29th Feb 2024

Week 1

‘Going for a stroll’

Alienation, broken, degraded…despair? apocalyptic… yet colour, happy? Garish? Sickening? Senseless?

‘Something’s Coming’ – Victoria Vincent

‘The Stroll’

by Gertrude Abercrombie (1943)

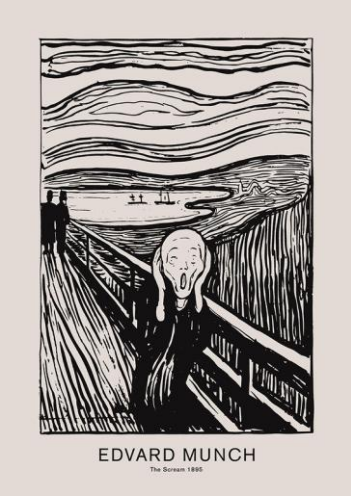
Austere, alone, barren, grief?

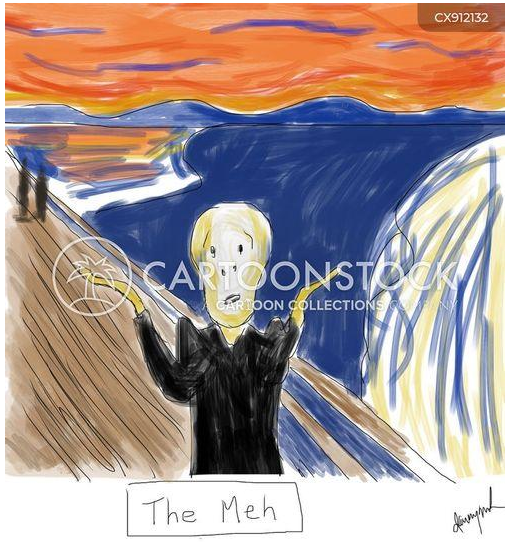
The Chicago-based surrealist **Gertrude Abercrombie** (1909–1977) was known for her miniature paintings of **desolate, barren landscapes**, levitating figures, churches, **stairs that lead to nowhere**, crescent and full moons 🌙

She was very much **inspired by her dreams** too, mixing reality with illusion and fantasy.

Abercrombie, the self-dubbed ‘queen of bohemia’ and at the heart of Chicago’s jazz scene, was the daughter of travelling opera singers.

https://www.artnet.com/artists/gertrude-abercrombie/

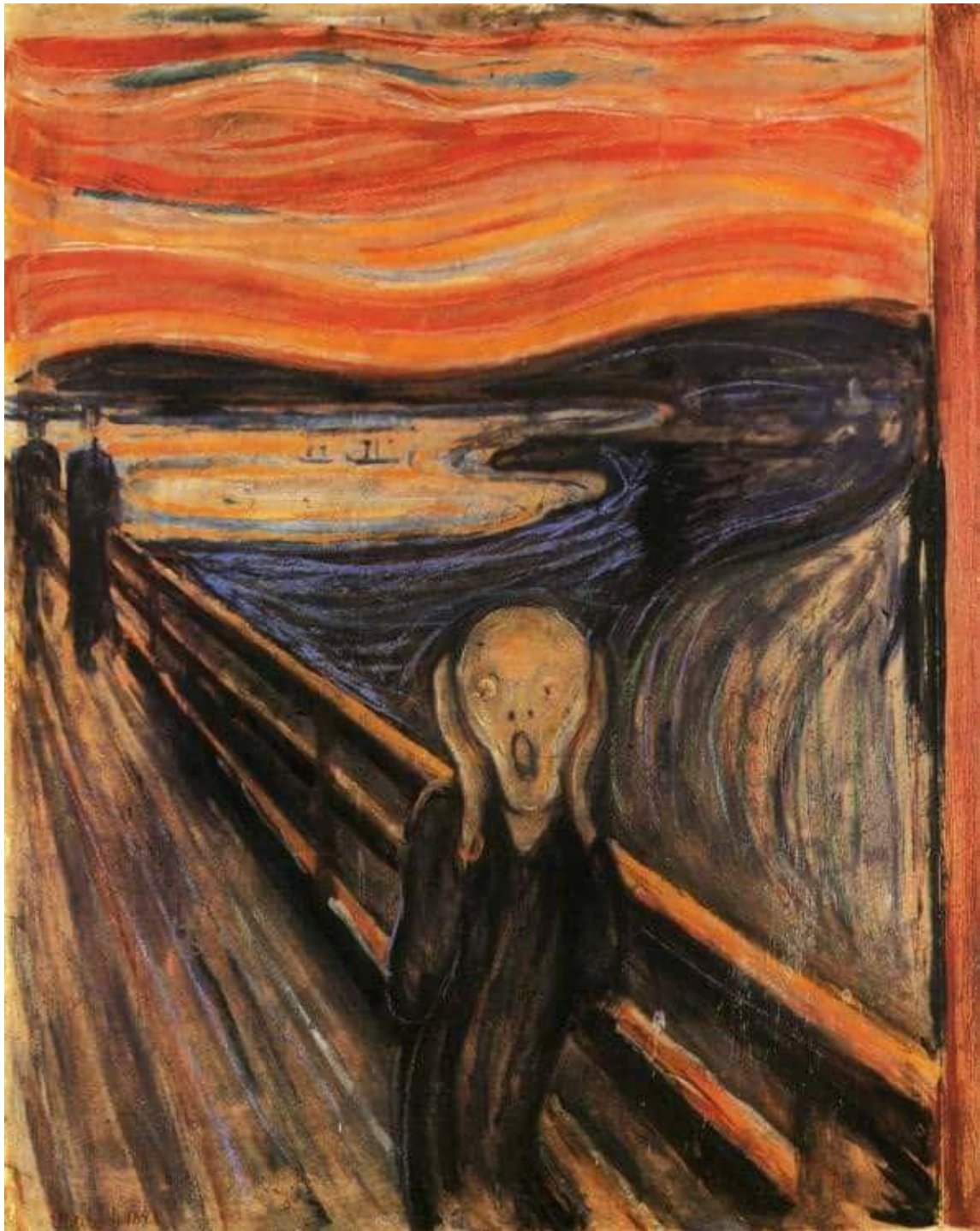




‘The Scream’

- Edvard Munch (1893)

Colours emanating from the figure?...the figure as part of the landscape?



Colour palette …

…& a painting within a painting

… if you were to imagine your ‘stroll’ *even as a painting on your own wall :)…*

how would it look?

- What mood?
- What colours/style/texture/sound?
- Would any animals feature in your painting? :)
- Would there be a musical soundtrack?

- Barren & desolate or full and chaotic?

Victoria Vincent…

(just over 2 mins)

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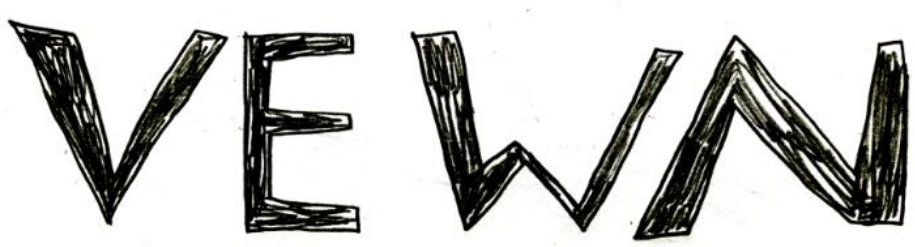
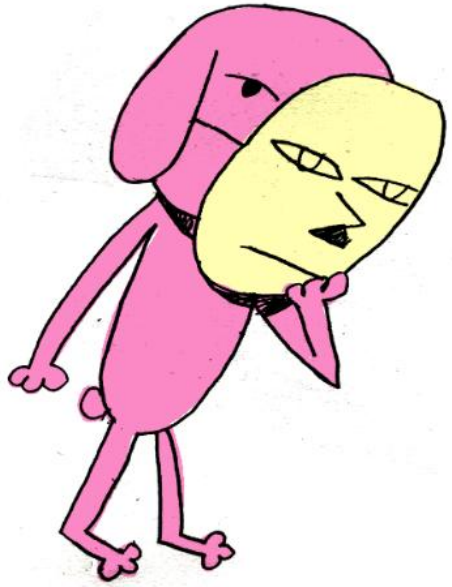
How do *you* feel when you take a walk?

How might express this in a drawing?

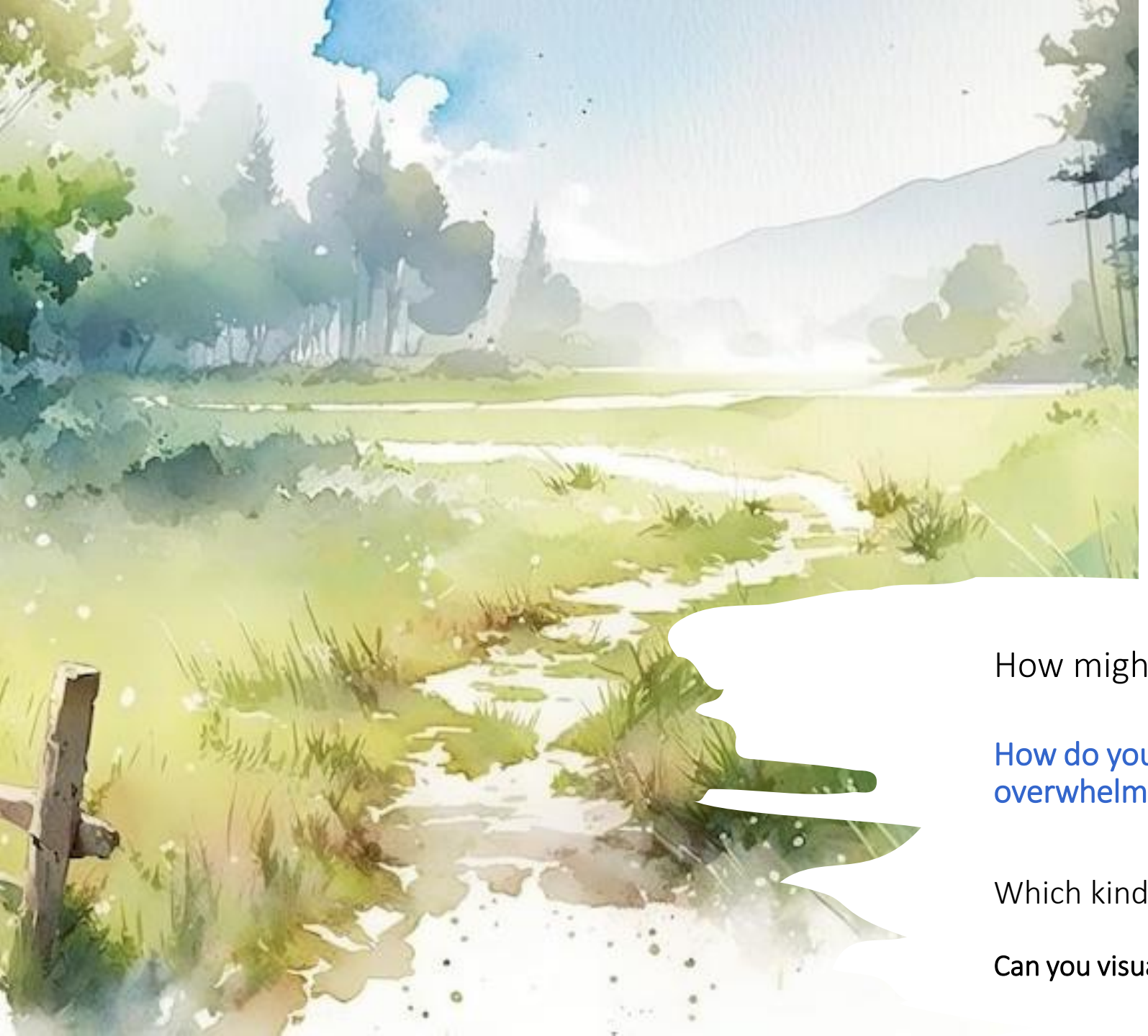




- Today or tomorrow can you take a 5 min walk in your local neighbourhood/town..?

or perhaps just in your garden…

- How do you feel today?
- What do you see/hear/smell/touch?
- What are the colours or sensations?
- How might *you* visually portray this*? (Try not to think too much – trust your intuition.)*
- **Could you write a poem or a paragraph or record an audio expressing this walk…**



How might a peaceful, serene stroll look and feel? :)

How do you help yourself if you feel unhappy, anxious or overwhelmed?

Which kind of environment feels most peaceful for you?

Can you visualize and draw this? Or write, or talk about it?

Each of Vewn's animations carries a message, sometimes more subtle than others. They tend to be quite depressing in nature, showcasing a pessimistic view of the world and society as a whole. This contrasts interestingly with the bright, playful, and lively style of the art itself.

The incredibly dynamic nature of Vincent's art is one of its most appealing aspects. Not to be skipped out on, however, are her unique and charming characters. Having colorful hair, masks and costumes they refuse to take off, and sometimes being simply inhuman, the protagonist of Vewn's animations is more often quirky and memorable than not.

Another distinctive feature of Vincent's animations is the soundscape. Though each scene has some kind of ambient sound, it often sounds fairly lonely. When it's needed, however, an energetic, beat-heavy soundtrack kicks in, once again contributing to the dynamic up-and-down of a Vewn animation.

So, is Vewn's art "good"? Yes. Vincent's style is intentional and pleasing, and it demonstrates not only a clear understanding, but a mastery of color theory, perspective, and other art concepts. The art is good not in spite of the messiness and reality-bending proportions, but for them. Additionally, Vewn's works bring attention to the realities of bad mental health, the failings of capitalism, drug abuse, and other topics with their messages.