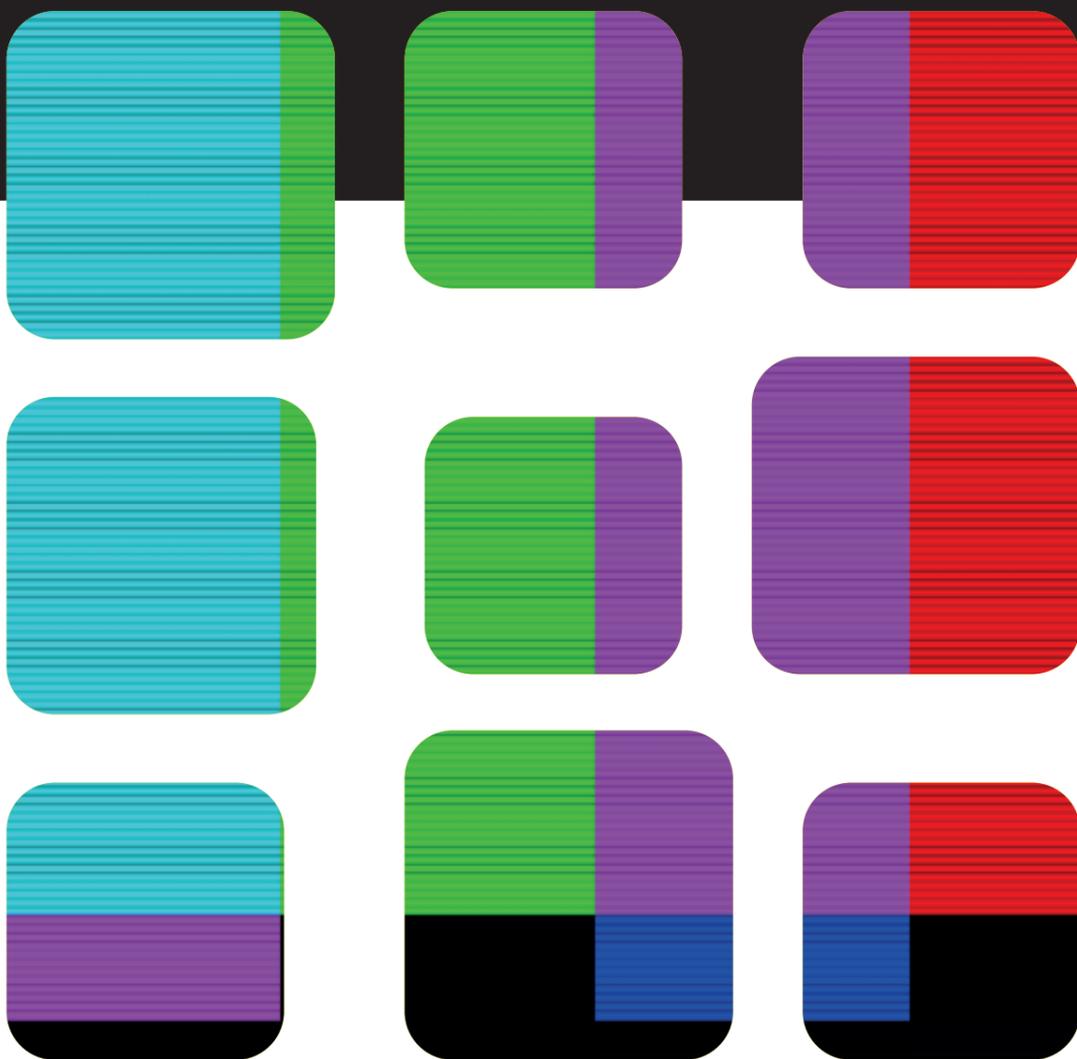


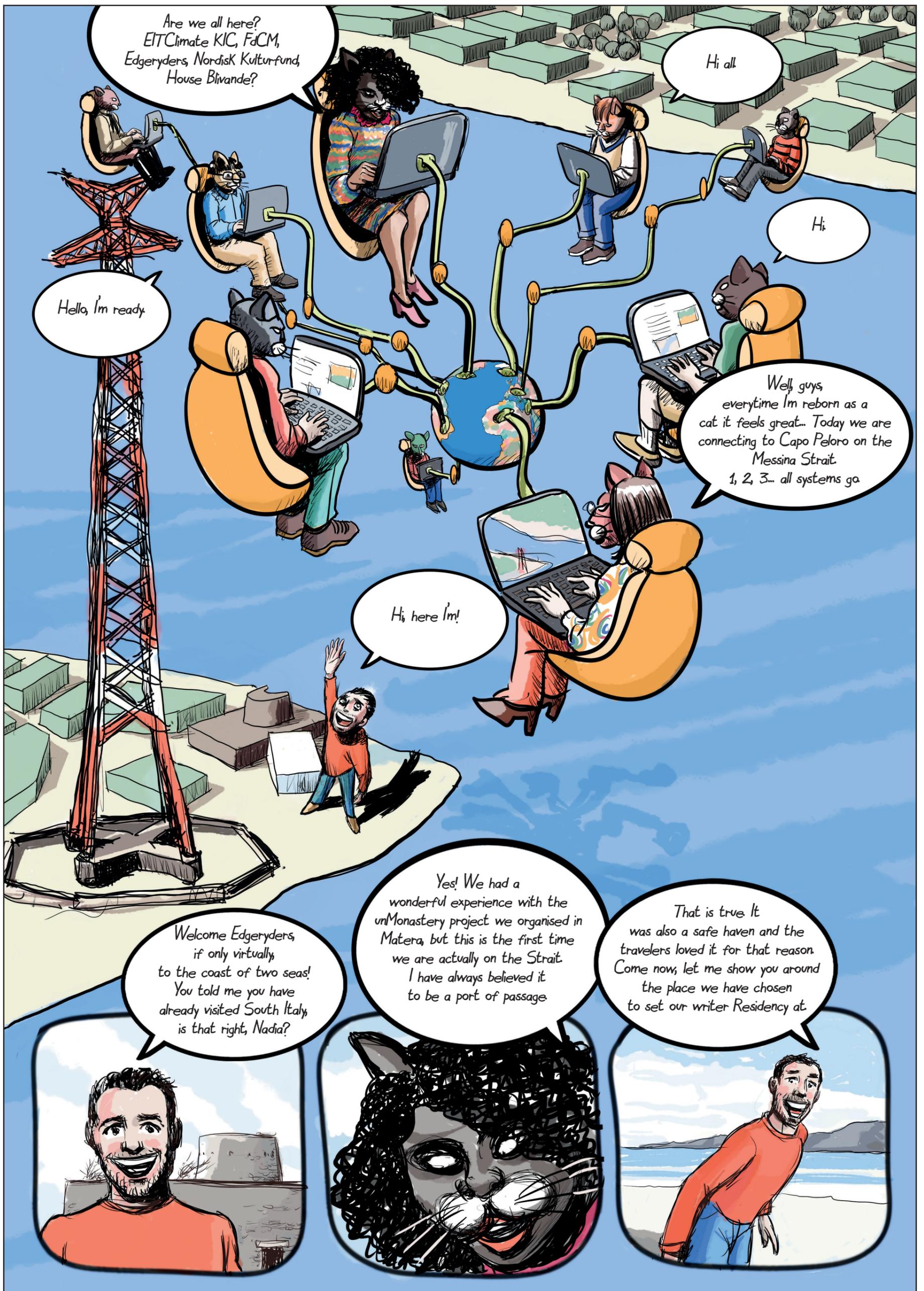
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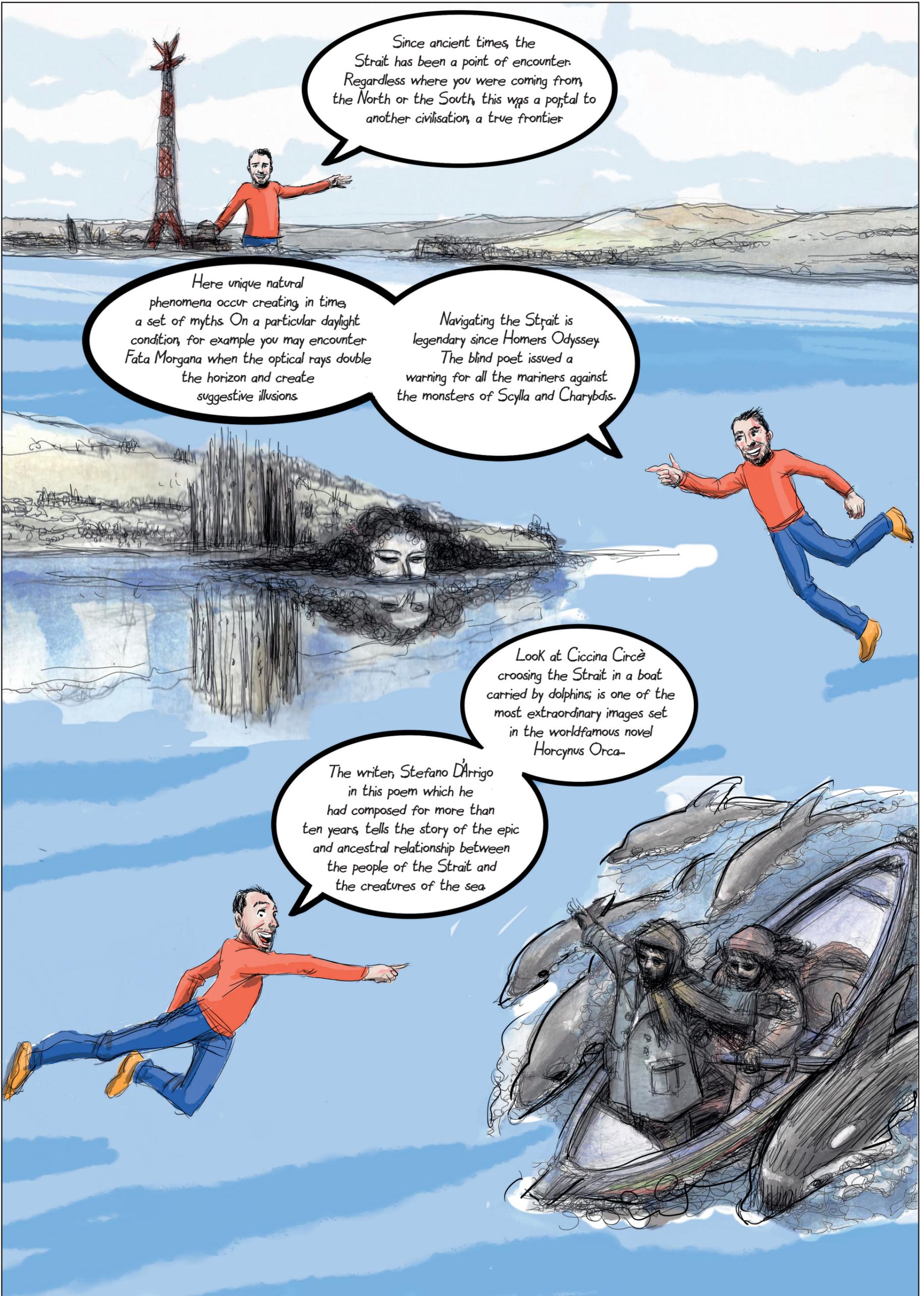
good morning everyone... can you hear me?



Economics, as we know it currently, has changed from a place to imagine new and better worlds to a discipline which re-enforces and improves itself in a single model. Much "blue sky" economic thinking is now done in strange contexts. Science fiction is one of them. Another one is local communities who attempt to reboot their economies in more humane and long-term resilient ways. The Science Fiction Economics Lab papers track down and investigate examples of systemic innovation or radical rethinking of the current economic model.







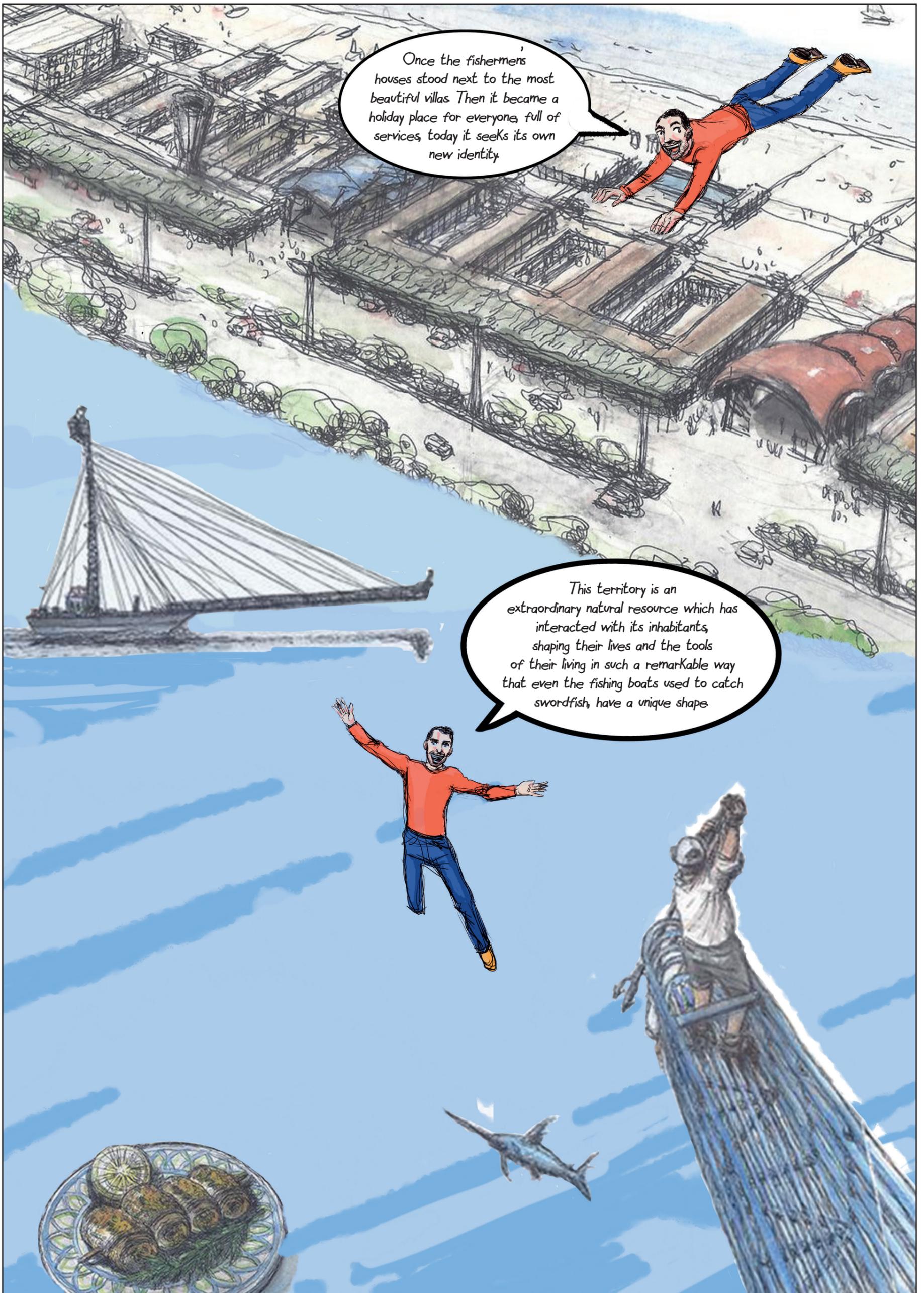
Since ancient times, the Strait has been a point of encounter. Regardless where you were coming from, the North or the South, this was a portal to another civilisation, a true frontier

Here unique natural phenomena occur creating in time a set of myths. On a particular daylight condition, for example you may encounter Fata Morgana when the optical rays double the horizon and create suggestive illusions

Navigating the Strait is legendary since Homers Odyssey. The blind poet issued a warning for all the mariners against the monsters of Scylla and Charybdis.

Look at Ciccina Circè crossing the Strait in a boat carried by dolphins; is one of the most extraordinary images set in the worldfamous novel *Horcynus Orca*...

The writer, Stefano D'Arrigo in this poem which he had composed for more than ten years, tells the story of the epic and ancestral relationship between the people of the Strait and the creatures of the sea.



Once the fishermen's houses stood next to the most beautiful villas. Then it became a holiday place for everyone, full of services, today it seeks its own new identity.

This territory is an extraordinary natural resource which has interacted with its inhabitants, shaping their lives and the tools of their living in such a remarkable way that even the fishing boats used to catch swordfish, have a unique shape.



Culture and stories carry a duality. They are a reflection of their times and exactly the thing that can push the Zeitgeist forward

We are building a fictional world. Something like the Star Trek Universe or the Harry Potter Universe. The difference is, better economics

Joriam Ramos
the raconteur

Alberto Cottica
the economist

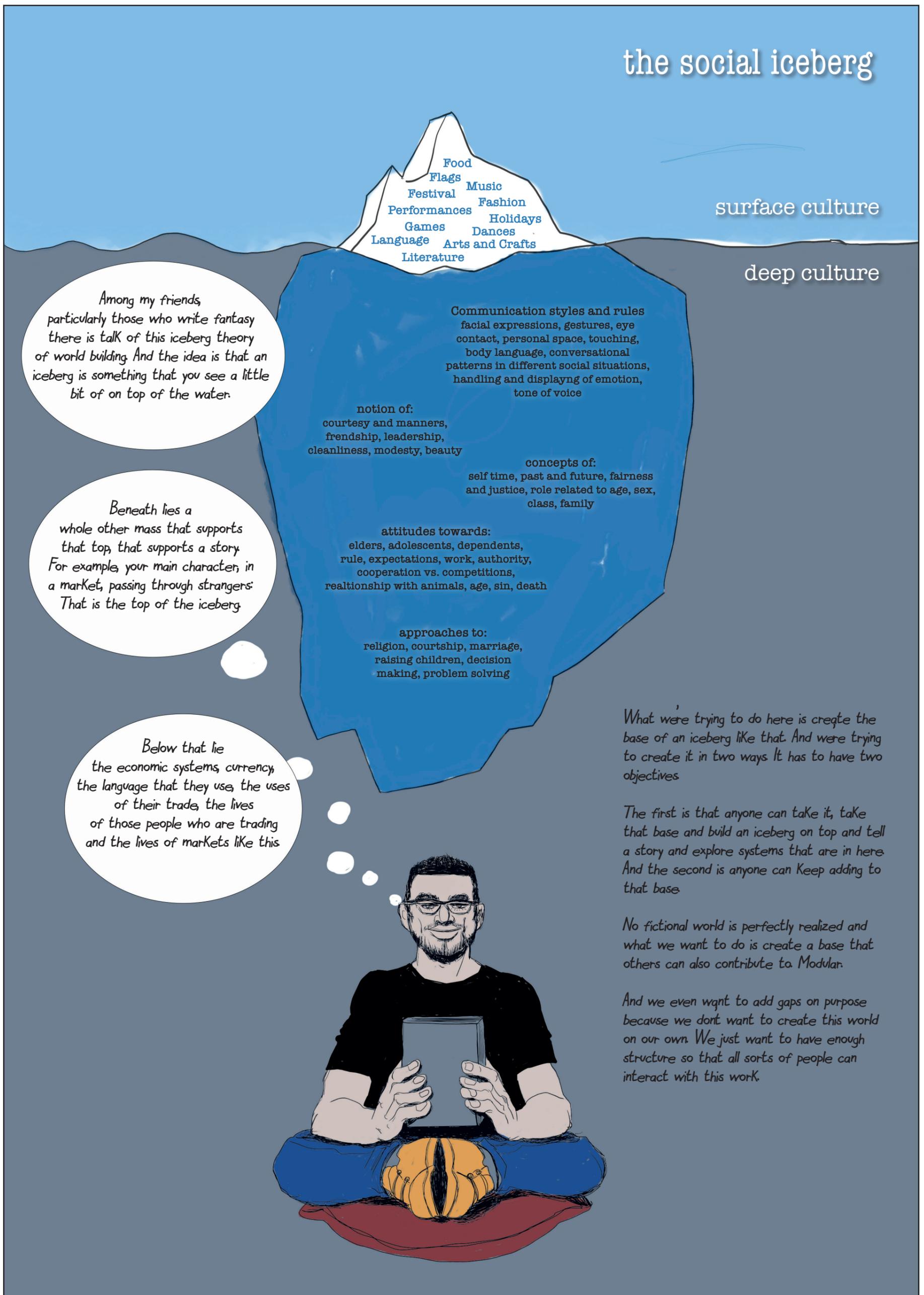


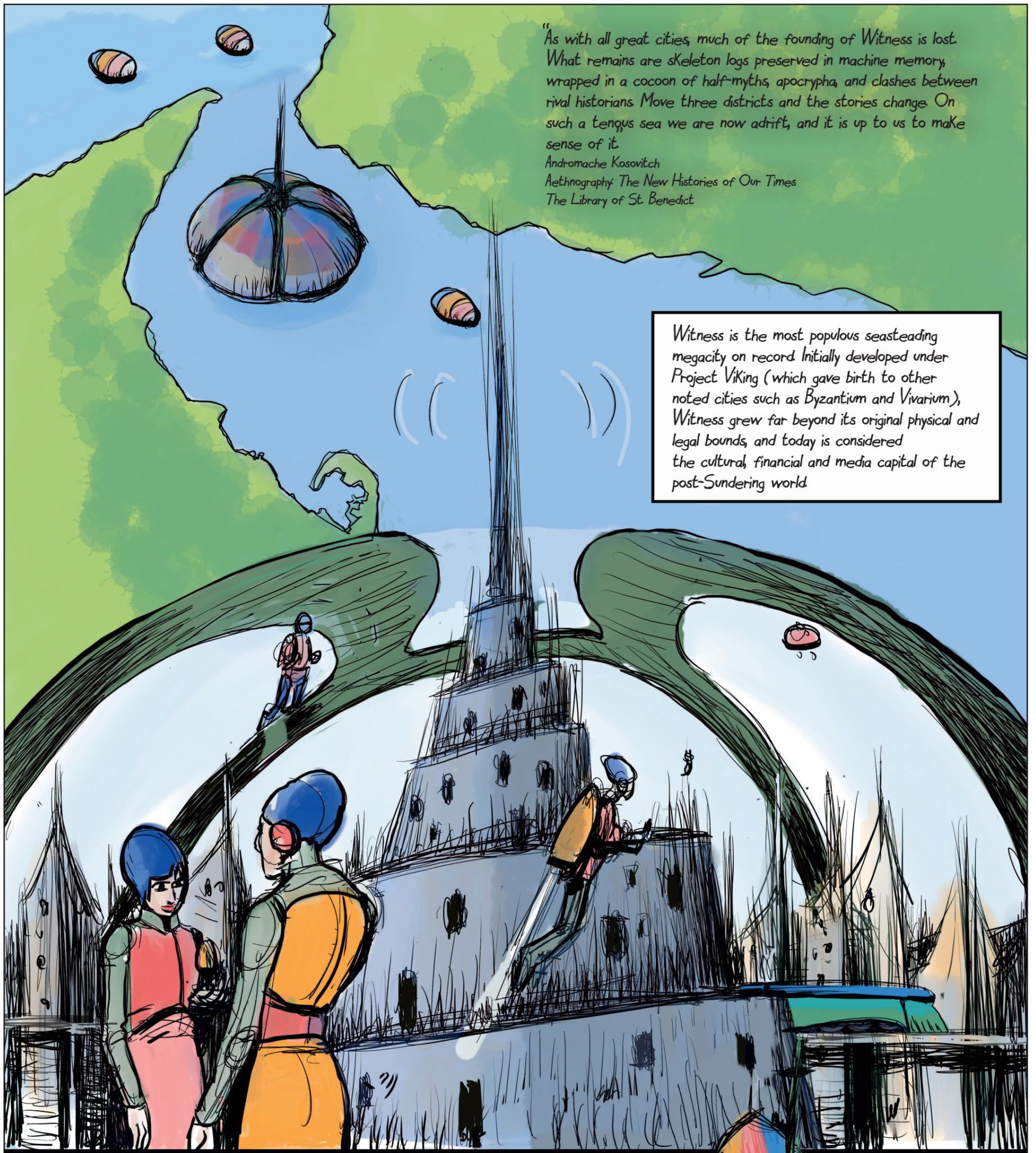
Yudhanjaya Wijeratne
the builder

We can all agree that we want a better life, a better future and humanity. Each one of us might have a personal flavor for that. One might really believe in sustainability, justice or freedom, but let us be honest, how many minutes of your life have you spent imagining this future?

We want our imaginary economies to be radically different from the one we live in, and yet credible and rigorous. We need solid, vivid, business cultures, organisational models, infrastructure, finance. And if we can imagine these things... Well, maybe we could build them, out here in the real world.

the social iceberg

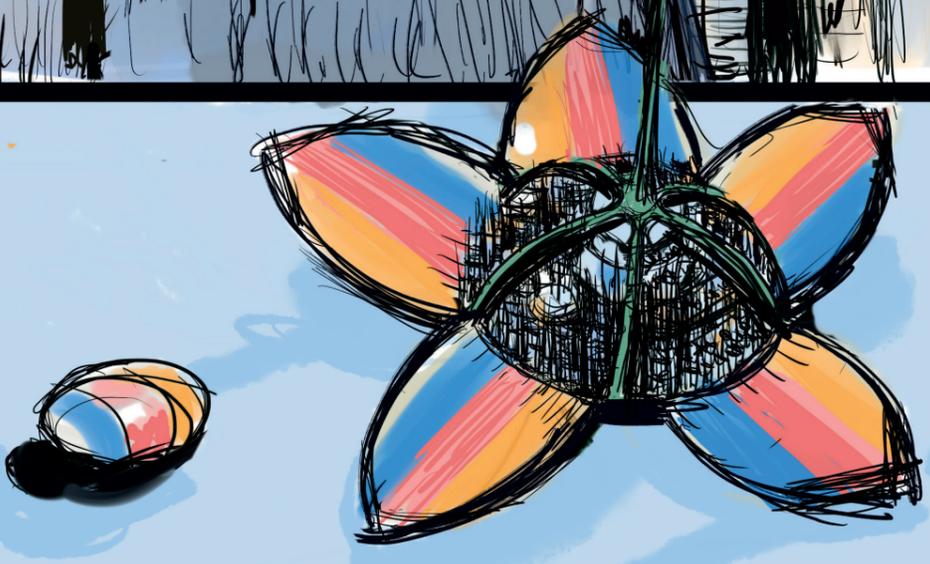




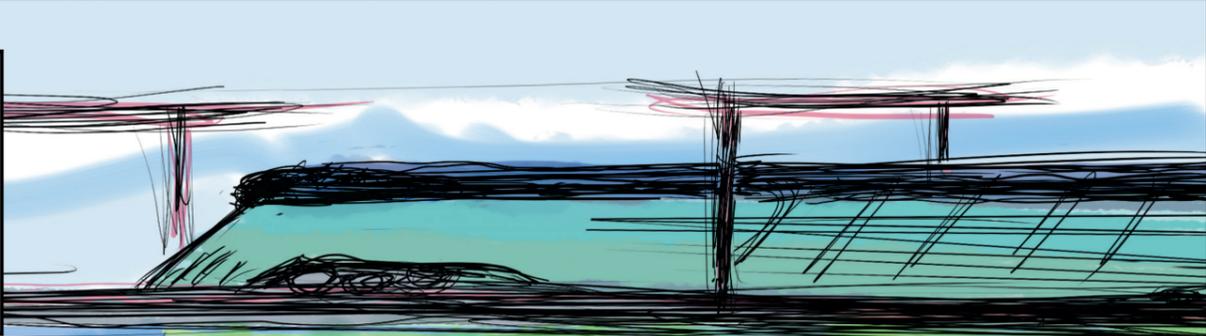
“As with all great cities, much of the founding of Witness is lost. What remains are skeleton logs preserved in machine memory, wrapped in a cocoon of half-myths, apocrypha, and clashes between rival historians. Move three districts and the stories change. On such a tenuous sea we are now adrift, and it is up to us to make sense of it.
 Andromache Kosovitch
 Aethnography: The New Histories of Our Times
 The Library of St. Benedict

Witness is the most populous seasteading megacity on record. Initially developed under Project Viking (which gave birth to other noted cities such as Byzantium and Vivarium), Witness grew far beyond its original physical and legal bounds, and today is considered the cultural, financial and media capital of the post-Sundering world.

The now-distributed engineering skills were channeled by the Distrikt Council into creating a single central power station, built on neutral ground, politically agnostic and bound to supply each Distrikt with a minimum (and equal) amount of energy. In return, each Distrikt would contribute to the upkeep and maintenance of said division, and accord its workers maximum protection under their laws. This unit was called the Harvest Division...



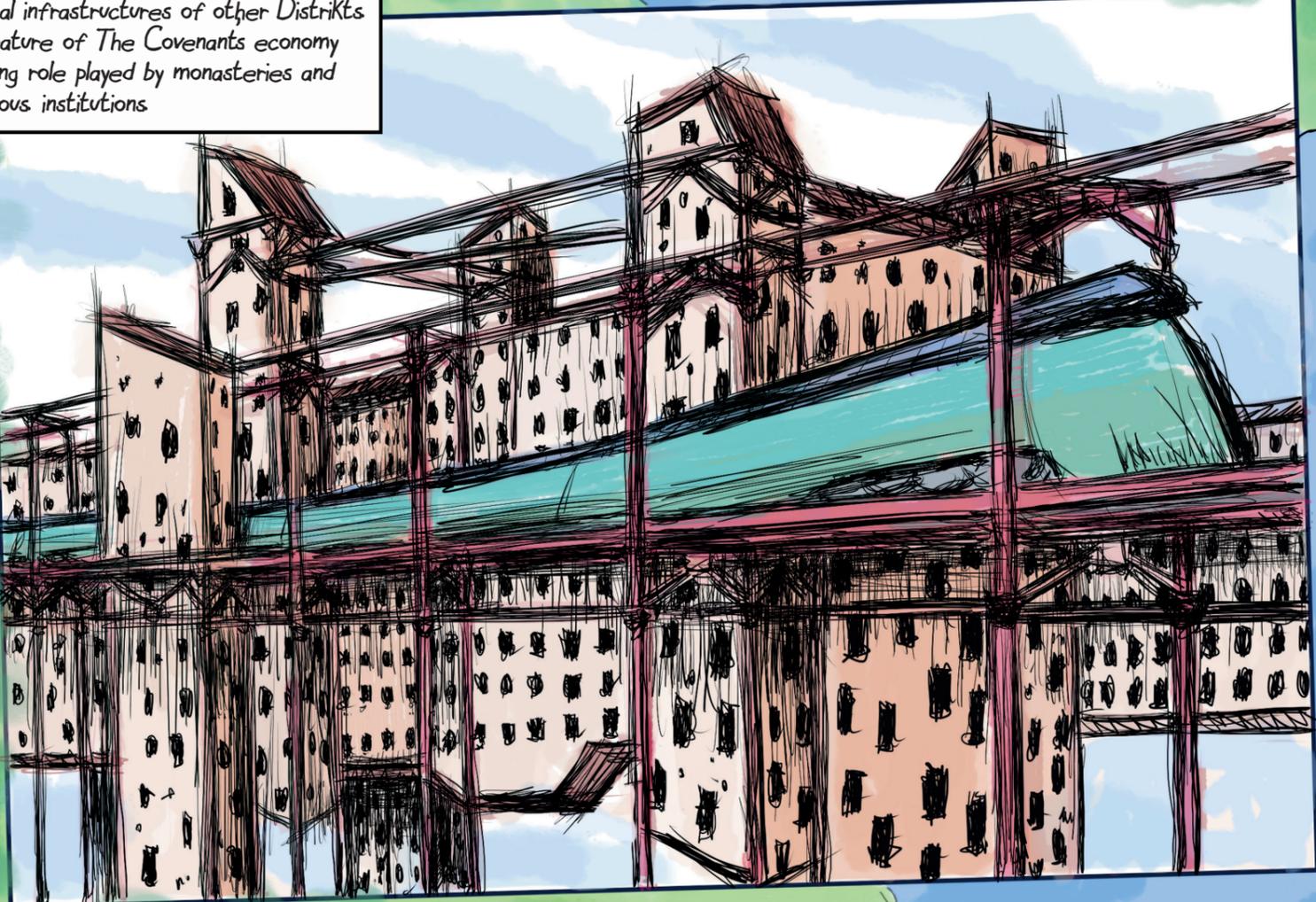
The districts are connected with the Migrant Train. Of extraordinary workmanship, it changes its course to the needs of the smaller districts. It often serves as a recruiting pool for new social experiments as the majority of migrants try to change their status.

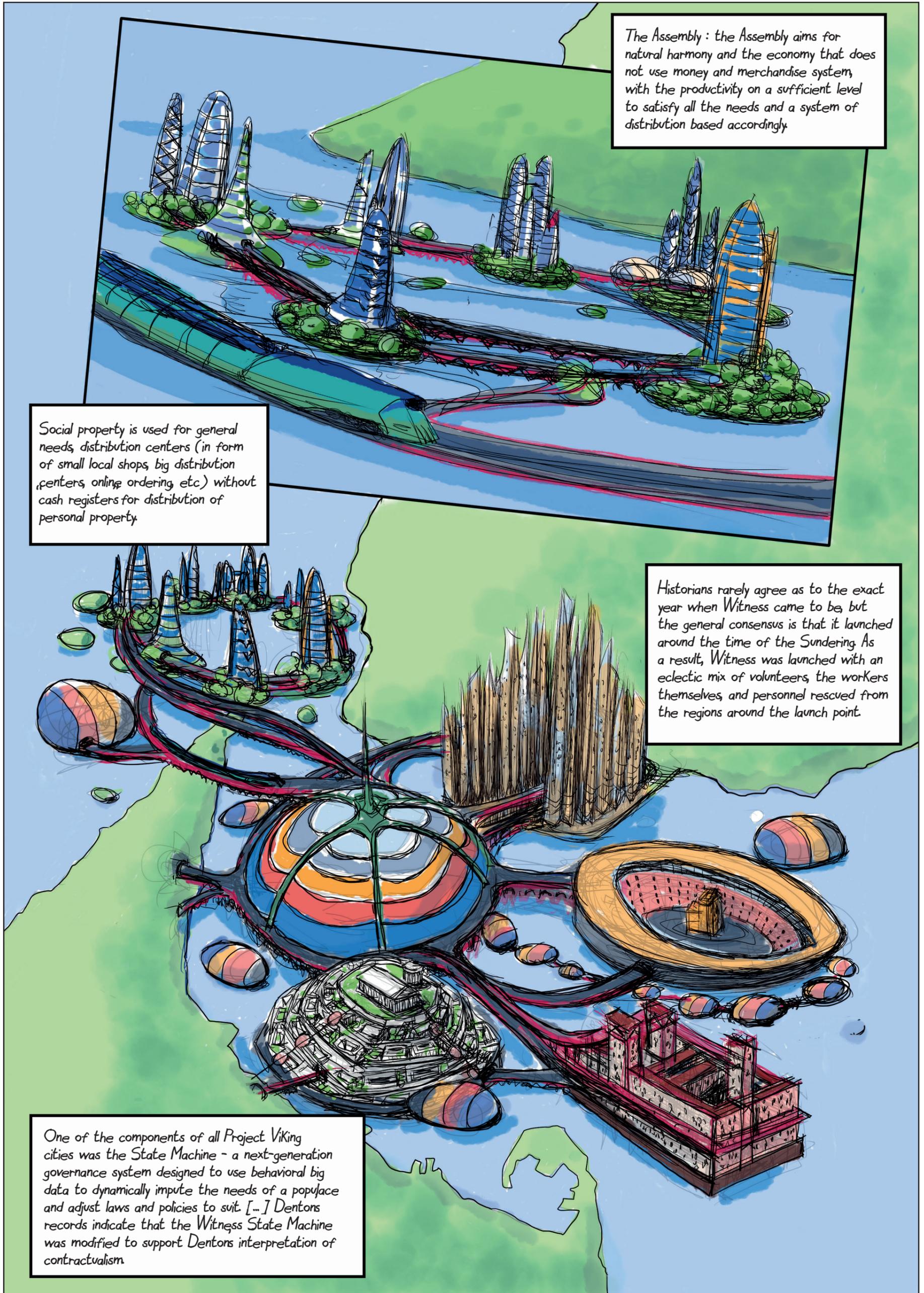


Libria is an ultra-libertarian state where individuals have great power, like if the Italian communal system has evolved on a larger level. A well-paid Government and Aristocrat class is in constant flux, elected among those the public recognizes as being of extraordinary merit. The travelling courts are relied on for upholding law and making judgement in situations where Coasian bargaining has failed; it is impossible to hide the effects of gross power imbalances between people.



The Covenant's economy is robust and diverse, with an unusually high presence of manufacturing. The service sector is also strong, notably in higher education, health care, and finance. The Covenant hosts the headquarters of several large utilities, that serve not only the Distrikt itself, but also run some critical infrastructures of other Distrikts. A unique feature of The Covenant's economy is the strong role played by monasteries and other religious institutions.





The Assembly : the Assembly aims for natural harmony and the economy that does not use money and merchandise system, with the productivity on a sufficient level to satisfy all the needs and a system of distribution based accordingly.

Social property is used for general needs, distribution centers (in form of small local shops, big distribution centers, online ordering etc.) without cash registers for distribution of personal property.

Historians rarely agree as to the exact year when Witness came to be, but the general consensus is that it launched around the time of the Sundering. As a result, Witness was launched with an eclectic mix of volunteers, the workers themselves, and personnel rescued from the regions around the launch point.

One of the components of all Project Viking cities was the State Machine - a next-generation governance system designed to use behavioral big data to dynamically impute the needs of a populace and adjust laws and policies to suit [...] Dentons records indicate that the Witness State Machine was modified to support Dentons interpretation of contractualism.

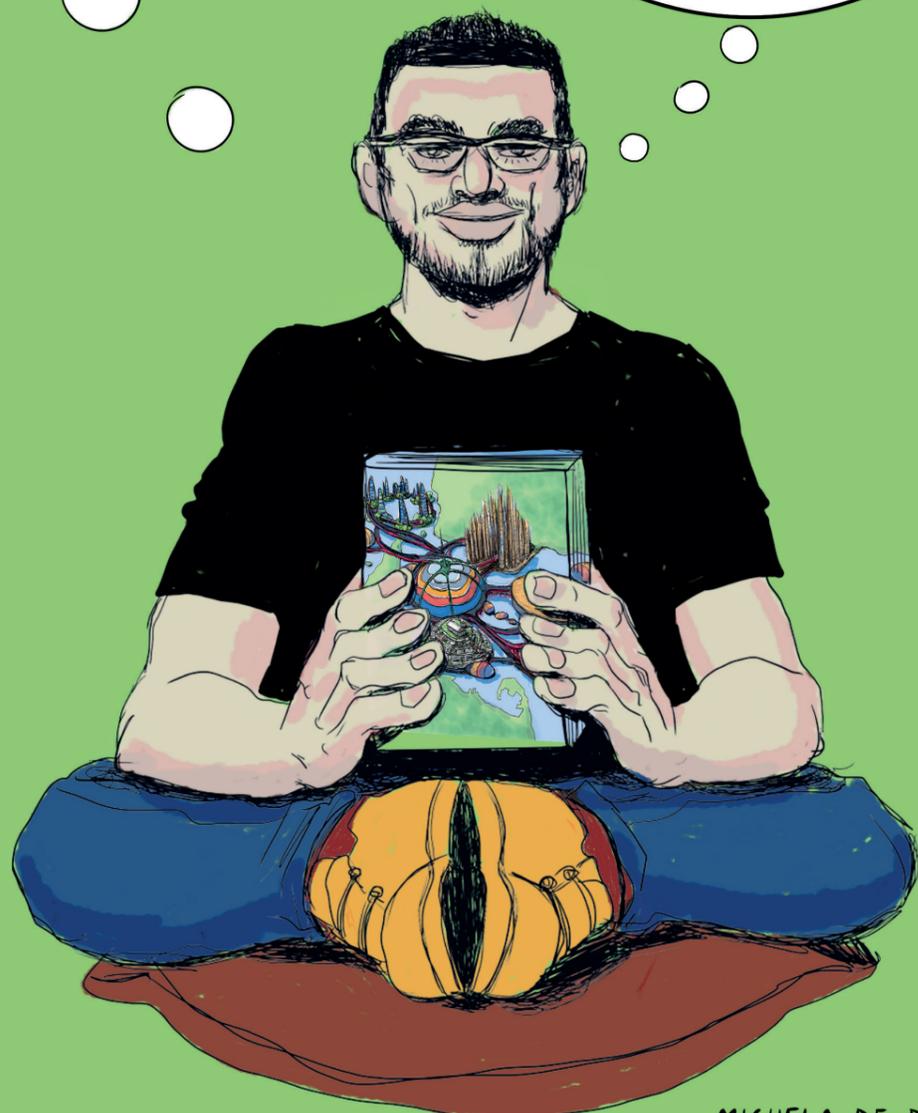


I can already imagine an economist-philosopher sitting by the docks, trainside, by the light of a dying sun, with a fat and angry-looking cat next to her.

She has black hair and a left hand that looks badly scarred. For the last so many years she's been advising the Migrant Train Committee on the yearly train-route optimization, which at its basic level is a variant of the Traveling Salesman Problem with some political tension thrown in.

She's been using the number of connected districts - and the radius of the train-circle - as a measure of how diverse this floating megacity is, but she's also wondering whether size is a reliable indicator of diversity, given recent events; districts have seceded in the past, and she is deep in thought about whether there is an optimal arrangement of districts that enables even the most polarized of them to connect to the superstructure without fighting too much.

Every so often she looks up as the train passes by and pets the cat absent-mindedly.



MICHELA DE DOMENICO

|||| worldbuilding academy | 2020



Fondazione
di Comunità
di Messina



NORDISK
KULTURFOND



||| worldbuilding graphic novel

concept and layout | Marco Lo Curzio and Michela De Domenico

drawings | Michela De Domenico

This paper and the activities through which its contents have been developed are funded by **EIT Climate-KIC** and organised by **Edgeryders** as a project under the umbrella of the **Science Fiction Economics Lab**.

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