

A Thaili of Curiosities



A non-fiction graphic comics anthology
VOL 2

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A Thaili of Curiosities
A non fiction graphic comics anthology
Year: 2024

Cover Illustration by @lakheni.ms

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सोशल साइन्स बहाः
SOCIAL SCIENCE BAHÀ



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Introduction

This body of work is the output from our 4th Non-fiction graphic comics workshop in January of 2024. The stories are based on short anthropological research and visual output on the everyday life of people living, working or passing in the neighbourhood of Patan.

This workshop was a purely hands-on experience and practice based, where both artist and writer collaborated from the get go, practiced various genres and forms of non-fiction comics and at the end screen printed their comic. Promina Shrestha facilitated the workshop through which these comics were produced, with help from Erika Hoffmann-Dilloway, and Julia Christensen

12 participants were from Nepal, and eight of the participants were students from Oberlin College (United States). While the comics focused on the details of everyday life in Patan, the collaborations were international in nature.

This non-fiction graphic anthology is part of the
'BATOUGHATO: HIMALAYAN LIVES & LANDSCAPES, AND THE ROADS THAT CHANGE THEM'

The project is a communication initiative focused on a research-based graphic novel that delves into the politics of road construction in rural Nepal. It aims to catalyze discussions on development, democracy, and civil society while introducing graphic storytelling to a wider audience. Through visual narratives, the novel portrays the perspectives of various stakeholders involved in road construction, challenging common narratives about its consequences. The project involves translation, illustration, and collaboration with publishers to ensure accessibility and natural dialogue. Led by Stacy Leigh Pigg and a team of artists and researchers, 'Batoghato' is based on the work of the research group 'Infrastructures of Democracy.'

The project is financially supported by
the Open Society Foundations (OSF),
Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (Canada)

SOMETIMES FRIENDSHIPS BEGIN WITH A BAGFUL OF PLEASANTRIES





...SOMETIMES THEY DON'T HAVE BEGINNINGS,
BUT THEY ARE ALWAYS PRICELESS.

WRITER: RITU RAJBANSHI
ARTIST: SOFIE BILL

FEATURING
KRISHNA MAHARJAN (GURU BAA)
BAU KAJI MAHARJAN (AAJU BAA)

"PURNA KO SAPANA"

BY: KRIJA & JEENA



A regular day at Narayan's Thangka store. He's scrolling on Facebook while waiting for customers as usual.

P PURNA SKJ
1d . ago



Namaste! My name is Purna. I am from a small village in Mugu, Northen Nepal. Even till today we still don't have electricity or much technology. And after finishing the 10th grade, I decided to go on my own journey.

I had been a helper at an NGO. Though they wanted me to continue working for them, there was a voice that shouted, "I AM NOT SATISFIED, I WANT TO BE A LEADER!" So, I came to Kathmandu to continue my education.



However, I was scammed by a "third party" into working for an oligarch. This caused me to miss my college in-take. If anyone can help or provide for me to go to college now., please contact me at 9xxx-xxx-xxx.



LIKE 

COMMENT 

SHARE 





Narayan calls Purna through the contact that was mentioned.



A WEEK LATER

Narayan finally meets up with Purna. He takes Purna to his store and they meet with Ritesh, who runs the store with Narayan. He offers Purna to work at the store part-time while Purna continues his studies.



Around half a year later, Purna enrolls in a local college.

Two years later, he successfully joins into university for sociology and Nepali journalism.

PURNA'S PIN-BOARD



To-DO

- Study 6-9
- Shop 9-2
- Job 2-11



Creators note: Special thanks to Ritesh and Purna, it was a heart-warming experience to have talked with them and had a glimpse of their bond.

A VIBRANT FAMILY HISTORY

Written by Prarthana Dixit

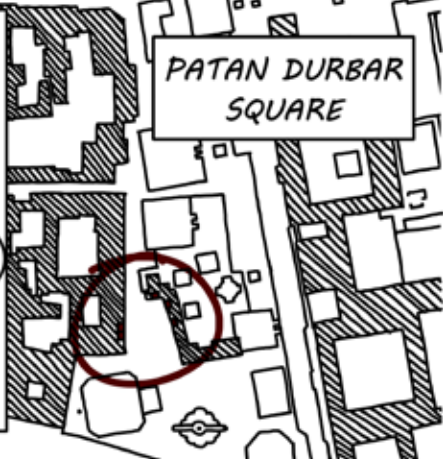
Illustrated by Gigi Row

A woman wearing a white jacket and a dark red headscarf is shown from the chest up. She has her hands raised in a gesture of speaking or explaining. A speech bubble is positioned above her.

My family is Newa: Muslims, and we own five chura and pothey shops in this area.

These shops have been here for around 40 to 50 years.

Sama Banu



We speak Nepali, Nepal Bhasa, and Urdu. At home, we speak them simultaneously. Our kids learned these languages through us.

The same woman from the previous panel is shown from the chest up. She is holding three circular symbols. The first symbol contains the Nepali character 'क', the second contains the Urdu character 'ک', and the third contains the Nepali character 'ख'.

क

ک

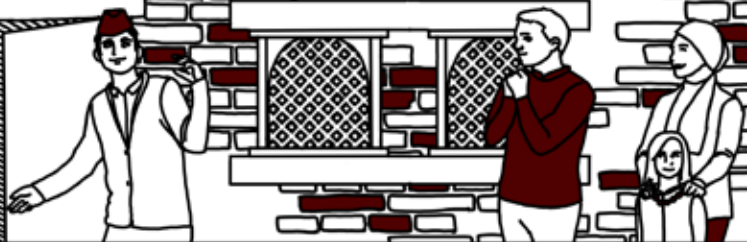
ख

Our ancestors were brought to Patan during the Malla era for trade and business.

Our family business has existed for maybe over 200 years.

A man wearing a white jacket and a dark red scarf is shown from the chest up. He is holding a necklace with a large circular pendant. A speech bubble is positioned above him.

Abdul Kha Sama's husband



During the Iraq War, anti-Muslim sentiments were on the rise. The Newa: community protected our family and other Muslims from the hostility by hiding us in their homes.

There is a lot of cultural exchange between our family and Newa: in Patan.



Next time, bhoj is at my place!

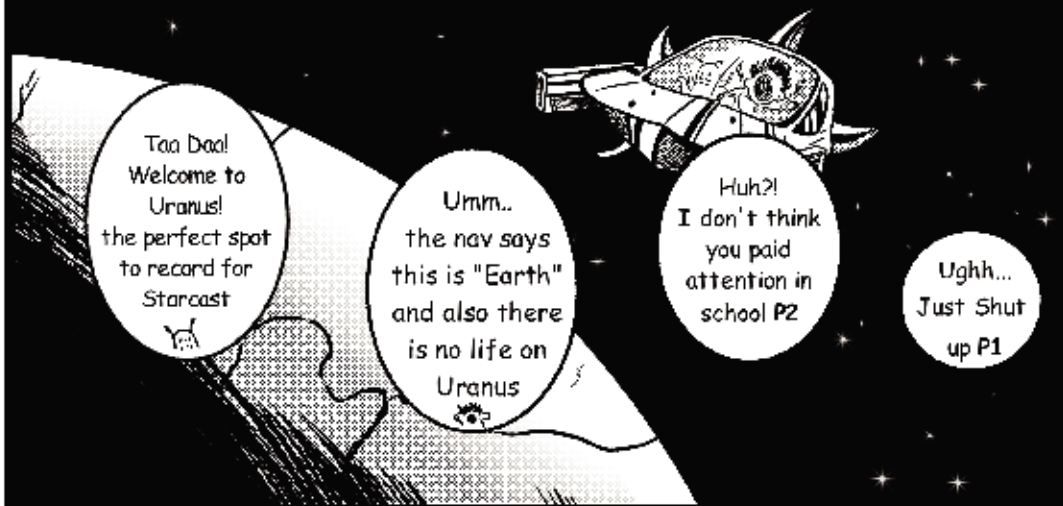
*Raj Kaji
friend of the family*

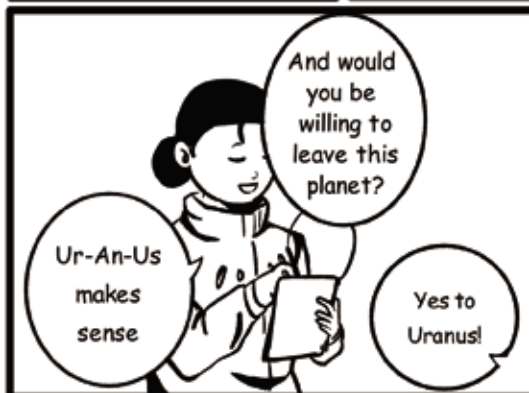
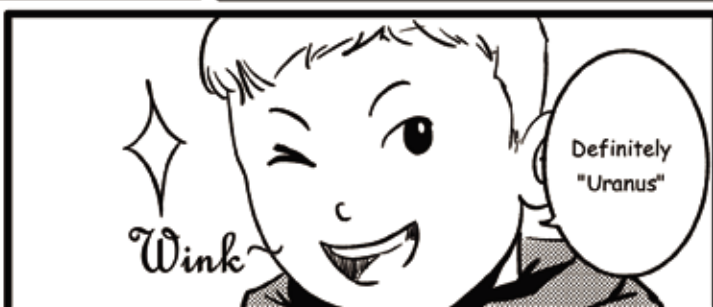
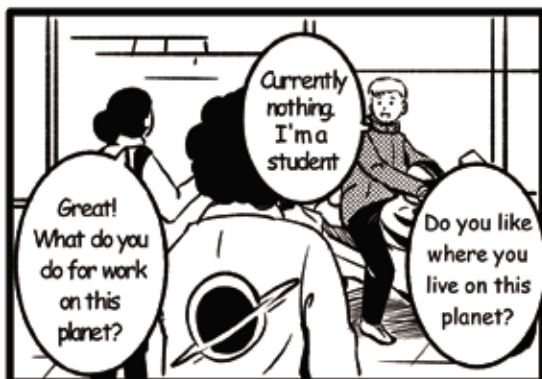


We hope that this sort of community love stays alive in the streets and homes of Patan.

ADVENTURES OF P1 & P2

@gd.arts and @the_fake_nash





LOST ON MY OWN TERMS

WRITER: BIRAT BIJAY OJHA
ILLUSTRATOR: DOSI WEED

I WASN'T IN A GOOD PLACE. I DIDN'T FEEL STRONG ENOUGH MENTALLY OR PHYSICALLY.



I DECIDED TO CHANGE AND PUSH MYSELF.



I STARTED KICKBOXING.



YOU HAVE LOST YOUR WAY, SON.



I HAD NO SUPPORT, SO I DID IT FOR MYSELF



DAY 3



DAY 15



DAY 40



NATIONAL KICKBOXING TOURNAMENT



I MANAGED TO GET THIRD.



I'M PROUD OF YOU, SON.



KABITA AT WORK

NAMASTE EVERYONE:-
I AM KABITA MAHARJAN.



I AM A DEAF AND MUTE PERSON.
I USE SIGN LANGUAGE.



AFTER SLC,,
I APPLIED FOR JOBS...



NOTHING.

FINALLY, I GOT A JOB AT A
PUBLIC TOILET RUN BY AEROSAN.



← INCLUSIVE
→ MALE
→ FEMALE

A TYPICAL
DAY...

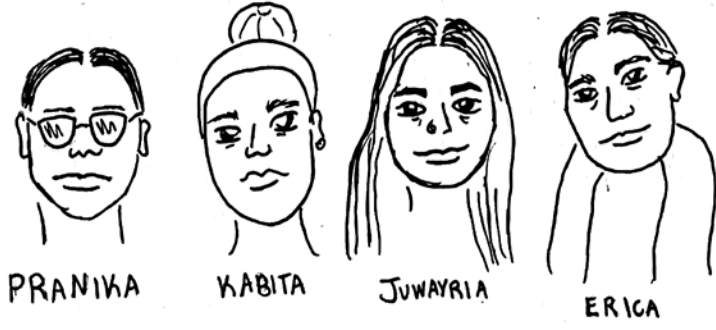


I AM GRATEFUL FOR MY JOB AND ALL
IT HAS PROVIDED FOR ME.

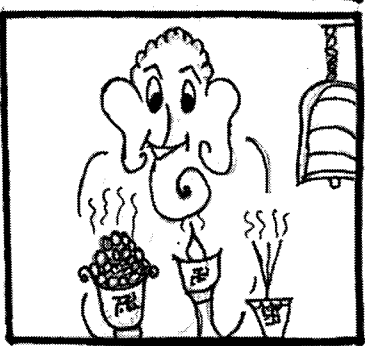
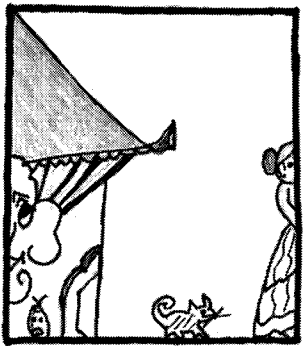
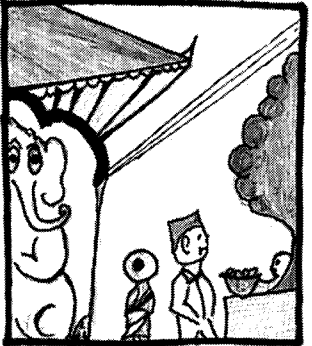
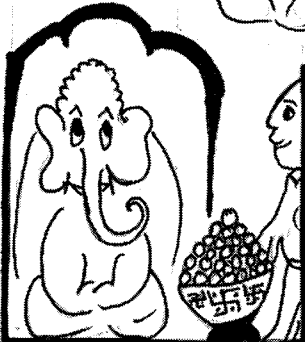
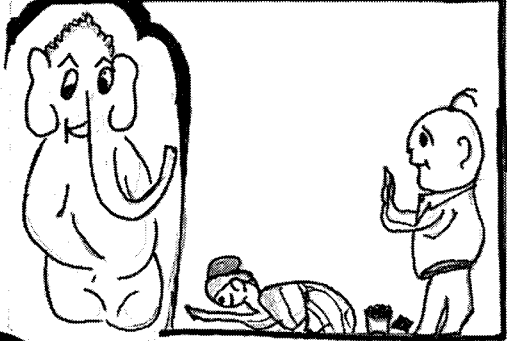
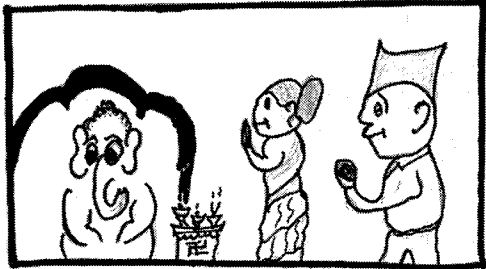
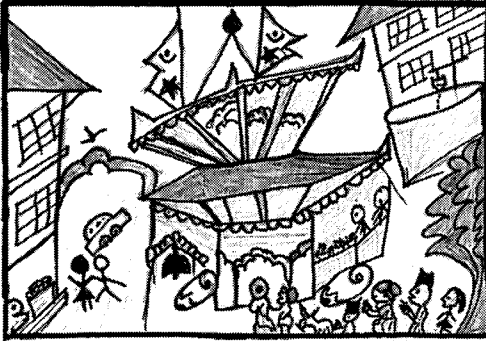


MY COWORKER
(AND FRIEND)

JAN 2024

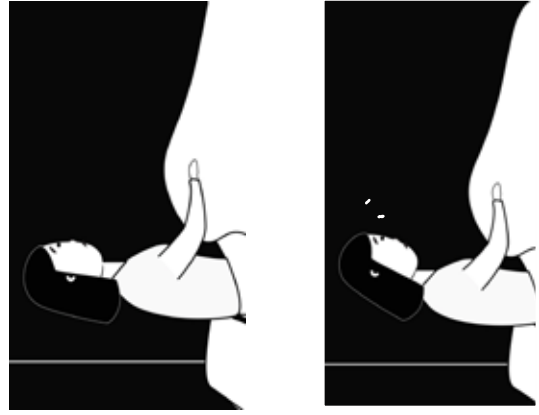
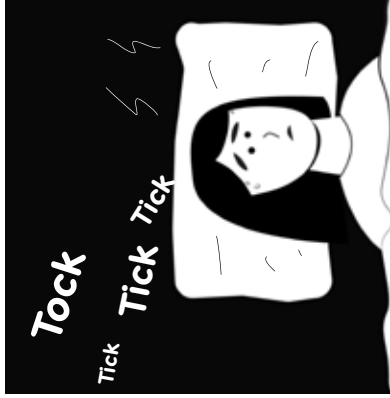
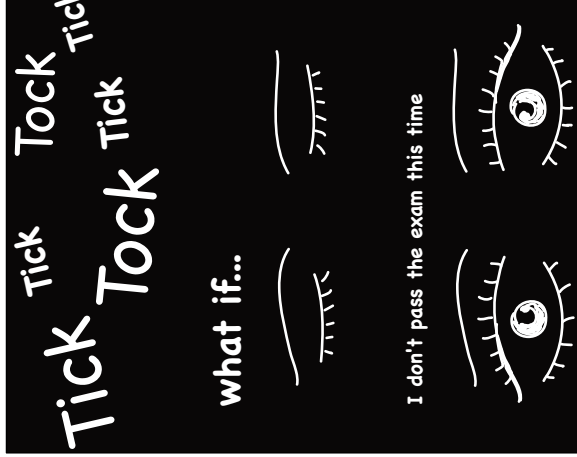
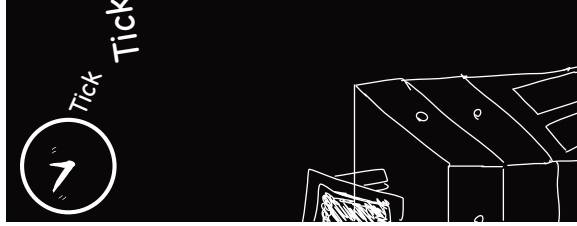
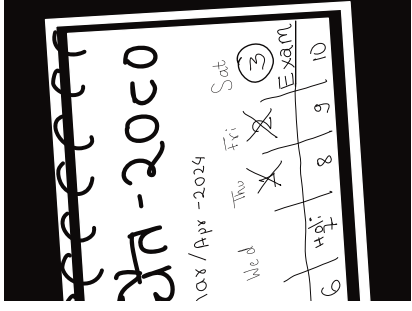
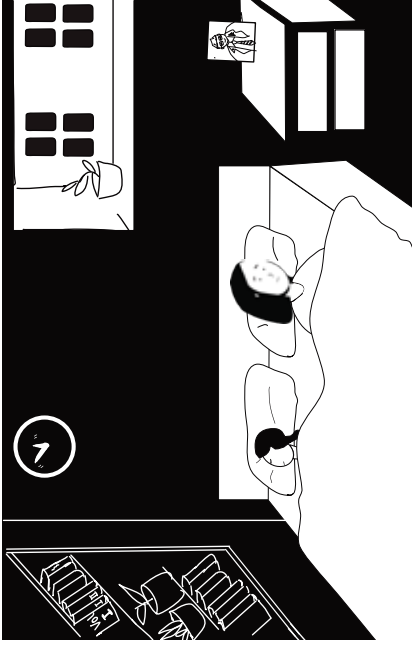


NITYA KARMA

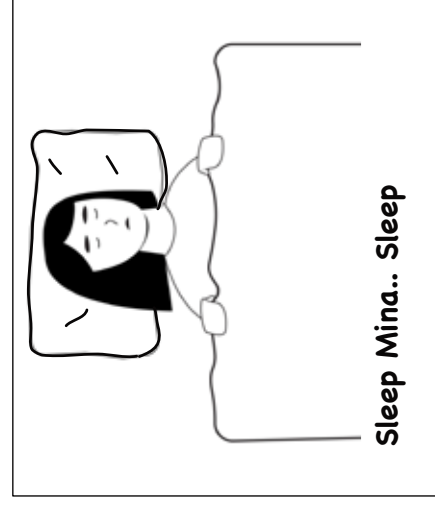
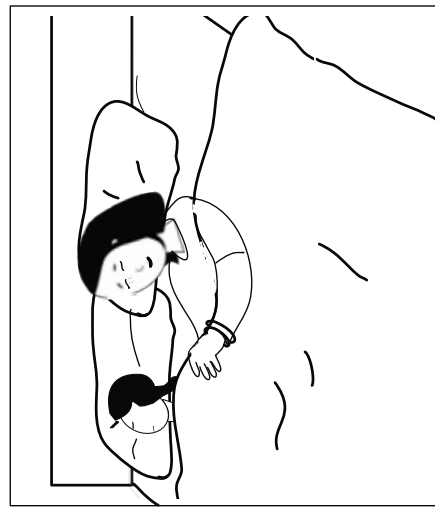
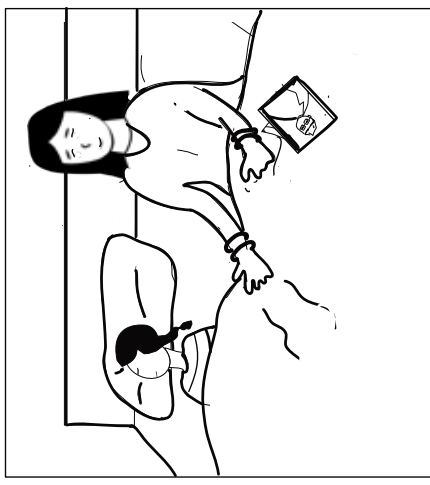
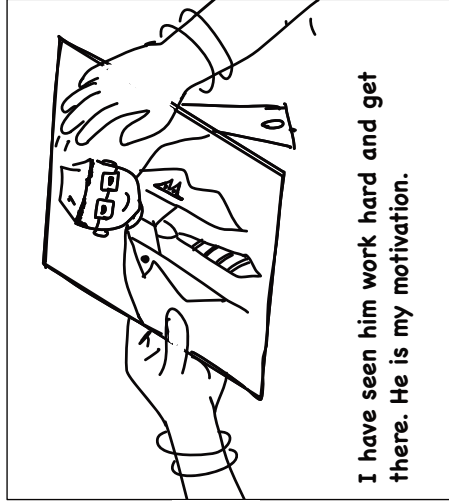
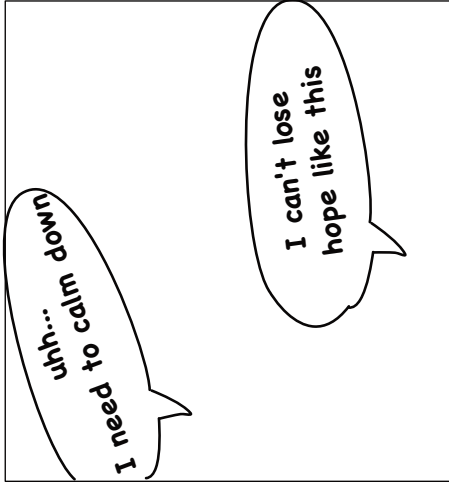


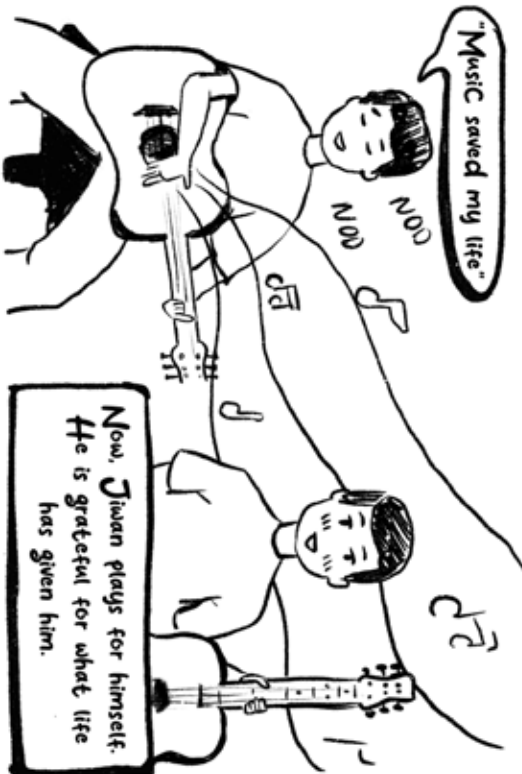
WRITER: BEDHIKA PUDASAINI

ARTIST: LAKPA LAMA HYOLMO



I don't pass the exam this time





"Music saved my life"

Now, Jivan plays for himself. He is grateful for what life has given him.

Jivan's Lama's Story

Illustrated by
Srinika Shrestha
@shrikrishna
@willow.



Written by
Eris Lieberkind Gausler
@delicainessofficial
@otakuwriter



When those dark days came, Jivan turned to music in the form of guitar lessons.



But there is more to Jivan than his suit.

Jivan has had dark days. He felt hopeless when he was unable to find a job.



Jivan Lama is 26, and had lived in Kathmandu for over 10 years now. He works in hospitality, and even gets to wear a fancy suit as part of his uniform.

XYZ HOTEL

PULL
HERE



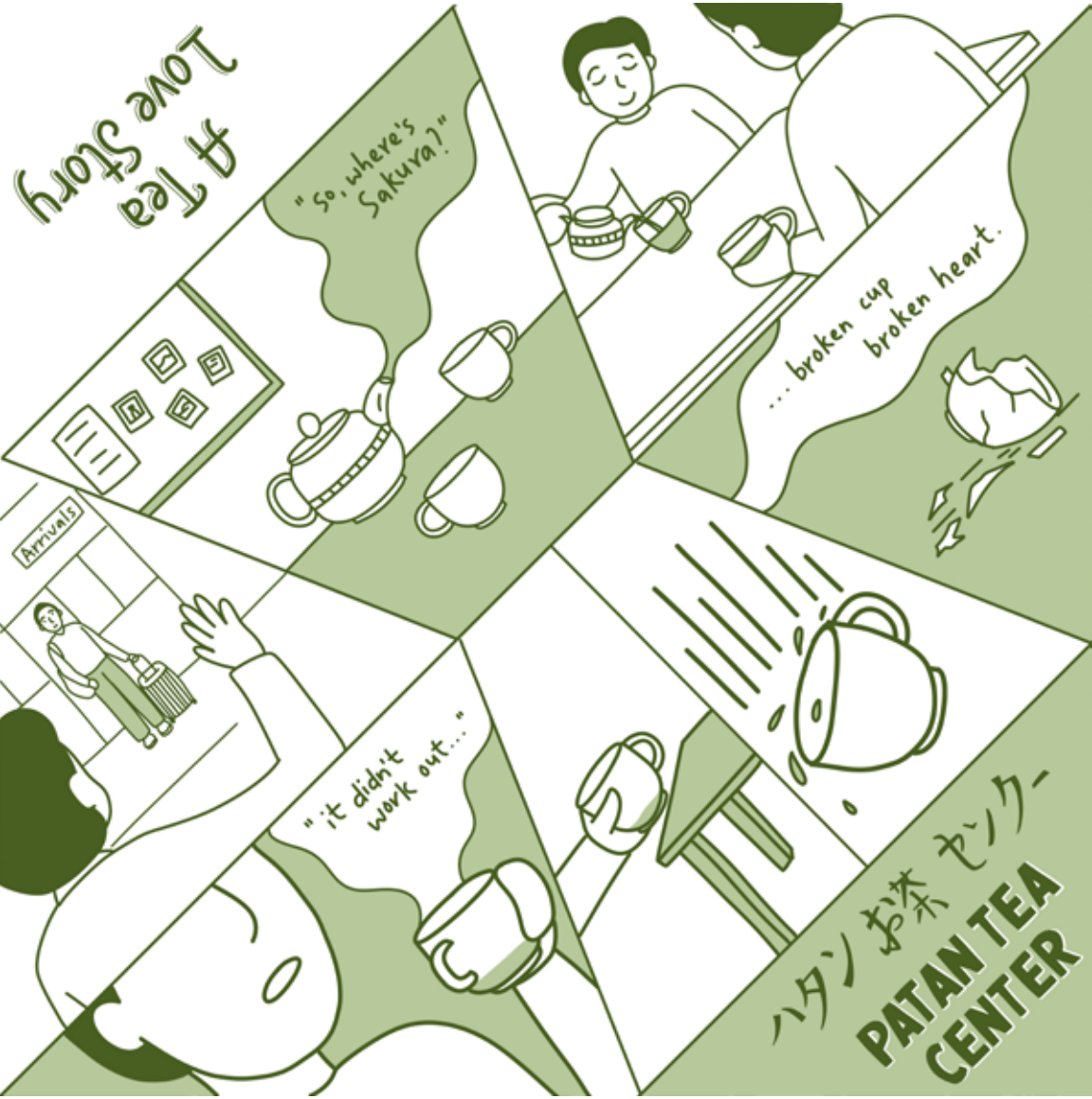
SWARNIMA
MALCOLM.B
IN PULLER



• d112



A Tea Love Story



"So, where's Sakura?"

... broken cup broken heart.

"it didn't work out..."

ハタンお茶センター
PATAN TEA CENTER

Arrivals

Sofie Bill is an artist from Cincinnati, Ohio who has loved comics their whole life. In her art, she enjoys experimenting with cartoonish stylization, imagery, and lighting, and she is inspired by the likes of Shirahama Kamome and Fiona Staples.

Ritu is a writer based in Kathmandu. She enjoys reading and writing fiction. She wants to write stories that her nephew will one day love reading.

Krija is a BFA student at Kathmandu University, specializing in illustration and design. I create art with a focus on children and their mindset, using vibrant colors, with minimal art-style. My goal is to portray imaginations and convey ideas in a fun and understandable manner. Oh! And I also love anything cute and sparkles~

Hi I'm Jenna, the writer of this story! I study cinema and anthropology at Oberlin College. It was really fun to be collaborating with Krija.

I'm Gigi, a student from Oberlin College and Conservatory in the United States. For this project, I worked as an artist in collaboration with Prarthana, who worked as a writer. We aimed to illustrate the stories and oral histories of a local family and their community.

Prarthana (she/they) is a writer and educator from Kathmandu. Currently am are affiliated to Queer Youth Group, researching surrounding gender and queerness. Prarthana has a degree in Psychology and is also interested to explore the intersections of issues that overlap with mental health.

Hi, I'm Nash McBride, a 22 year old student from Oberlin Conservatory. I'm a writer and for this comic, I created a more lighthearted story about space woven with the interviews my partner and I took. Hope you enjoy!

Gaurab Dongol is an artist and illustrator currently enrolled in Sirjana College of Fine Arts' BFA as a Painting major. He strives to experiment with various mediums. Furthermore, he draws inspiration from Japanese manga and has worked in creating a couple of one-shot comics.

Dosi Weed (he/him) is an illustrator currently completing his BA at Oberlin College. When he isn't drawing, he enjoys working out, birdwatching, and watching cartoons. He considers storytelling his passion, and hopes to make his own graphic novels in the future.

Birat Bijay Ojha (he/they) is a poet, writer and educator from Itahari. Passionate about art and queer centric writing, Birat won a third place in a poetry competition by UNESCO, Nepal in 2023. He also has a new found interest now - writing comics.

Pranika is a writer and human rights professional. Her publications are Bhaav, Ambar Ko Dhoon, The Tattler. She is also an editor of 'The Chronicles of Silence' a poetry anthology of women sexually assaulted during Nepal's 10-year-long conflict. Her writings focus on identity and rights aspects of Nepali society.

Juwayria is a second year student at Oberlin College studying psychology and education. She is very passionate about advocating for the right to education, especially for women and girls. As a South Asian artist, visiting Nepal has been a wonderful and life changing experience for her

I am Lakpa Lama Hyolmo, and belong to the indigenous community Hyolmo. I am a student pursuing M.Phil/Ph.D. in Cultural Anthropology at the Central Department of Anthropology, TU. Additionally, I work as a freelance researcher, television program producer, and presenter, with a preference for creating ethnography films.

I am Bhedika, a writer. I am a media graduate and currently enrolled to Masters in Anthropology. I love doing photography. I write movie scripts. I am also a media and visuals enthusiast with a keen interest in filmmaking.

Padma Manandhar, is an artist with a computer science background. She is currently working as a Youtube Video host and a Designer. She loves expressing herself in the form of art, dance and videography. She believe that life is too valuable not to explore and try out things you love.

Bishal Neupane is a student of Anthropology, and aspires to write the stories of bhuimanchhe. He also pretends to love reading.

Ellis Liebeskind-Blaufarb (they/them) is a bilingual writer, artist, and full time anthropology student at Oberlin College in Ohio. In their free time they enjoy making chainmail jewelry, screenprinting, and exploring nature.

Spriha, an artist and designer passionate about storytelling through illustration, design, photography, and videography, is pursuing her MFA at KU. She firmly believes that immersing oneself in others' stories through reading and watching fosters growth and learning. She loves to create.

Malcolm Bamba is a producer and writer pursuing a degree in Classical Bass Performance and Digital Storytelling at Oberlin Conservatory. He's written for NPR's Ideastream, produced the award-winning "FOUR: Fabriks of Black Womanhood," and hosts the African language cause podcast, "Greetings From." His works focus on subversive cultural storytelling through multidisciplinary mediums.

Swarnima Shrestha, based in Kathmandu, Nepal, is a graphic designer, illustrator, and art director. Driven by a passion for typography and illustrations, her work is known for its vibrant palette and personal touch. She likes drawing inspiration from her experiences. With a keen eye for storytelling, Swarnima brings a fresh perspective to every project.



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 VIRANGANA
COMICS

**Sometimes
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Foreword

In the bustling streets of Patan, where life unfolds in a myriad of colors and stories, a unique collaboration between artists and writers has blossomed. Embedded within the daily rhythms of this vibrant neighborhood lies a treasure trove of narratives waiting to be unearthed and shared.

The body of work presented here is the fusion of anthropological research and visual storytelling, creating a collection of narratives that vividly portray the essence of life in Patan.

Led by Promina with the support from Erika Hoffmann-Dilloway and Julia Christensen, this workshop was more than just an exploration of artistic techniques—it was a journey into the heart of storytelling. Through this hands-on practice and collaboration, artists and writers alike delved deep into the nuances of non-fiction comics.

What makes this endeavor truly remarkable is the diversity of voices that have come together to create these narratives. With participants hailing from both Nepal and the United States, this workshop transcended geographical boundaries, fostering an international exchange of ideas and perspectives. As a result, the comics presented here not only capture the intricacies of life in Patan but also reflect the interconnectedness of our global community.

Join in and embark on this visual journey through the streets of Patan, immerse yourself in the rich tapestry of stories woven by the creators.

Dr Stacy Leigh Pigg

Author

Batoghat: Himalayan Lives and Landscapes, and the Roads That Change Them

