

USE OF PICTURES IN  
SNAKES, COWS & AVOCADO  
SANDWICHES

Special thanks to Rachel Johnstone,  
my art tutor for keeping me enthusiastic  
about art in 2010

Drawn one night in my art journal, with a thin art pen, from a South American street scene. The magic in this picture, which is the background for the Abstract, is that it has a certain universal appeal about it.

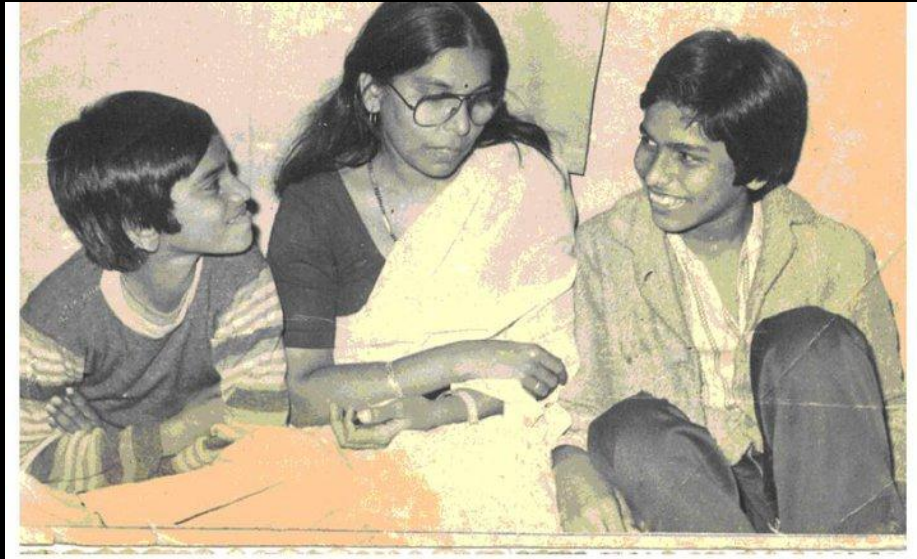
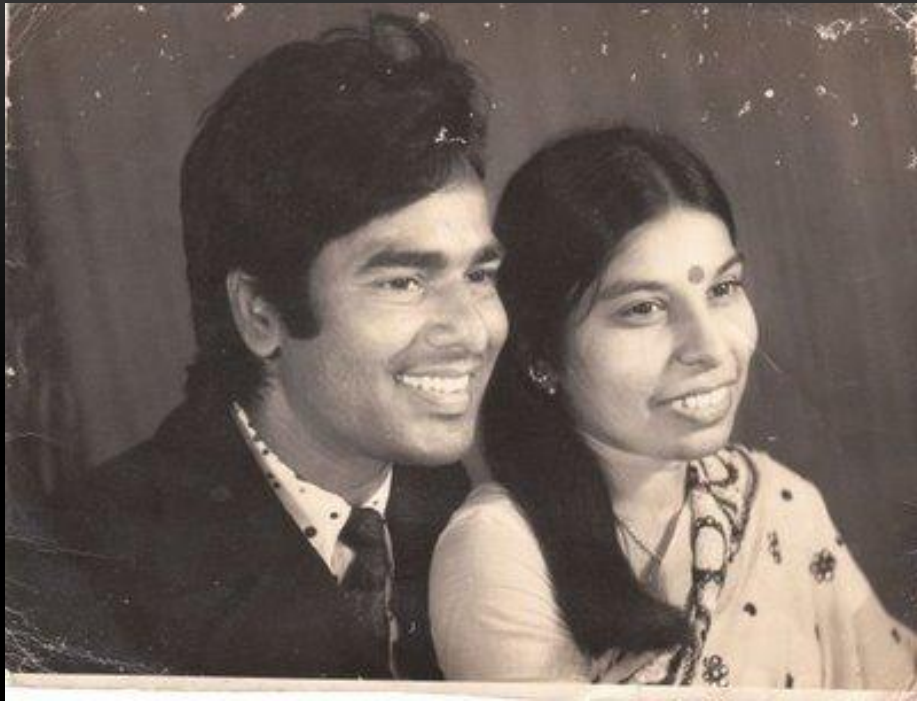




This picture changed many avatars before it got to this stage and is actually a picture of sheep and a tiger and not cows and a snake.

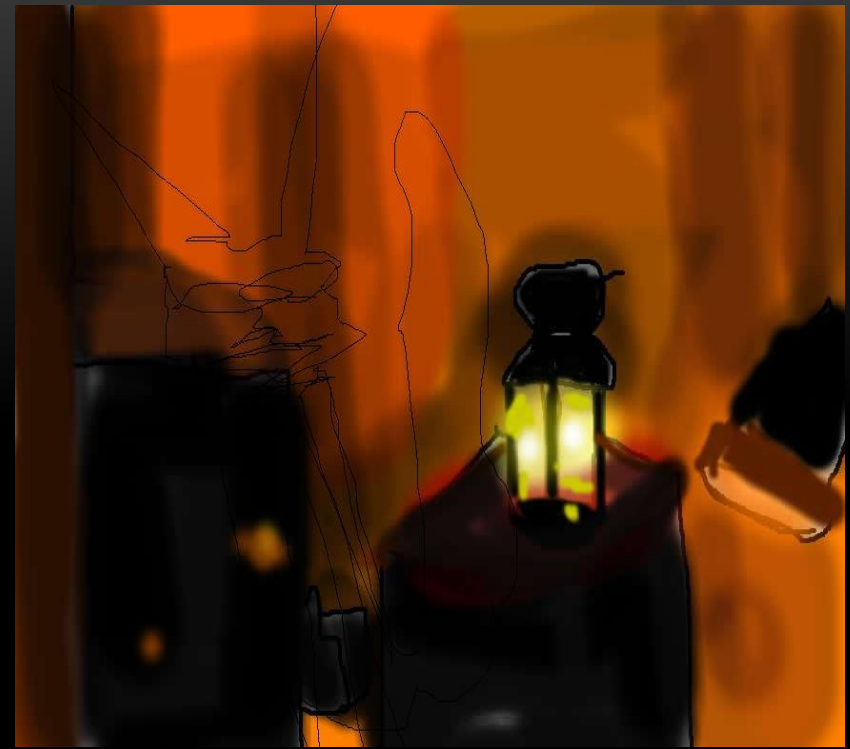






When you write a book of stories, it is a strange concept to put your family pictures in, a bit of indulgence even but since this was a tribute, I went with the temptation.





Orange light has been a metaphor for India with its spices and the heat and dust synonymous to India and light often means a new beginning or the end of darkness. Thus, Spirituality.



Blues are a universal code for loss and sadness and night and goodbyes as the guy (above) who walks away from his mother's unlit pyre learns, and the ghosts that walk alone in unison (top left) in *Black*. As the cowboy who runs out of earth and reaches the end of the road in *Fishy Chips* (bottom left)

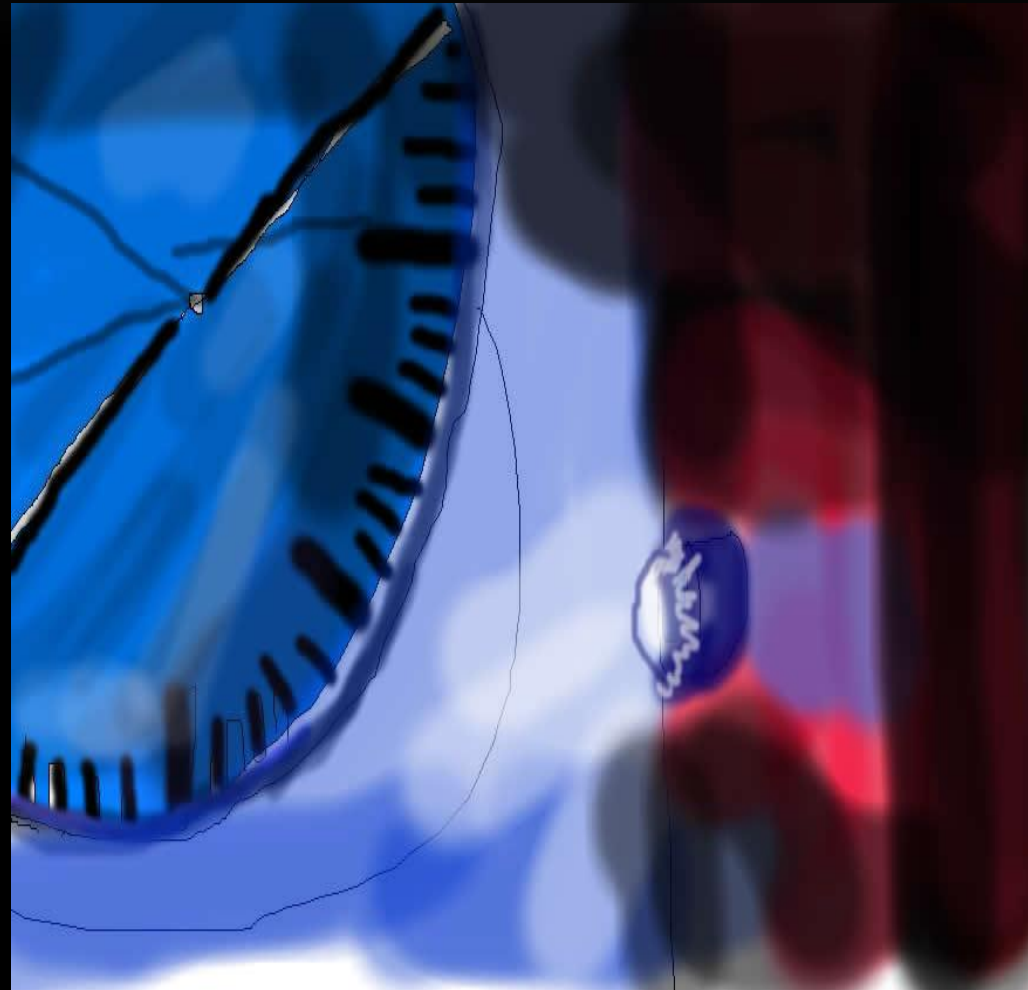




Movement kills monotony, textual density. Variety makes it flutter with life. Thus. SCAS has myriad perspectives and connecting small stories. Justification: better small stories that connect than a large one that does not. Good Excuse.



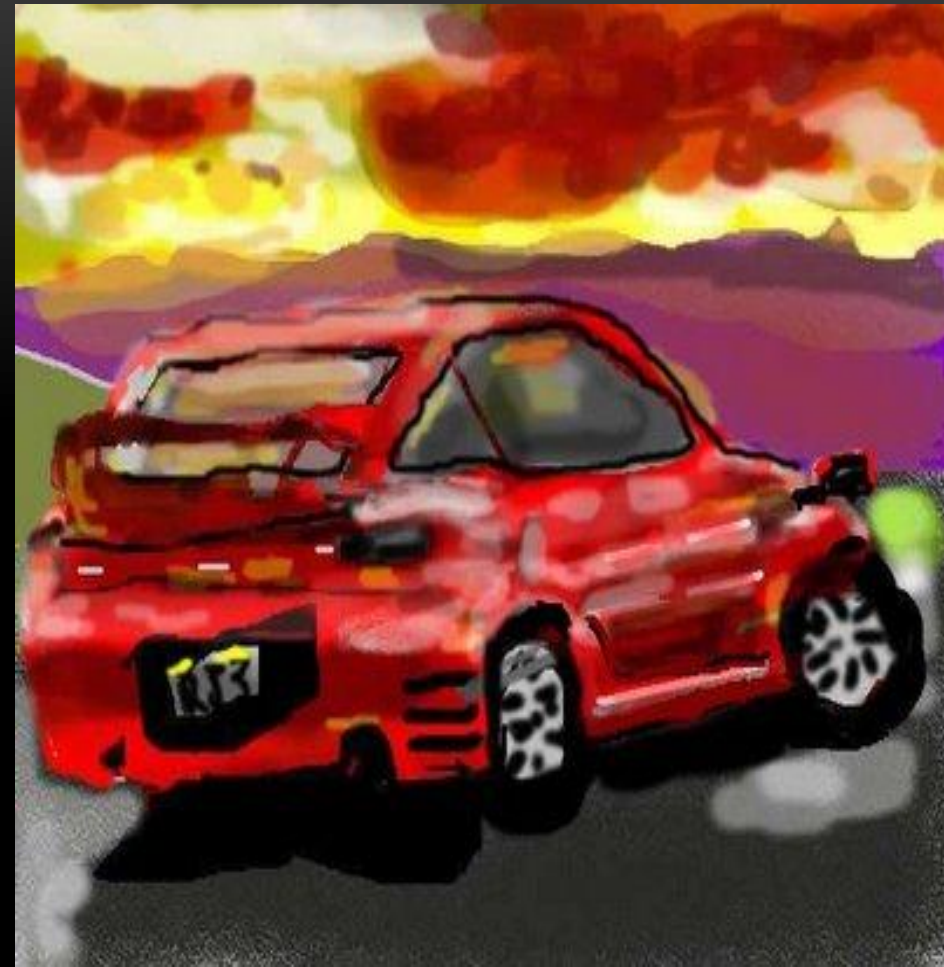
One day, my mom's time ran out and that was that. Sometimes a picture says thousand words, sometimes three and a half. Who is to say? Who is to decide?



The night is beautiful, whether it is Wellington with its cabbage trees or Kerala with its coconut or Bombay with its palms. The night is the same everywhere. Beautiful and poisonous like a green snake. It takes away the light.



Pace is such a relative concept. Look at the red ladybug in a new clean and green environment. Will it survive as it stands out because of its colour? After receiving a thousand rejection letters like our friend did in Red, realising that his colour did make him stand OUT!



Mary is a local. Does that give her any advantage. Maybe not! Because she's too local for her own good. Racing around at break-neck speed only increases her frustration. The trick is, in this country of immigrants, not to be a new immigrant and definitely not a local.

Which brings us to our original question that we never asked, but always felt: Does this book really need pictures? Yes, they add something but are expendable just like the audio and the videos and it comes down to an individual choice, tolerance of colour and acceptance of graphics. I say it is worth a shot because if we do not try, how will we ever know?



Did I tell you that cowboys & ghosts are a recurring theme of this collection?