

# Laboratory to Learn How to Talk to plants

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With Desiree Coral



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topsoil.  
2021

Experimental  
pedagogies

For the second project within our long-term research itinerary Experimental Pedagogies, we collaborated with Quito-Ecuadorian artist, ceramist, gardener and teacher Desiree Coral. Over the course of three online meetings from March to April 2021, the four of us explored what it means to us connecting with plants and other nonhuman beings.

In her workshop entitled 'Laboratory to learn how to talk (relate) to plants', Desiree gave us tasks to follow until the next meeting. For the first workshop, she asked us to choose a plant in our respective surroundings, observe it over a week and create a map. She proposed to watch the film *My Octopus Teacher* for its specific methods of mapping territories and entering non-human-human relationships.

Based on our previous mappings of the plants, in the second workshop we experimented with translating the map onto a grid through weaving methods.

Our mutual learning with Desiree was a way to learn about processes of relating, which have included a different understanding of time, of undoing oneself (and its temporality and limitations), of the sensual, spatial containment and of the thought patterns and forms of intimacy arising during manual work.

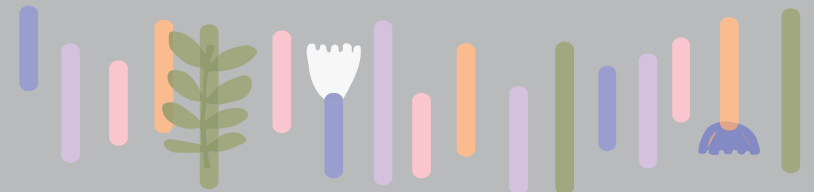
Almost a year later, we have turned our learning together into this zine. In the next pages you encounter images, mappings, and drawings of our exploration. It also includes an infographic on processes of connection, intimacy, and memory within learning relationships developed by topsoil.

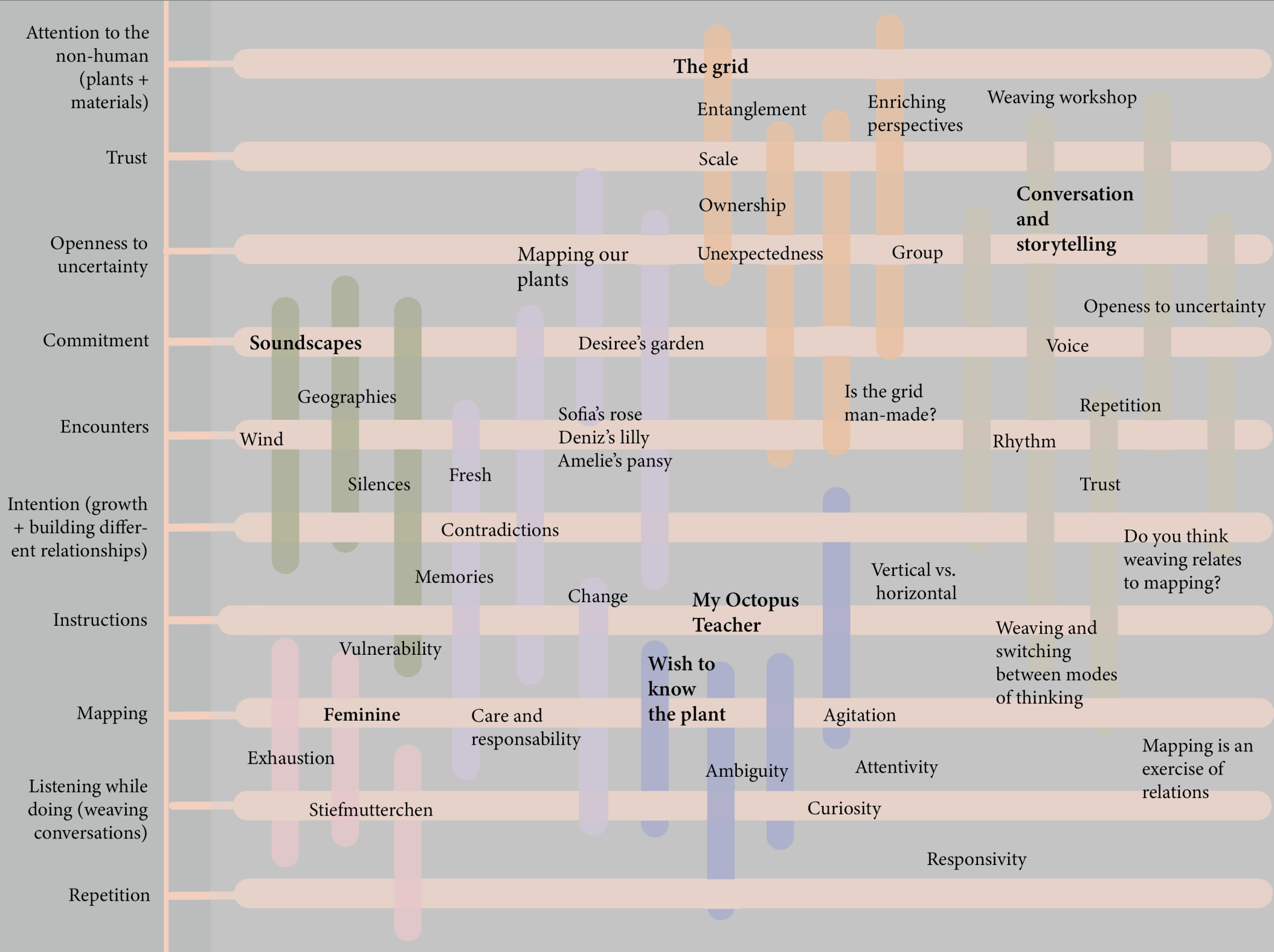
# Laboratory to Learn

## How to

## Talk to Plants

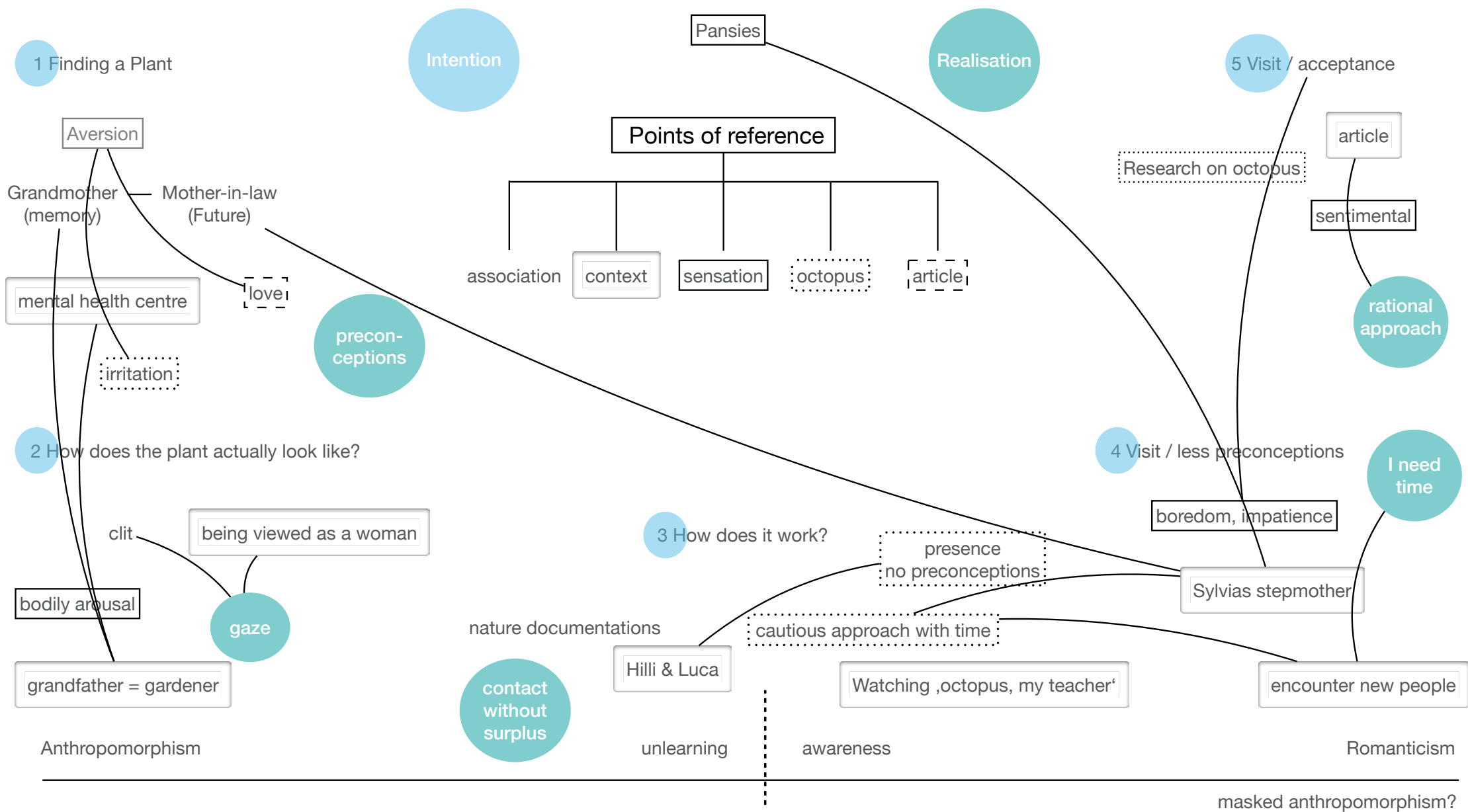
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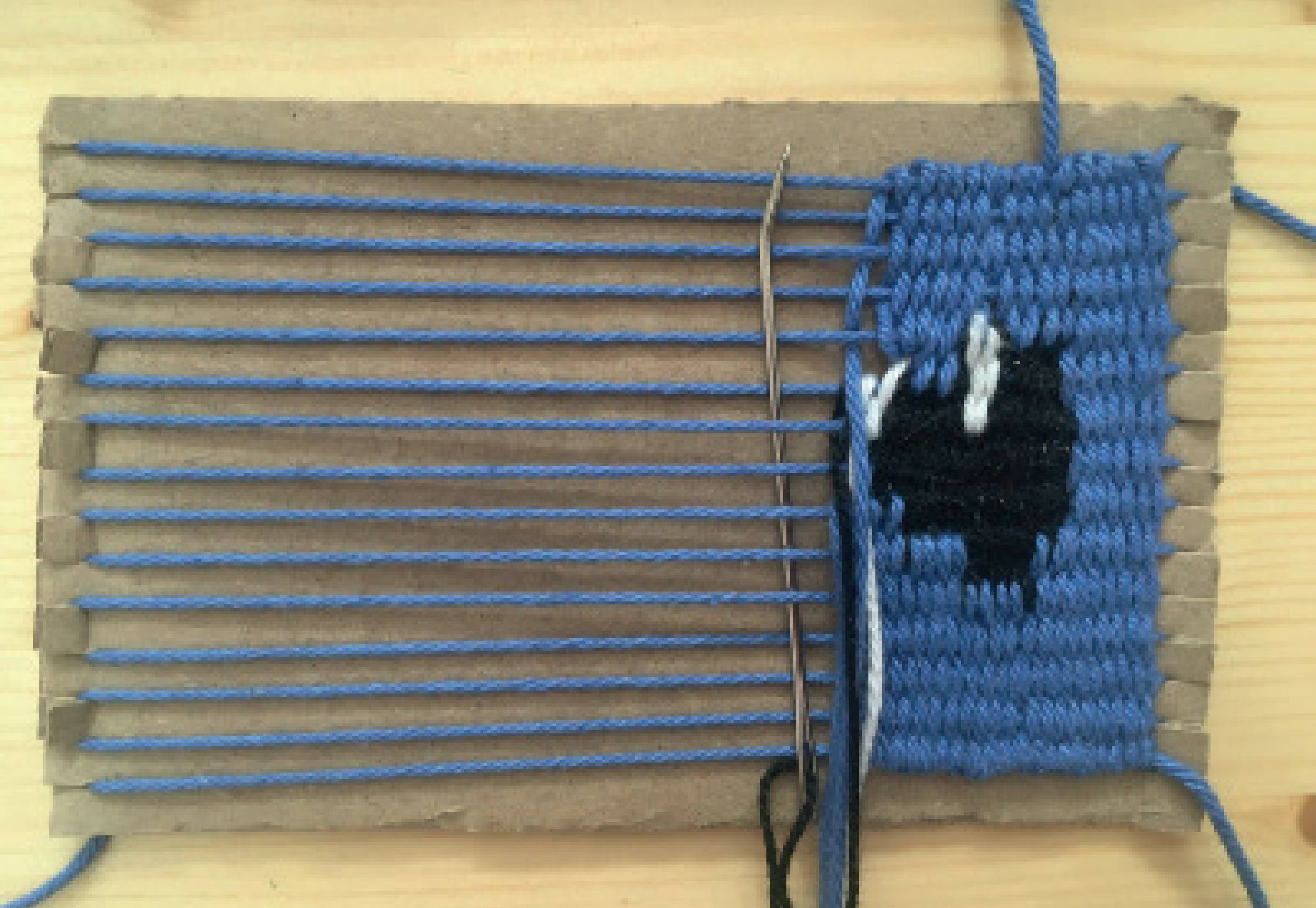






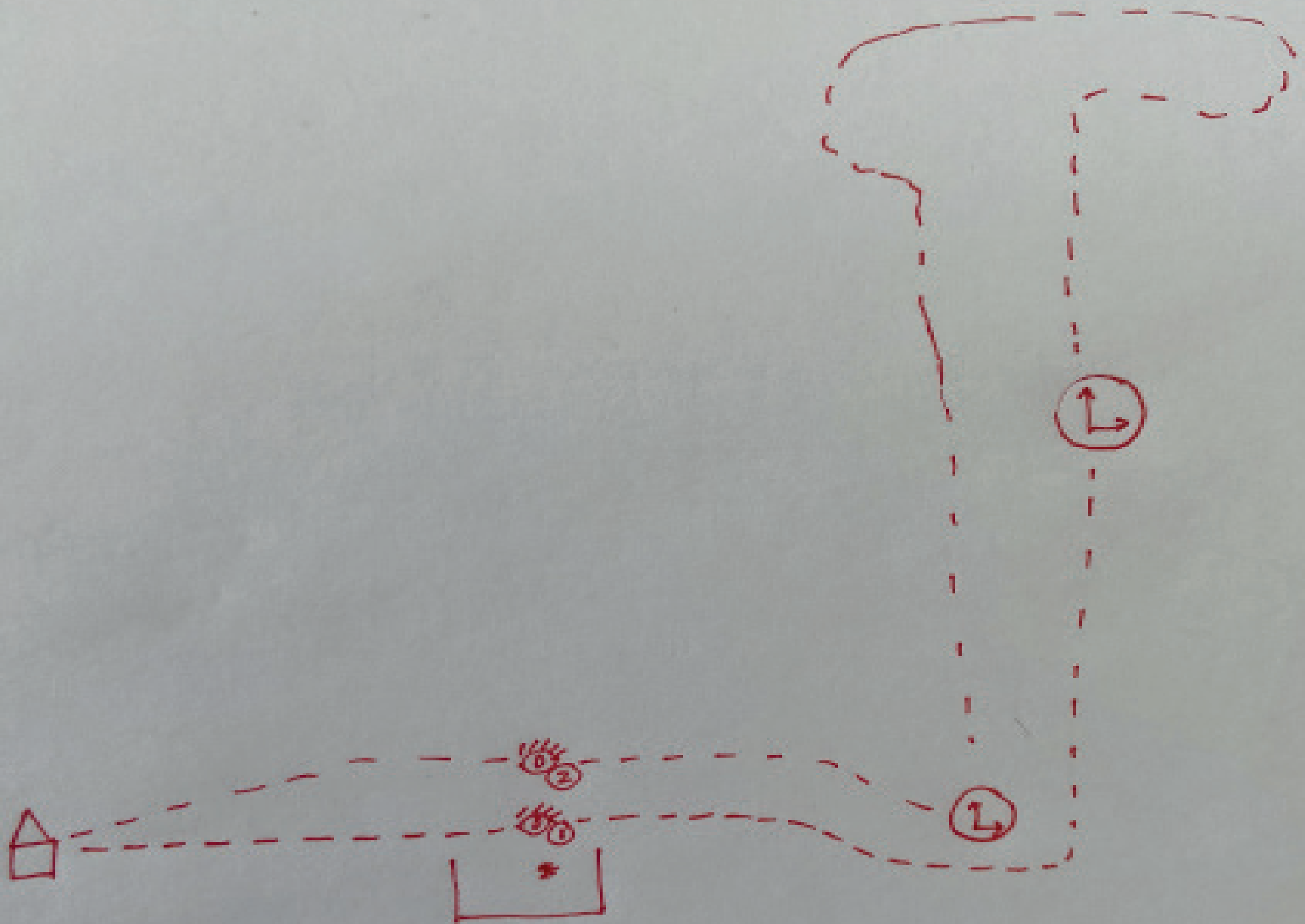
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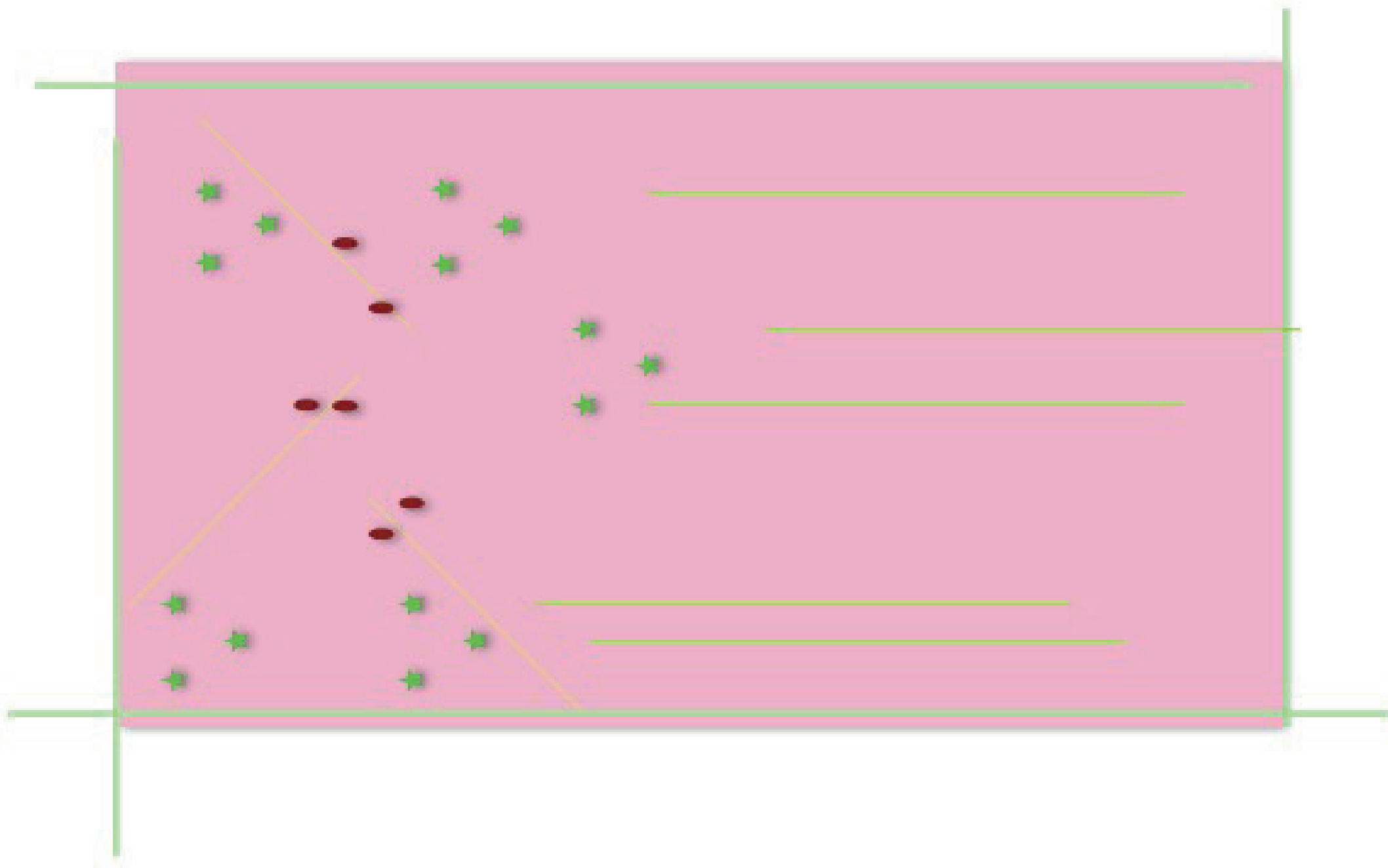




Peruvian  
Lilly —









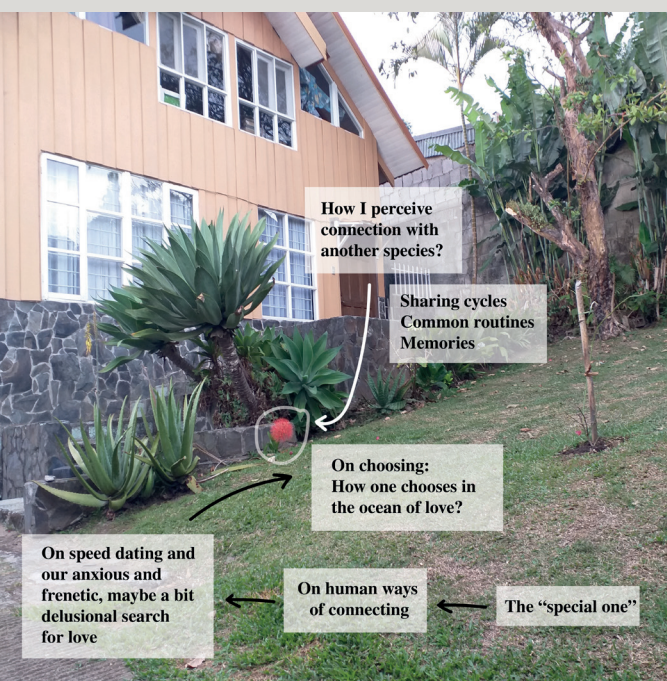
Jasmin



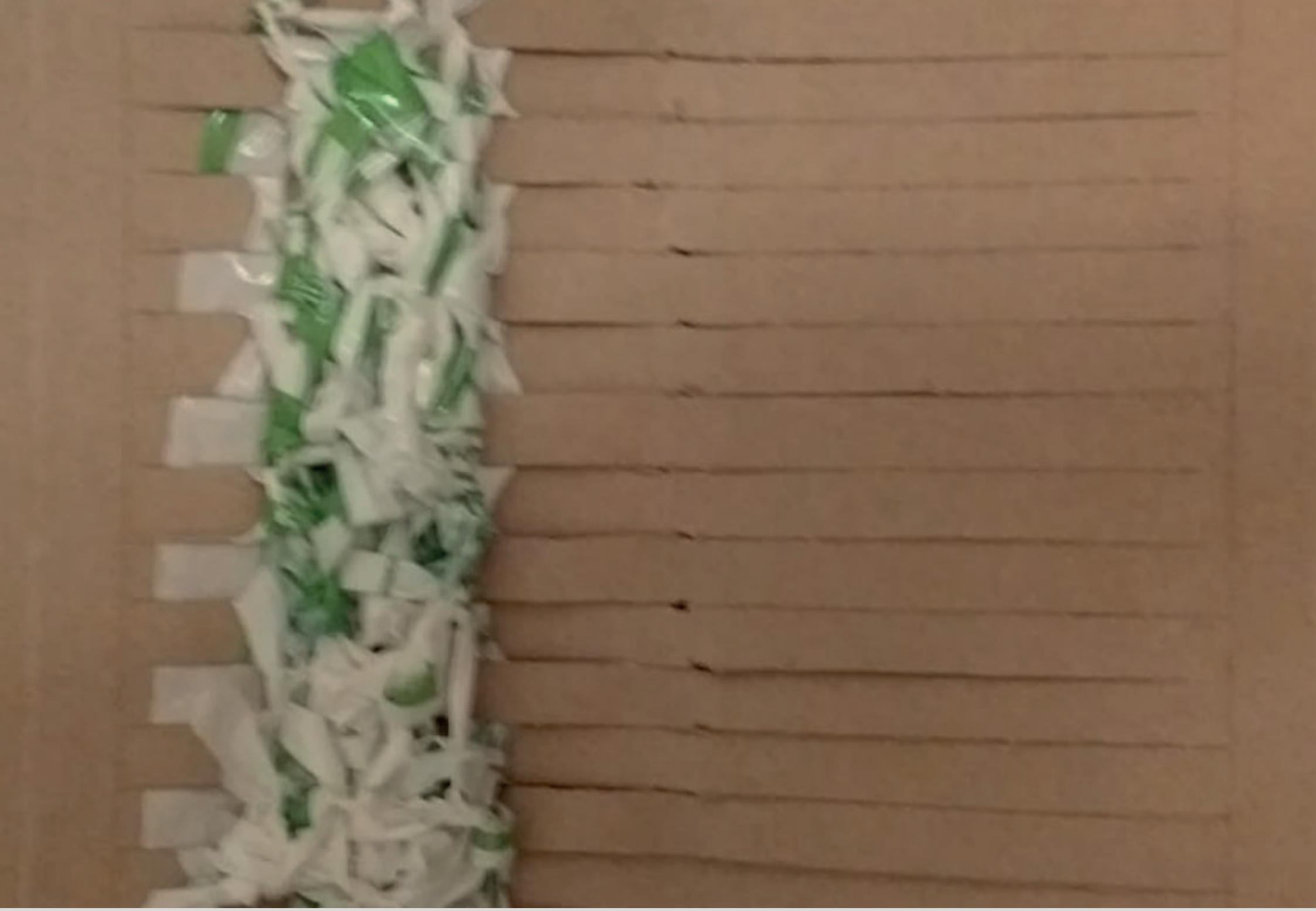


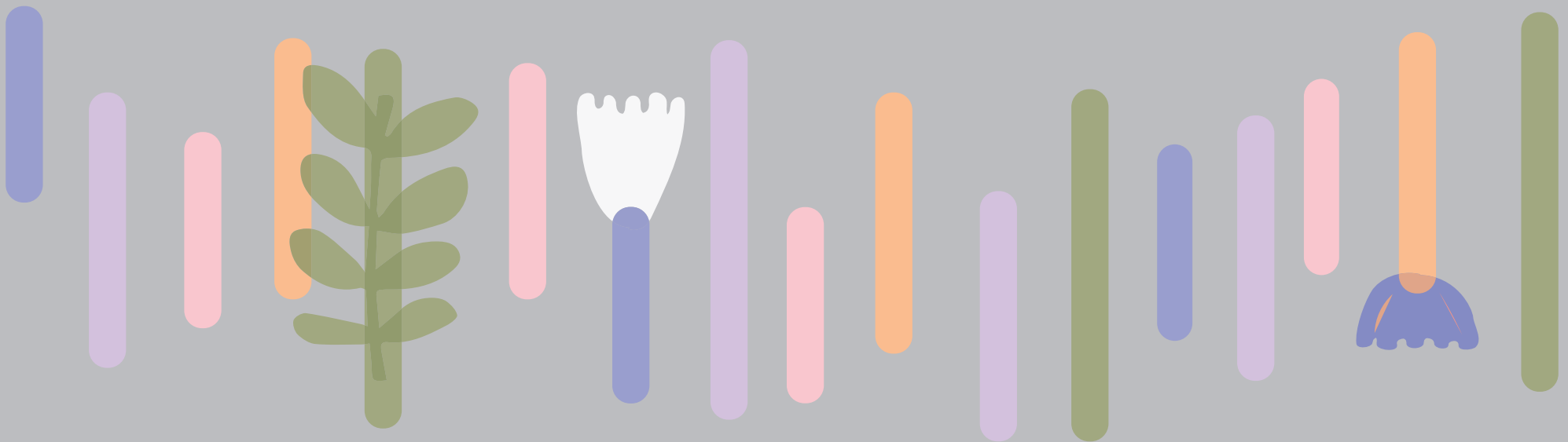
Rose  
— Ants  
Mushroom











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