

Titled Sketchbook Drawings

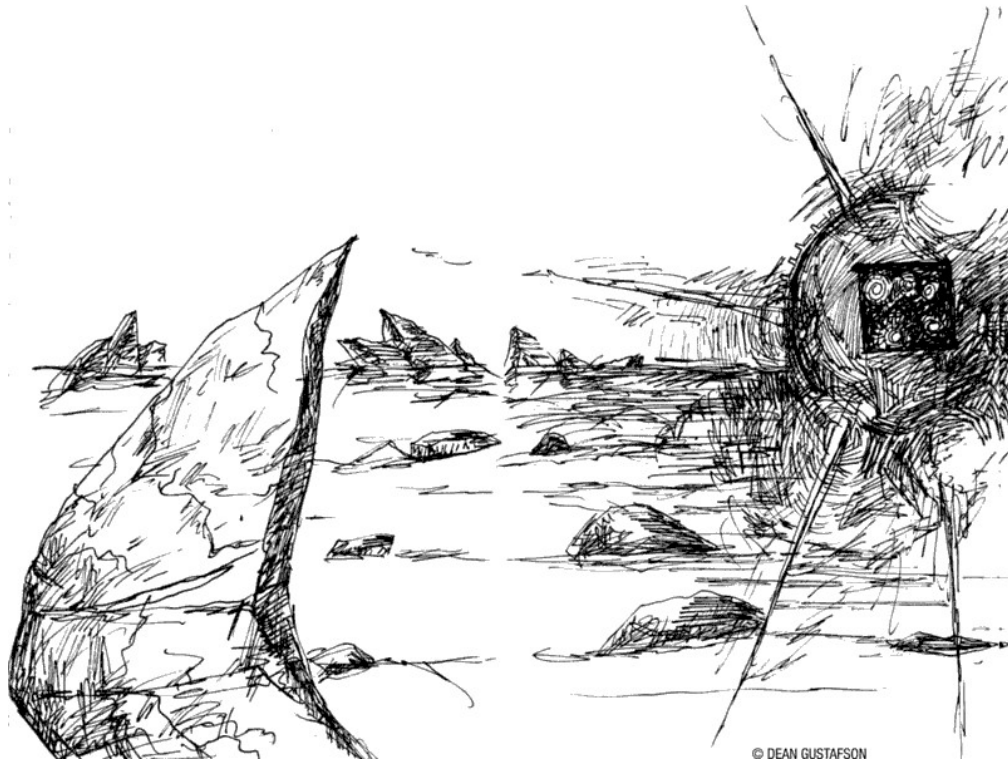
Volume One - Random Picks

In late 2022 I wanted to follow an idea by late friend and light projection artist Louis Brill. Here is my writing about Louis:

https://dean-gustafson.com/autobiographical/Louis_Brill.pdf

(we collaborated on his light projected photographs — otherwise known as "Lumia" — creating composites and collages using Photoshop, which I knew.) A few years back, he would hold a contest to name one of his completed images in printed, framed form. Since I have thousands of sketchbook pages, mostly worth framing, I thought I can do this too! So I did that November, emailing my community to get amazing responses, and have been regularly continuing this ever since with the increase of sketchbook pages framed. I have plenty to give away.

Here are 15 drawings out of 105 so far, with brief descriptions...



"Time Probe to our Pre-Biotic Earth" 1992

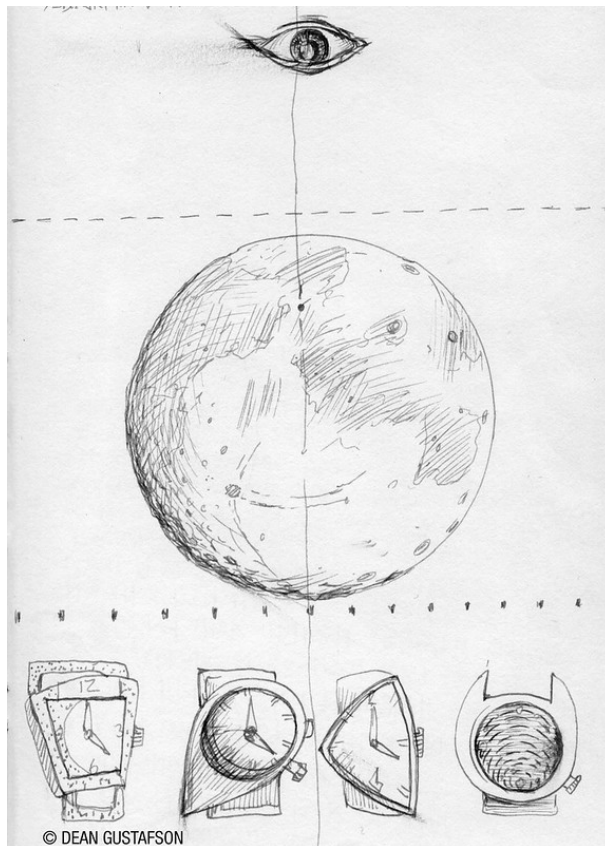
Titled by Jon Alexandr

This one from '92 was an attempt to bring an older motif from 1989 into a landscape. I think this was a rough plan for a potential painting that nearly

happened. It's from my painting "*Future Look At The Past*" (here's a link to my short essay about that recurring series)

<https://dean-gustafson.com/artwork-essays/Gravitortional%20Equanimetry%20+%20202%20.pdf>

For this sketch I can now see my fascination for raw primordial landscapes, ala 19th century romantic art, mingled with things appearing futuristic in nature. Jon (aka "Mr Science") nailed this idea with this title, as if knowing my sentiments even better than I could define. Part of why this name game is attractive to me. Others perceptions are essential!



"*Chronometrophilia: Keeping Watch Under The Palindrome Moon*" 1991

Title by Pam Meier and Peter Doty

The title that won was "*Chronometrophilia*" from clever wordsmith Pam. Though I also dug Peters entry, there's only one winner of these at a time. However, around that time we heard the tragically sadder than sad news that Peter died unexpectedly. I wanted to commemorate him somehow, so Pam agreed to combine titles. So now we have this title construct! Pam's references the vintage watches (bro Craigs collection inspiring this)

and makes a great single word title. Peter had a meta-thinking approach, and his title segment has several layers to it: The eye keeping watch. The watch reference, with double meaning also for the timepieces depicted. The palindrome moon has to do with the year: 1991, the year I drew this. A favorite year for us!

Here's my essay tribute to dear friend Peter Doty:

<https://dean-gustafson.com/autobiographical/memories%20of%20Peter%20Doty.pdf>



Last call at the Folies Bergere: "Barkeep, one more round for my friends"

1992 - Title and caption from Jill Keller

This small sketch from 1992 must have come from moments of dark humor, abundant those days with the irreverent crowds I ran with. Jill certainly gets this — she was there then!

This one has both the title and a caption.

If you know Manet paintings, the reference is to the reflection mirroring the 1882 painting *"A Bar at the Folies-Bergère"* (sans Bass Ale, and a barmaid.)

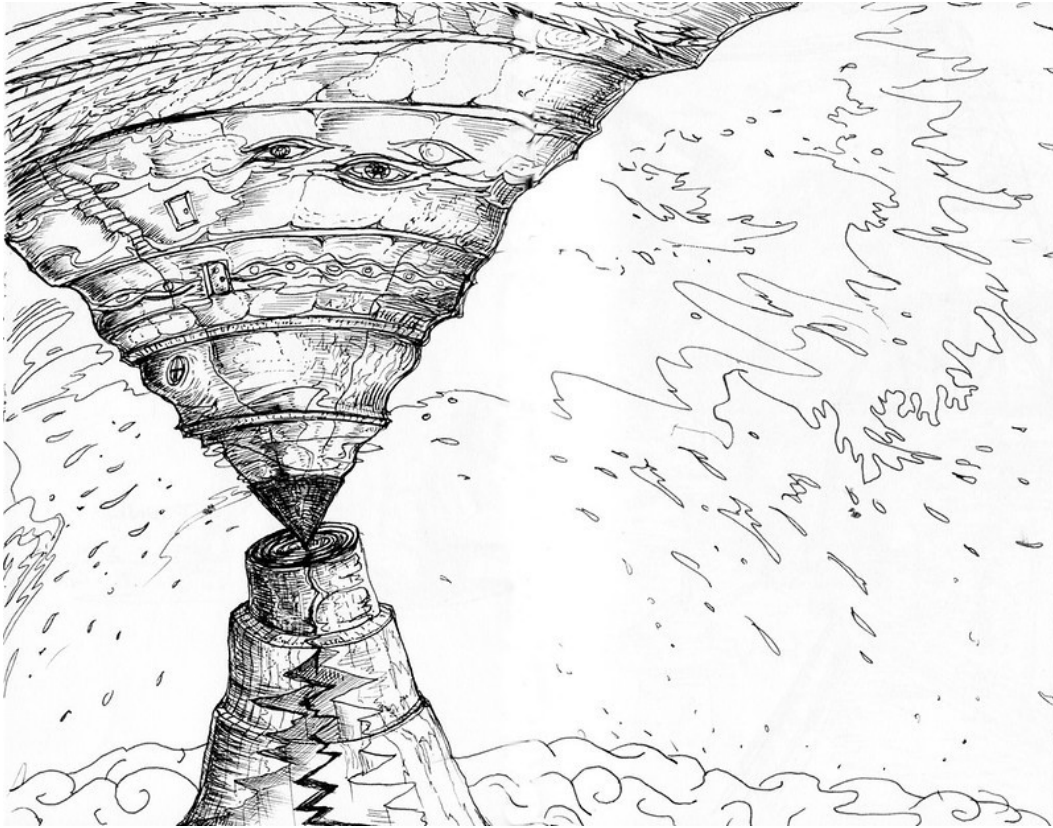


"Cognition Cog" 2000
titled by Clover Austin

This is rather *Yellow Submarine*-like isn't it? re-released around the turn of the century in theaters. This is a good title for a complex little drawing. It has a zillion titles worth of potential names, with several ideas at work. Do I sum it up with a long paragraph title describing its multilayered meanings? Or with only two words?

This nails it, from Clover with good wit!

(this scan shows a face sketch through the paper. Not as worth saving for framing. I used both sides of the pages frequently, never thought any would be frameworthy later.)



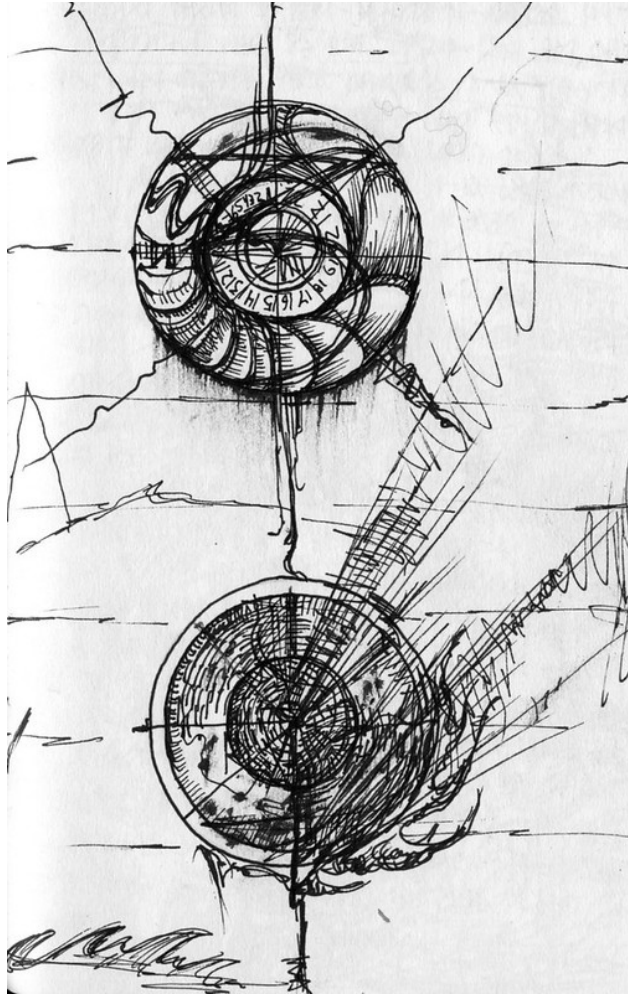
"Dean's Whirlwind Mind Grounding Itself"

Titled by Rango Keshevan

This one I could leave my name out and just call it: *"The Whirlwind Mind Grounding Itself"* and still work. Yet this is true with my name involved too! it's my little personal sketchbook page, dashed off, pages turned to make another and another and another... to be forgotten for years. I never expected to share with the world.

Rango understands consciousness, and how it works. This is an insightful one! This is looking like an acid flashback, and I do believe it is. (however, there's been no tripping since 1994, so, a flashback)

I don't have a year for this, but I'm guessing around 2005 or 2008?



"phwip-phwip-phwip-phwip-phwip-phwip-phweeeeeeeeeeeooooo-ummmmmmm"

1992 - Title by Jim Lauritzen

I totally cracked up seeing this entry — heck, hearing it! It's such noise-making imagery. The title is an outstanding bit of onomatopoeia, reflecting the mechanized motion of the drawing. Perfect!

Jim is a creative dynamo who knows how to make art, and it's apparent that he's great at naming work too. He was probably around when I drew this from our "bohemian years" living in the Mission at that time. I still don't know what I was thinking. Probably just feeling the energy of those youthful years.

Check out some of Jim's creations :

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/15925906@N04/albums/>



"Muse of Hops" - 2010
Title by Jason Courtney

A sketch mixing figure drawing in public, with exploring lines and forms, in this sketch emerging from one of our cherished hoppy craft ales at Triple Rock brewpub in Berkeley!

Jason would be in the pub, as one of us drawing people in motion, with the informal East Bay "Sketch Pistols" drawing group.

So Jason gets it!

You can read more about this, and my experiences of drawing people:

<https://dean-gustafson.com/artwork-essays/DRAWING%20PEOPLE.pdf>



"*Vitruvian Elemental*" 2008.

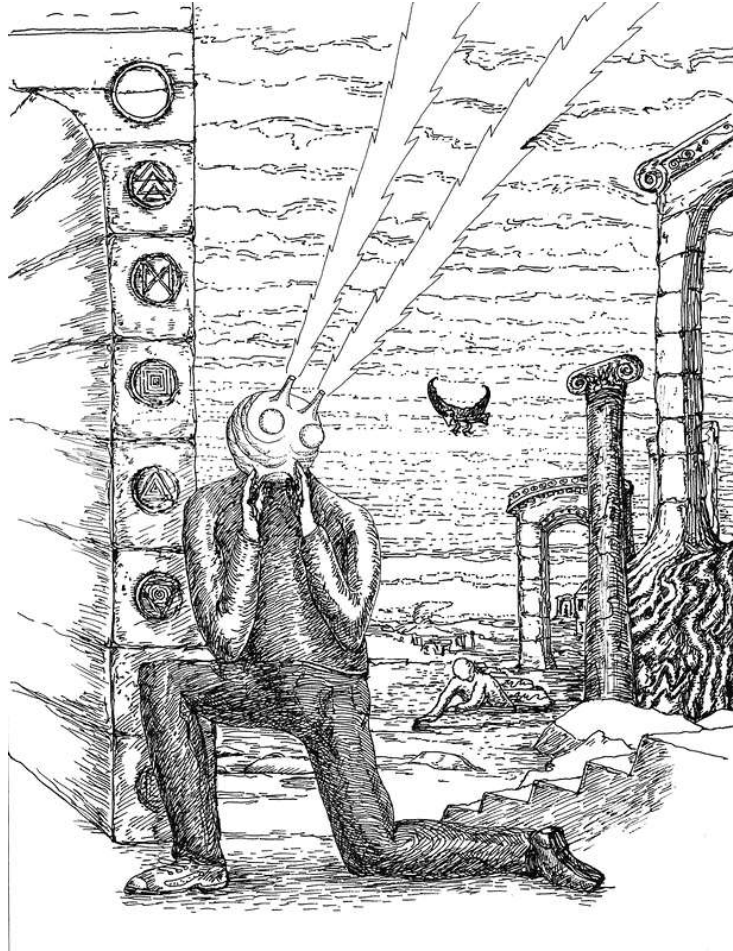
Title by Bruce McKay

The very first drawing offered up for titling in November 2022, that started the whole name game!

Bruce's title here referencing the very recognizable *Vitruvian Man*, the DaVinci figure drawing with a man's arms and legs proportionately outstretched. This form resembles the shape of that figure, and the idea that it's elemental struck a chord that won. Bruce is an artist with creative insight, and this thought-filled quality shows in the naming.

A description of his project by Bruce himself! on YouTube :

<https://youtu.be/1mYi7PPCDt8>



"All The Wisdom Of Ancients Could Not Break The Spell" 2005,
Title by Melissa Santala

This is a drawing table rendering from 2005, based on a rough sketch from 1994, depicting a dream scenario I had in Europe that autumn. It seems to be a humanoid alien being, sending signals to the sky by turning curious biological nodes on the head. Old European ruins are in a strange archeological environment. Surrealistic. With unusual symbols on the wall. A similar figure climbs out of the ground in the distance. Curious. This title taps into the idea of ancient spells, and that works well for this. Melissa is an artist and scientist — a great combination!



"Love Blooms Among Interplanetary Dimensions And Walks In Time Ago"

2005 - Title by Sage Trucano

A beautiful title for this fun, intricately drawn sketchbook page. This resonated with Sage, who gave a good name for this.

The small gnome figure looks straight out of George Harrison's animated *All Things Must Pass* website. (long defunct)

I don't have much explanation, but it appears I was enjoying breaking out some rapidograph pens here!



"*Fluxus Spiroswirl Limboid*" 1992

Title by Ronn Rosen

Ronn is a true dadaist poet, and scholar. He really expressed this wild drawing well. Good word crafting.

I'm sure this was influenced by a fascination with the turbulent storms of Jupiter that I was appreciating then, from a newly acquired book of NASA shots. I was just having fun conjuring my own turbulence in black ink.

Unfortunately this is one of a very few that was lost in the post, likely stolen in his tough neighborhood.

Gladly the name lives on, and digital scans!



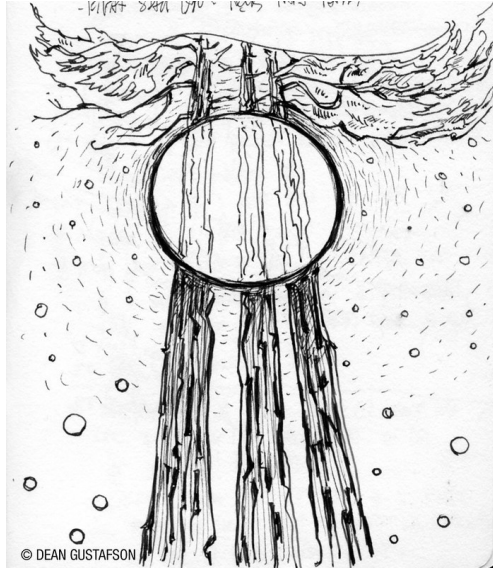
"Blithereens" 2002

Title by Steve Mobia

Like Jim Lauritzens onomatopiea-centric title listed above, this word construct is original and cracked me up to see! Steve is a true original, making the most amazing films, like wandering into an amusing dream. Perfect unique title, and I don't know what it means but I like it!

Check out his website!

<http://www.stevemobia.com/>



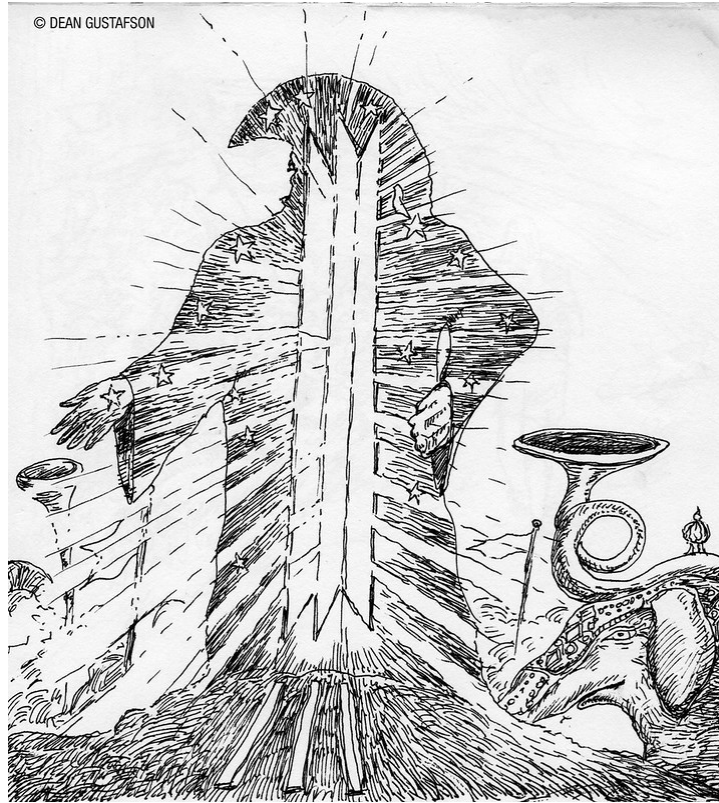
"The Heart Portal Of Treebeard Expanding Through The Universe"

2011 -Title by Cheryl Bales

The *Treebeard* name is all Tolkien, but I know what she means, referring to a specific Redwood tree on the peninsula near Half Moon Bay. Cheryl is in tune with the Redwood forests on that peninsula, and named this aptly. I love it when art begets more art, as shown by this piece of sculptural work by artist Jane Russell! (married to Mr Science!)



It's an honor and fascination to have my sketch manifested in this way!



"Time Trumpeter Tremelo" 2005

Title by Tracy Swedlow

A dream image of a Tibetan style character, involving a ritual with a portal operating from the center of the figure, like an extra strong Dalai Lama with bizarre supernatural powers. It made for a good sketchbook page!

Tracy is an artist and quite a meta-thinker. Conjuring a succinct three word title that fit well without the need for explaining much.

Tracy and her husband Richard run ITVT, check it out!

<https://itvt.com/about-us/>



"The Eccentric Professor Ski'nose" 1999

Title from Dhaivyd Hilgendorf

Now we're getting to some of my truly bizarre character drawings! This oddity from a 1999 sketchbook is a fun exploration with a fine rapidograph pen. Dhaivyd is a literate, and multi-creative friend, who is a professional librarian. He came up with a doozy for this. Now the character has a name — not just a title!

The next volume continuing this series should follow this last drawing, consisting of weird characters.

Hats off to the memory of Louis Brill for starting this name game inspiration! And to Craig Gustafson, who cleared the sketchbook center spine using Photoshop, wherever these were double-page spreads. (plus being influential for me to draw in the first place!)

- Dean Gustafson, June 2025

For higher resolution images of my drawings, go to my Flickr albums :

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/126364600@N06/albums/>