UNFOLDING NARRATIVES

A non-fiction graphic comics anthology VOL 1



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UNFOLDING NARRATIVES A non fiction graphic comics anthology

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Cover Illustration by Richene Singh, @kalaamiiii

This book has been possible through the support of Social Science Baha with the collaborative efforts of Virangana Comics Collective.





UNFOLDING NARRATIVES



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INTRODUCTION

This body of work is the output from our 3rd Non-fiction graphic comics workshop in March 2023. The narratives draw inspiration from personal experiences of Nepali authors and artists.

The workshop engaged participants in practical experiences across various comic forms, formats and styles. Encouraging everyone to step into each other's creative shoes, fostering an exchange of skills. The hands-on exploration was complemented by immersive learning, featuring guest lectures from experienced non-fiction comics professionals from Nepal and abroad.

Moreover, the objective was to acquaint participants with the craft of story pitching, pitching as artists or writers to one another and to publishers, offering insights into participants' legal rights, and unravelling the complexities of the publishing process.

Special thanks are extended to JD Lunt for his invaluable facilitation during this workshop. Gratitude is also extended to our esteemed speakers, who generously shared their diverse expertise in the realms of Non-Flction comics. A big shoutout to Nicola Streeten, Shradha Shrestha, Bandana Tulachan, Erica Hofman, Dan Archer, Sally Campbell Galman, Ita Mehrota, Emily Oliver, and Chitra Venkatarmani for their contributions and enriching the workshop experience.

Promina Shrestha facilitated the workshop through which these comics were produced.

This non-fiction graphic anthology is part of the 'BATOGHATO: 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)

FOREWORD

The work you see here showcases the story-telling potential of comics. When words and images combine in this unique format, new ways of understanding open up. The format allows the reader to feel a scene, get insides people's heads, and shift points of view. Something almost magical happens in the interplay between pictures and text. Perhaps this is why the medium lends itself so well to fiction, fantasy, and myth. But can this mode of storytelling be leveraged to tell true stories, based on memory, research, or journalistic investigations? We believe that in can. Following the lead of pioneers in the growing area known as "graphic nonfiction" and "graphic journalism" we put together a workshop we hoped would inspire artists and storytellers here in Nepal to try their hand at creating non-fiction comics.

The workshops were both educational and hands-on. The writers who came got a crash course in the principles behind this form of communication. The artists, for their part, got to see a wider range of examples of graphic narrative expressions. Journalists and researchers from around the world joined the groups via zoom, offering the participants a behind-the-curtain glimpse of the processes behind their own innovative creations. Equal time was given to learning-by-doing: fun exercises in visual creativity and storytelling primed the imaginative pump for the collaborative projects you see here.

Artists were used to dreaming up compelling images, and for their part, the writers were comfortable putting words into paragraphs. The workshops aimed to ignite a different, collaborative creativity for representing life. How could nonfiction writers start to imagine a story constructed through pictures, and foreground imagery over explanation? How could artists listen for the truths in someone else's

story and then make that truth to come to life through imaginative visuals? All of the participants enthusiastically took those risks, stepped out of their comfort zones, and worked together to see what they could make.

The energy in the workshops was palpable. I came away from the experience buoyed by the enthusiasm of these wordsmiths and image makers, and excited to see what else can come out of the tremendous potential for compelling graphic no Stacy L Pigg i nfiction arising from Nepali experience.

Dr Stacy Leigh Pigg

Author

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



ANISHA BHATTARAI

ANISHA BHATTARAI IS A FREELANCE RESEARCHER IN KATHMANDU, FOCUSING ON GENDER AND CULTURE. SHE DELVES INTO SUBTLE DISCRIMINATION EMBEDDED IN EVERYDAY CULTURAL AND SOCIAL PRACTICES, SHARING HER INSIGHTS THROUGH VISUAL STORIES AND WRITINGS.



RUJA BASI

RUJA BASI IS AN ARTIST WITH A SOCIAL WORK BACKGROUND. SHE LOVES TO EXPRESS HERSELF THROUGH ART AND WRITING. SHE IS ALWAYS UP FOR READING AND CREATING THINGS.

A LEGG MAN

"UNFOLDING NARRATIVES" A NONFICTION GRAPHIC COMICS EXHIBITION 2023



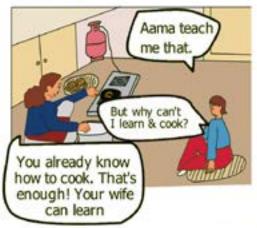
WRITER: Anisha Bhattarai Illustrator: Ruja Basi



This is Nischay, a 24 years old man who just completed his Master's degree.









NISHAAA!





























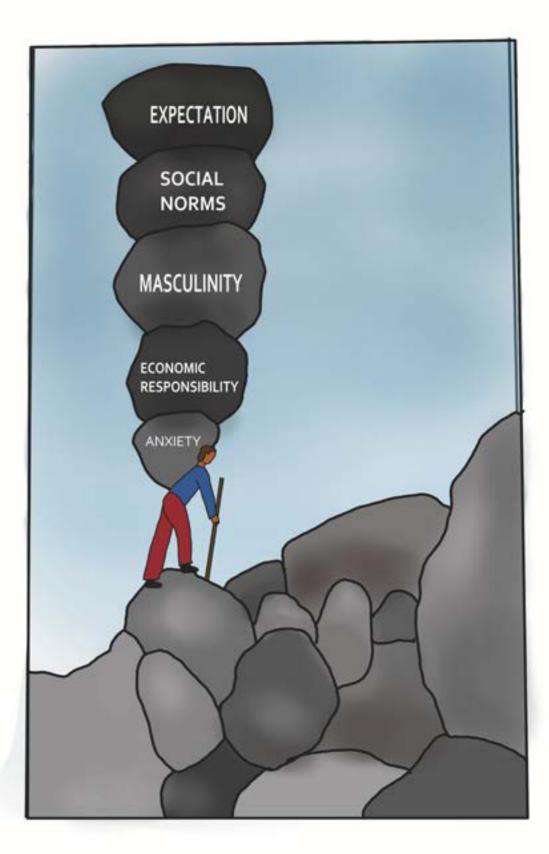














ALFA SHAKYA

ALFA, A WRITER, TRAINER AND RESEARCHER, OVERSEES THEWORDCASTLE.COM, A BLOG ON READING AND ARTS. PUBLISHED IN THE RECORD AND THE HIMALAYAN TIMES, ALFA IS A SKILLED CONTENT CREATOR, EDITOR AND AWARD-WINNING TOASTMASTER WHO LOVES DRAWING CATS AND PLAYING THE UKULELE.



KRISHA JOSHI

KRISHA, A GRADUATE OF KATHMANDU UNIVERSITY, IS A GRAPHIC DESIGNER AND ILLUSTRATOR. HER DIVERSE WORK EXPLORES BOTH BRIGHT AND SPOOKY THEMES. EMPLOYED AT SATTYA MEDIA ARTS COLLECTIVE, SHE FREELANCES, CHERISHING TRAVEL AND NATURE.

A MICRO Encounter



WRITER: Alfa Shakya

ILLUSTRATOR: Krisha Joshi





IT'S ALL WARM INSIDE...

SUCH LOVELY WEATHER IT IS, ONLY IF IT WEREN'T FOR THE CROWD.

LOOK AT HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE BEING CRAMPED IN!

THANKFULLY I'M SAFE HERE, COZY.

I DON'T LIKE THESE EYES STARING AT ME.

HAVEN'T THEY SEEN MY KIND BEFORE?!

WAIT, HUSH!

SOMEONE IS PARTICULARLY STARING AT ME... I KNOW SHE'S A WRITER.

















OH WAIT, THE WRITER IS MOVING AWAY.



I CAN'T SEE HER ANYMORE.

DID SHE GET OFF?

AND SHE WANTED TO WRITE ABOUT ME,

EVEN PET ME!

AH, POOR THING SHE HAS TO LEAVE NOW.







RISHI AMATYA

RISHI AMATYA, A WRITER AND RESEARCHER IN MANGAL BAZAAR, IS CAPTIVATED BY MYTH, HISTORY AND CULTURE, INFUSING THEM INTO HIS STORIES. NOTABLY, HE CRAFTED INTERACTIVE HERITAGE MAPS FOR THE PATAN MUSEUM AND HANUMAN DHOKA MUSEUM, WHILE ALSO RELISHING READING AND WRITING COMICS.

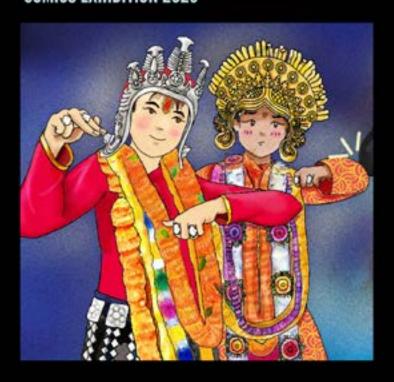


SHUBHA JOSHI

SHUBHA IS AN ILLUSTRATOR AND A VISUAL STORYTELLER. SHE LOVES TO EXPERIMENT WITH TEXTS AND IMAGES TO REPRESENT HER INNER WORLD. SHE COMPLETED HER BFA, WITH A MAJOR IN GRAPHIC COMMUNICATION FROM KUSOA, DEPARTMENT OF ART AND DESIGN.

ALL THE WORLD IS A STAGE

"UNFOLDING NARRATIVES" A NONFICTION GRAPHIC COMICS EXHIBITION 2023



WRITER: RISHI AMATYA

ILLUSTRATOR: Shubha Joshi

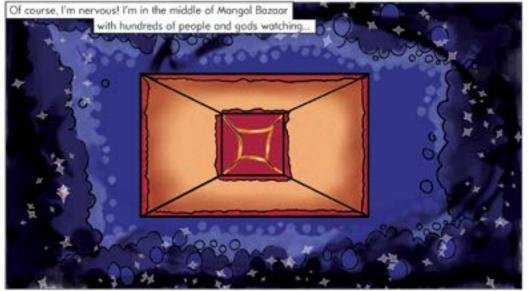








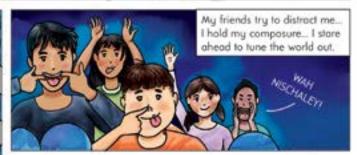




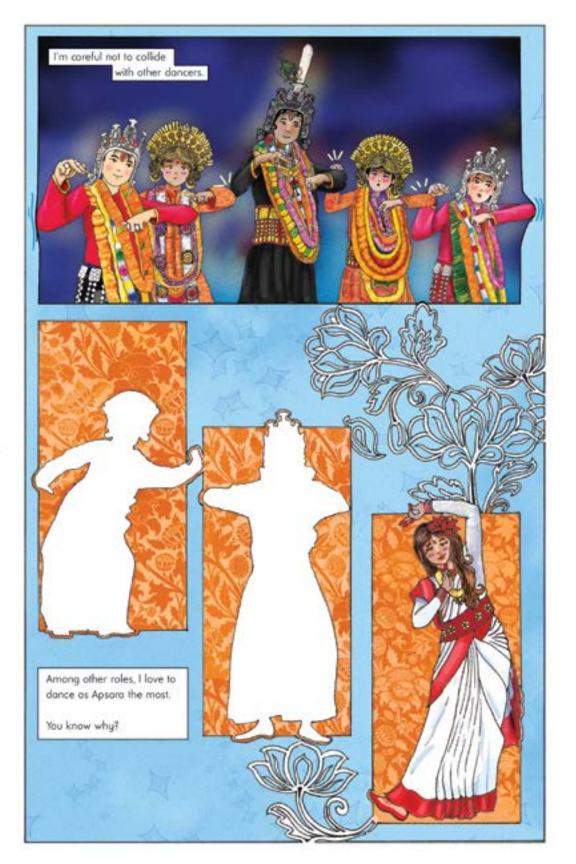


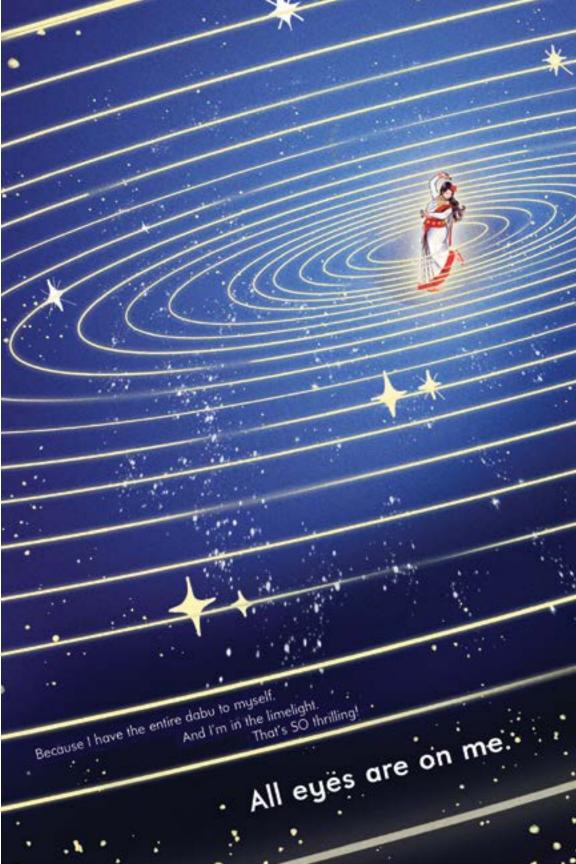


This makes me nervous. I try not to think too much as it makes me forget my steps at times.











NIJA MAHARJAN

NIJA, AN MFA STUDENT AT KATHMANDU UNIVERSITY, IS A SKILLED ILLUSTRATOR, GRAPHIC DESIGNER AND ANIMATOR. GROUNDED IN HER HERITAGE, SHE CREATES COMPELLING VISUAL NARRATIVES, FOCUSING ON NEWAR ORAL HISTORIES FOR BROADER AUDIENCE ENGAGEMENT.

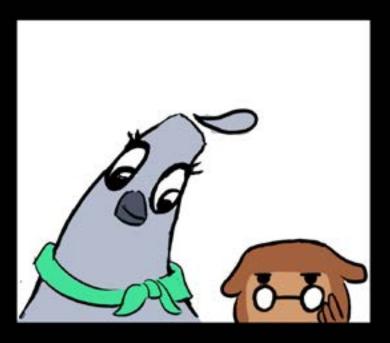


DIYA LAXMI JOSHI

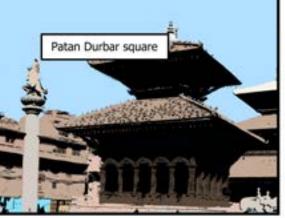
DIYA, A FANTASY ENTHUSIAST AND FICTION STORYTELLER, EXPLORES THE BOUNDLESS POSSIBILITIES OF IMAGINATION. PURSUING HER MFA AT KATHMANDU UNIVERSITY, SHE DEDICATES TIME TO HONING STORYTELLING SKILLS THROUGH WORDS AND IMAGES.

CROW'S NEST

"UNFOLDING NARRATIVES" A NONFICTION GRAPHIC COMICS EXHIBITION 2023

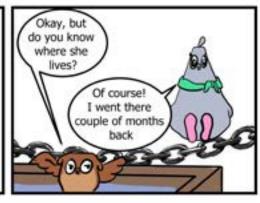


WRITER: NIJA MAHARJAN ILLUSTRATOR: DIYA LAXMI JOSHI



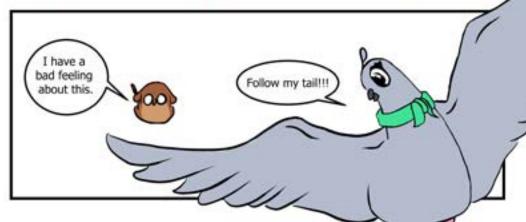


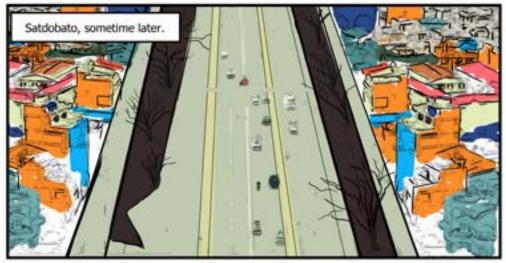








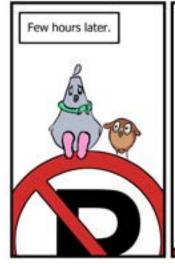


















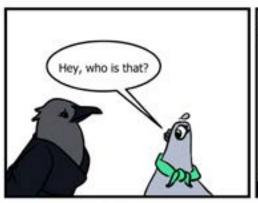




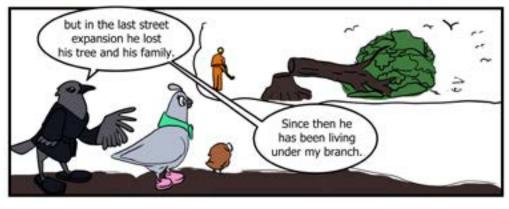


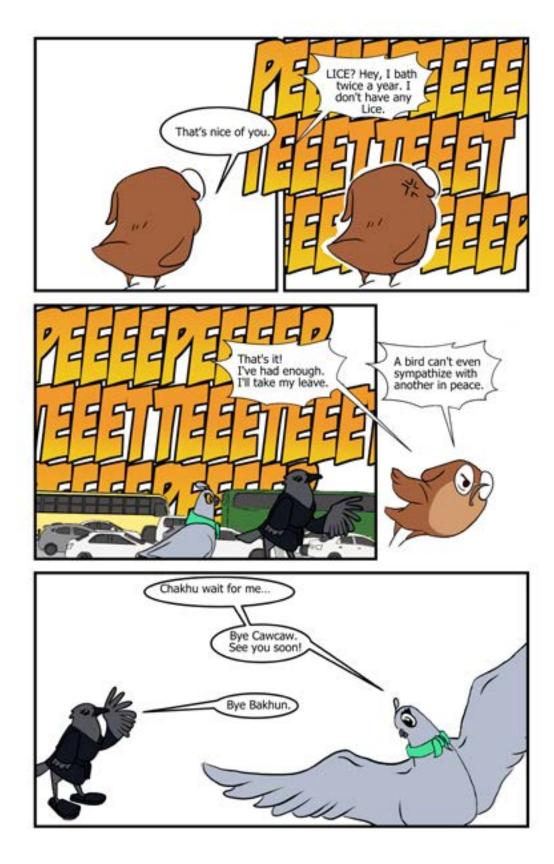


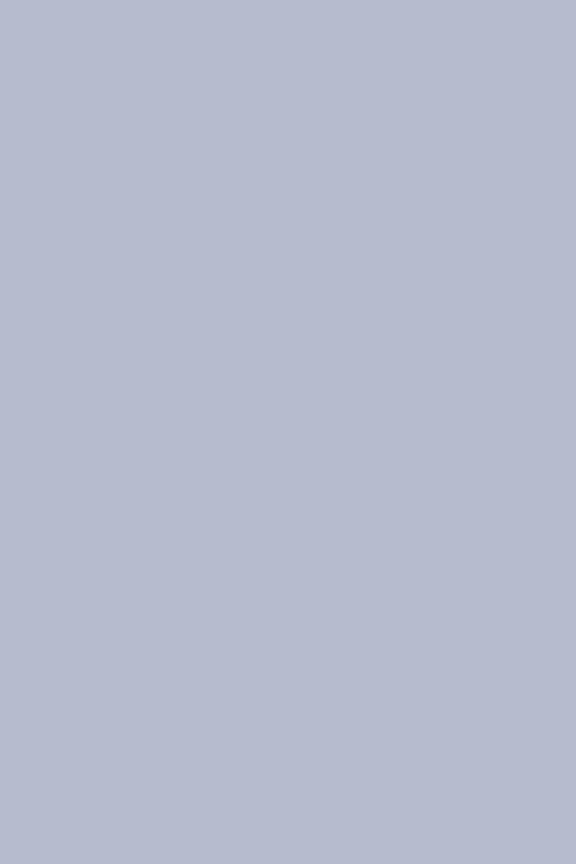














SHAHIN SUNUWAR

SHAHIN IS A DABBLER IN PHOTOGRAPHY, FILMMAKING, RESEARCH AND WRITING. A VERY LAZY PERSON WITH A CREATIVE HEAD, BASICALLY A 'SILAM KO ACHAR'.



ALINA CHHANTEL

ALINA IS A FREELANCE ILLUSTRATOR WHO IS PASSIONATE ABOUT TACKLING SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ISSUES THROUGH VISUAL STORYTELLING. SHE ENJOYS COLLABORATING WITH FELLOW CREATIVES TO EXPLORE THE INTRICACIES OF EVERYDAY LIFE IN HER ART.

HOUSEY, LOUSEY INTRUDERS



WRITER: Shahin Sunuwar

ILLUSTRATOR: ALINA CHHANTEL





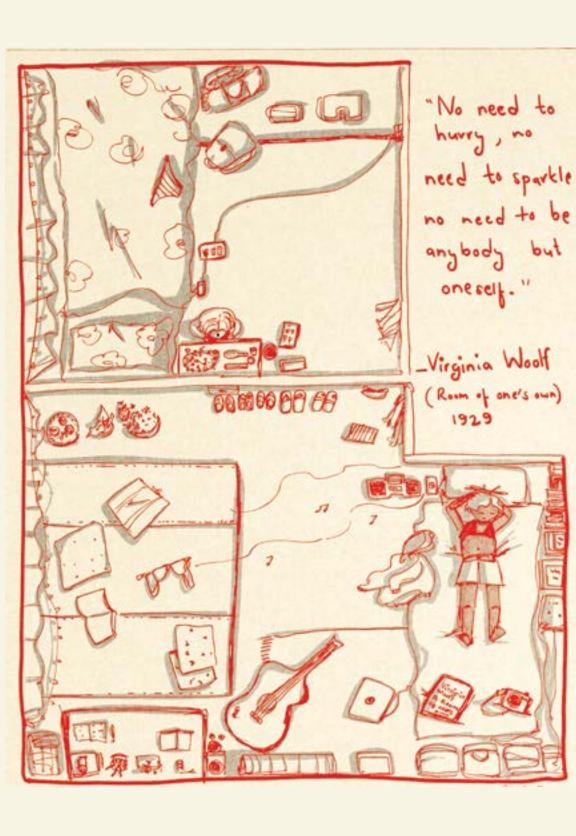














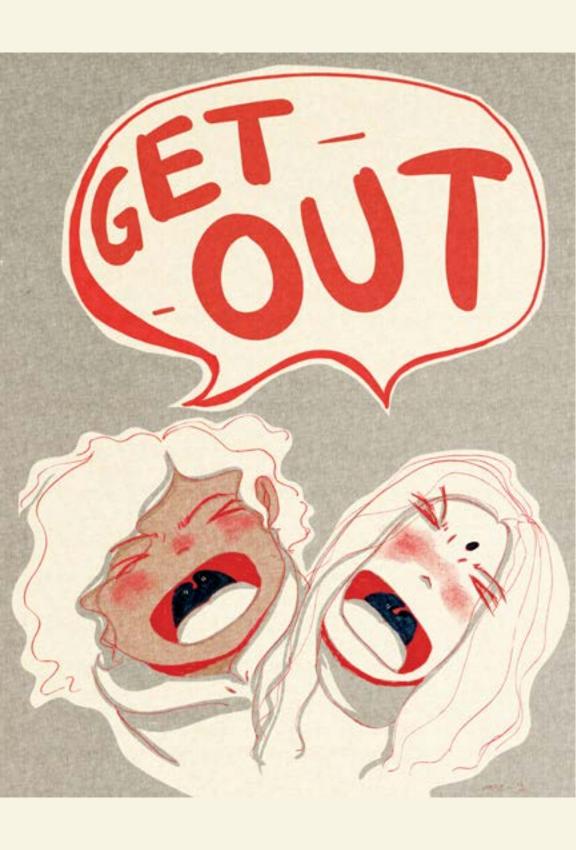




***** 6











SUJANA SINGH

HER WORK AIMS TO BRING FORTH PERSONAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL AND MORAL ISSUES THAT SURROUND GROWING UP AS A FEMALE IN URBAN KATHMANDU. SHE HAS WON AWARDS FOR SOME OF HER WRITINGS SUCH AS LETTER TO BUDDHA.

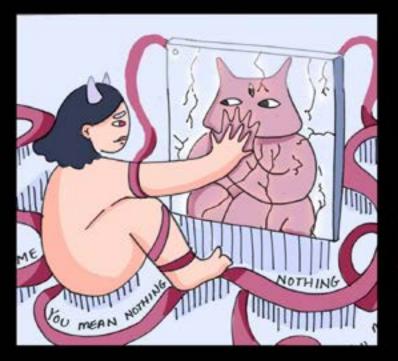


RICHENE SINGH

RICHENE, ALSO KNOWN AS KALAMI, IS AN ARTIST WHO SPECIALIZES IN NARRATIVE ILLUSTRATIONS, VISUAL STORYTELLING AND ANIMATIONS. HER WORK IS CENTERED AROUND EXPRESSING EMOTIONS AND CONNECTING WITH PEOPLE.

KNOW Yourself

"UNFOLDING NARRATIVES" A NONFICTION GRAPHIC COMICS EXHIBITION 2023

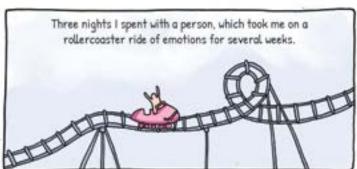


WRITER: Sujana Singh

ILLUSTRATOR: Richene Singh









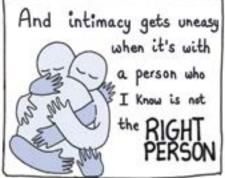










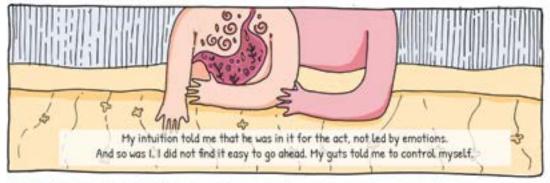


I thought. I felt that way after two nights. It did not feel genuine and relaxing.

Instead I was fearful of what might happen next.









It all came as a big pain after the experience. Saying goodbye was painful.



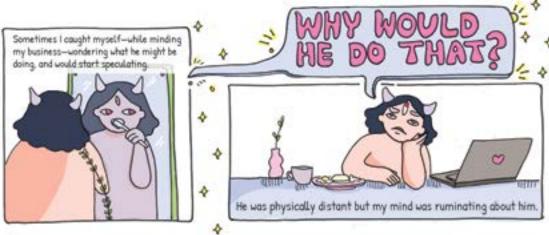
He had hugged me tightly and in such a long time I felt that I meant something to someone



Hissing someone is a deep sensation. It is powerful. So I found ways to deal with the longing: self-monitoring, singing, watching movies, meeting people, working, and just writing. But I could not help but overthink and feel that I was alone.











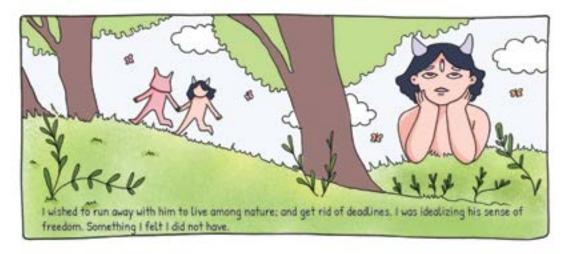


I was hurt and I needed the mental capacity to overcome the feeling of being belittled by this man.

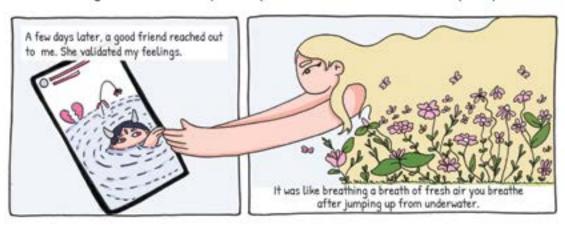


The sad moment in my life that brought me closer to my family and friends was hearing him say "You mean nothing to me."



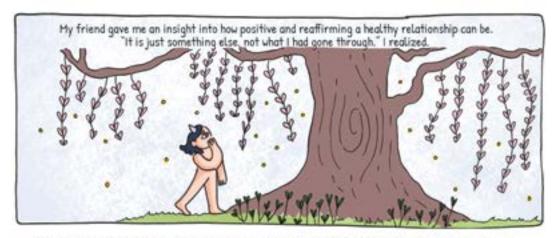


I was caught between reality and my desires, one of which was to fly away.



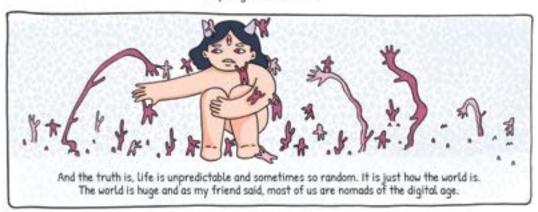
There are ways to differentiate good-hearted people and bad people.





I cherish these moments, as we sat in front of the beautiful pond and talked about life, it was amazing.

My laughter came back.







A kind of peaceful realization when sorrow grips your body.

The fact that death is inevitable.

You will no longer be tormented by this complex mind of yours.

But you'll be missed by many, forgotten or rejected by some. And loved by a few.

How many hearts will you have touched by the time you leave the earth?

Will you empathise with others and help them?

And in life's fleeting moments, in which some are heavier than others.

Some are happier than others.

What will you be doing? How will you be? And who will you meet?

I am proud of myself.

I went through it even when fear was so palpable. I tried something new.
I was humble when I said that I was nervous. A first for so many things.

You are beautiful'

A knowledge about myself. My self.

I moved through the heartache and the longing.

I went through it all.

Thank you dear.



BIRAT BIJAY OJHA

BIRAT BIJAY OJHA, AN ITAHARI NATIVE, IS A POET, WRITER AND EDUCATOR. THEY FOCUS ON QUEER AND ART-CENTRIC WRITING. ADVOCATING FOR ISSUES LIKE INTERSECTIONAL FEMINISM AND MENTAL HEALTH. BEYOND LITERATURE, BIRAT ENJOYS TRAVEL, PHOTOGRAPHY, AND SERIES EXPLORATION.



AASTHA CHEMJONG

AASTHA CHEMJONG IS A KATHMANDU-BASED BFA STUDENT AT LALIT KALA FINE ARTS CAMPUS, WHO SPECIALIZES IN ILLUSTRATION, PAINTING AND WIRE CRAFTS. HER WORK EXPLORES CONNECTIONS WITH NATURE AND PEOPLE, EMPHASIZING CHARACTER DESIGN AND METAPHORIC STORYTELLING.

PATAN, POETS, And Peach tea

"UNFOLDING NARRATIVES" A NONFICTION GRAPHIC COMICS EXHIBITION 2023



WRITER:
BIRAT BIJAY OJHA

ILLUSTRATOR: AASTHA CHEMJONG

Patan, Poets and Peach tea





I HOPE I CAN SEE HIM TODAY















HELLO ALL!

THIS IS LAXMI FROM POKHARA I'M PERFORMING ONE OF MY POEMS TODAY.



.....

OF CREVASSES MOLTEN, MERE AND BARE

OF CYNICISM SILENT, SUBTLE AND SHREWD

I FIND MYSELF

LOST, LORN AND TORN





as if

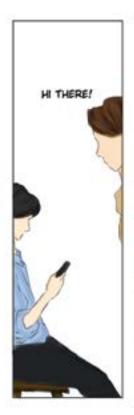


















HE THINKS I'M GOOD-LOOKING?

HOW COME A GOOD LOOKING GUY LIKE YOU SHOWS UP LONE HERE?

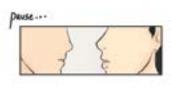


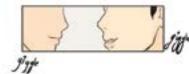
I DIDN'T HAVE ANYONE THAT CAUGHT MY EYE

UH.. AHEM.. BUT.. I GUESS EVERYTHING HAS CHANGED

















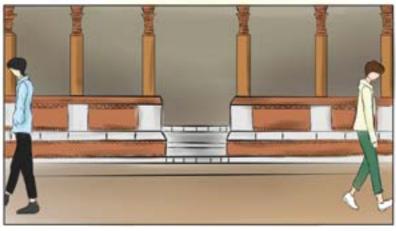




LAST DAY OF THE FESTIVAL







I HOPE I GET TO SEE HIM SOON !



MAITHILEE SHETTY

MAITHILEE, A MUMBAI-BASED EDITOR, WRITER AND FILMMAKER WITH A JOURNALISM BACKGROUND CREATES DOCUMENTARIES, VIDEOS AND VARIED AUDIO-VISUAL CONTENT. INSPIRED BY READING, CONVERSATIONS AND ART, SHE IS COMMITTED TO SHARING DIVERSE STORIES.



BISHWO MANANDHAR

BISHWO, A KATHMANDU-BASED VISUAL ARTIST WITH A BFA IN GRAPHIC COMMUNICATION, SPECIALIZES IN DIVERSE ILLUSTRATIONS. INSPIRED BY FOLKTALES, HORROR, AND PSYCHOLOGY, HE EXPLORES LIFE'S NUANCES THROUGH VARIOUS STYLES AND MEDIUMS.

THE TAXI STORY

"UNFOLDING NARRATIVES" A NONFICTION GRAPHIC COMICS EXHIBITION 2023



WRITER: MAITHILEE SHETTY

ILLUSTRATOR: Bishwo manandhar

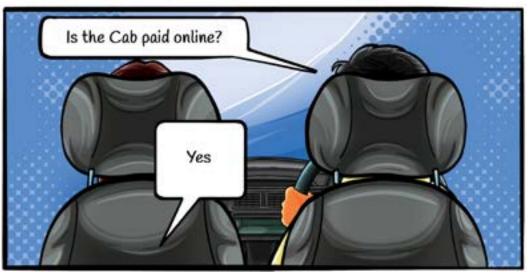










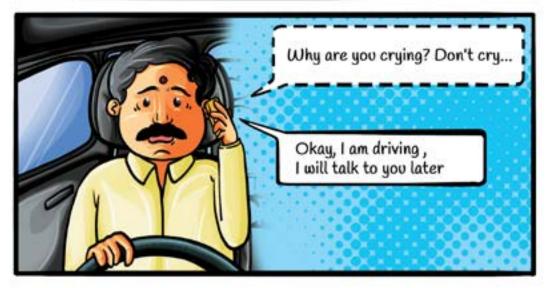




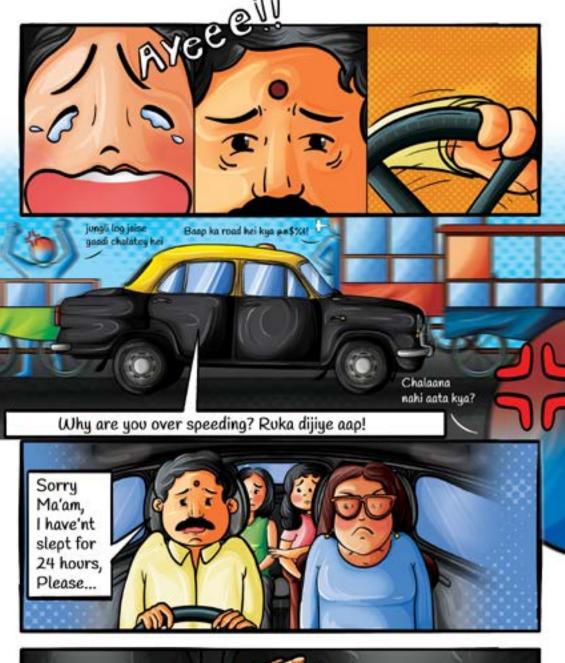
































The question of kindness lingers on...



PRANIKA KOYU

PRANIKA, A WRITER AND CAMPAIGNER, DELVES INTO IDENTITY AND RIGHTS ISSUES. SHE AUTHORED "BHAAV", A POETRY ANTHOLOGY AND "AMBAR KO DHUN", A CHILDREN'S STORYBOOK ON DISABILITY. KOYU ALSO EDITED "CHRONICLES OF SILENCE", A POETRY COLLECTION CAPTURING WOMEN'S EXPERIENCES IN NEPAL'S DECADE-LONG PEOPLE'S WAR.



PRAGYA NAKARMI

PRAGYA, AN ILLUSTRATOR AND GRAPHIC DESIGNER, CONTRIBUTES TO THE EDUCATIONAL FIELD BY INCORPORATING ART FOR INTERACTIVE LEARNING. SHE BELIEVES THIS APPROACH FOSTERS CHANGE AND OFFERS DIVERSE PERSPECTIVES. SHE ENJOYS PHOTOGRAPHY AND IMMERSING HERSELF IN BOOKS.

UNFOLDING Narratives

THE TATTLER

"UNFOLDING NARRATIVES" A NONFICTION GRAPHIC COMICS EXHIBITION 2023

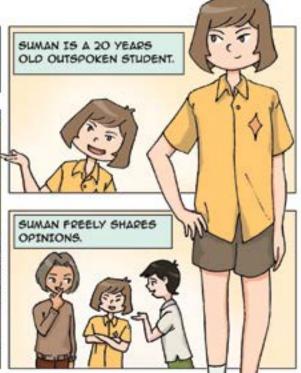


WRITER: Pranika koyu

ILLUSTRATOR: Pragya nakarmi

































AM I MISSING SOMETHING ?

WELL! MUM IS THE WORD!

BUT SUMAN THINKS IT FEELS ...PAKE... THAT YOU AND YOUR POSTS DO NOT MATCH.

























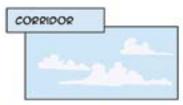


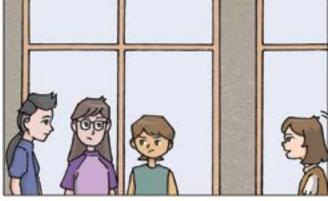


















SOMEONE'S SAYING KIRAN'S POSTS ARE FAKE.

> DO YOU KNOW WHO IT IS ?













PEOPLE SURE LOVE TO TATTLE, DON'T THEY? I DIDN'T KNOW TILL NIMA TOLD ME.





The Tattler

Story By : Pranika Koyu Art By : Pragya Nakarmi



SUMITRA BOGATI

SUMITRA, A SPOKEN WORD POET AND EDUCATOR FROM DHARAN, IS A MANDALA DRAMA SCHOOL FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM FELLOW RESIDING IN KATHMANDU. SHE EMBRACES PERFORMING ARTS, TEACHING, WORKSHOPS AND COOKING FOR A FLAVORFUL LIFE.



ASLESHA BAJRACHARYA

ASLESHA, AN ILLUSTRATOR, DEPICTS DIVERSE THEMES FROM SOCIAL AND CULTURAL TO CHILDREN'S ILLUSTRATIONS. RECENTLY VENTURING INTO FICTION, SHE CONTRIBUTES TO INSTALLATION PROJECTS FOR GREEN SHERPA, ADDRESSING PLASTIC POLLUTION IN MOUNTAINOUS REGIONS.

UNFOLDING Narratives

TO BE TRUE

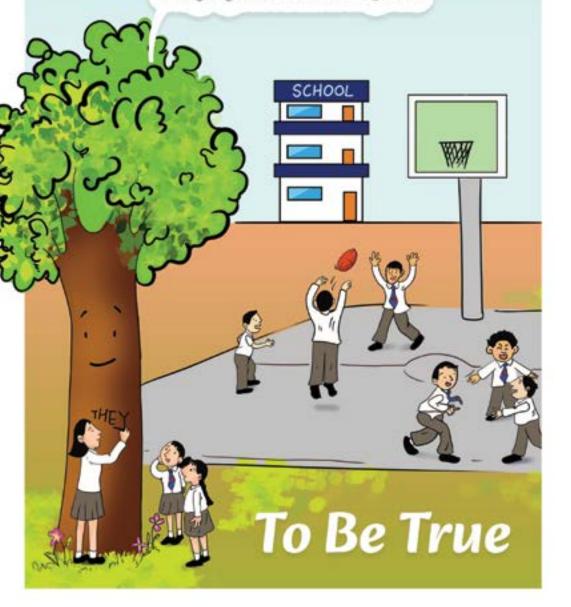
"UNFOLDING NARRATIVES" A NONFICTION GRAPHIC COMICS EXHIBITION 2023

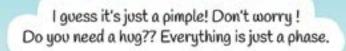


WRITER: Sumitra Bogati

ILLUSTRATOR: Aslesha bajracharya Hi! I am Tree, you can call me "THEY". I was planted and have been growing up inside a school. I have been witnessing these young souls growing around me for decades. My world is filled with Humans, birds ,grasses ,stones , buildings and many more.

Out of which humans are my favorite. I get to meet them every day. I would ask nothing else.

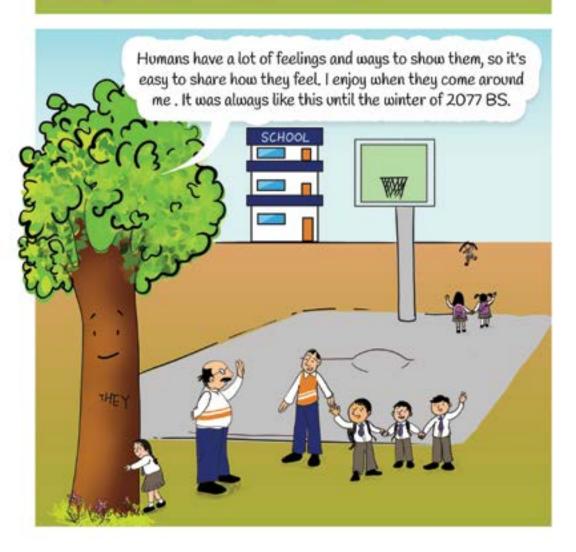


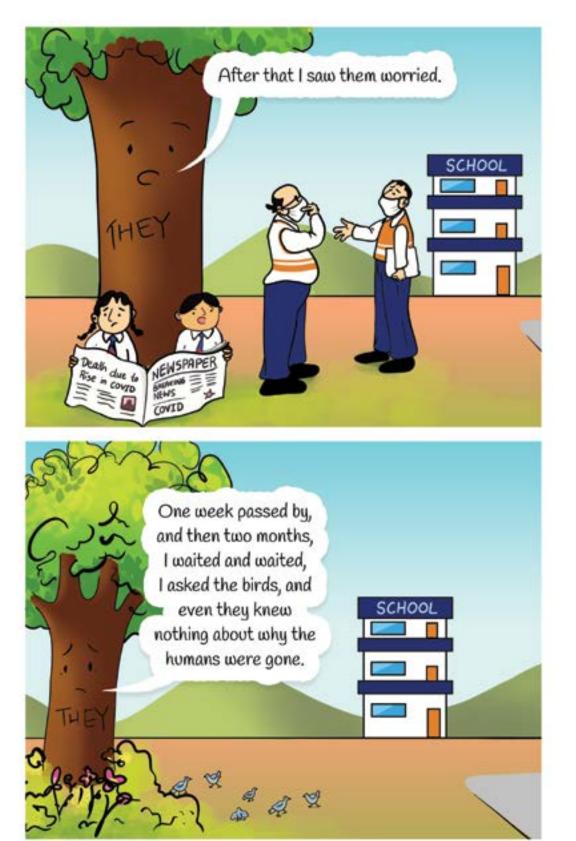


I am not beautiful enough!



You are having a good day?



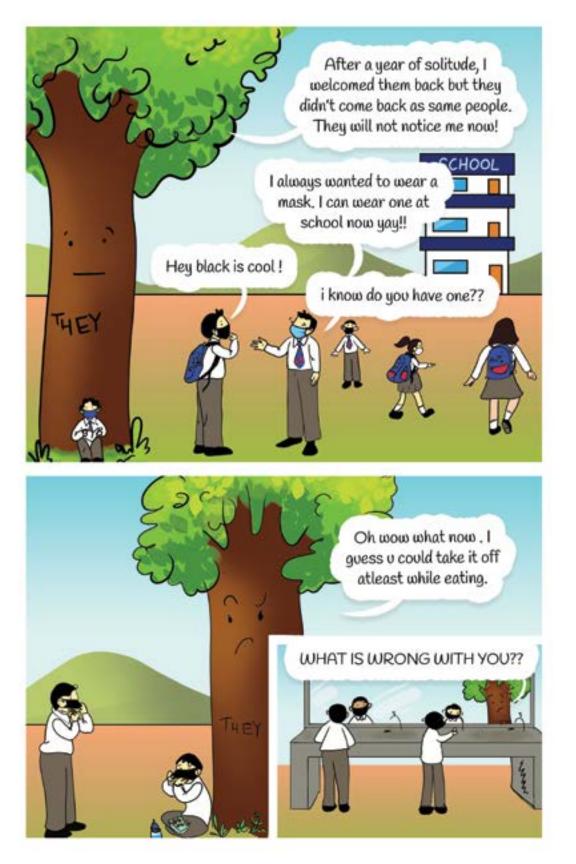














Last night I had a dream. It was a party. I was the host, and I shared my journey of becoming a tree. From a small plant and being able to bear flowers. Then birds started singing and everyone started dancing under me. I showered them with all my flowers and let them touch my bare branches. Asked them to feel it, cherish

