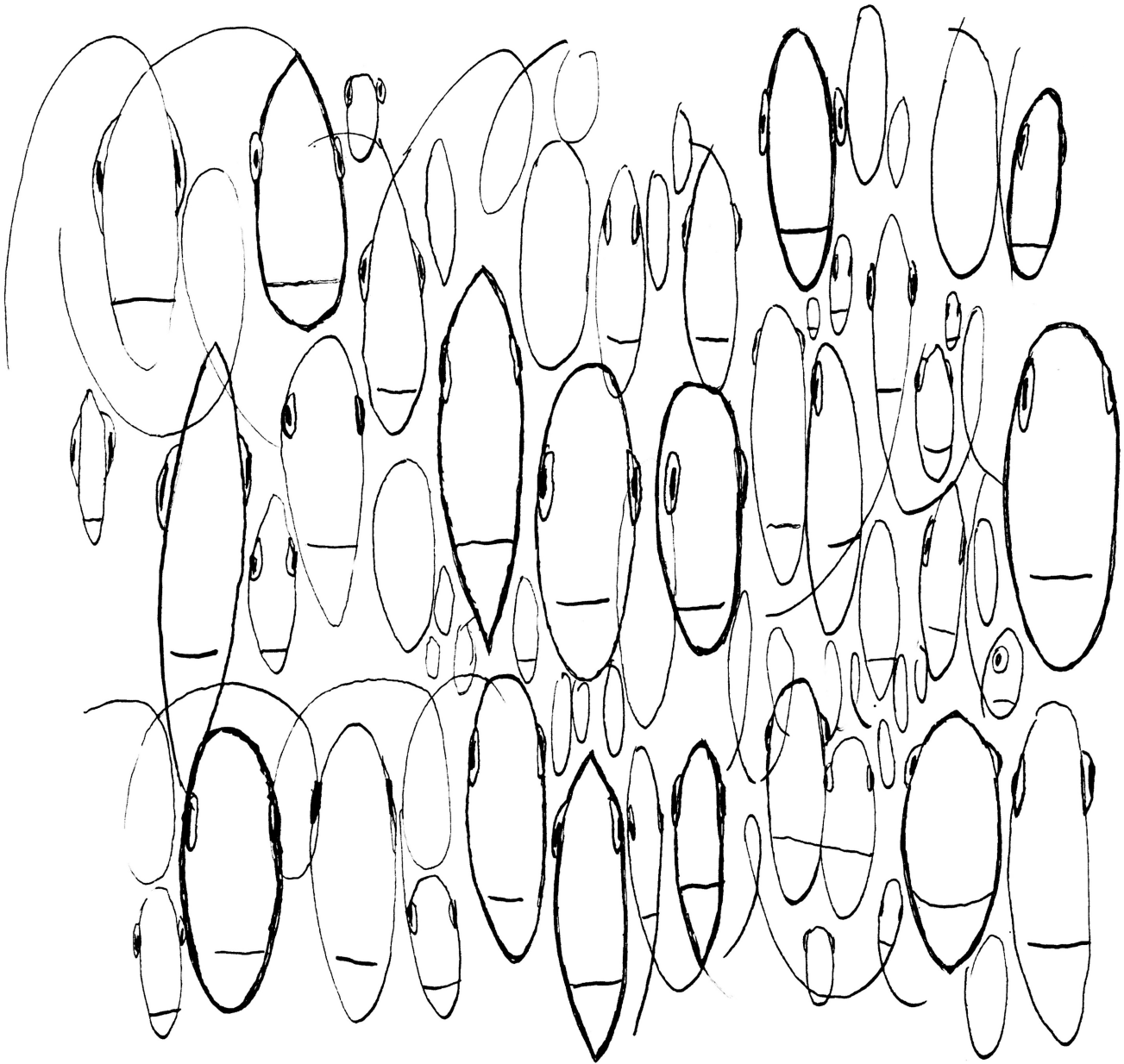


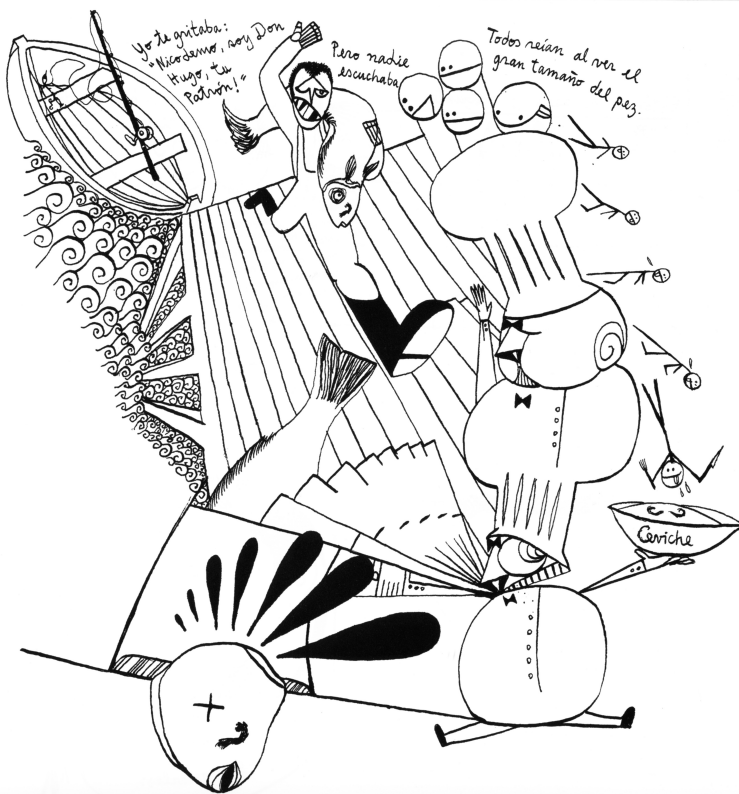
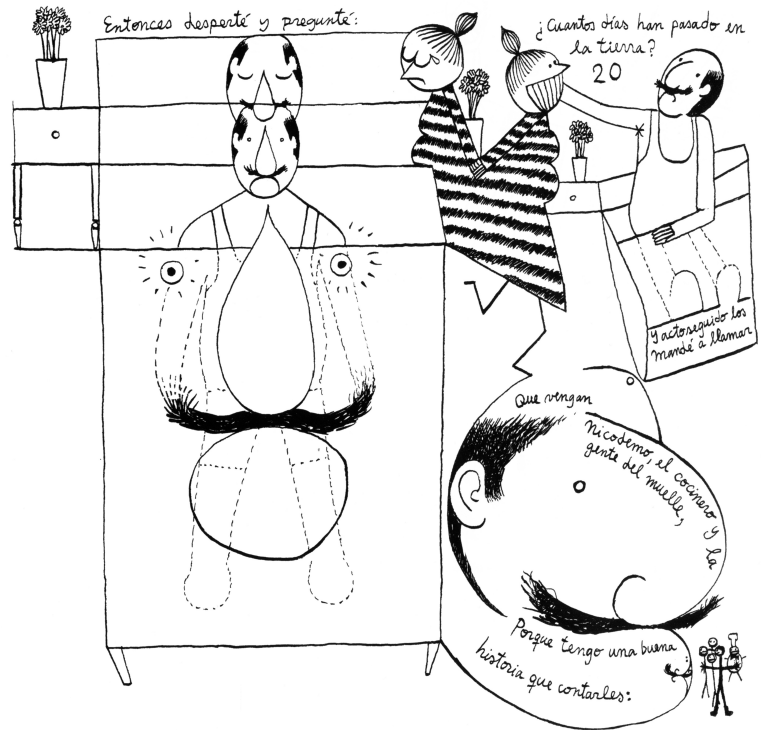
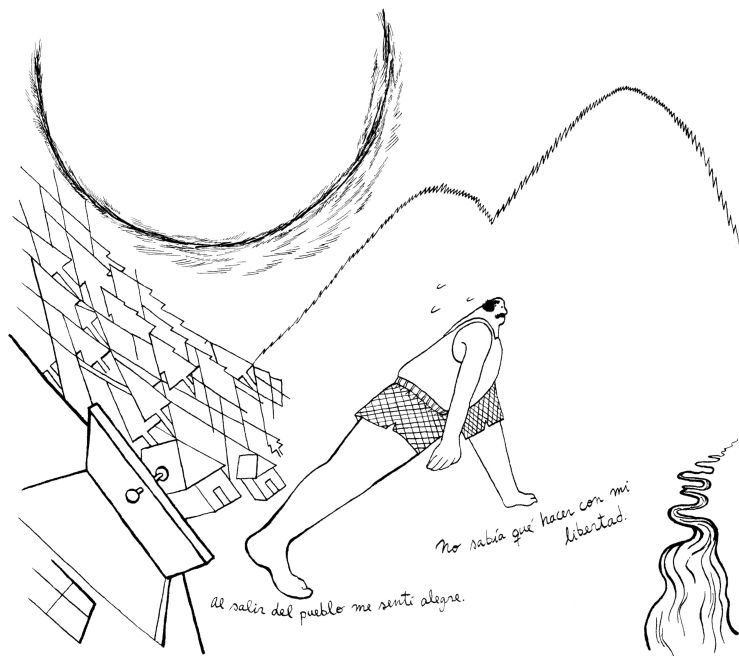


Tomás Cohen ~ Illustration portfolio

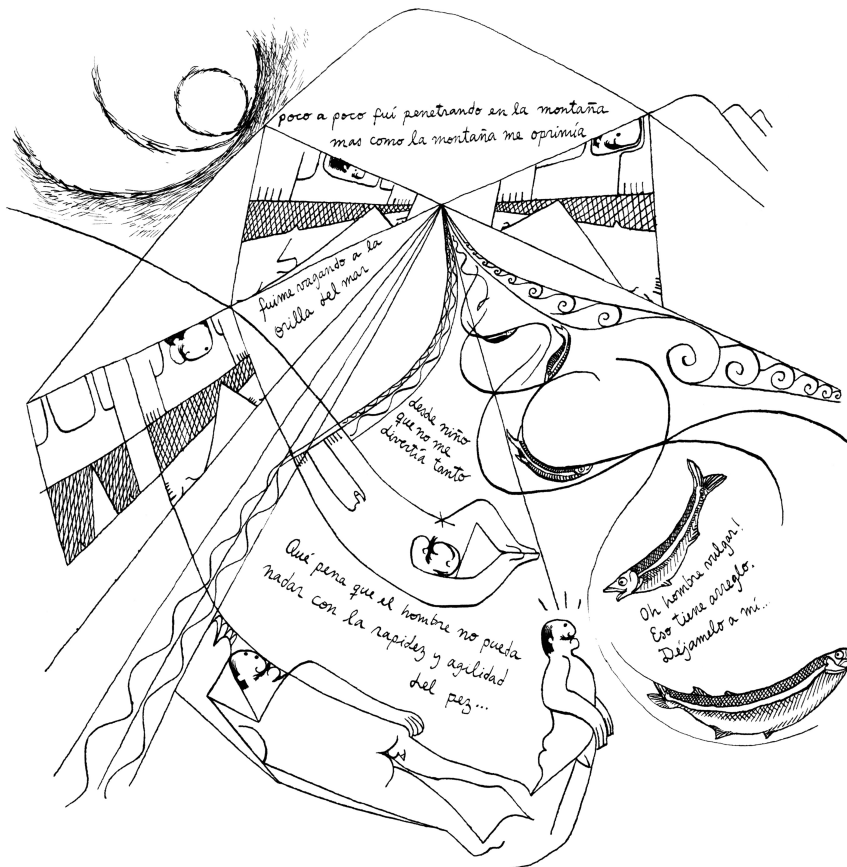


FROM "LA HISTORIA DE HUGO HERRERA"

La Historia de Hugo Herrera (Hugo Herrera's Story) is a visual narration based upon an old Chinese tale about a landowner who falls ill and whose mind, during his illness, incarnates as a big fish. It was published as part of an anthology of alternative Chilean comics called *Ojo de Vidrio*. (Santiago, 2007). Caption of the page above: "I made friends among the fish."

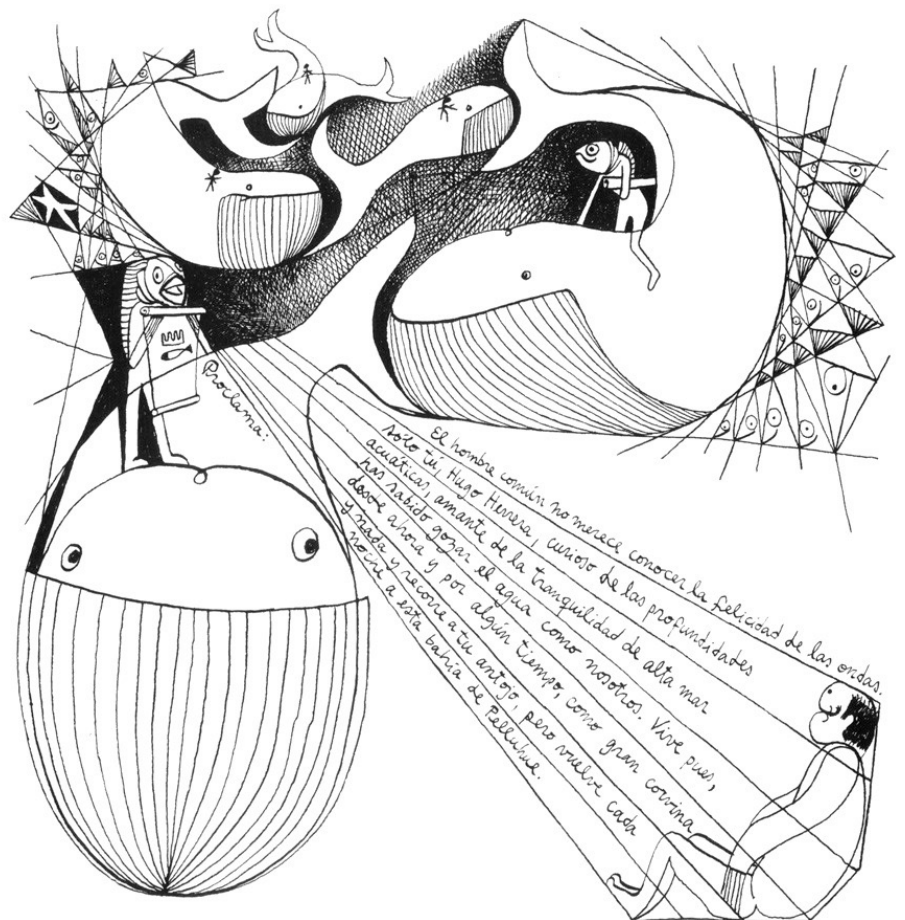


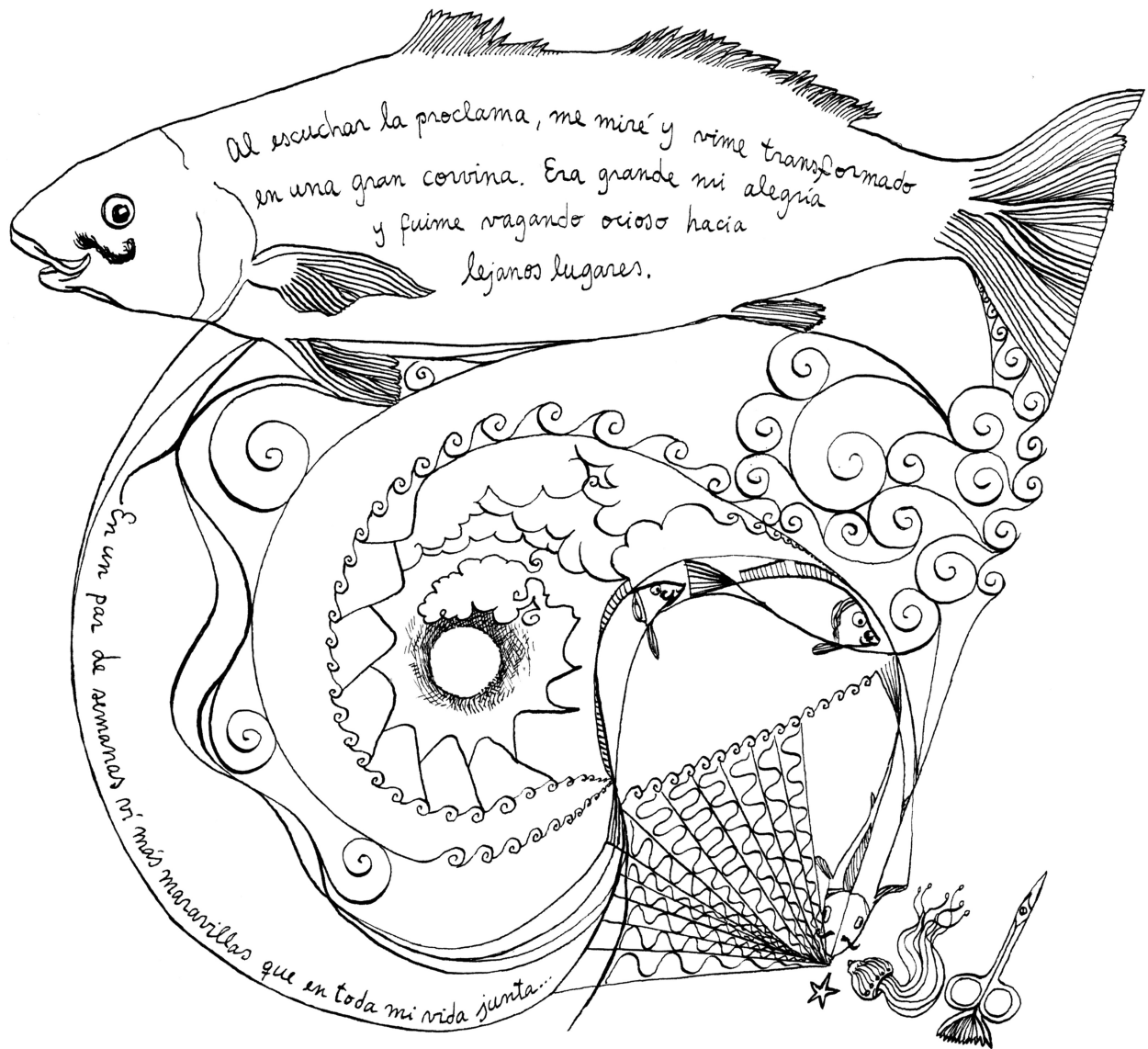
As it can be seen in this and the following pages, the aim of *La Historia de Hugo Herrera* was to make a "comic" in which the narrative texts or dialogues would not be divorced from the image, but drawn as an integral part of the composition. The result is a series of full-page sequential illustrations, not divided standard grids or vignettes.



After wandering through mountains, Hugo Herrera's spirit feels like going for a swim. Already in the water, he wishes he could swim like a fish, and a local fish promptly answers, proposing a solution.

Mounted on a whale, an emissary of the king of fish reads a proclamation that enchants Hugo Herrera, who is soon to transform into a big fish (see next page).







FROM “HERCULES’ TWELVE LABOURS”

On 2012 I illustrated an alchemy book called *Las Cuatro Alas de Mercurio* (Mercury's Four Wings). The book invited an abstracted, philosophical reading of Hercules' twelve labours— mostly as inner obstacles an individual must overcome in the path to enlightenment. I took the chance to further develop the kind of illustration I had devised for *La Historia de Hugo Herrera*, this time devoid of text but narrative nonetheless. Above, Hercules' Sixth Labour: *Against the Stymphalian Birds*.

The one below illustrates Hercules' Eleventh Labor: *the Apples of the Hesperides*. For it, I thought of reverting the emaciated male figure we are used to see nailed to the crucifix. The world being held -while Atlas goes for the coveted apples- I imagined as springing from Hercules' body in glory. Day and night, and also earth, sea, clouds and rain, branch out from his stretched arms. In the process of holding the world, he has become the world, and the apples he searched for grow from him.



Next page, his First Labour: *Against the Nemean lion*. In it, I joined Hercules' and the lion's fighting figures in intricacies reminiscent of heraldic emblems.



Below, Fourth Labour: *Erymanthian Boar*. An acrobatic feat drawn with futuristic, Boccioni-like dynamism.





Yet more influences entered into the above illustration, *Augean Stables* (Fifth Labour). Having studied extensively about Tibetan tantric iconography, its ways of depicting spiritual power and forces of nature entered into my drawing. You can see these and other Hercules' Labours featured in the prestigious illustration website 50watts.com.

ILLUSTRATING THE EXODUS

The watercolour below was made as part of a project to illustrate a new translation of the book of Genesis (from Hebrew to Spanish) as translated by Mike Van Treek, Bible scholar and president of the Chilean society of theology. This is an ongoing project.



The text for it was Genesis, 12.1: *Leave your house and your land and go to the land that I will make you see.* Shades of ochre, and earth color, are used for symbolising the land and door of a house, which the central figure exits. Prussian blue envelops the figure, which symbolises Moses, leaping out and praying. In ultramarine blue, a ball of divine light “makes him see” and shows him the way.





FOR KATHMANDU UNIVERSITY'S CENTRE OF BUDDHIST STUDIES



The above and following illustrations are part of a series I did for the Kathmandu University Centre for Buddhist Studies' Online Learning Program. The one above stands for a course about Himalayan Languages. The resonating conch is a traditional buddhist symbol for enlightened speech.



Above, illustrations for the Classical Tibetan (language) and Roots of the Middle Way (philosophy) courses. More can be seen -as shown below- used as thumbnails in the centre's [website](#). They were all painted in 2013, in watercolour and gouache, with additions in pencil.

HIMALAYAN LANGUAGES	
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SPECIALIZED STUDIES	
	FOUNDATIONS OF BUDDHISM Professors Joanne Larson and Hilary Herdman lead this semester-long course exploring integral points of Buddhist history, culture, and philosophy.
	BUDDHIST ETHICS In this short course, Professor Stephen Jenkins guides an exploration of Buddhist ethics from a variety of perspectives. Explore this topic now!