



BE A GOOD
ANCESTOR




THE
MICHELA MARTELLO
COLORING BOOK





MICHELA MARTELLLO



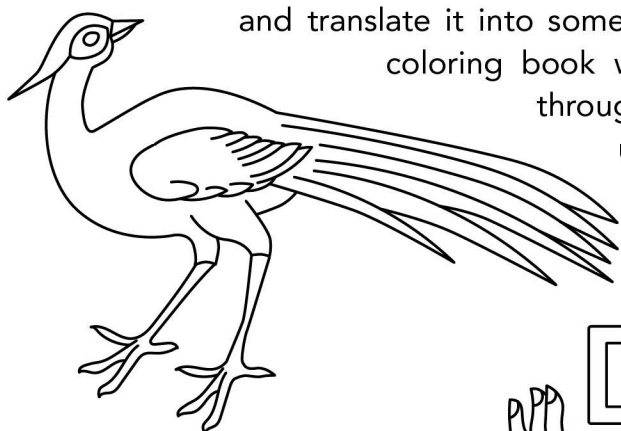
is an Italian-born illustrator-turned-artist who lives and works in Brooklyn producing murals and artworks on textiles. A perpetually curious and interdisciplinary artist, Martello brings together traditional and contemporary influences, incorporating a variety of techniques, mediums, themes, and cultural references to create art that bridges time and dissolves borders. Her artwork is humanistic, accessible, and consistently characterized by her use of symbolism.

Martello's approach is an open exploration of history, belief systems, and their corresponding symbols, and is driven by the discovery and rediscovery of meanings. She experiments with new and archival materials as she works, interweaving medium and technique to capture and convey the intangible spark of different religions, races, cultures, and time periods. She builds up her textile canvases only to break them down and retreat. It is through these surfaces—rendered equally by construction and destruction—that the materials, cultures, and time periods she explores are united. In one poignant example, she uses dismantled vintage army sackcloth as the backdrop for hope-inspired themes.

In her 2017 solo exhibition at Pen + Brush, Future Is Goddess, Martello created a site-specific interactive graffiti mural, Graffiti Goddesses, featuring three 15-foot-tall goddesses representing a mixture of cultures and backgrounds. Visitors were invited to contribute to the mural by adding their own marks, tags, drawings, and words around and on top of the work. Over the months the mural was on display, we witnessed the public engaging with the work in extremely uplifting and meaningful ways: a unifying response to the political anxieties and social uncertainties of the time. Contributors added their own drawings, and text including "Be A Good Ancestor," "Black Lives Matter," "The Future Is Female," and "todos tenets talent para sentir"; even a marriage proposal was written, delivered—and accepted!—in front of the mural.



It is in this spirit—through Martello’s unique ability to take the heaviest substance of life and translate it into something beautiful, accessible, and interactive—that this coloring book was born. We hope you find similar empowerment through this coloring book, and use it to experience the unifying power of art.



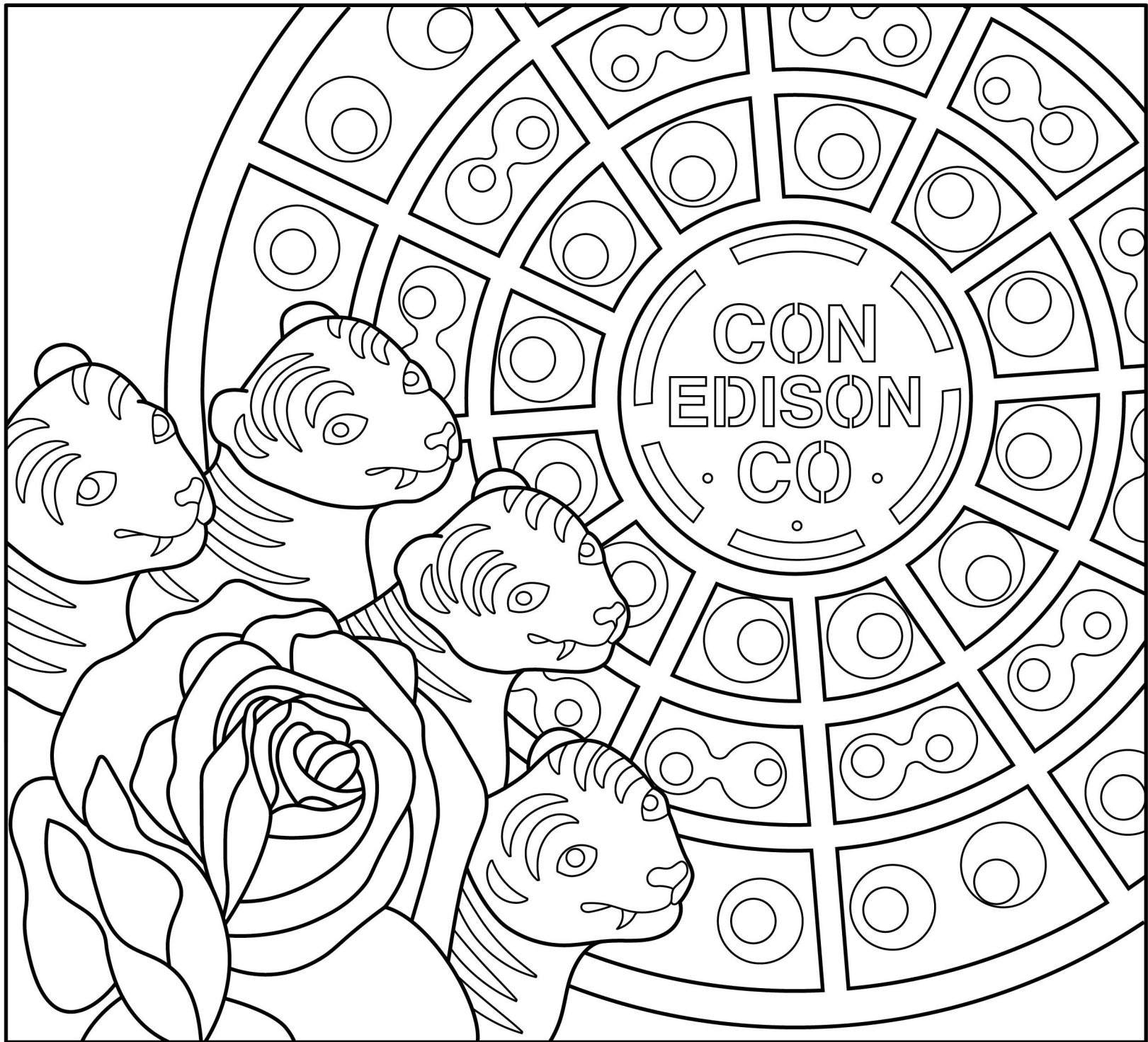
Dawn Delikat

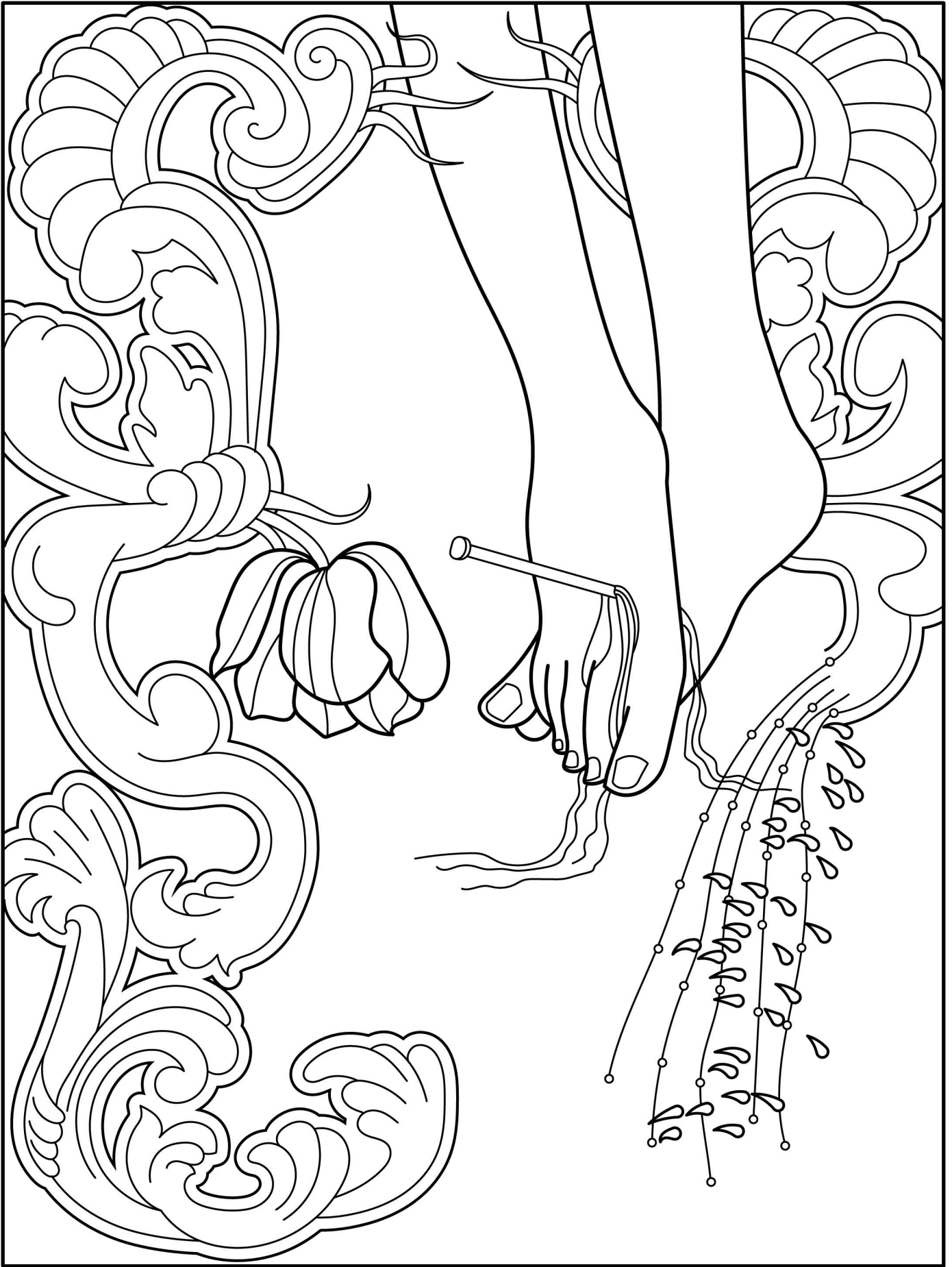
Associate Executive Director, Pen + Brush





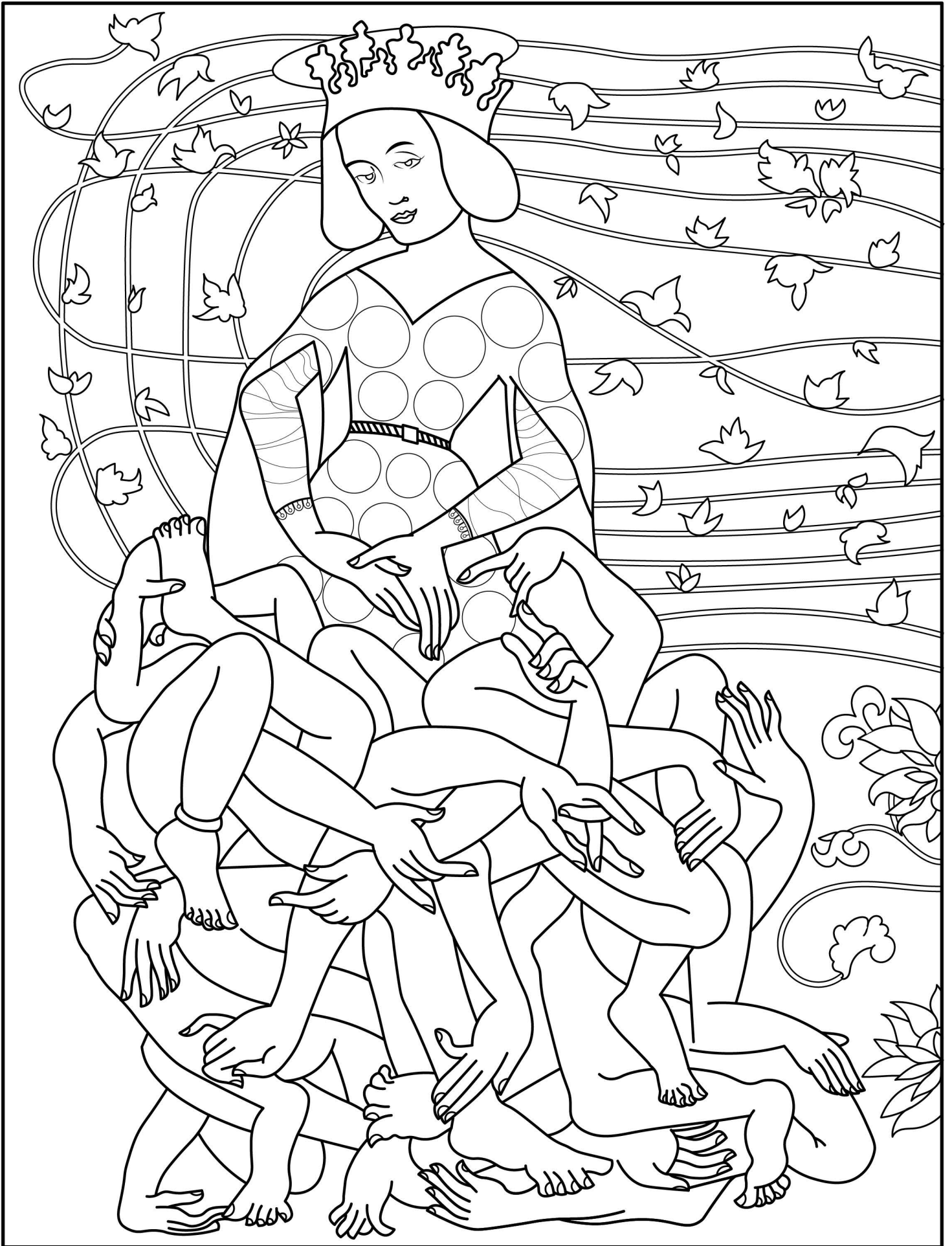


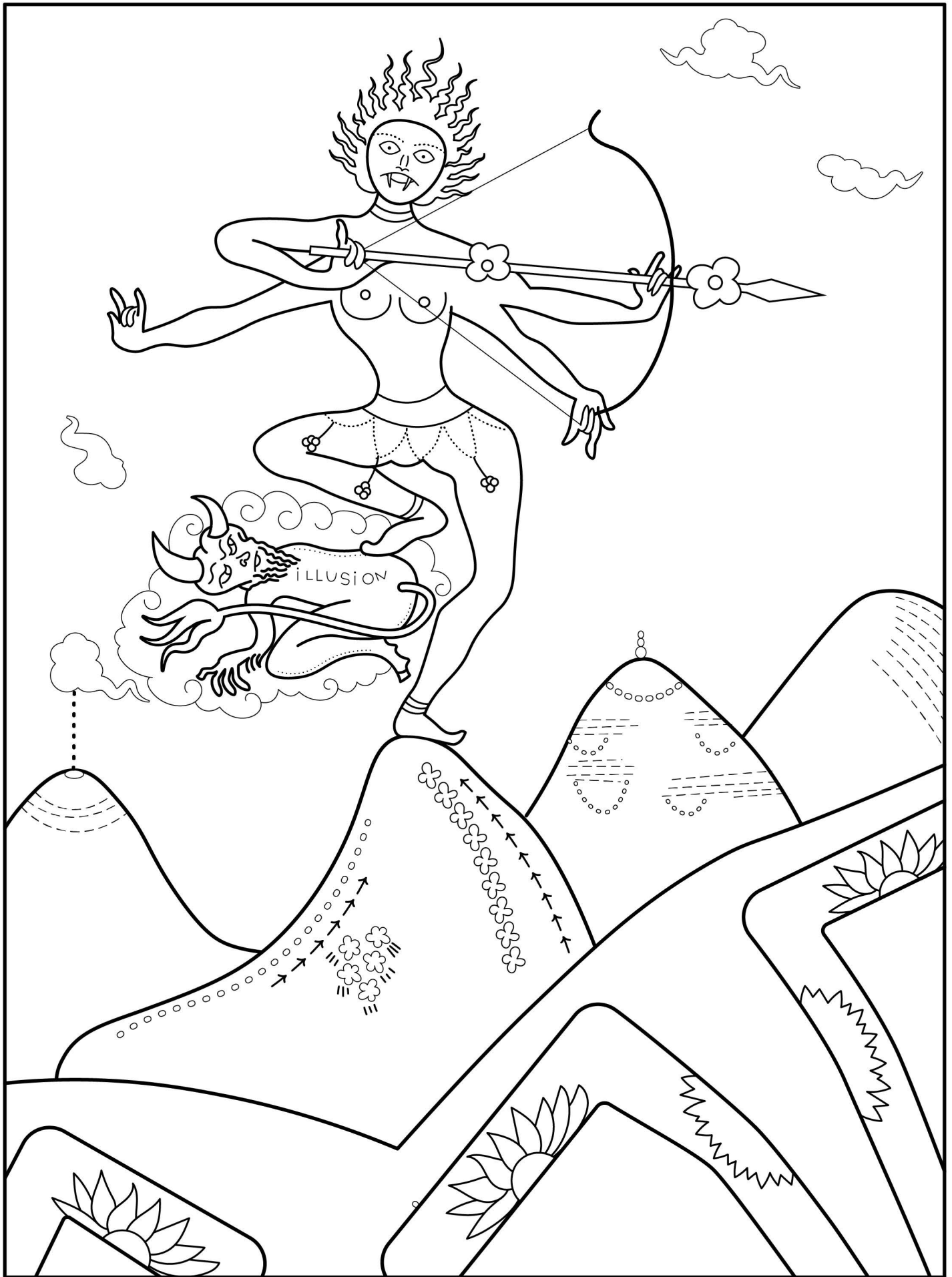












Michela Martello, *Crazy Wisdom*, 2017 (detail)



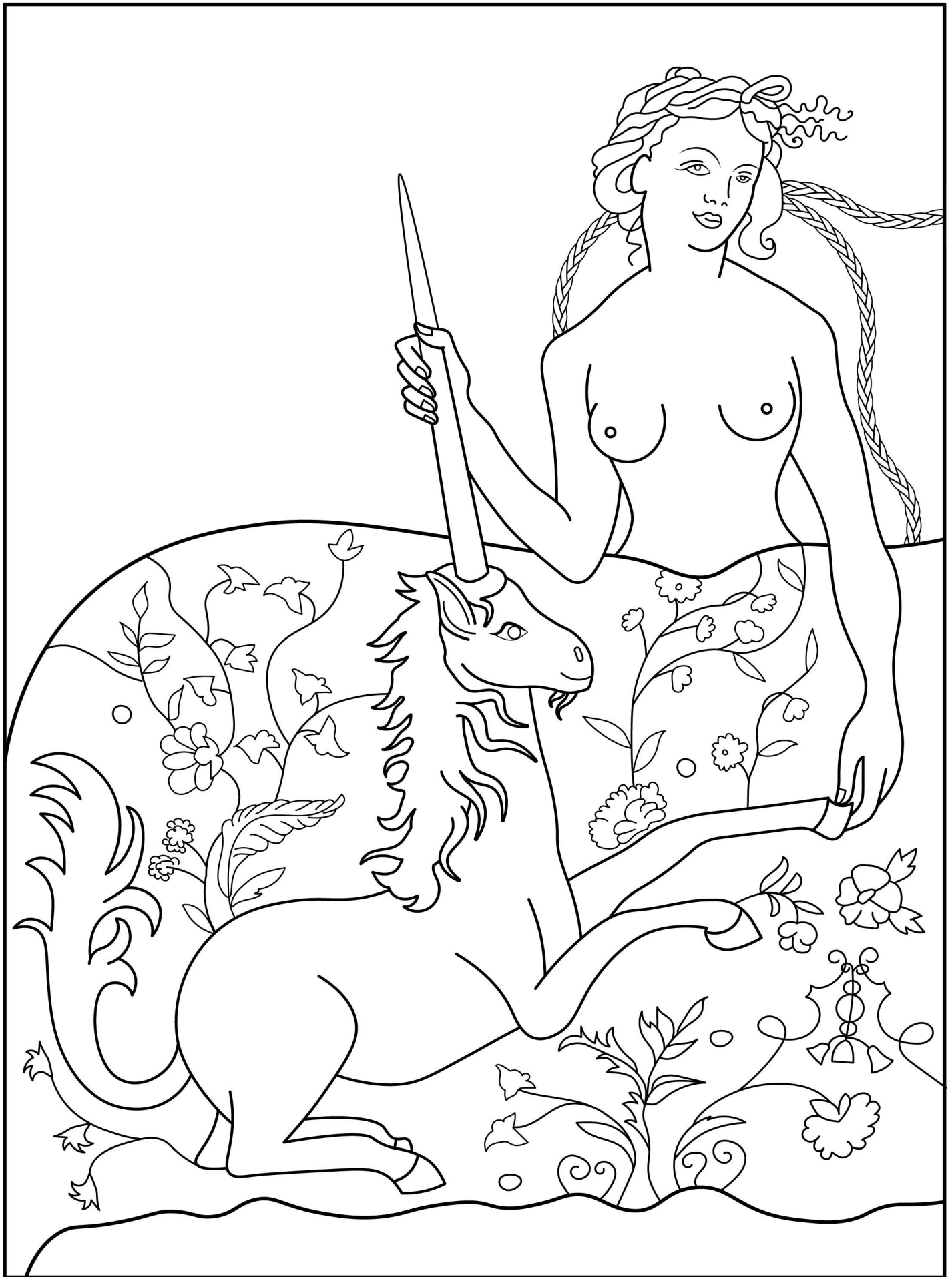
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Michela Martello, *Embers*, 2018 (detail)



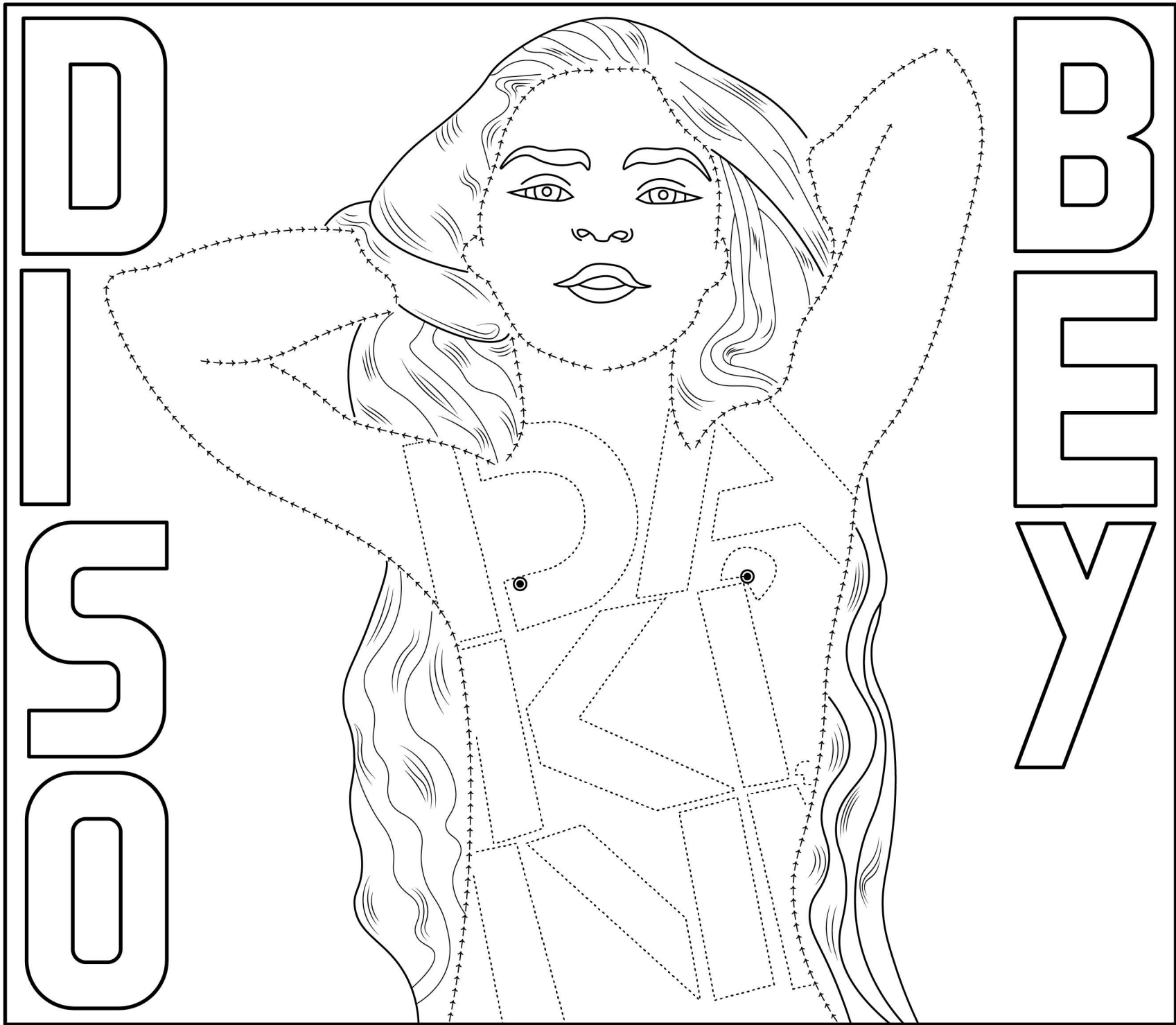
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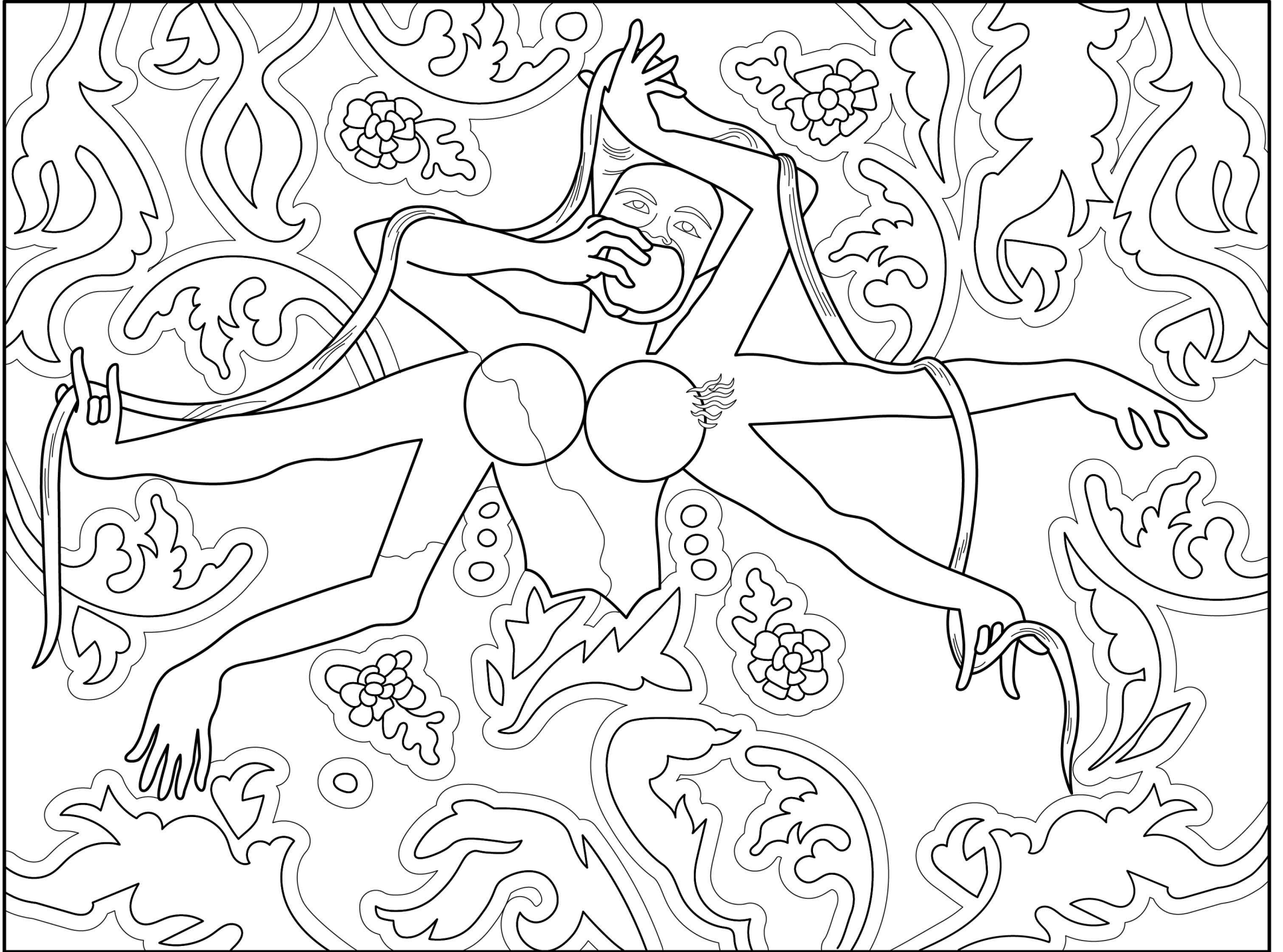


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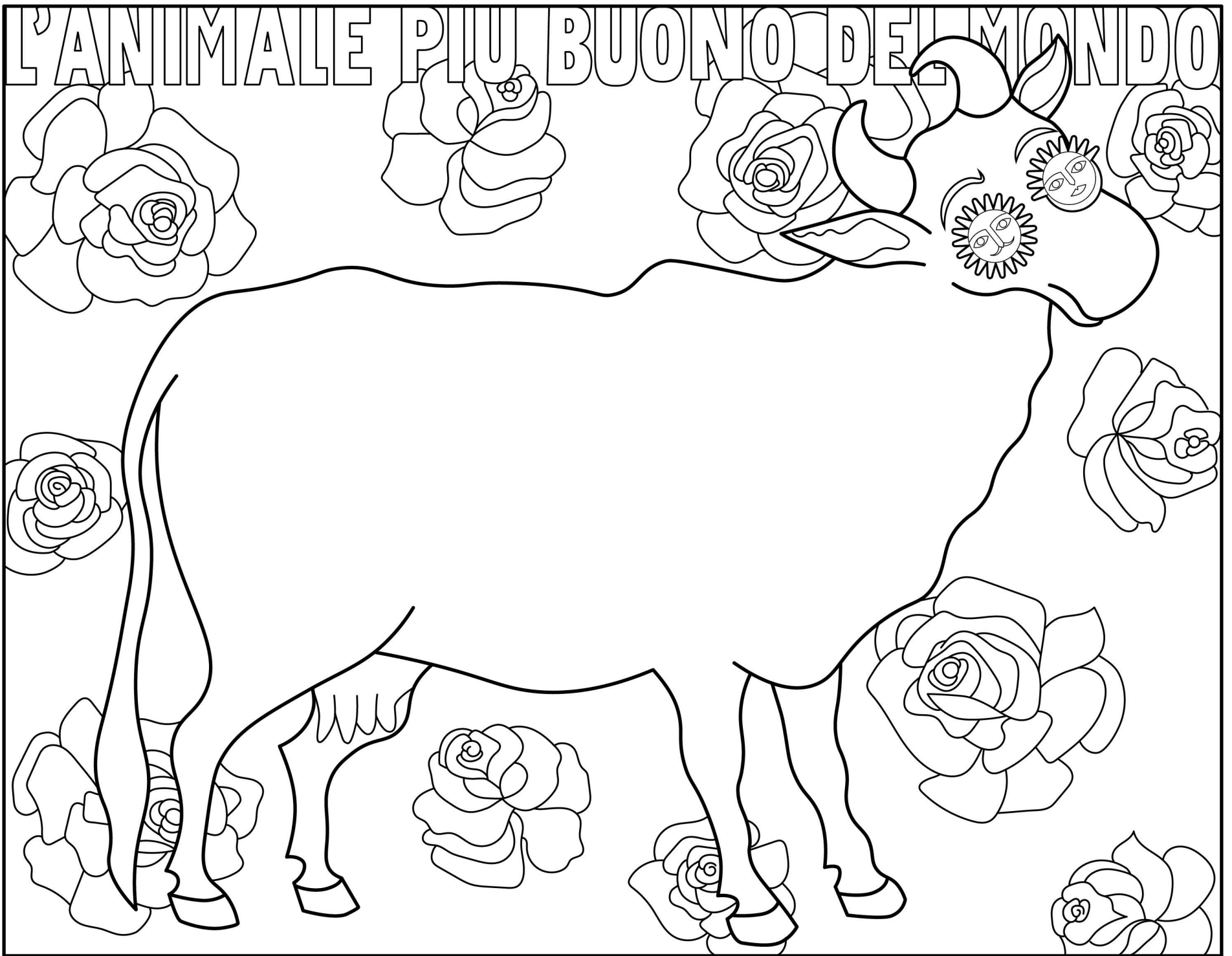


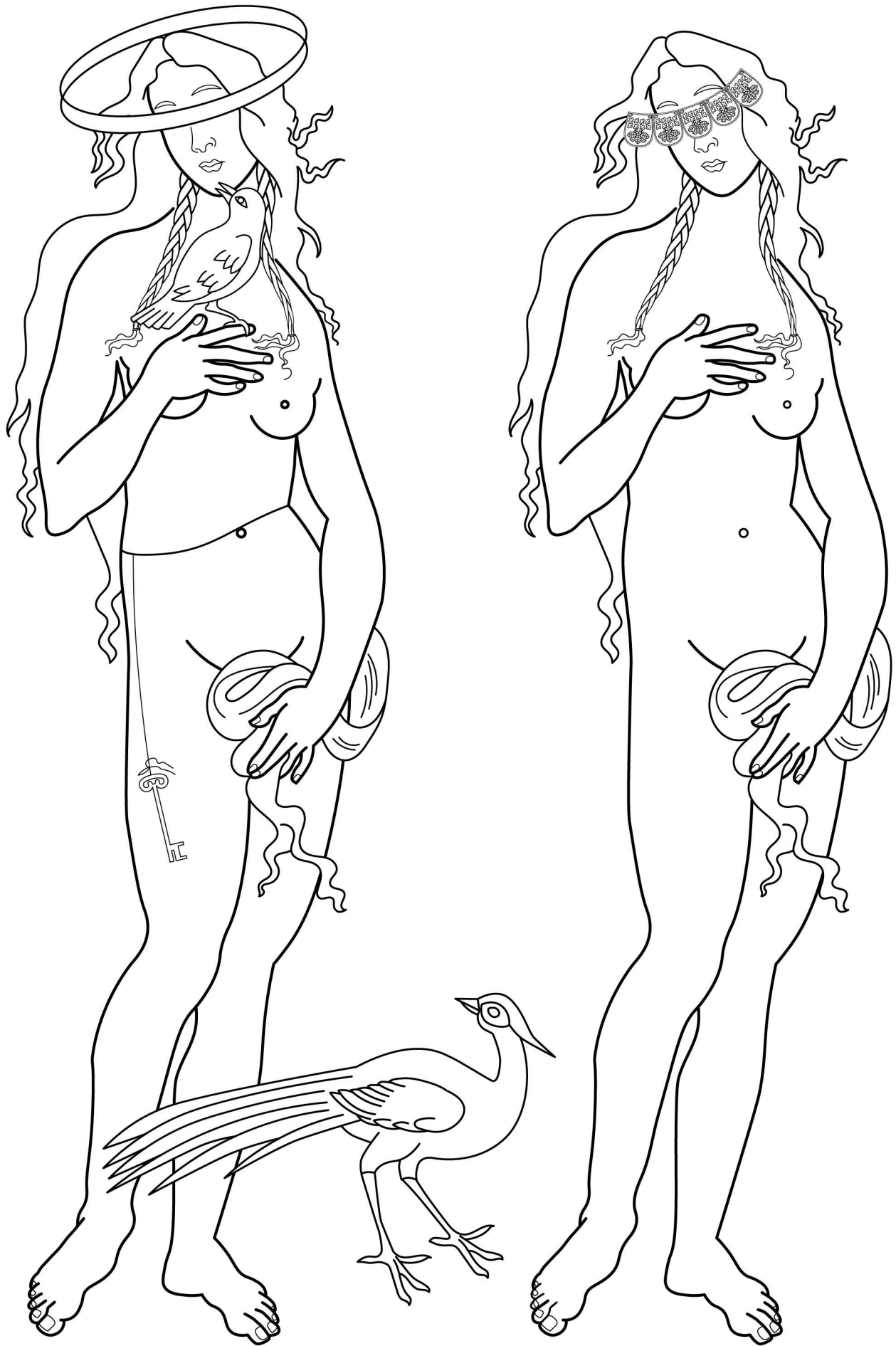
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Michela Martello, *Life Life*, 2019 (detail)





Michela Martello, *Don Giovanni*, 2017 (left)
Michela Martello, *Future is Goddess*, 2016 (right)



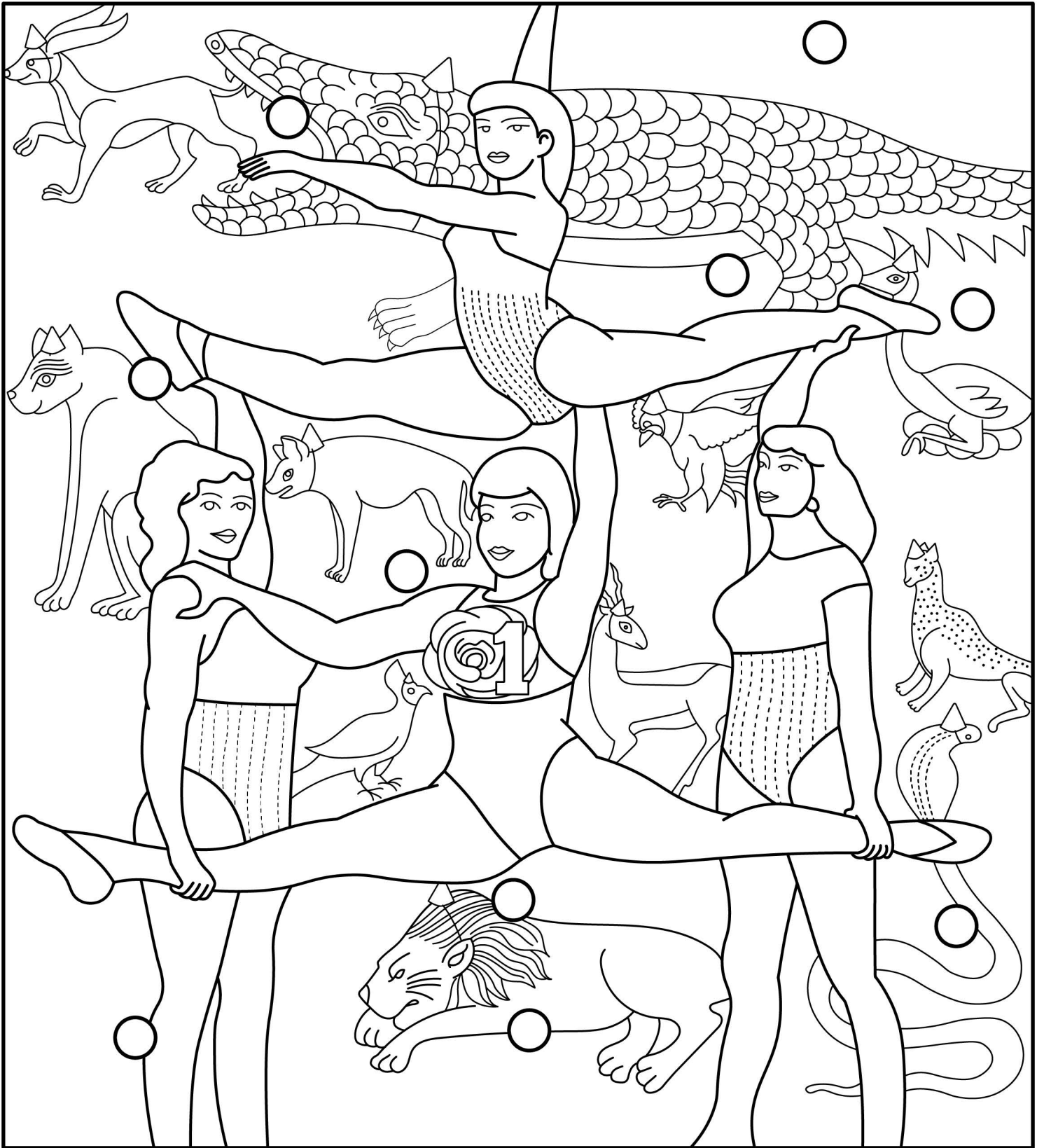
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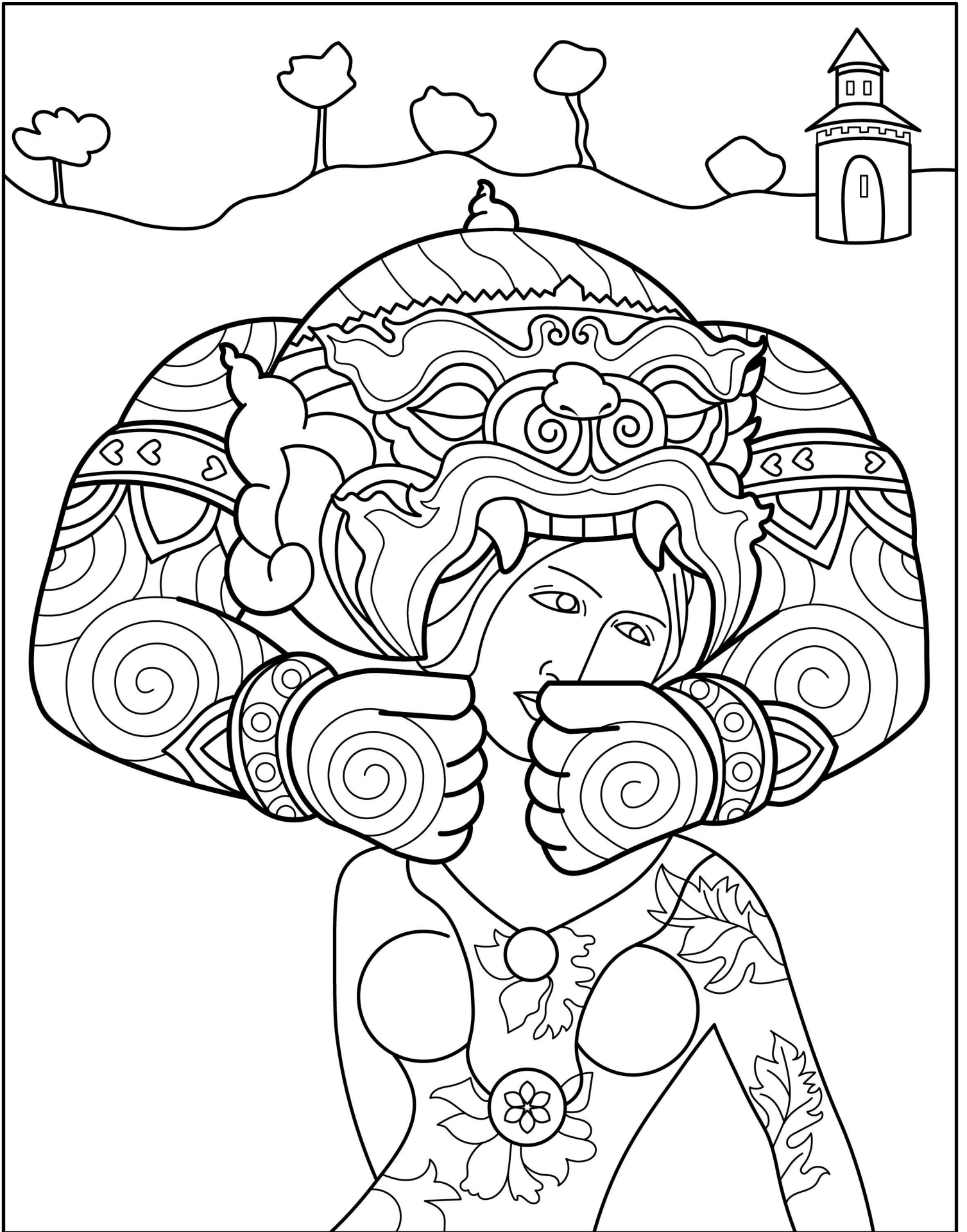


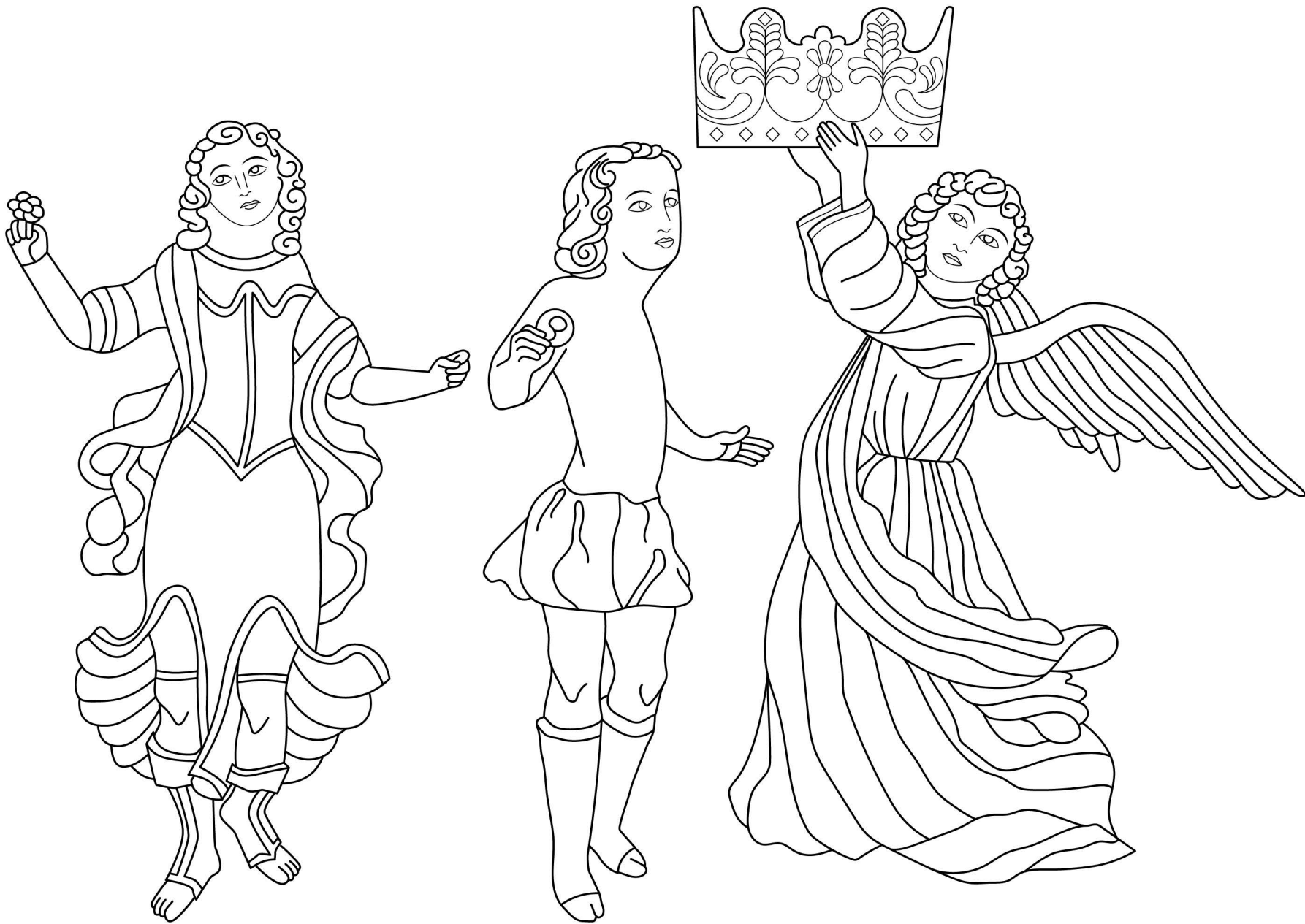
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Michela Martello, 15 Manifestation of Happyyness, 2012 (detail)





Michela Martello, *Don't run away*, 2008



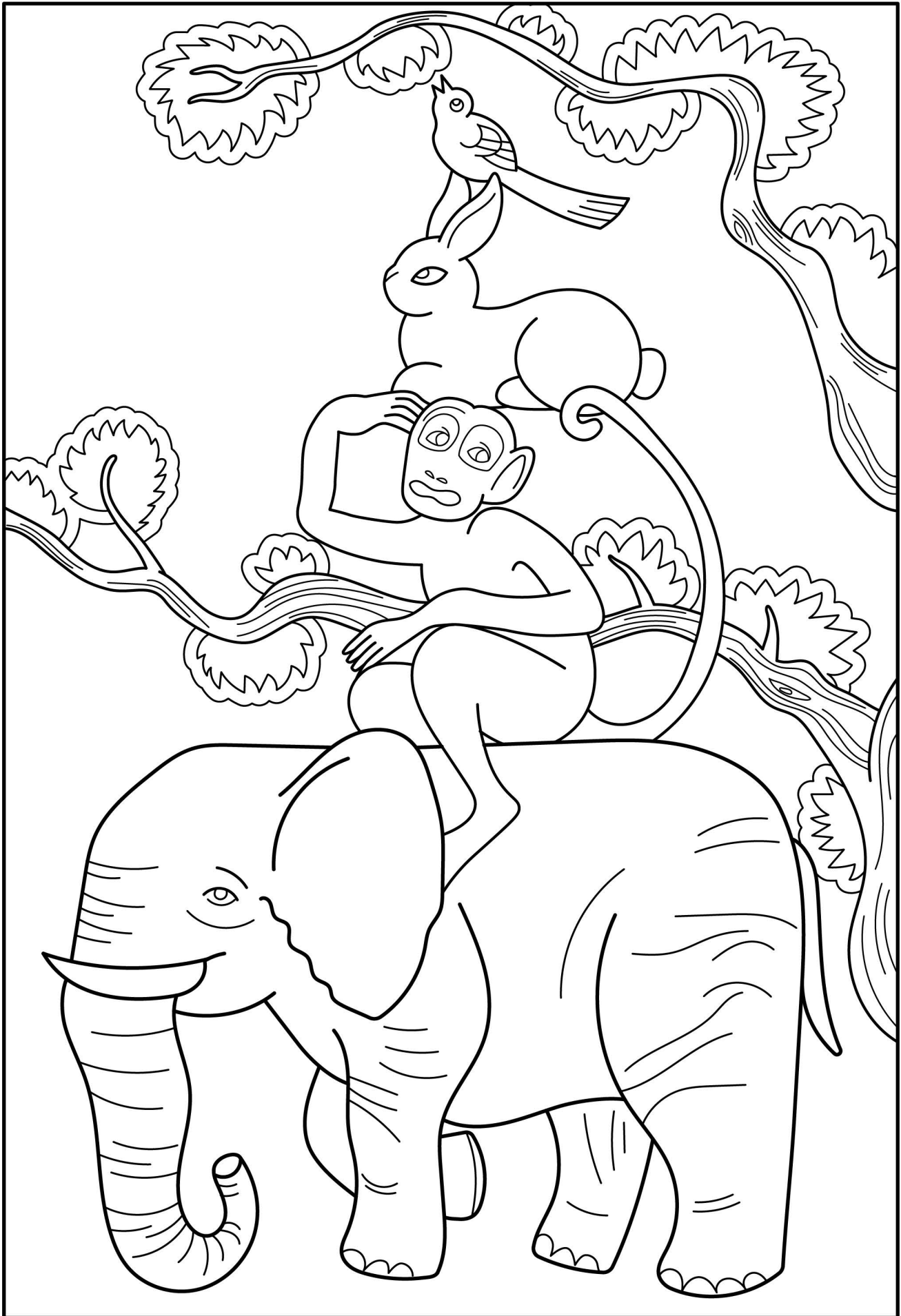
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Paula Kinsel, *Portrait of Michela Martello*, 2020



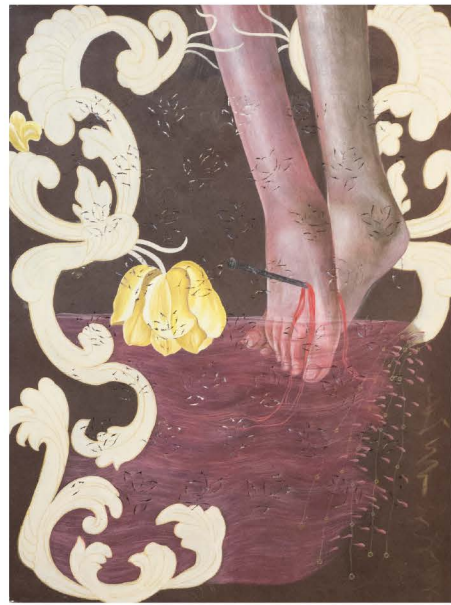
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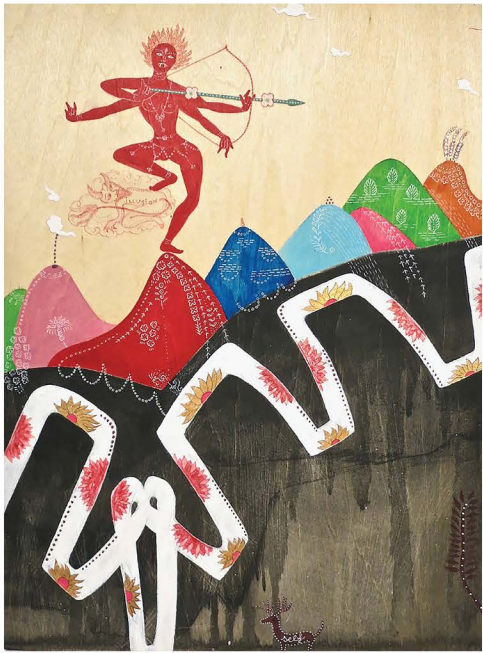


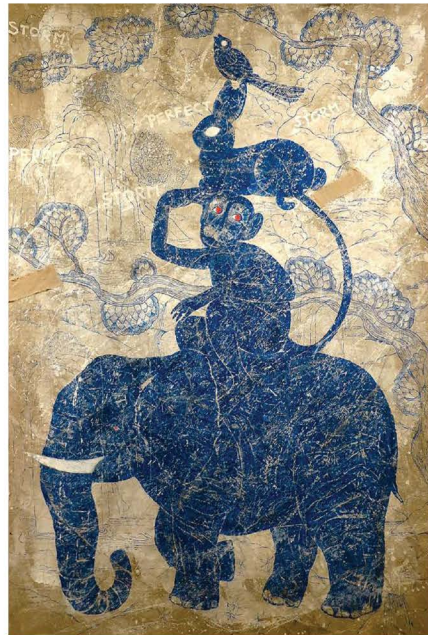
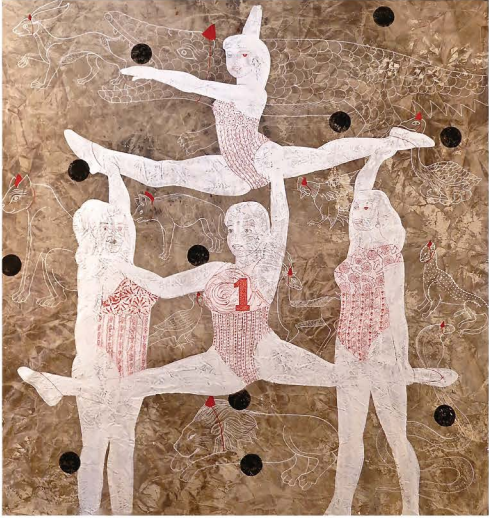
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Be a Good Ancestor: The Michela Martello Coloring Book

All dimensions are listed in inches, with the vertical dimension listed first.

Michela Martello
Graffiti Goddesses, 2017
acrylic and mixed media, mural
at Pen + Brush Gallery
New York, New York

Michela Martello
Lovely Nerves, 2020 (detail)
acrylic, embroidery on vintage
meat sack
54 x 47 in

Michela Martello
Mandala, 2013
acrylic, ink, on cotton canvas
48 x 48 in

Michela Martello
Transmigration, 2020
acrylic, pencil on vintage
Japanese bamboo paper
28 x 22 in

Michela Martello
22 Tears, 2019
acrylic, embroidery on vintage
US army sack
57 x 48 in

Michela Martello
Kelet, 2020
acrylic, pencil on vintage
Japanese bamboo paper
28 x 22 in

Michela Martello
The Absolute Body, 2020
acrylic, gesso, embroidery on
vintage American meat sack
80 x 78 in

Michela Martello
Crazy Wisdom, 2017 (detail)
acrylic, gouache on wood
panel
16 x 12 in

Michela Martello
Embers, 2018 (detail)
acrylic, sumi ink, embroidery
on vintage hand woven Italian
linen
108 x 90 in

Michela Martello
Dakini, 2016
acrylic on wood panel, mural
for Wooden Walls Project
Asbury Park, New Jersey

Michela Martello
Life Life, 2019 (detail)
acrylic, gilding on US army
vintage tent
55 x 130 in

Michela Martello
Love, 2010
acrylic, marble dust, gel on
cotton canvas
57 x 60 in

Michela Martello
Don Giovanni, 2017
acrylic on torsello, antique
handmade cotton sheet from
Italy
150 x 28 in

Michela Martello
Future is Goddess, 2016
acrylic on torsello, lace,
antique handmade cotton
sheet from Italy
150 x 28 in

Michela Martello
The Perfect Girlfriend, 2016
acrylic, gesso, ink on cotton
75 x 73 in

Michela Martello
Pressure Makes Diamond, 2009
(detail)
mixed media with collage
58 x 61 in

Michela Martello
15 Manifestation of Happiness,
2012 (detail)
acrylic, marble dust on cotton
canvas
60 x 60 in

Michela Martello
Thoreau, 2018
acrylic, embroidery, on
dismantled vintage US army
sandbag
27 x 27 in

Michela Martello
Don't run away, 2008
mixed media
74 x 50 in

Michela Martello
Perfect Storm, 2014
acrylic, gesso on linen
68 x 55 in

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