



LOCAL COLORING

5 writers
67 artists

Axle Contemporary



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Front cover: detail, Rose Simpson

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In response to the Social Distancing recommendations in the world at this time, Axle Contemporary is offering our 2017 Local Coloring book for free online. If you have access to a printer, please download the book, read the stories, and color the pages with your pens, crayons, and imagination!

We'll release one story and its accompanying drawing pages each week for five weeks.

Visit www.axleart.com to download.

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Axle Contemporary Press

(BREATHE)

Melody Sumner Carnahan

Four black swans float in a dark pond () one white duck watches from a dry rock ledge () on the birth side of the unfinished cathedral () leaves turn to birds turn to stars () the dressed stone glistens smelling of soap and money () across the street, children pay to ride () in circles () in spirals () with blinking lights and noise () he calls out the price with a voice from hell () nearby alley sells whiskey and cadavers, the caracara bird () lives () in the zoo, its left wing snapped () crows in groups are free to come and go () in the cold red light () where owls and night birds hatch, a Bengali tiger roams, wearing stripes of gold and white () she () has () the () face of God () the sacred Ibis repeatedly taps the ground with its beak () at water's edge sunset hour patterned cast concrete pieces wash up on shore along with chunks of wood and *bomba volcanica* and fragments of steel mesh embedded in glass () an unworked feldspar column divides () the beach in half () one side young girls practice judo kicks () the other side old men in red bathing trunks swim out in high tide () this winter brings the coldest air in thirty years but it makes little difference to these white-haired, ruddy chested, thin-legged men () it is so dark now the boatman lights a match to read the coins I drop into his hand () two heavy wood oars, a fiberglass boat, I paddle around the pond three times stopping near () the duck's nest () the waterfall () bowing my head to glide beneath the footbridge over which roller skaters pass () in the public square I'm surprised to find rope-soled persons of all ages dancing together on cobblestones while children fuel bonfires with discarded Christmas trees, broken office chairs, smashed cassette players, and plastic bags filled with data sheets () they sing and clap in rhythm tossing atomizer cans into the flames, which explode to shouts of glee () my mind fills with imagery from the *Museo de Arte Moderno* () an engraving titled "Cupid's First Sight of Psyche" () she's lying prone fair breasts exposed her head dropped back in a faint her right arm dangling in the pool into which a cascade of water falls () Cupid's face is full of doom () and longing () he bends over her in bewilderment () () in the engraving titled "Cupid Reviving Psyche" she's awake and radiant, her nakedness covered, his features composed () the two are depicted in a seascape with stormy clouds and the moon battling for supremacy () however, the water is missing () there is no water in the sea () all the water in the sea has been drawn back steeply in preparation for a tidal wave.







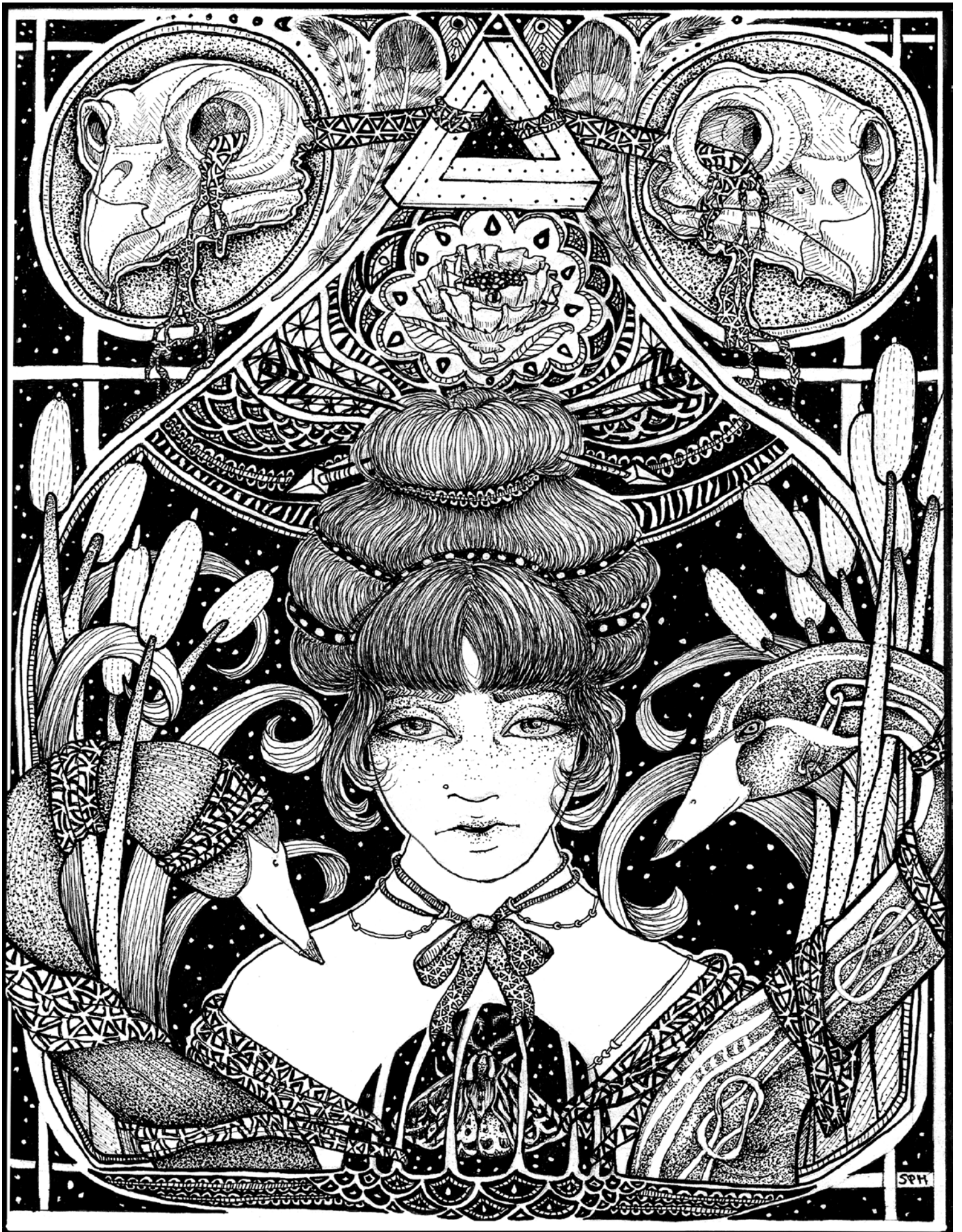




Anastasio Wrobel



Joshua Atlas



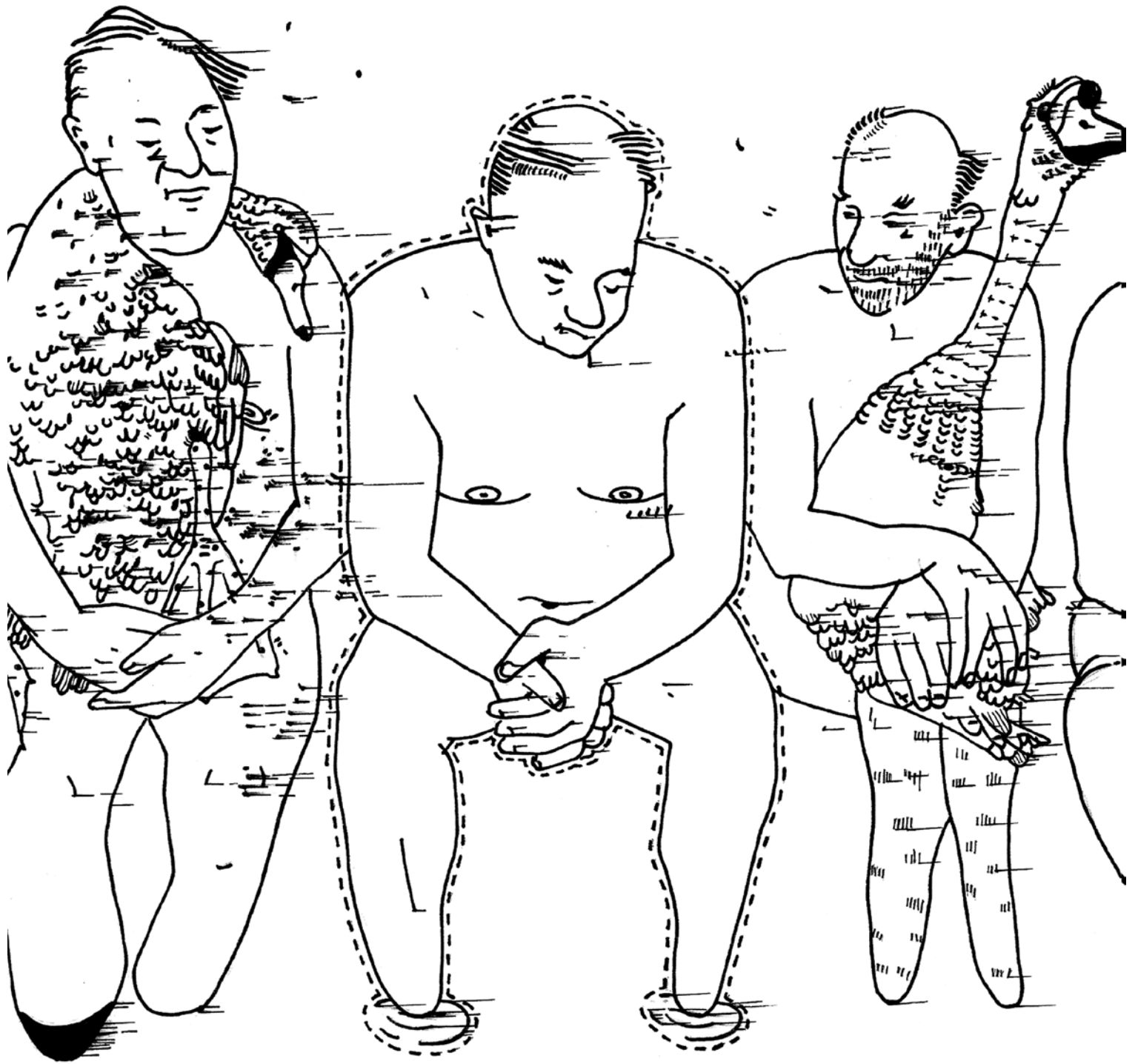
SPH

Sienna Heinemann



Alexandra Eldridge









Betty Yozell



