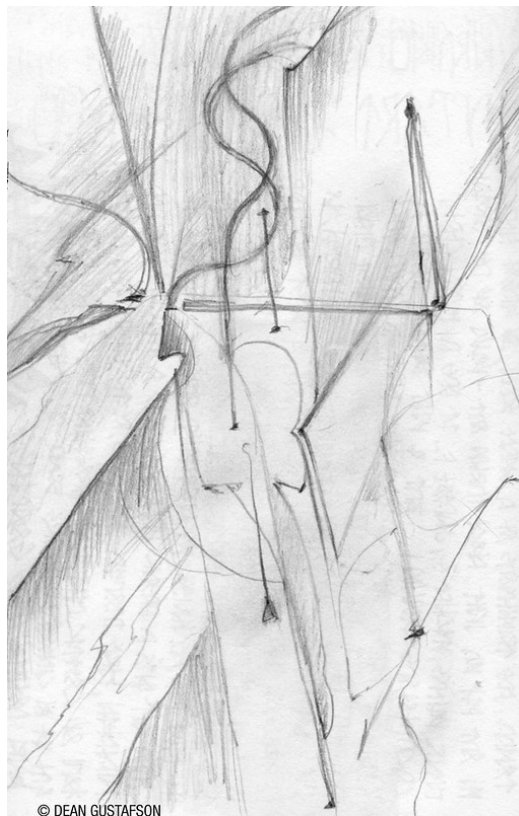


Titled Sketchbook Drawings - Volume Three

- Abstractions -

Real sketchbook explorations. When the pen or pencil can wander freely into uncharted territories. I loved doing this frequently — when the pages become playgrounds with a *laissez-faire* approach of freedom. Sometimes elegance resulted, others obnoxious, twisted, surreal, and hopefully interesting at best. Several end up resembling something vaguely familiar. This lends to different types of titles. I've asked my online community to name these, and as the prize the winner receives the actual drawing framed.

Let's look at a collection of abstract drawings that were won...



"*Pensive Navigation*" - 1991

title from Floyd Flanagan

In pencil, being unique for me. It's a true abstract, not resembling much but lines, forms and shade. I like this title; it feels like navigating is occurring, and the nearly a pun use of the word *pensive* is like the word *pencil*. At least to me. Clever good!



"Musical Maelstrom" 1995
titled from Marc Weber

Another truly abstract. It feels like an energetic and complex source of sounds somehow. A symphony? A psychedelic jam? Cacophonous *musique concrete*? Take your pick. It's one of several that were influenced by my obsession with music.



"Centrifuge" 2012

title from Jon Alexandr

Cleverly named! With the musical fugue integrated rather than be a centrifuge, it's a made up word, perfect for the title!



"Conch Shell Beach Dream" 2004

title: Andrea Grenier-Geslain

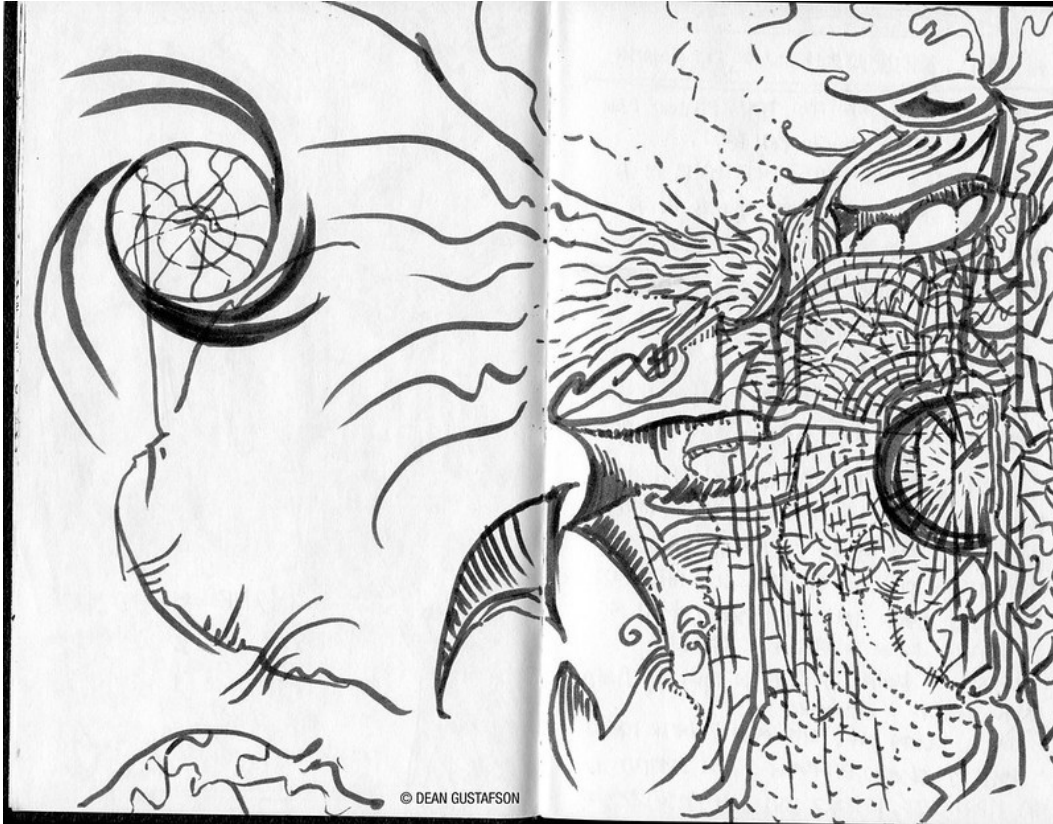
Abstract yet resembling something. This name suggests a conch shell, but it isn't. This is where the dream in the title really works. If it's dream-based, it doesn't necessarily need to be a literal representation.



"In Defiance Of The Rectilinear" 2011

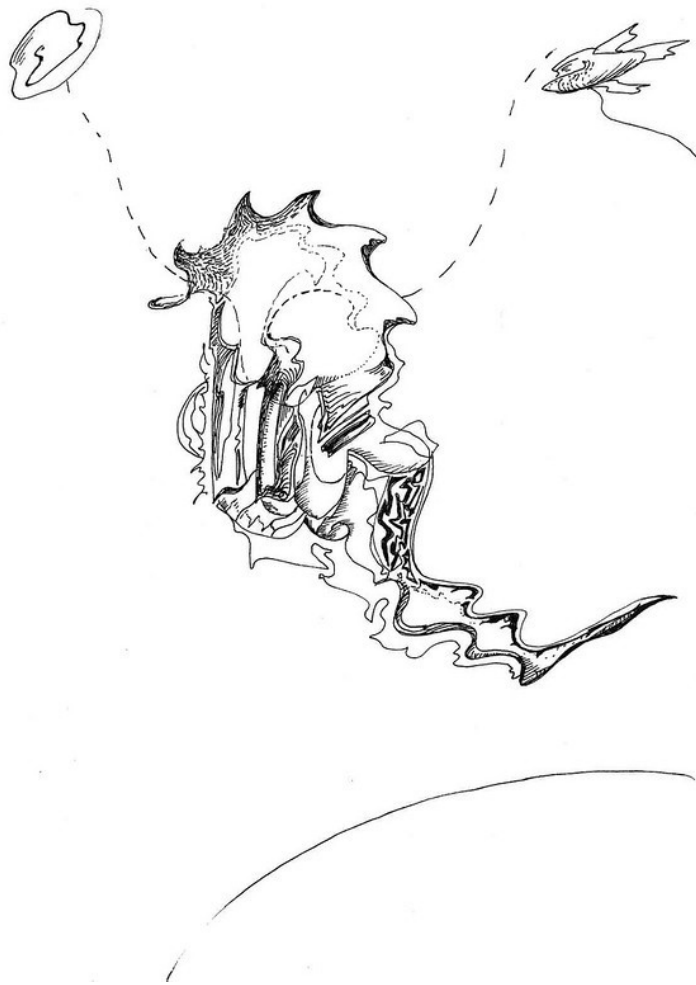
title from Bruce McKay

Done with a multicolored pencil — a Koh-i-noor Aristochrom 3400 — a favorite among my figure drawing cohorts, and this is far from figurative. The title tells of its chaos, constrained by its rectangular perimeters. If it really defied, would stretch beyond its edges. Still this restless energy appears to be pushing the walls of its boxed in prison. Yep, in defiance!



"Who Shall Seek The What" 2001
title from Gary Gustafson

Using a brush pen, in black ink, but with wider brush strokes that I would not get with a fine pointed fountain pen as my typically used tools. It's a dynamic motion-based drawing, pulsing with energy
The abstract qualities make it open ended enough for this title, which doesn't make much sense, but I like it — so there.



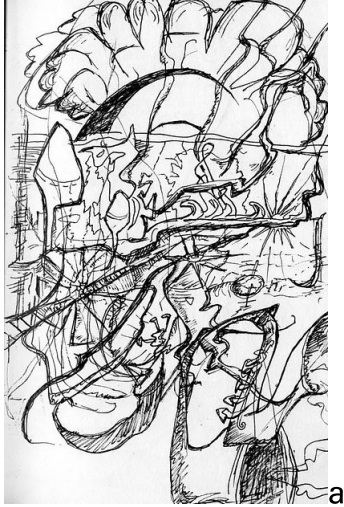
"Jingo Wonderment Cements into Cassandra's Hairstyle"

2008 - Title from Richard Fong

A refined and odd drawing, that conjured a refined, odd title.

Does this name reference anything of resemblance? I'll leave it at that ponderance.

The subjects do appear to be floating in space, leaning towards surrealism rather than 100% abstraction. Call it 50-50.



"Your Mind Is A Weird And Wonderful Place" - 1992

Title from Laura S.

It's a flattering title if it's about the artist and still works when it's about the beholder. It's a weird and wonderful little sketchbook page? or maybe it's just weird? That's good enough for me.



"Louie Lights The Backflip Fantastic" 2000

title from Tracy Swedlow

The name commemorates our late friend Louie Lights, who specialized in acrobatics when younger, and visual /mental acrobatics with his light generated art. This abstraction seems to dance with acrobatic lines.

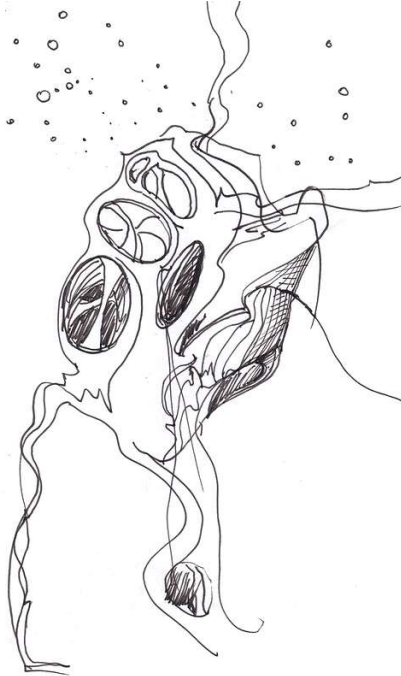


"Neuron Eureka Moment!" 2005

Title from Chris Demonterey

Red ink in the fountain pen, for this fairly elegant drawing. I like this title for its reference to neurons, the surprise element of *Eureka* and its place in a *moment* frozen in time in my sketchbook.

That's the magic of the art — moments captured in a physical form.



***Mork!* - 2011**

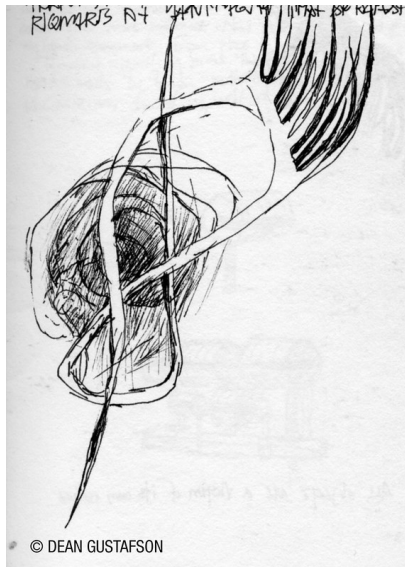
titled by Tara Evans

This name cracks me u, for a mysterious drawing I don't know what it is.

"What the hell is that? "

"it's Mork! "

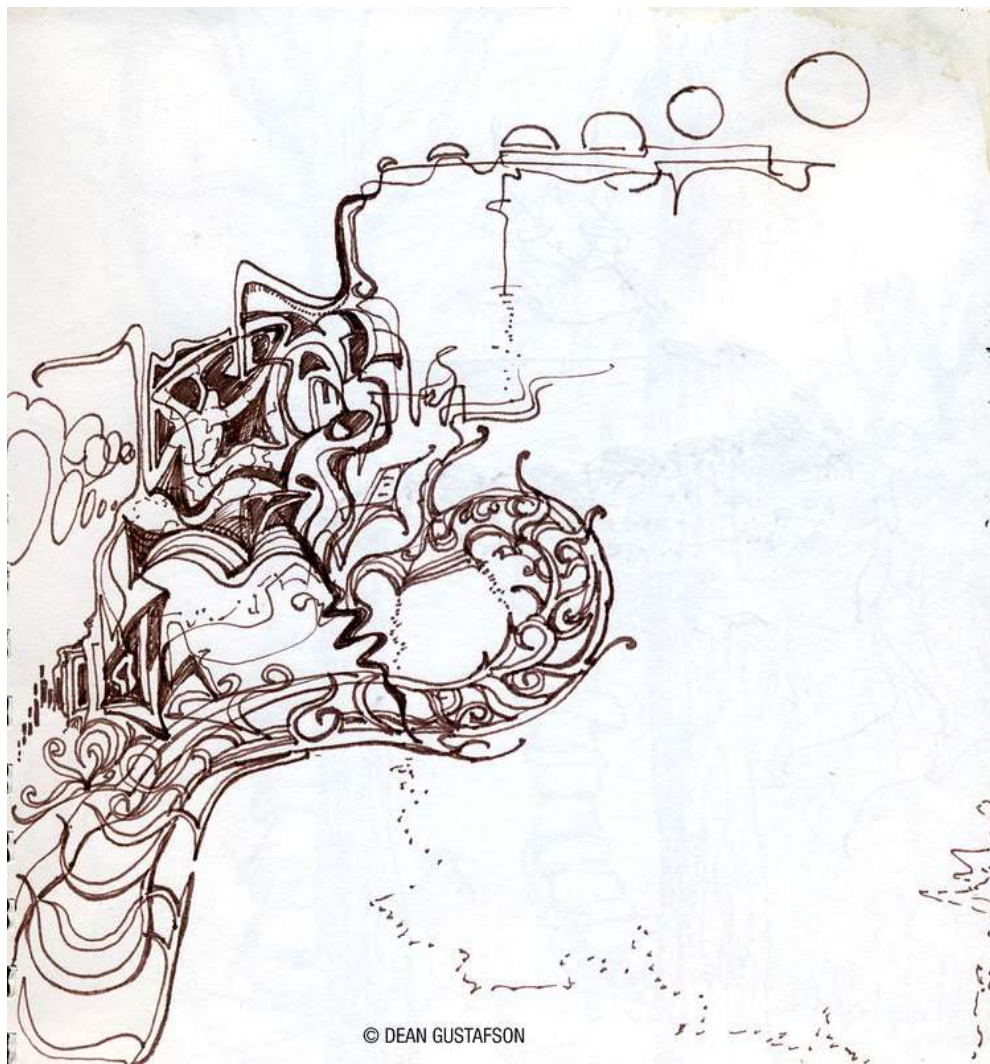
I've no idea how specific that is, but it's hilarious to me anyway!



Contemplating The Magnetic Flip (of a voracious black hole)" -1991

title: Lory Hayward

A grand title elevates this humble little drawing to higher scientific levels!



"Mechanical Whimsy in Bloom" - 2005

title : Lisa B.

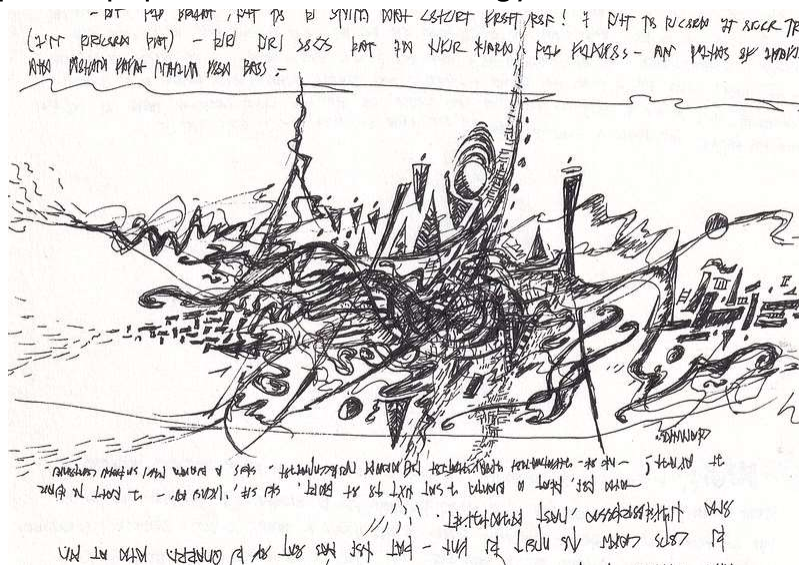
A good name for a whimsical drawing, and I like the idea it's blooming. It doesn't necessarily mean they look like specific genus of plant life— but like plants I've cultivated in my sketchbook garden.



"How A Star Makes Me Feel..." 2005

Title from Fred Hopson

Another pencil sketch. The simple title is strikingly visceral. The drawing, delicate and seems to be an example of something from nothing. Nothing other than pencil, paper, and whatever energy I had to create this.



"Circus In My Flagon" 1993

Title: Joe Muehleck

One of my musical abstractions, working out imagery for my then "out" jazz group The Haight Ashbury Free Band. (with notes surrounding in Nordic runes)

The title is a blast — circus like, and in a flagon? Give me a drink of that!

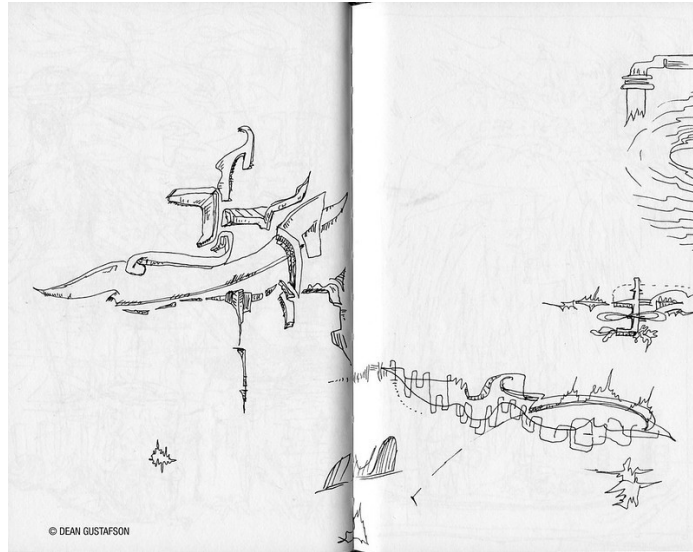


"Blithereens" - 2002

title: Steve Mobia

A name that made me laugh! Again I'm not sure why, and therein lies the appeal.

This red ink drawing on tan color paper is mostly abstract, with a Redwood tree rising from the bottom. Still the complex of hovering forms are the *blithereens*?! I don't know what that means, and again it's great!



"Vista with Inchoate Druidic Spacestations" - 2001

title: Jason Courtney

One with interpretive elements, evident in this fictional sounding name. I like how creative the title turned out. I seriously doubt that any of these named elements were on my mind when drawing this, but it's creativity causing more creativity in a collaboration.



"Paradoxical" 2010

title: Andrea Grenier-Geslain

one of the titles that gives a principle quality rather than describing visual features. Anyway it's a curious title, somehow representing the drawing itself from the empty space that makes the composition.



***"E Pluribus Unum"* - 1992**

title: Molly Flanagan

Wrapping up this volume is a rare watercolor. I like the title for the times we are in now. This motto needs to be understood. Widely.

The abstract imagery open enough for any name not specifically image oriented.

Here's Volumes One and Two of this growing series of titled sketchbook pages, with more ahead.

Random picks:

https://dean-gustafson.com/artwork-essays/Titled_Drawings-vol-one.pdf

Characters :

https://dean-gustafson.com/artwork-essays/Titled_Characters-Vol-Two.pdf

- Dean Gustafson, August 2025