



BE A GOOD  
ANCESTOR




THE  
MICHELA MARTELLO  
COLORING BOOK





# MICHELA MARTELLLO



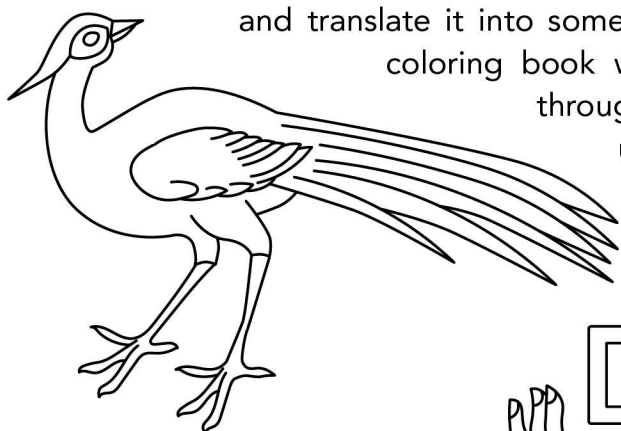
is an Italian-born illustrator-turned-artist who lives and works in Brooklyn producing murals and artworks on textiles. A perpetually curious and interdisciplinary artist, Martello brings together traditional and contemporary influences, incorporating a variety of techniques, mediums, themes, and cultural 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.



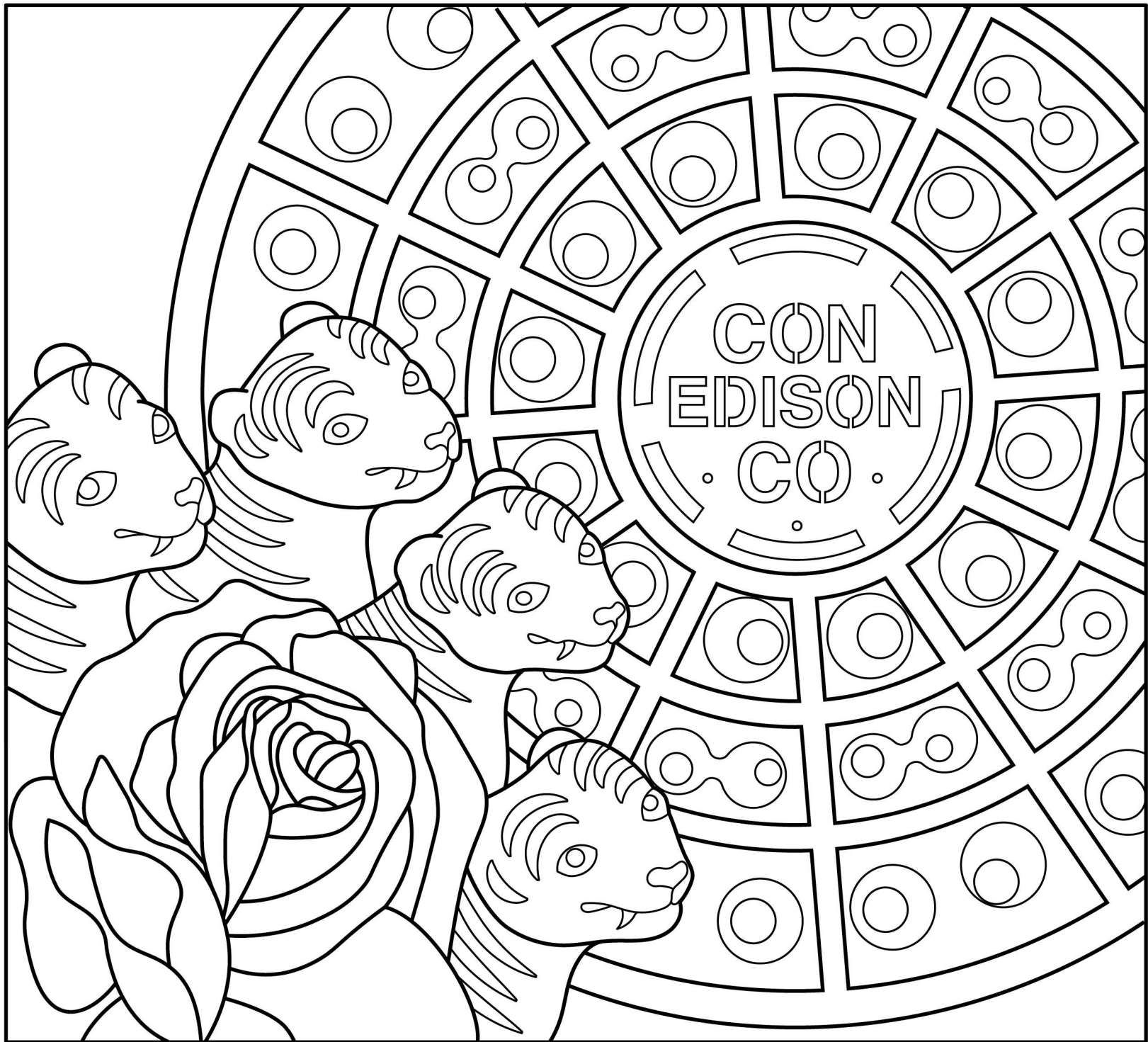
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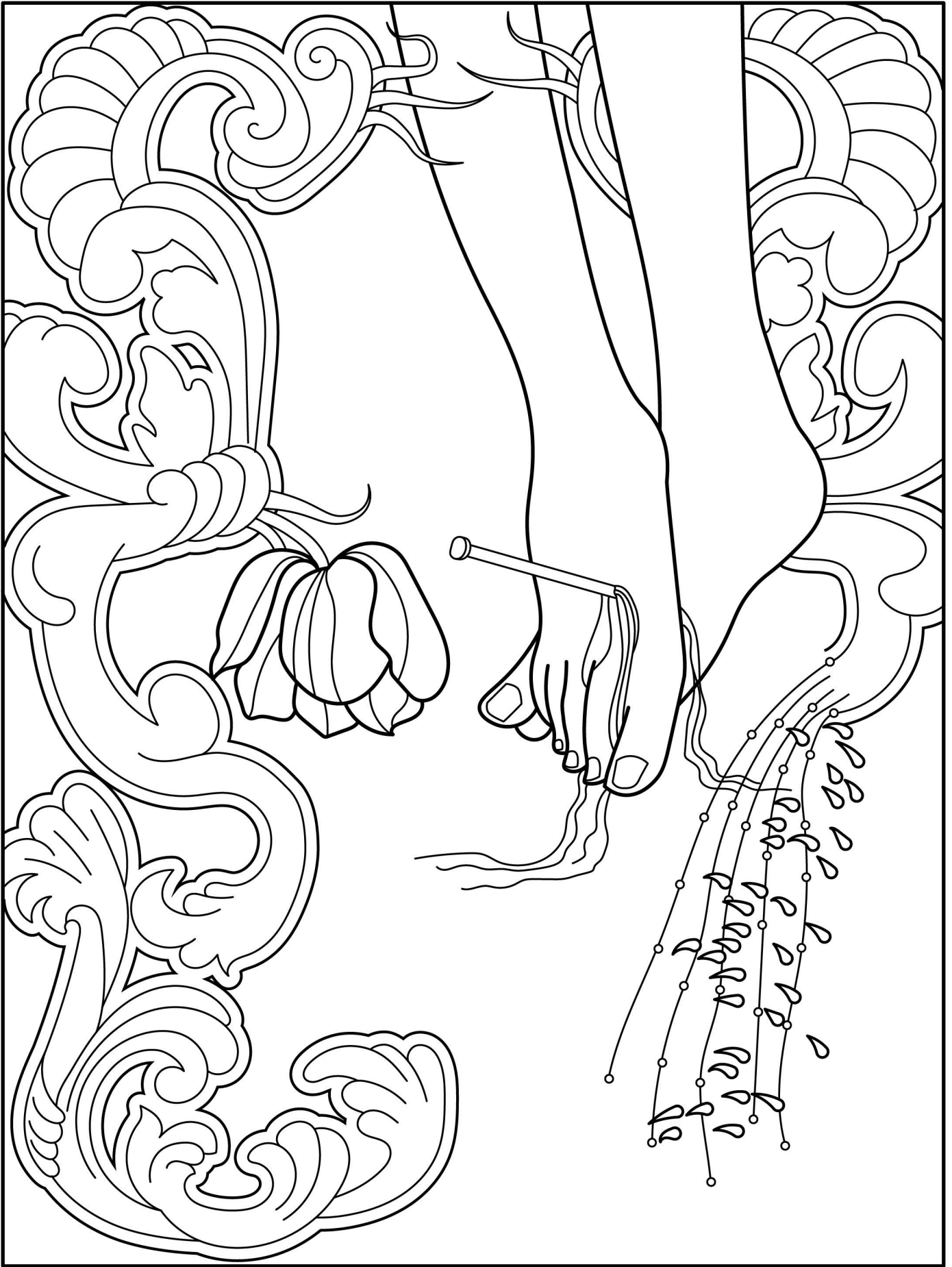
Associate Executive Director, Pen + Brush







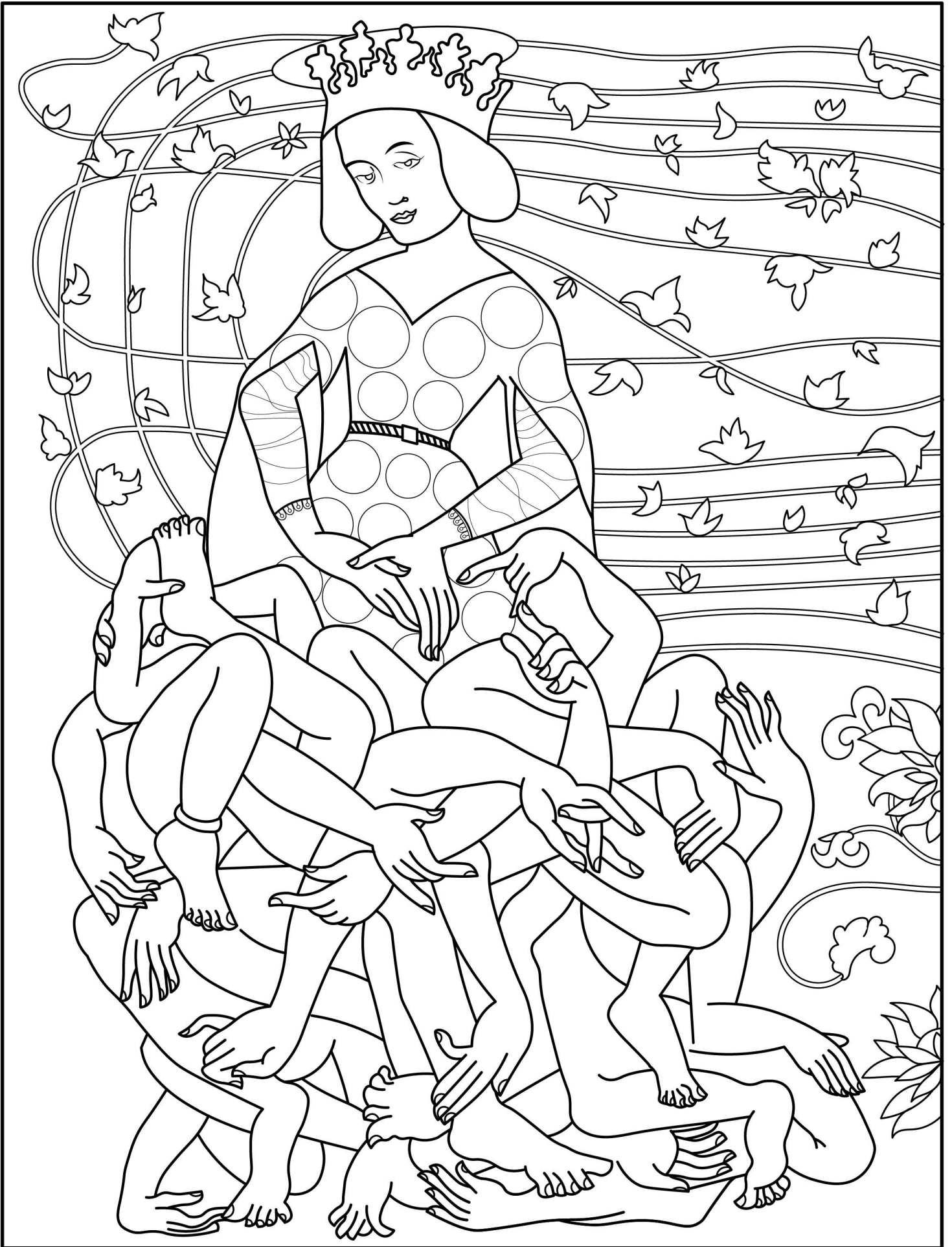


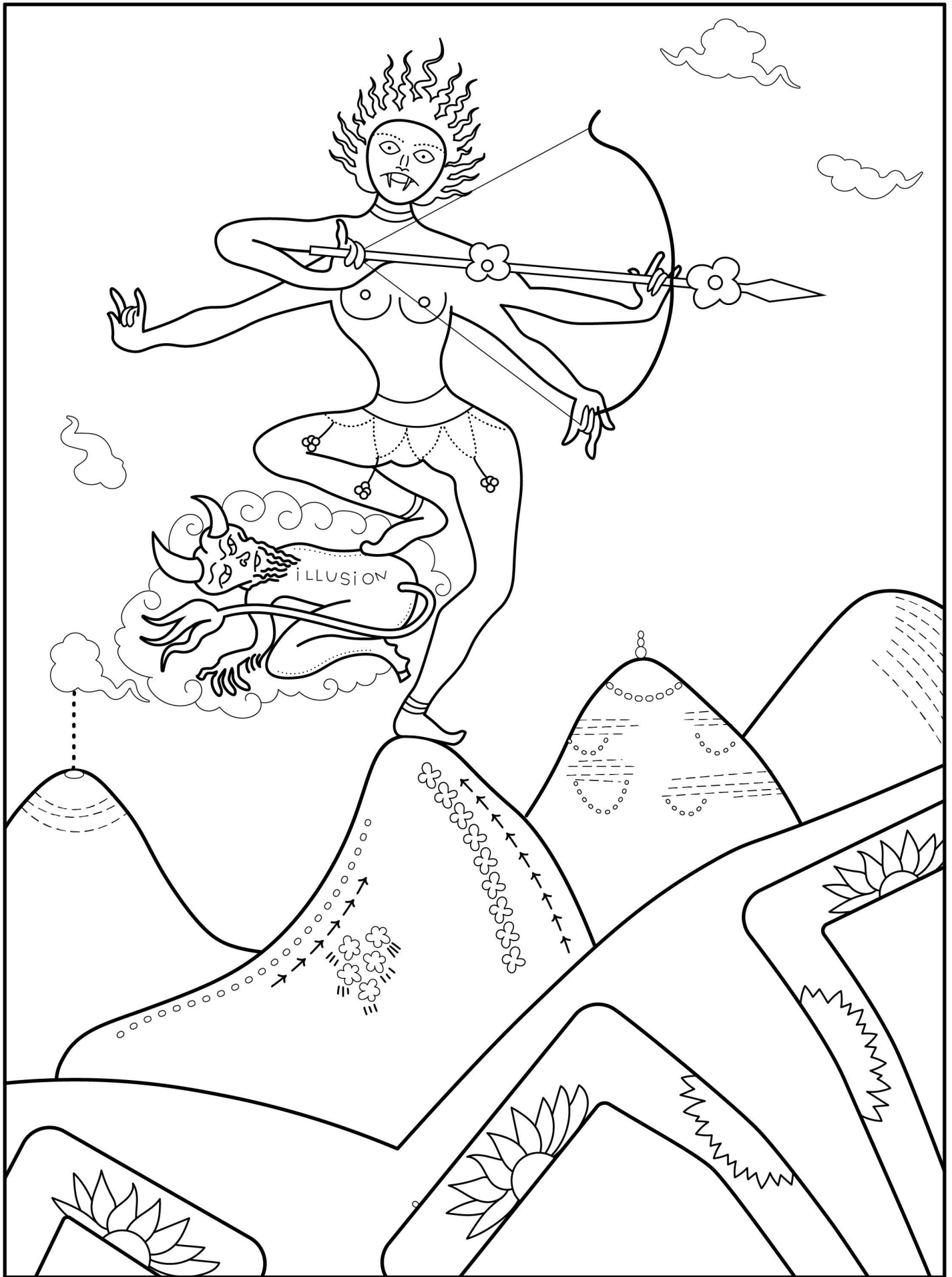












Michela Martello, *Crazy Wisdom*, 2017 (detail)



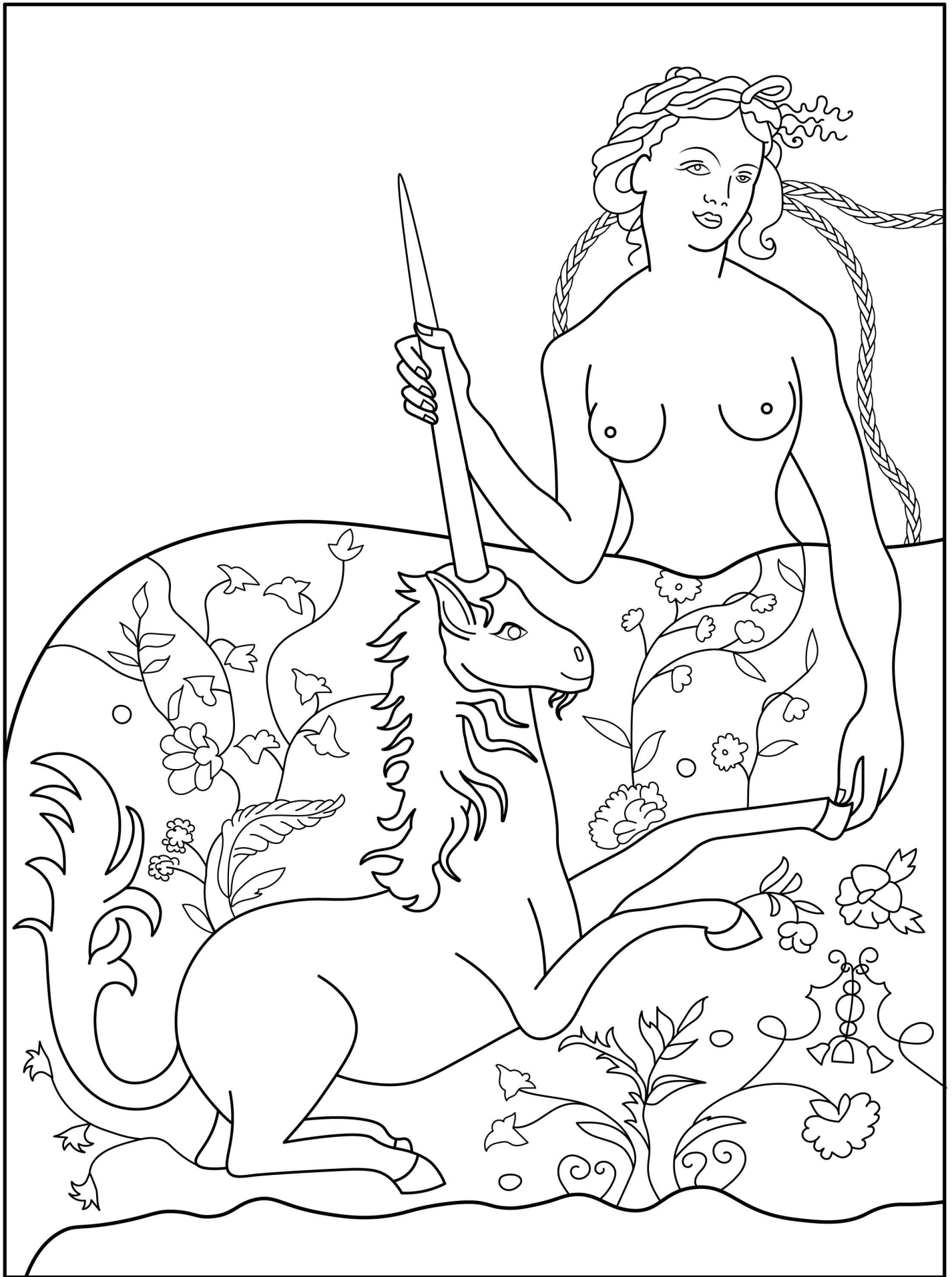
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Michela Martello, *Embers*, 2018 (detail)



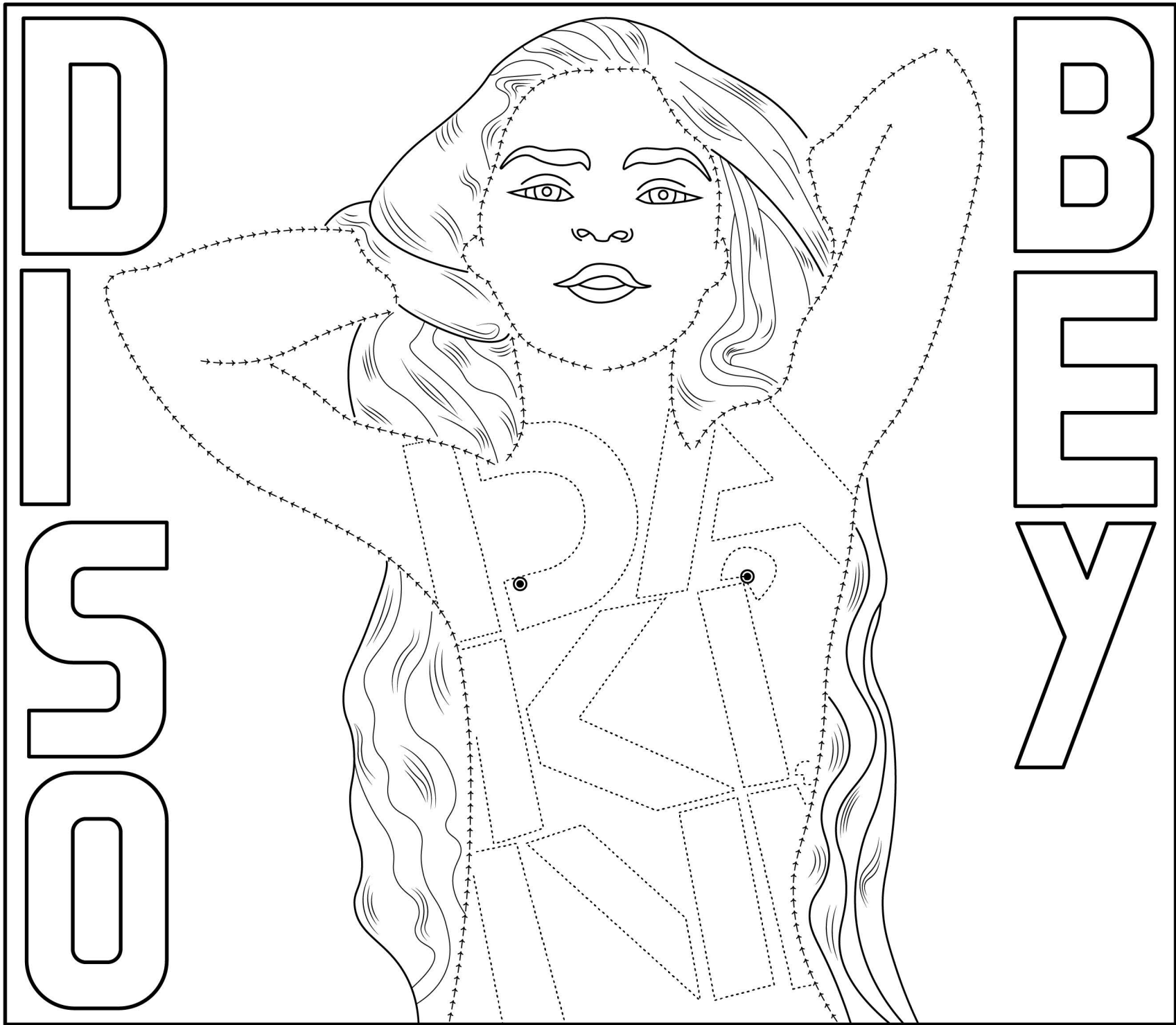
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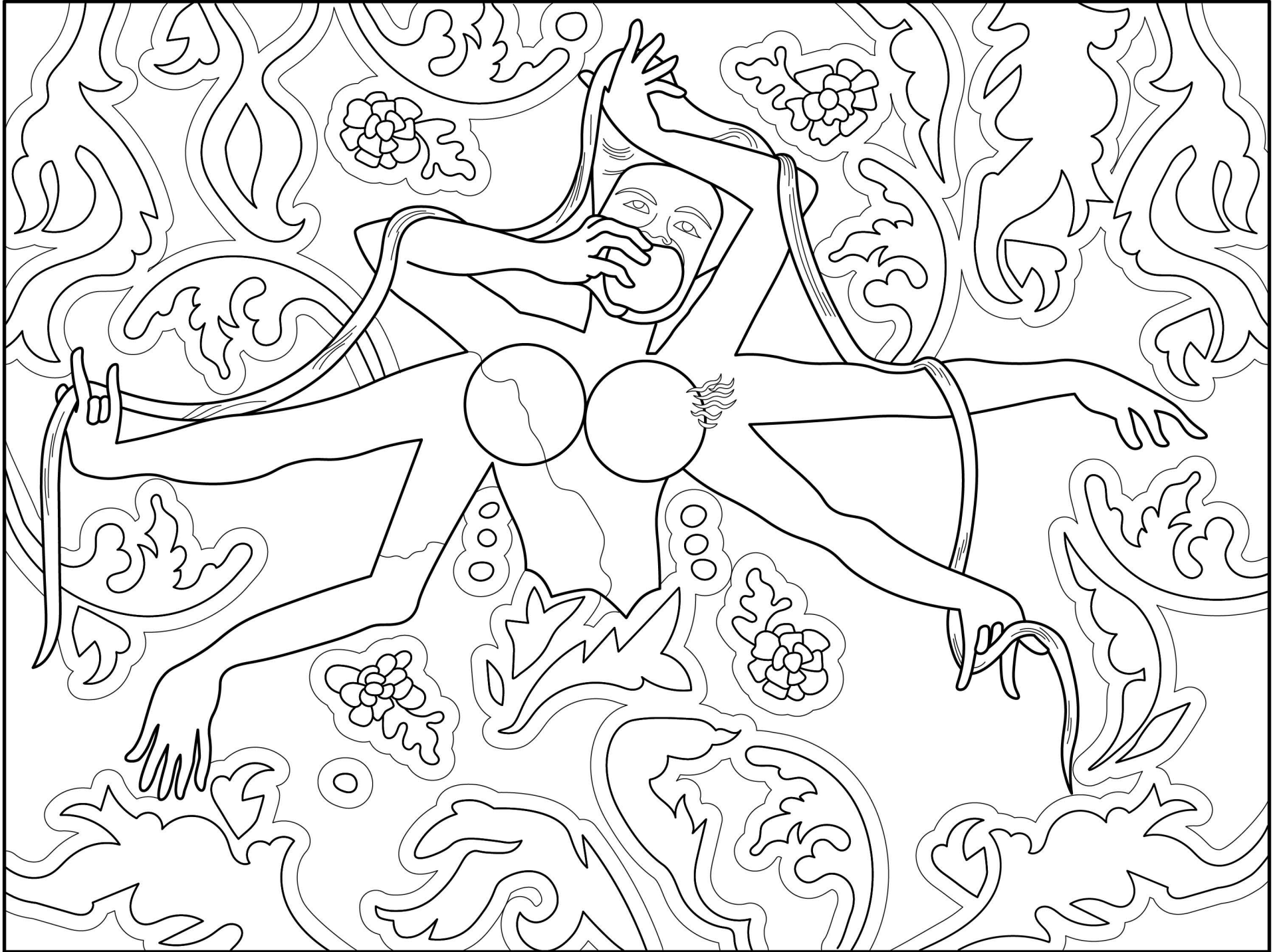


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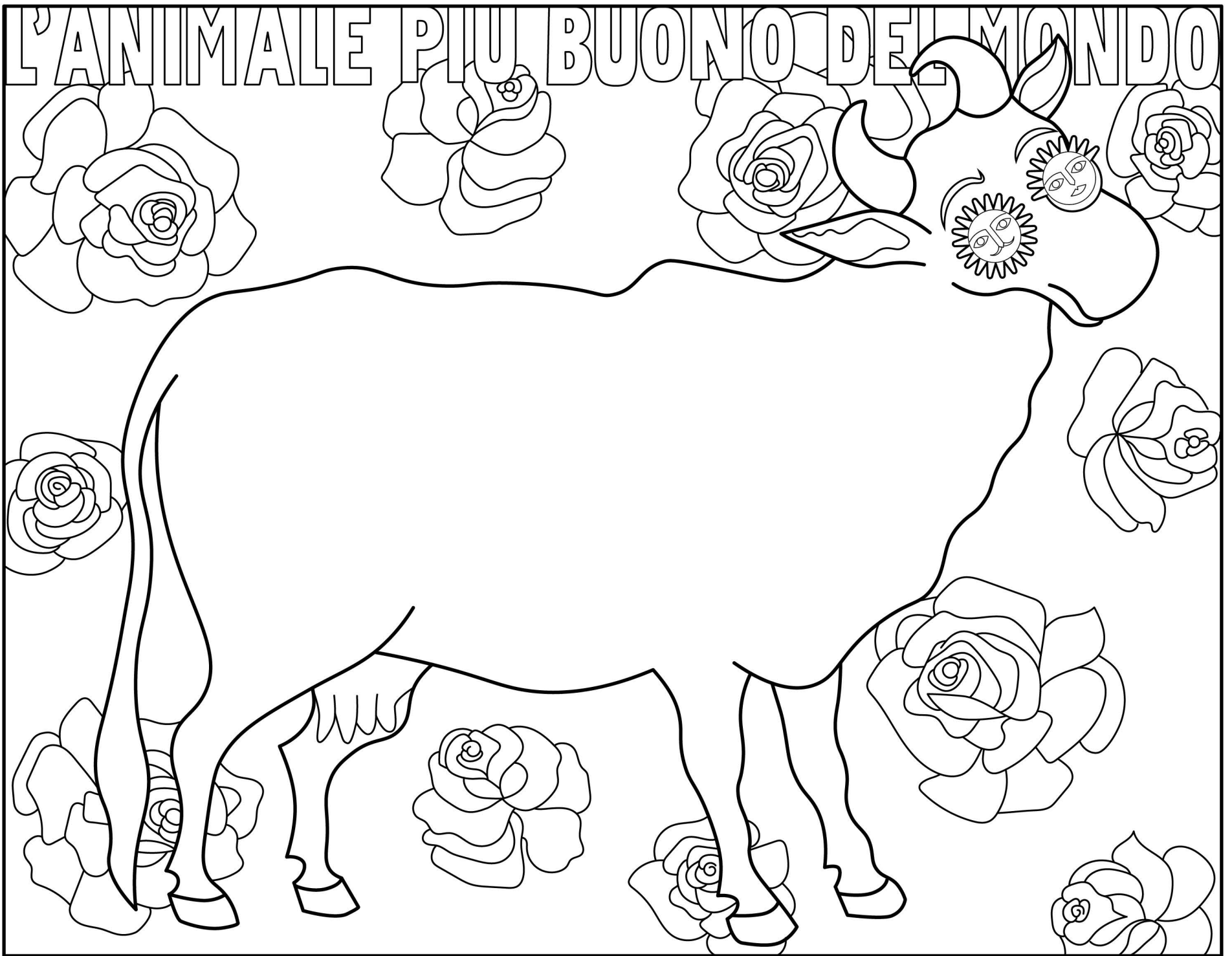


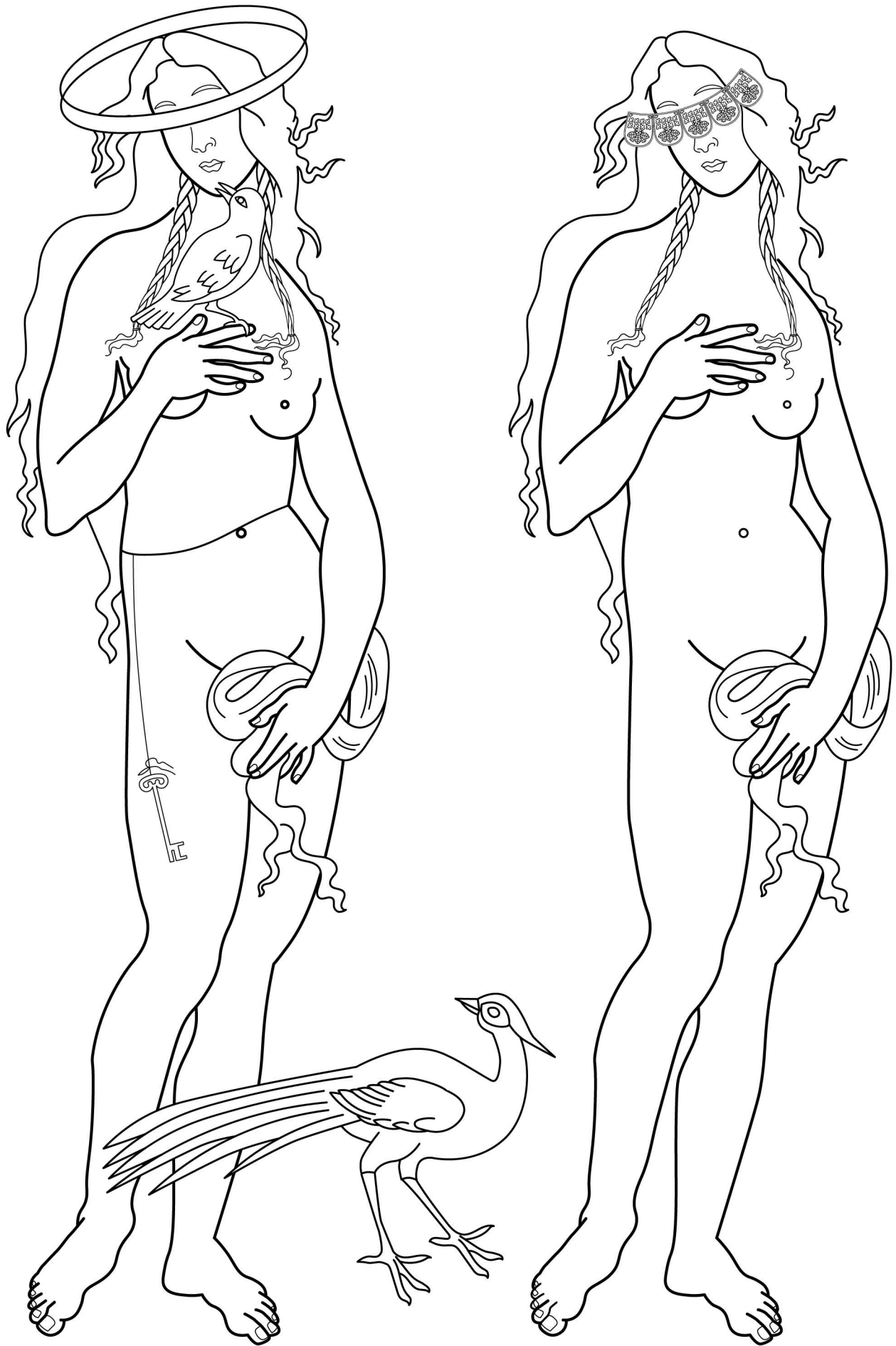
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Michela Martello, *Life Life*, 2019 (detail)





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



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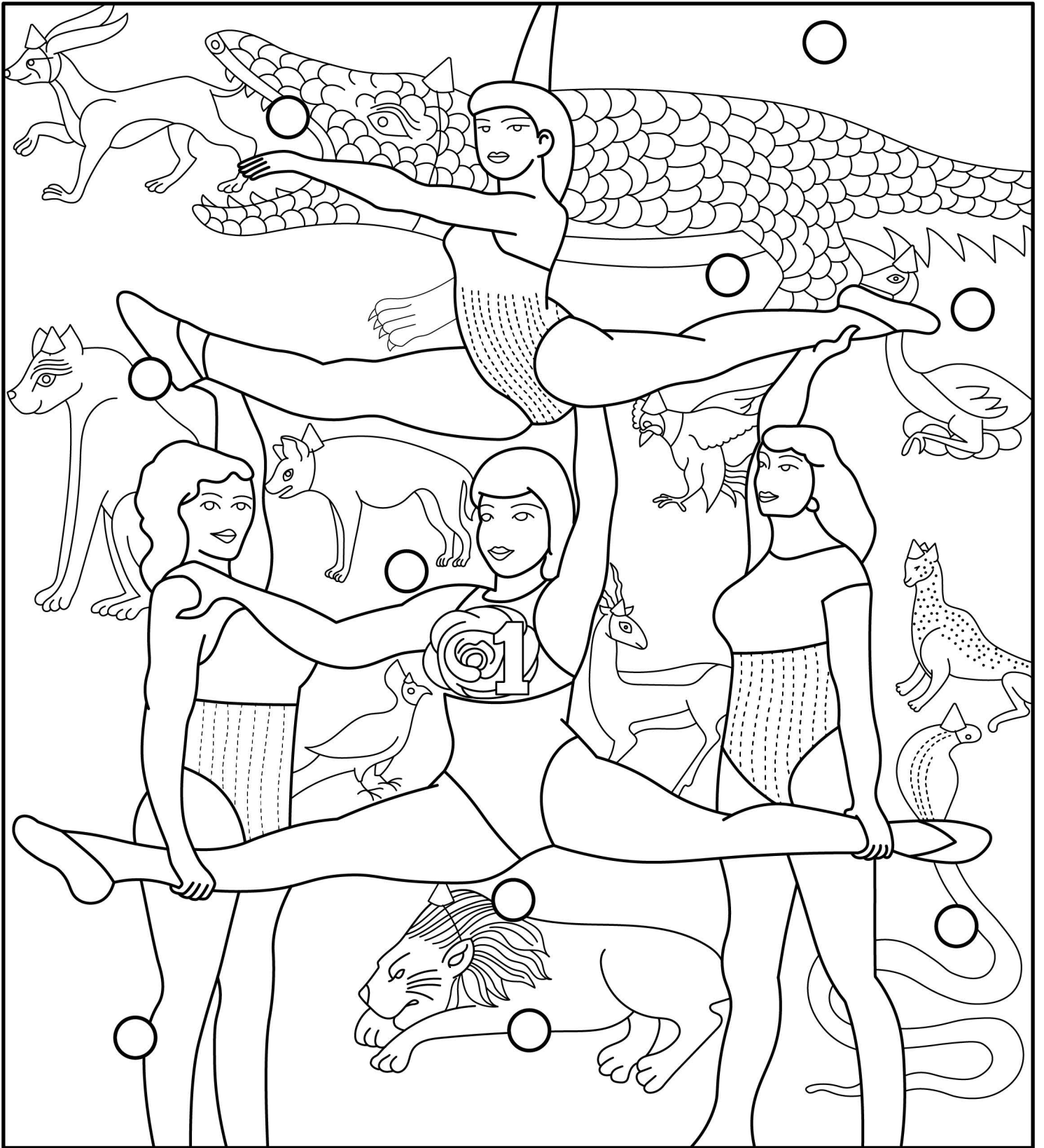


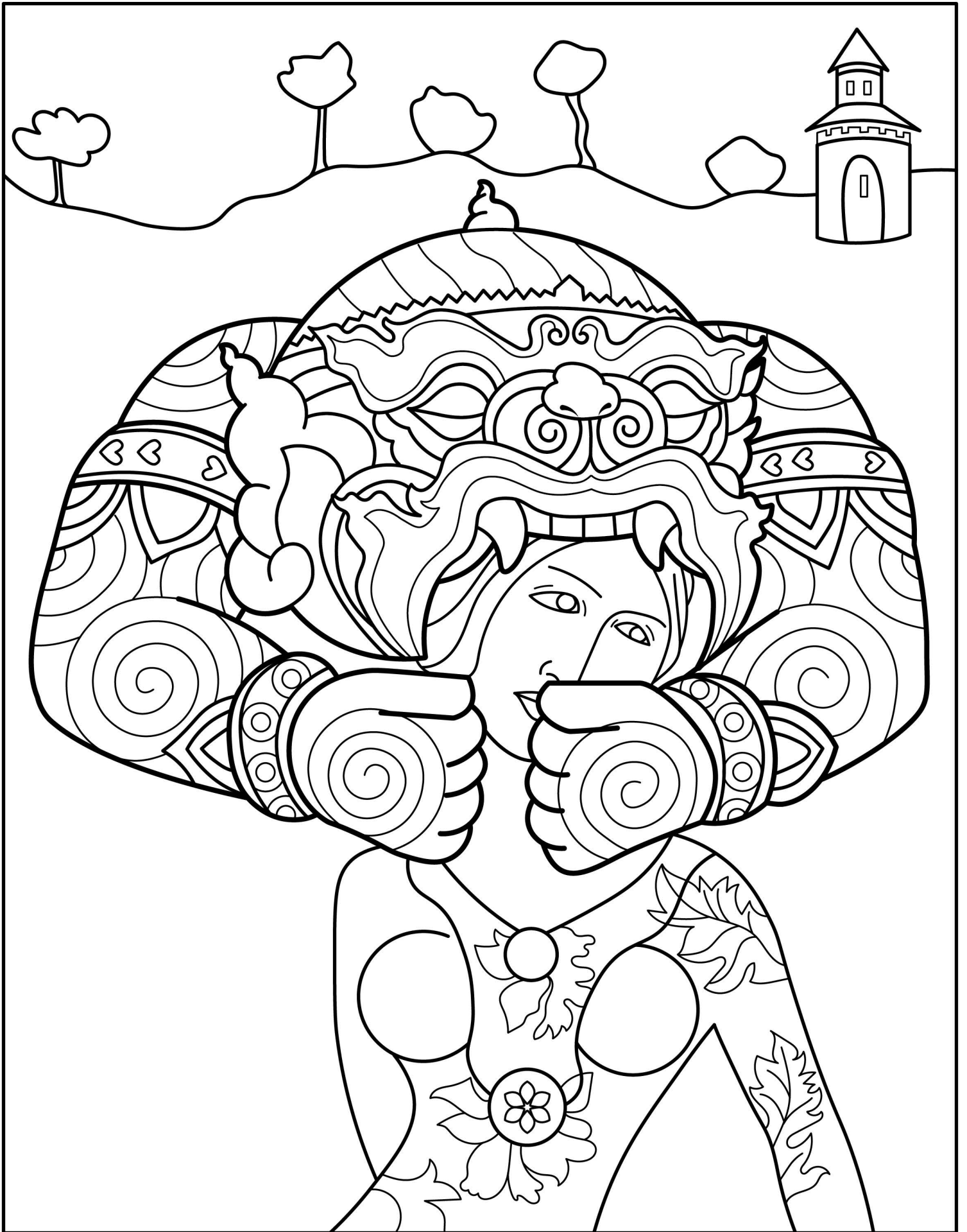
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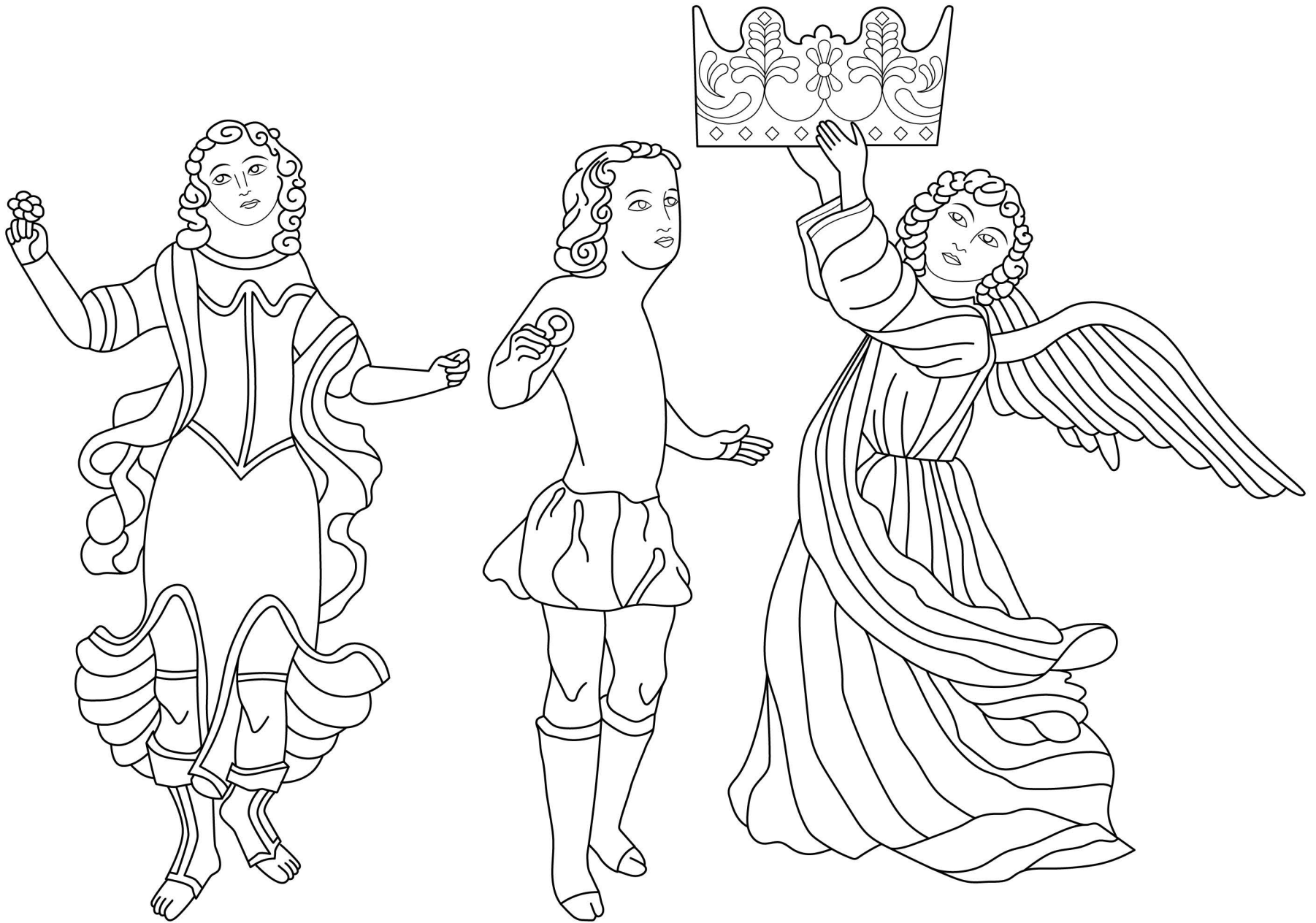


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Michela Martello, *Don't run away*, 2008



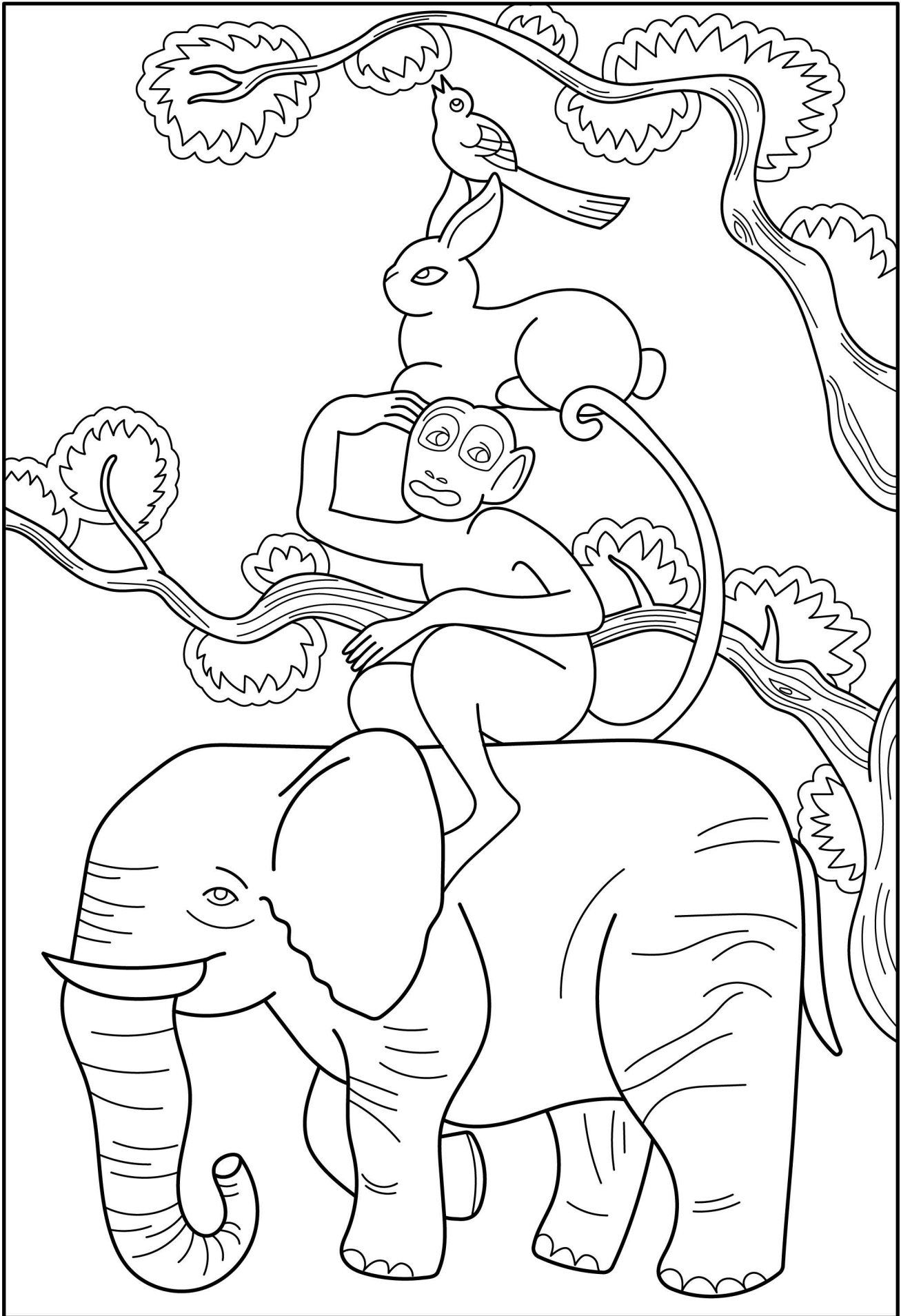
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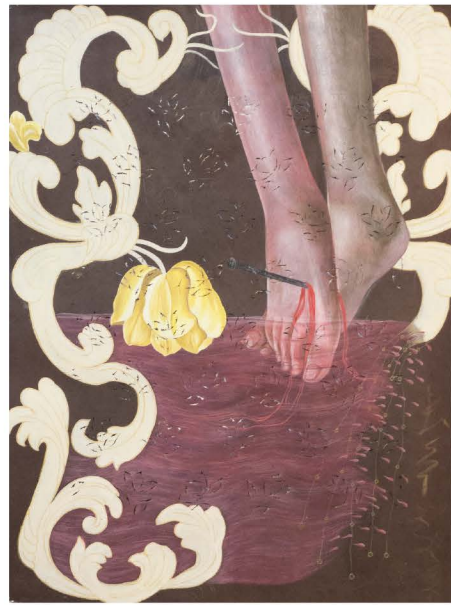
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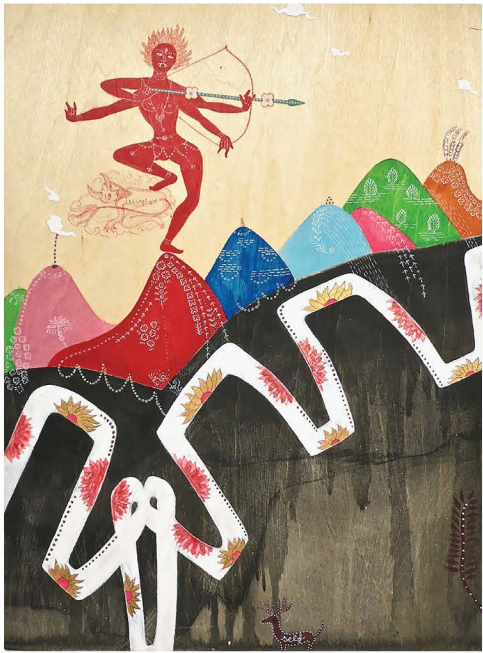
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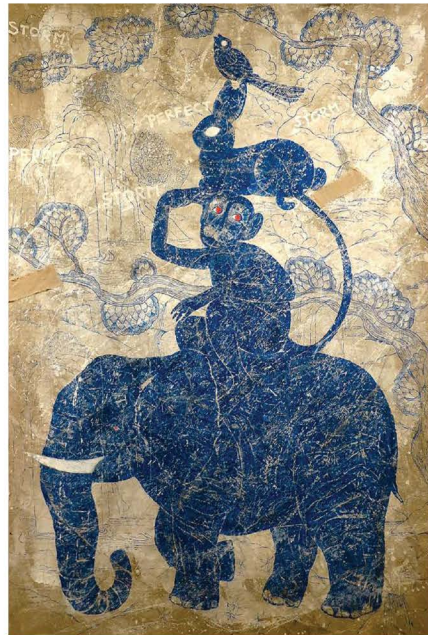
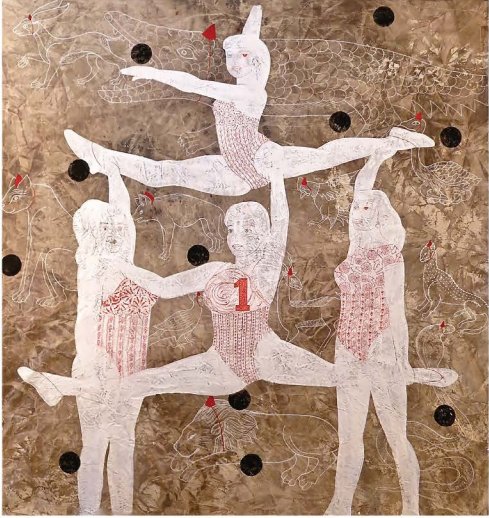












## Be a Good Ancestor: The Michela Martello Coloring Book

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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