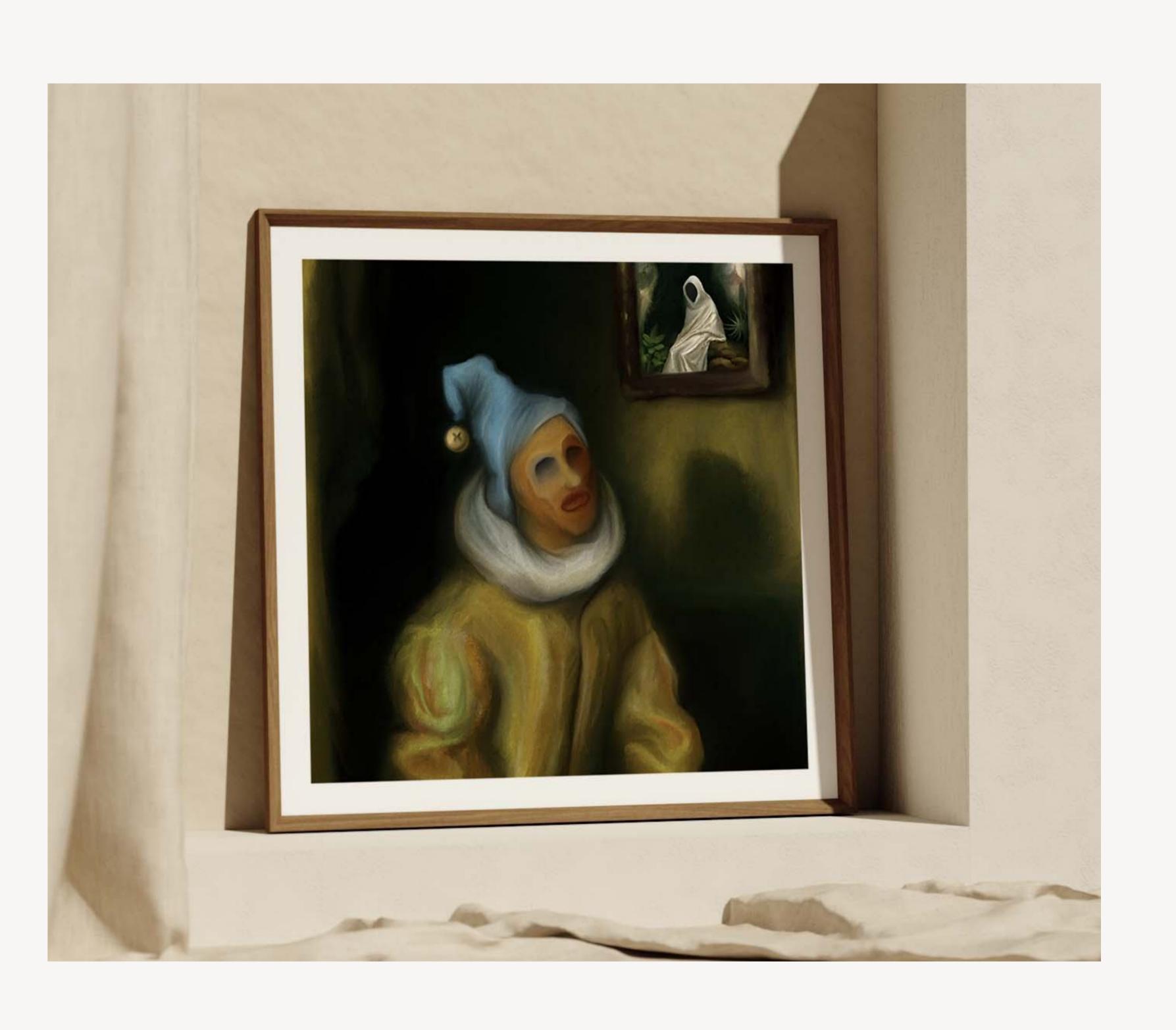
Seaside Swine

Spaceflight 02

Saturn's Return 03







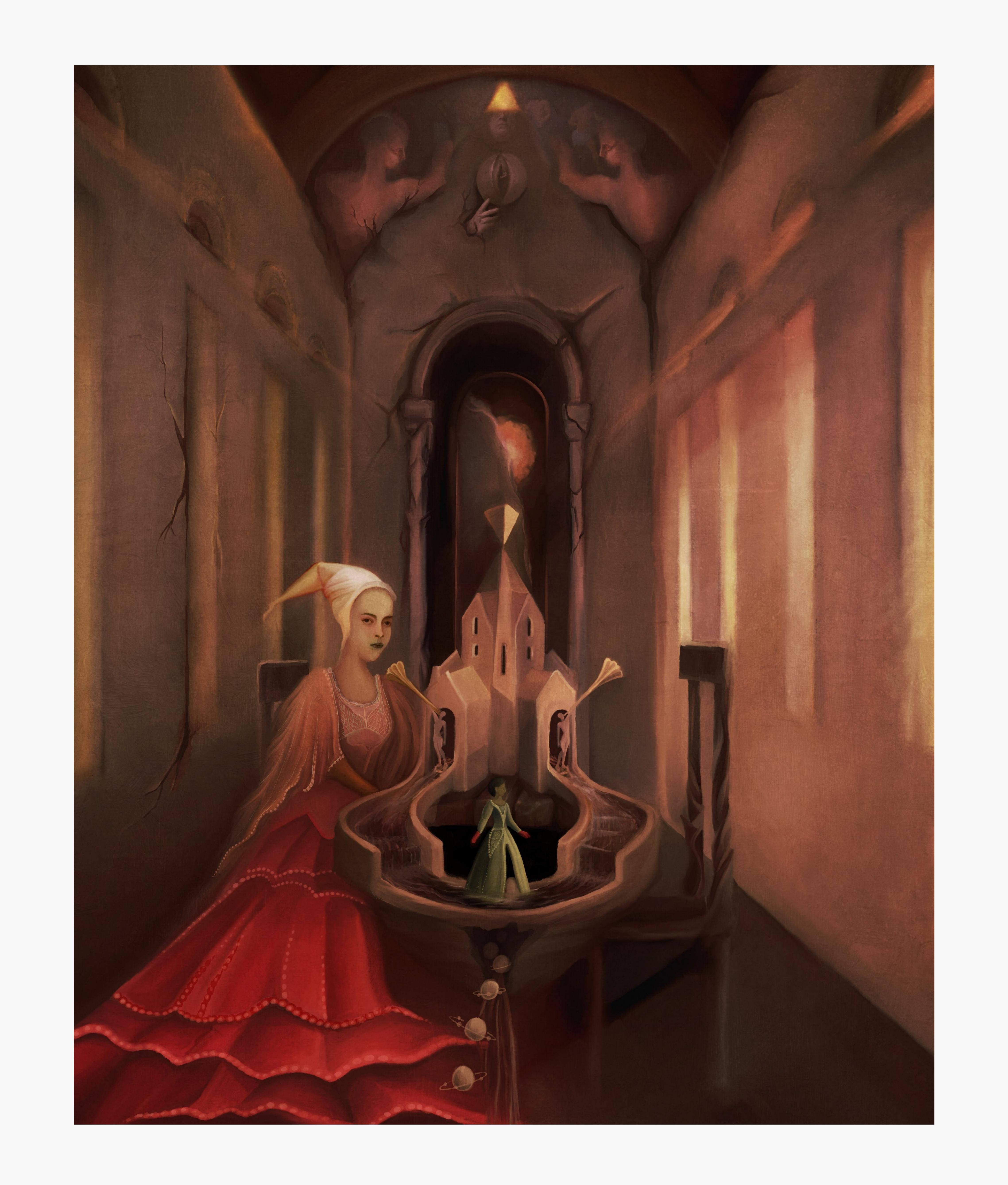
04

Thelema's Song

The Carnival 05

Gilded Masquerade 06





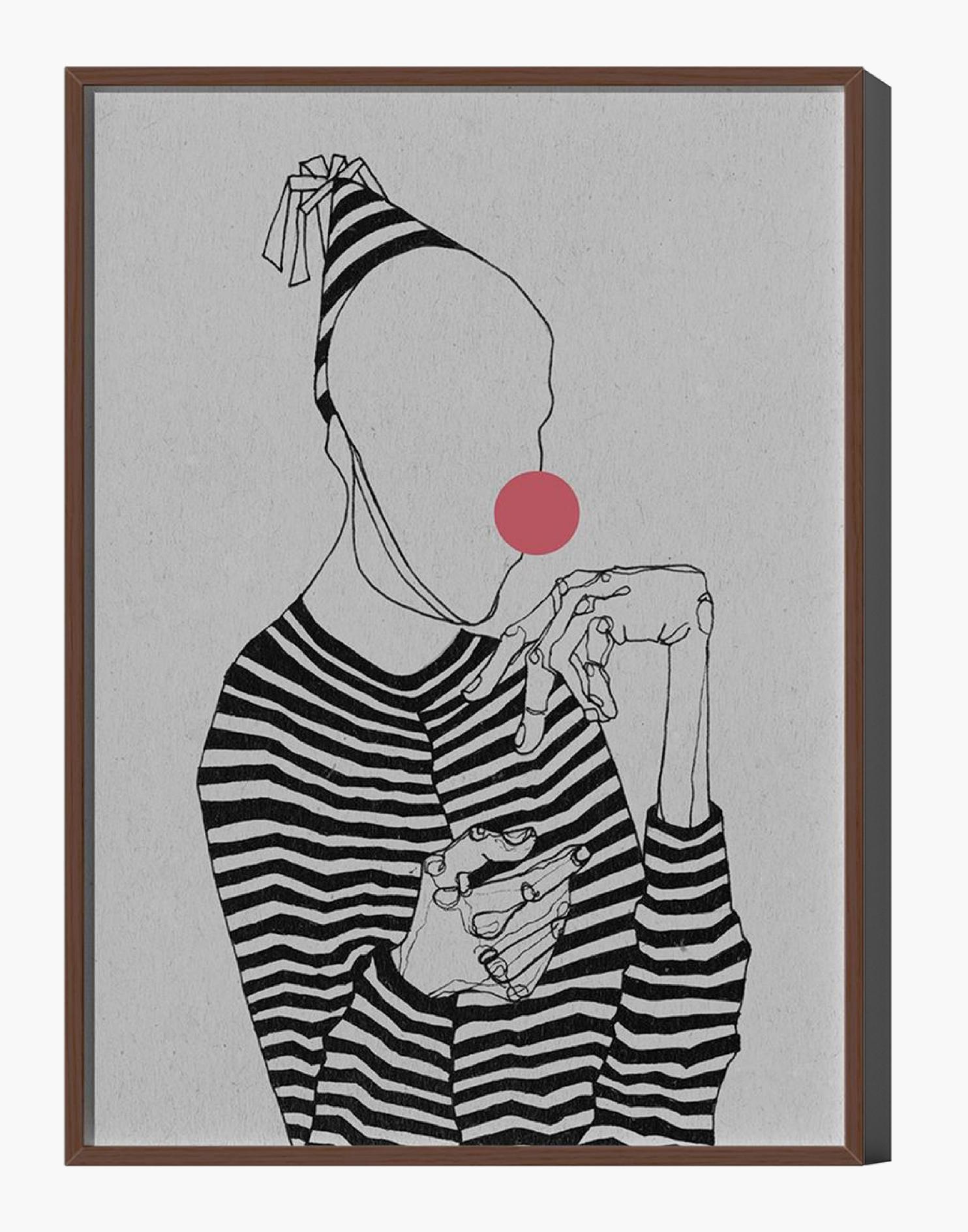


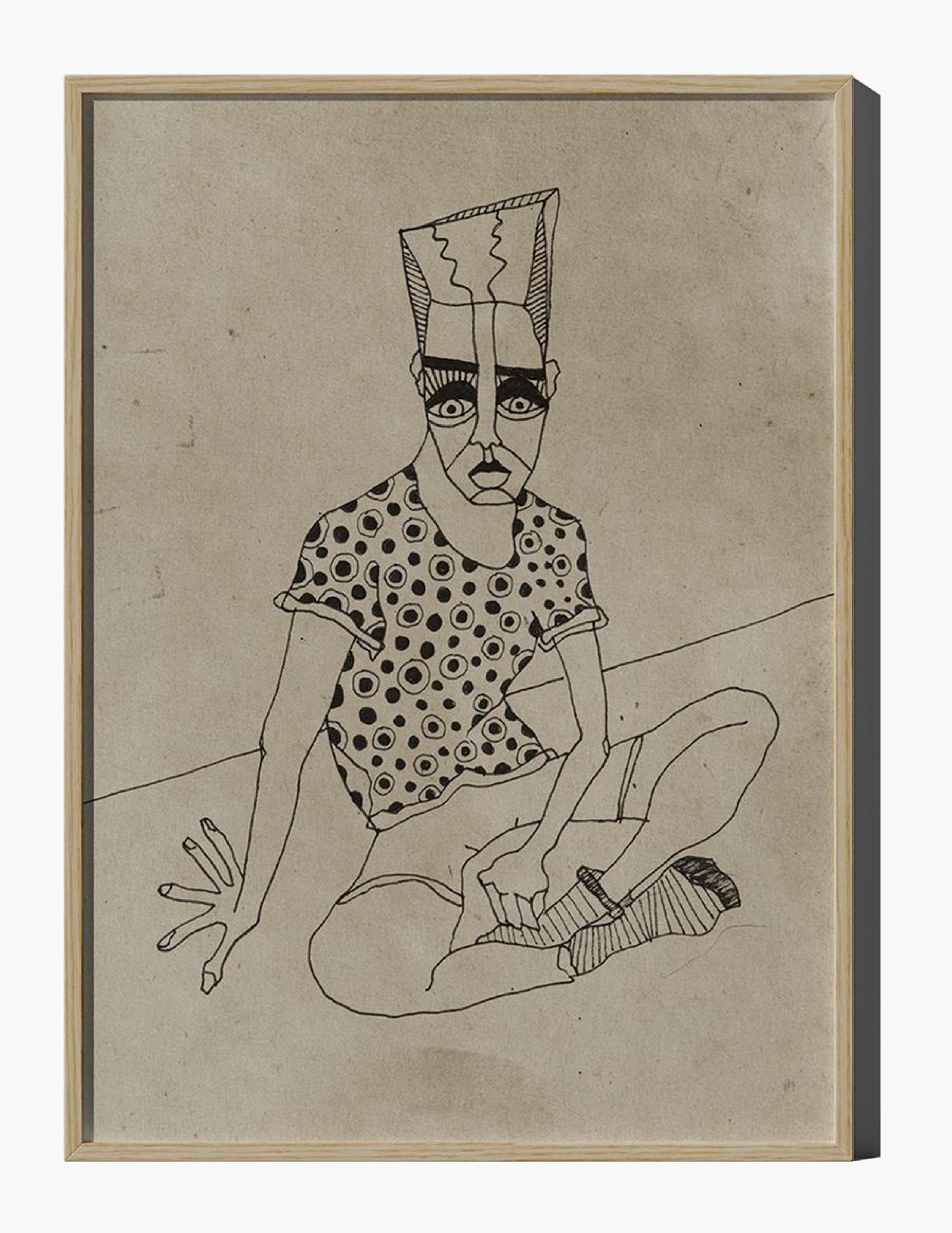


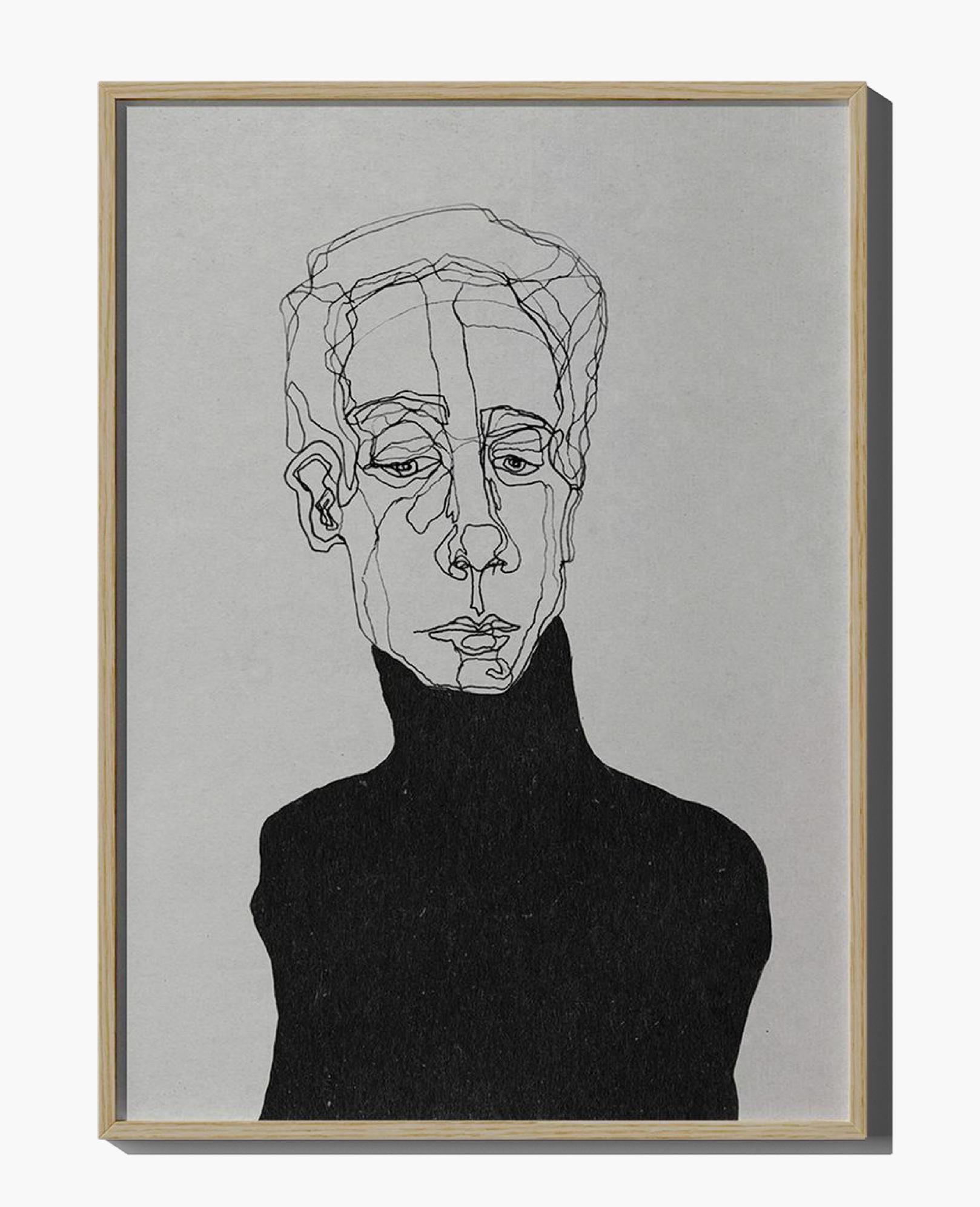




Additional Works – Precursor to "Species"



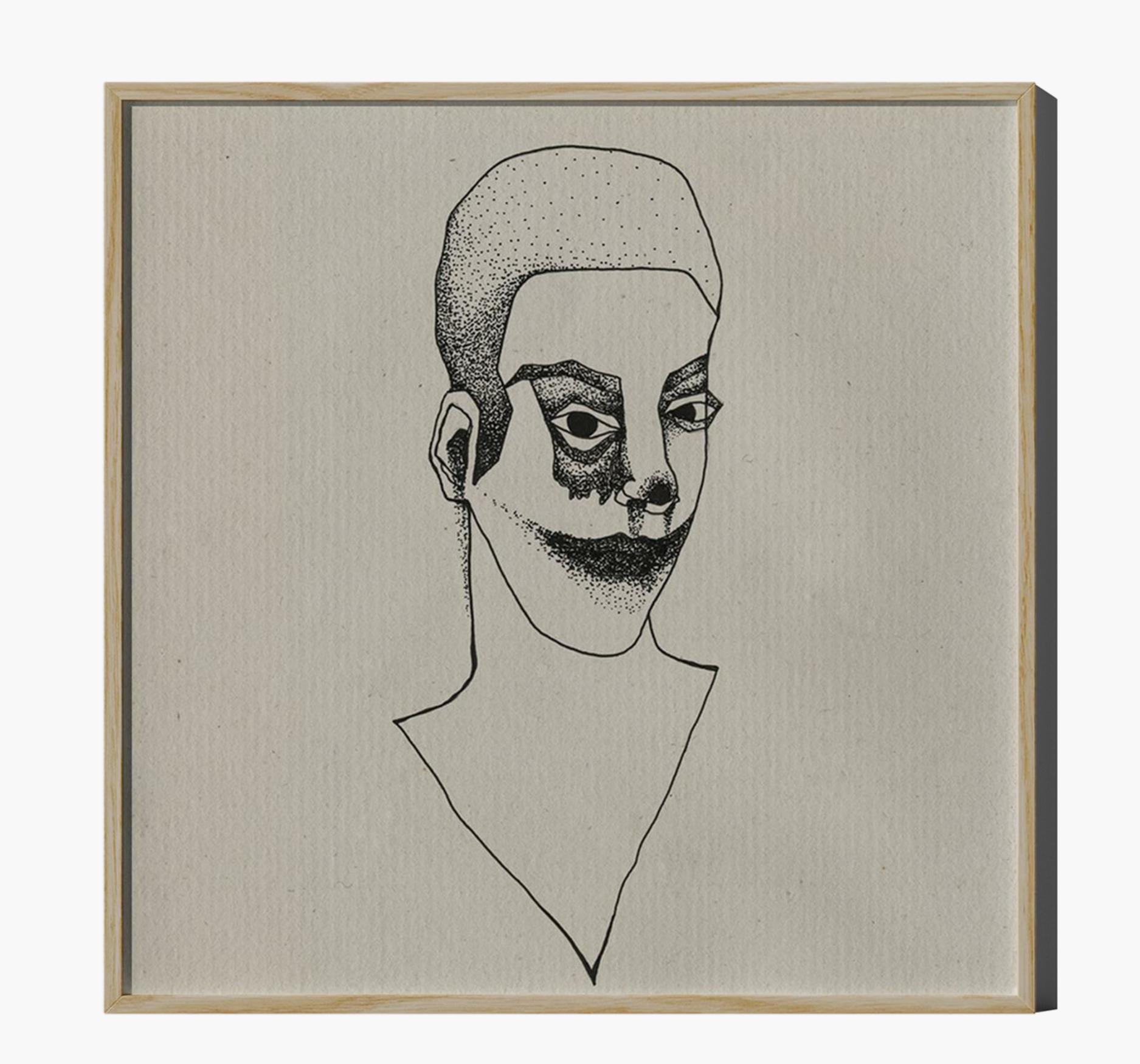












EDUCATION		

Maine College of Art & Design Bachelor of Fine Arts; Graphic Design

TALKS & WORKSHOPS

Type Thursday Guest Speaker
The Role of AI in Design
Design Educator, Shillington
The Future Forward

202420232022-242012

PRESS

The Brand Identity

"The Edit" – Baroness Beatrice

Type Design recognition

2024

SELECT CLIENTS

Compass
Greenpeace
Institute of Contemporary Art
Lexus
Maine College of Art & Design
Milk Studios
Minnow

Pfizer
Portland Design Co.

Shillington

Mini Cooper

Monument

FOUNDER

Want Studio
Atlas Publications
Want Font®
Atelier Olatry

Согорноп

"Design Institution"
Font designed by Want Studio for WantFont®
Designed by Justin Carey

CONTACT

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