

PICTOGRAMS FROM THE INTERIOR OF B.C.



Fred Wah

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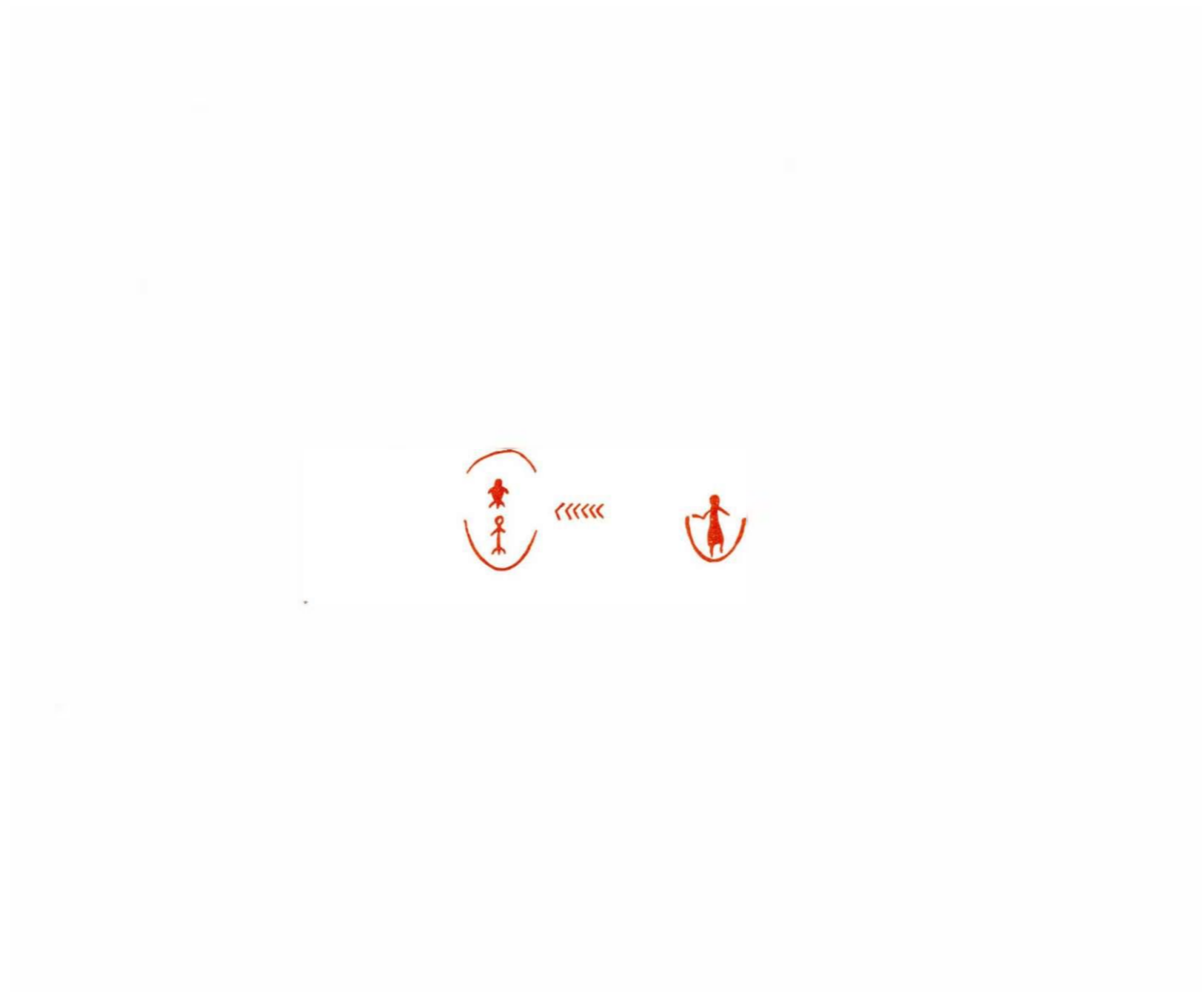
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The Capilano Review, Fathar, Longhouse, Truck, himma, Picture Book of the Kootenays

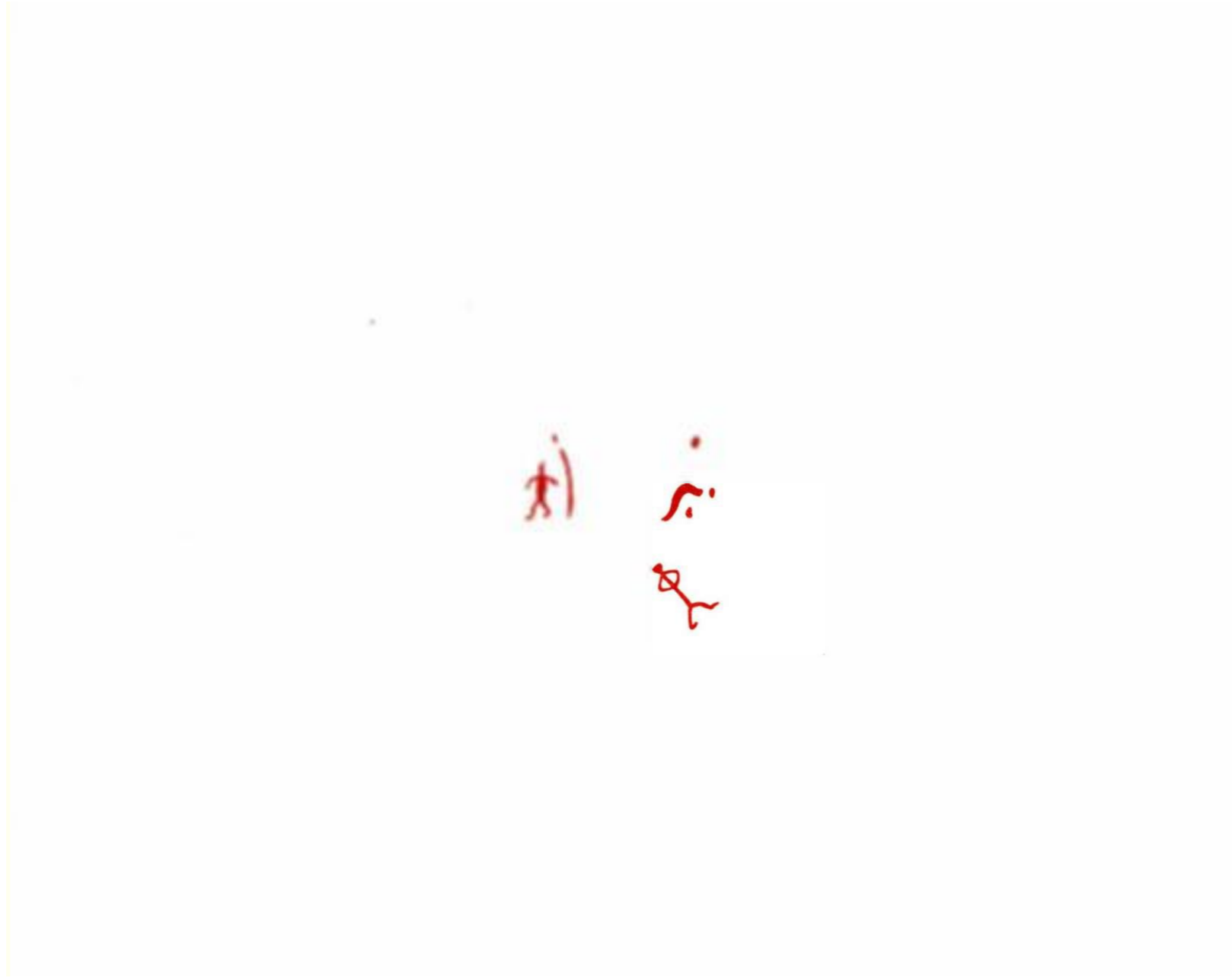
Grateful acknowledgement to John Corner, his book, *Pictographs (Indian Rock Paintings) in the Interior of British Columbia* (Vernon, 1968), from which the illustrations of this book are taken, the work he continues to pioneer and his generosity in sharing it. Site numbers, locations and language areas are references to Mr. Corner's book.

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“Not the qualities merely, but the root of the qualities
is transcreated. How else could it be a birth, – a creation?”
Coleridge in *Literary Reminiscences* (1839), IV.. 166



Under and over
I see myself rocking
boat/cradle
cave to swim into
over and over again
home again
home



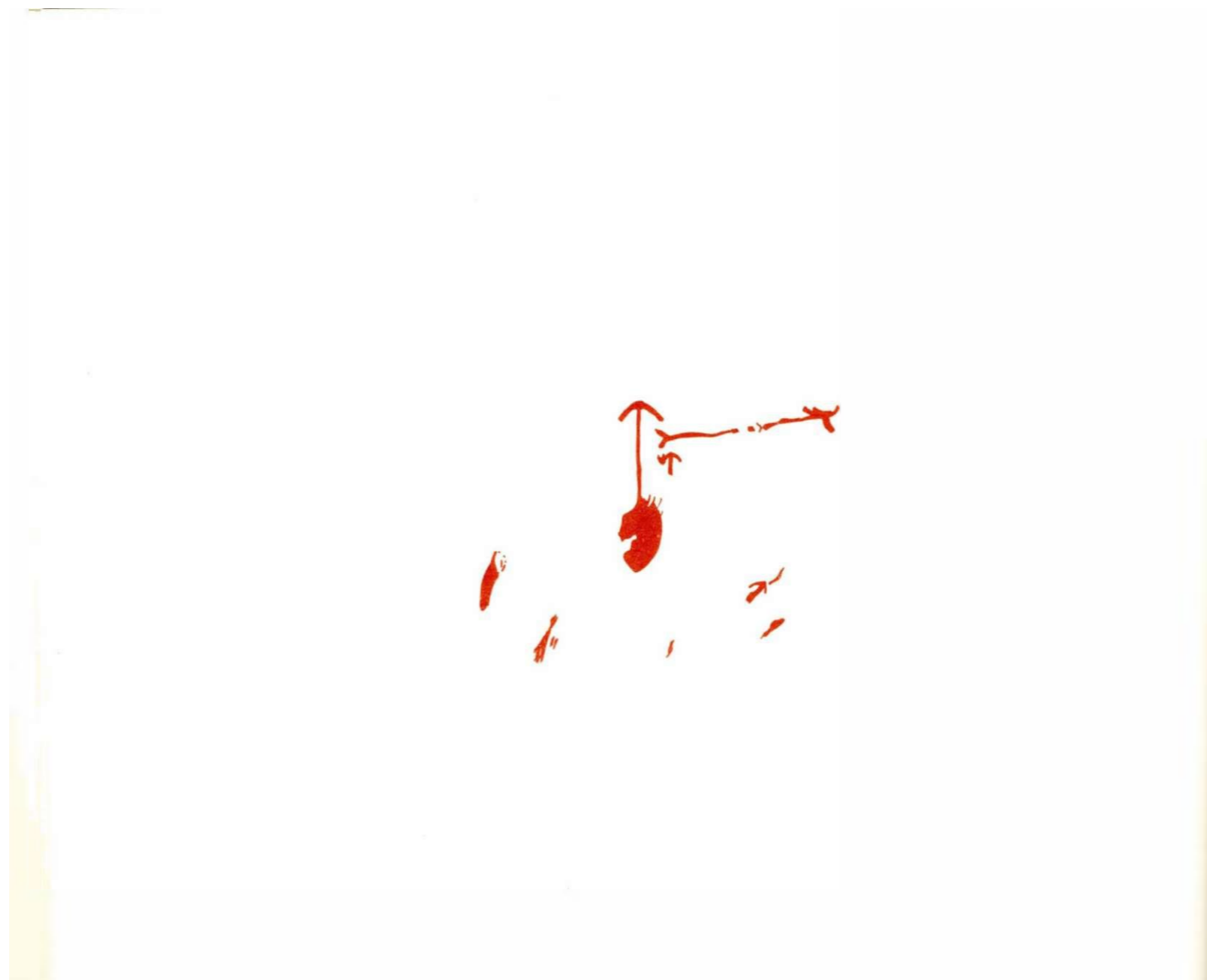
“Not the qualities merely, but the root of the qualities
is transcreated. How else could it be a birth, — a creation?”
Coleridge in *Literary Reminiscences* (1839), IV., 166

What if there was a circle
and the circle was a lake
and all around the lake the stone
grew up the mountainside

but instead of surrounding
the circle was a vector of aquamarine
and rather than go round it, by turns
each of us would go into and therefore through it.



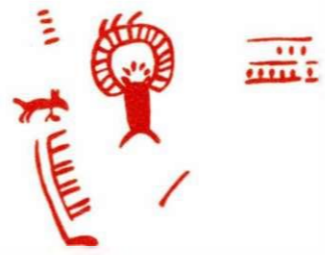
See the arrow?
Even the beetles go.
And the birds, birds
something equal or familiar
twice, a two
such as a man and a lake
a place, the place
to come back to.



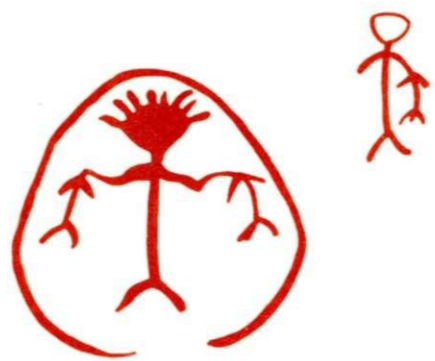
On my way to get a pail of water
which way
down by the creek
down by the dark
and in the trees the night
buhdum, buhdum
bdum bdum bdum



oh there is no need to be small not for
anything in the world take it from anyone
on the hill don't be pushed say it first
move right at it so that you are in it
right from the start go ahead



The feathers of my mind increase
as I reach for the choices
chance for what else
other than what I knew (know)
another talks to me (I think)
something (things) to see



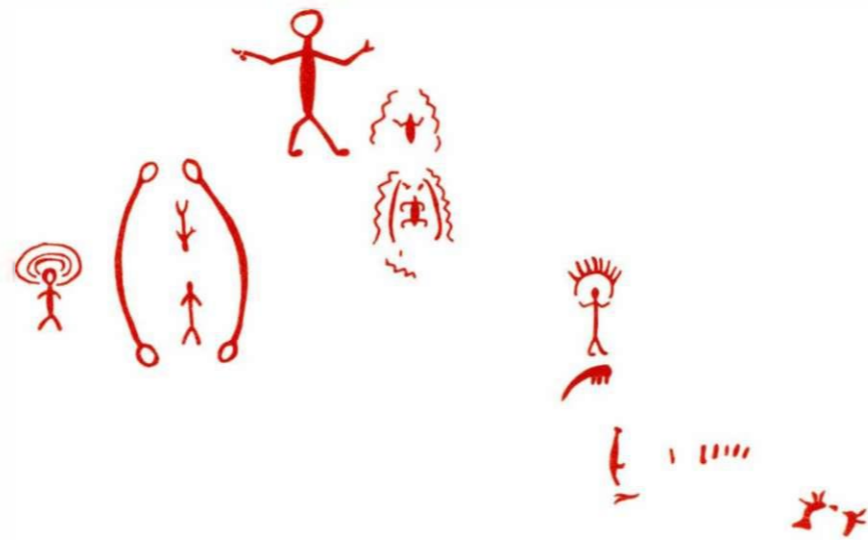
Hey! It Looks like
you got a couple ways in there

and a face, me
no face.

Show me how you do it
and I'll come too.



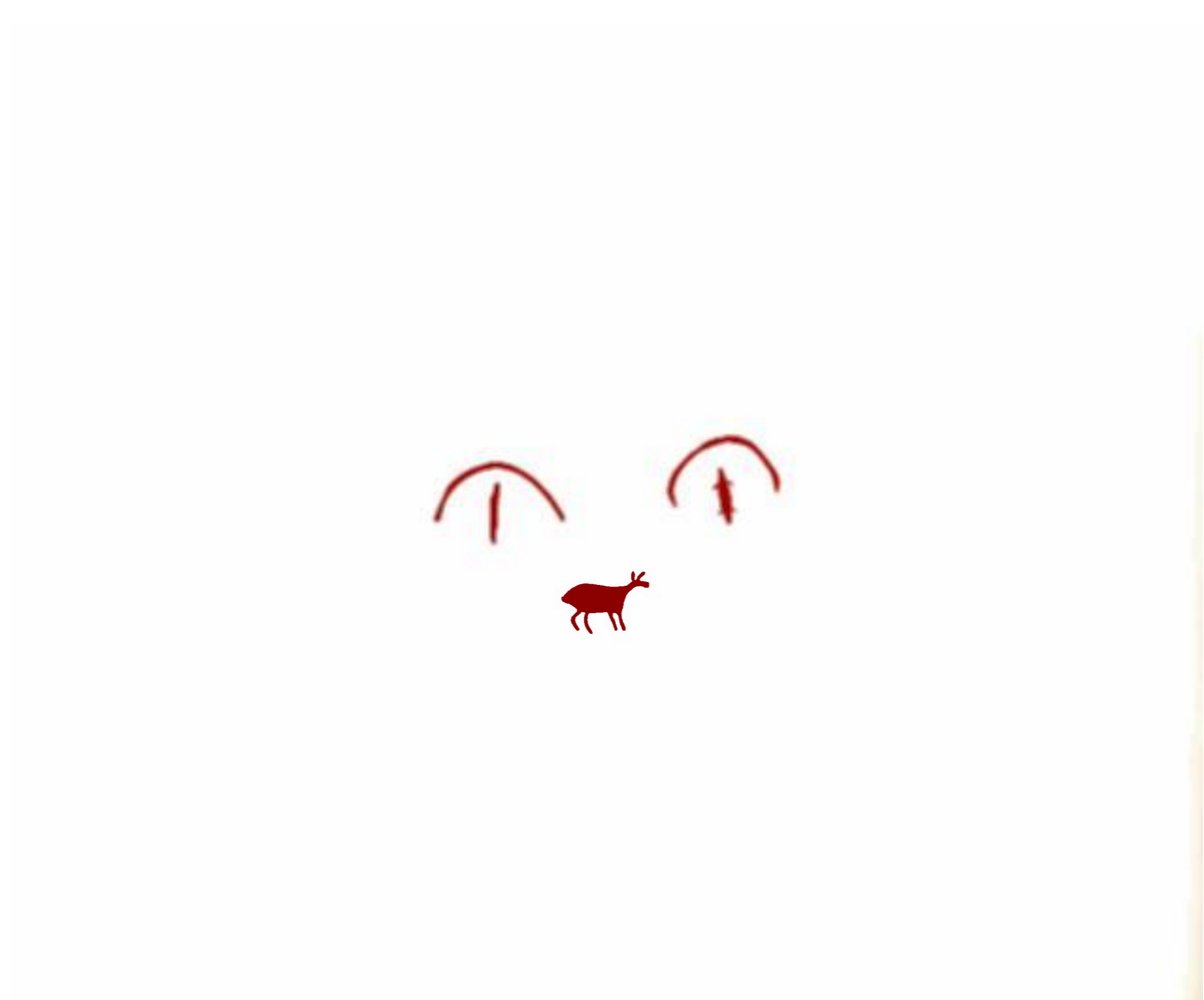
If I could have jumped over there further
just as he wishes he could have
we would both be over there smaller
and back here even more beautiful bigger
but now see that we couldn't have having crossed over.



There is the spinner
throwing out baited hooks
& tossing around dreams
visions, painted plans
hence instruction
to he-who-could-care
who runs off in a circle
telling anyone
who will listen
and soon everybody knows
but by then how much
doesn't matter
they're caught like fish
in a creek trap
entranced by the beauty
and the enumeration
of ideas
worn as feathers
around the mind
and without name
only fluff in the air
above the head



ol moose inside ski-doo-type world
sliding down the milky way

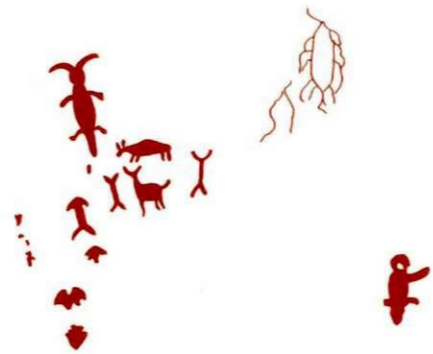


jumped over
the moon the house elk muskrat & beaver
all runs away runs away
over & over
& over & over &

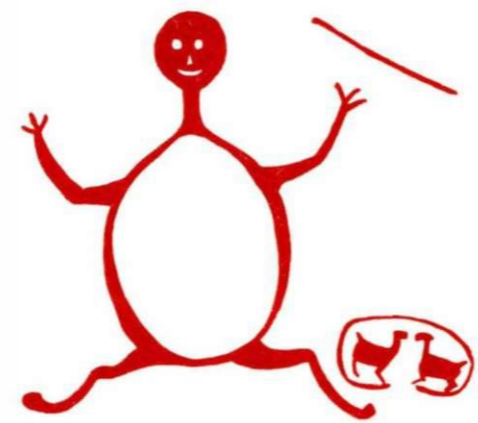


Turtle
canoe

Baby
portage



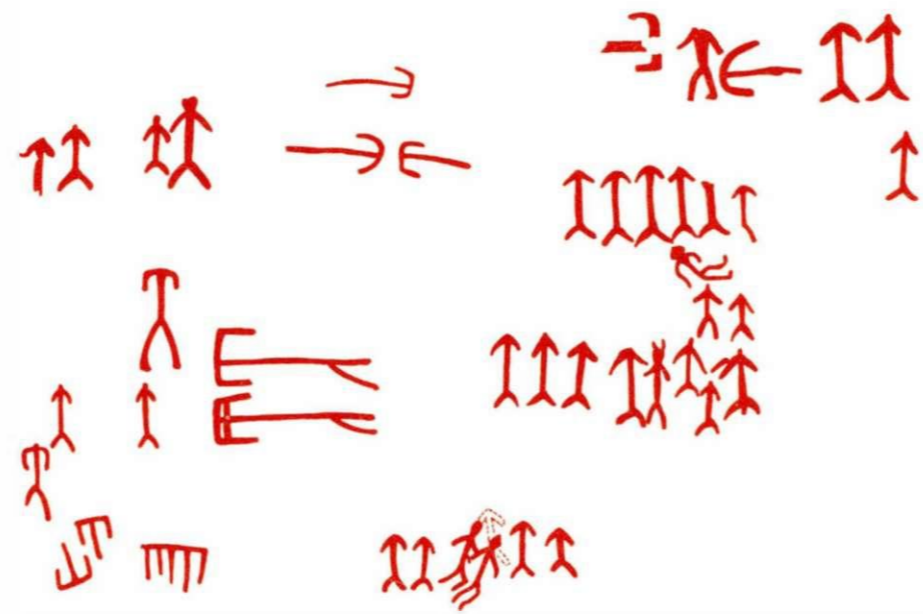
How does she know that
How does she do all that walking
through the forest
How does she know the bears won't get her?



Ooh! Its a pumpkin
seed within seed
face to face-mask
twin thought, light
behind the eyes.



How does the jazz go?
Autumn moon a bit drunk
in the tree-tops with Wind
(north) & Pacific cloud banks
about 1959 not quite
jamming it but from here
to the coast one big
triple high C and wetter
than a duck's ass just
a sliver of a harvest moon.



September spawn
fish weirs everywhere
all through the narrows.

Upstream, upstream.

A feast for all of us
cousins and old friends
everybody dancing
like crazy, eh?



Northeast

(from family, a few friends)

I turned

since I had accompanied my father

that far

what was in the world around here

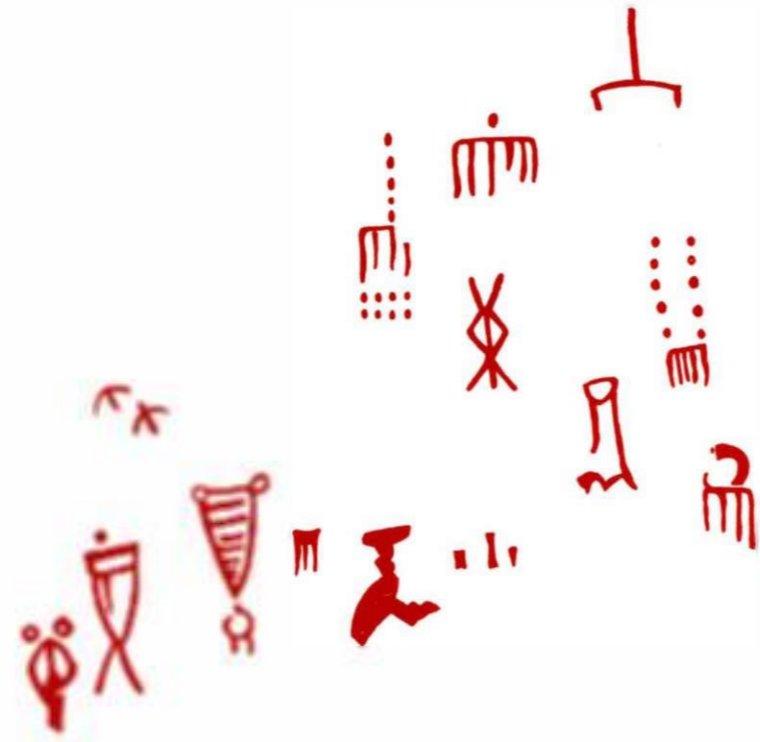
became larger

some part of it

then all of it



There's a picture up Dog Creek
of a hullabaloo.
The basalt face remembers the event
with the insignia of a chickadee
and a constipated ant
who illustrated for an entire family
the dangers of a mountain lion
waiting down the path for dinner
so they didn't.

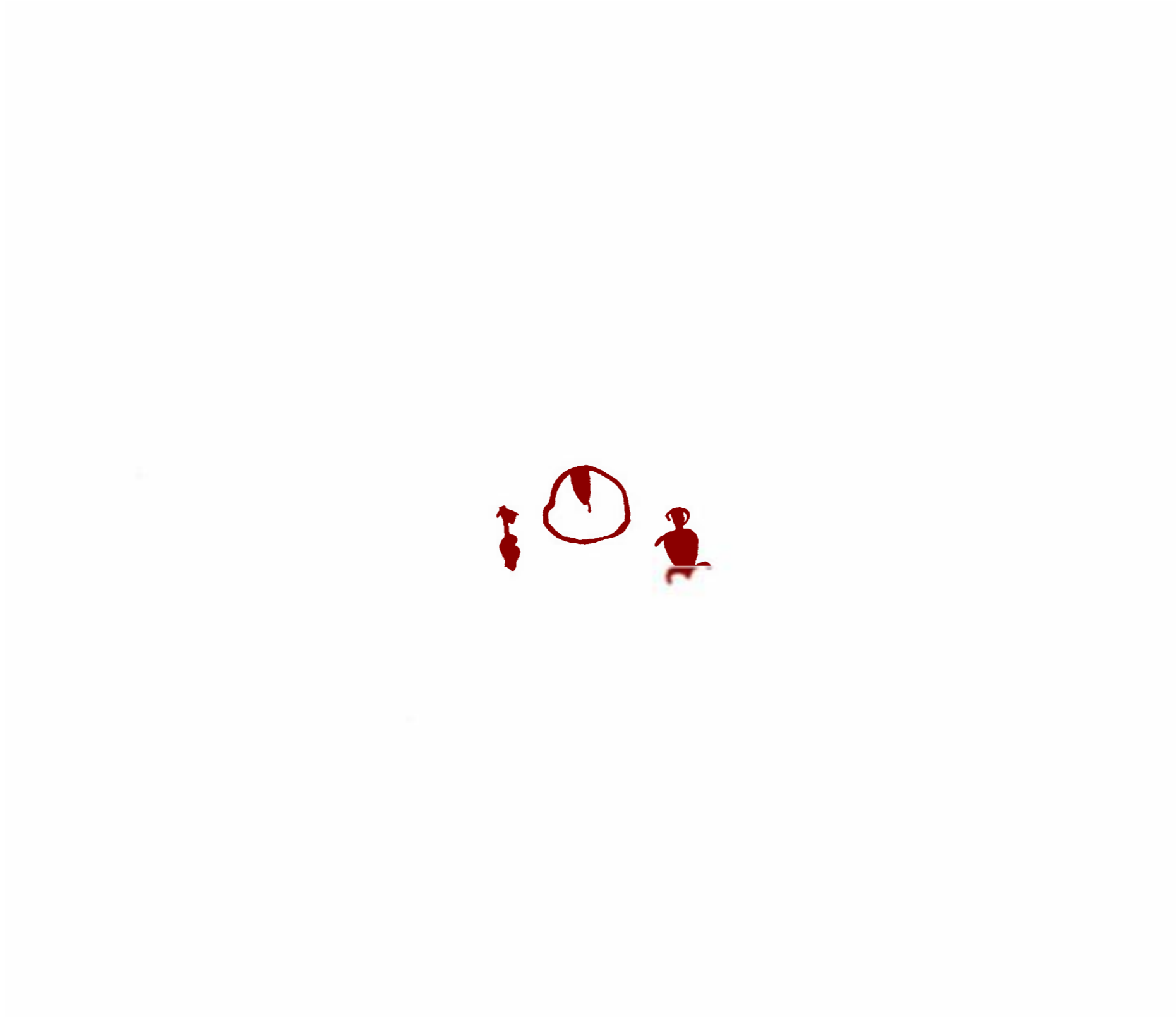


Caribou Point
strange map
movement
forks
forks with handles
birds
pitch forks
crossed sticks
travois
thus horse
a quarter-moon
a count
lonely
animal eyes



See those animals
I think moose browsing
just across the lake.

Two of us'll put on grass
thin out three to the north end
and we'll get them there like this.



uvular moist call
moveable celestial
and crystal clear
by the height
palatial sound
aspiral noises or
udder milk

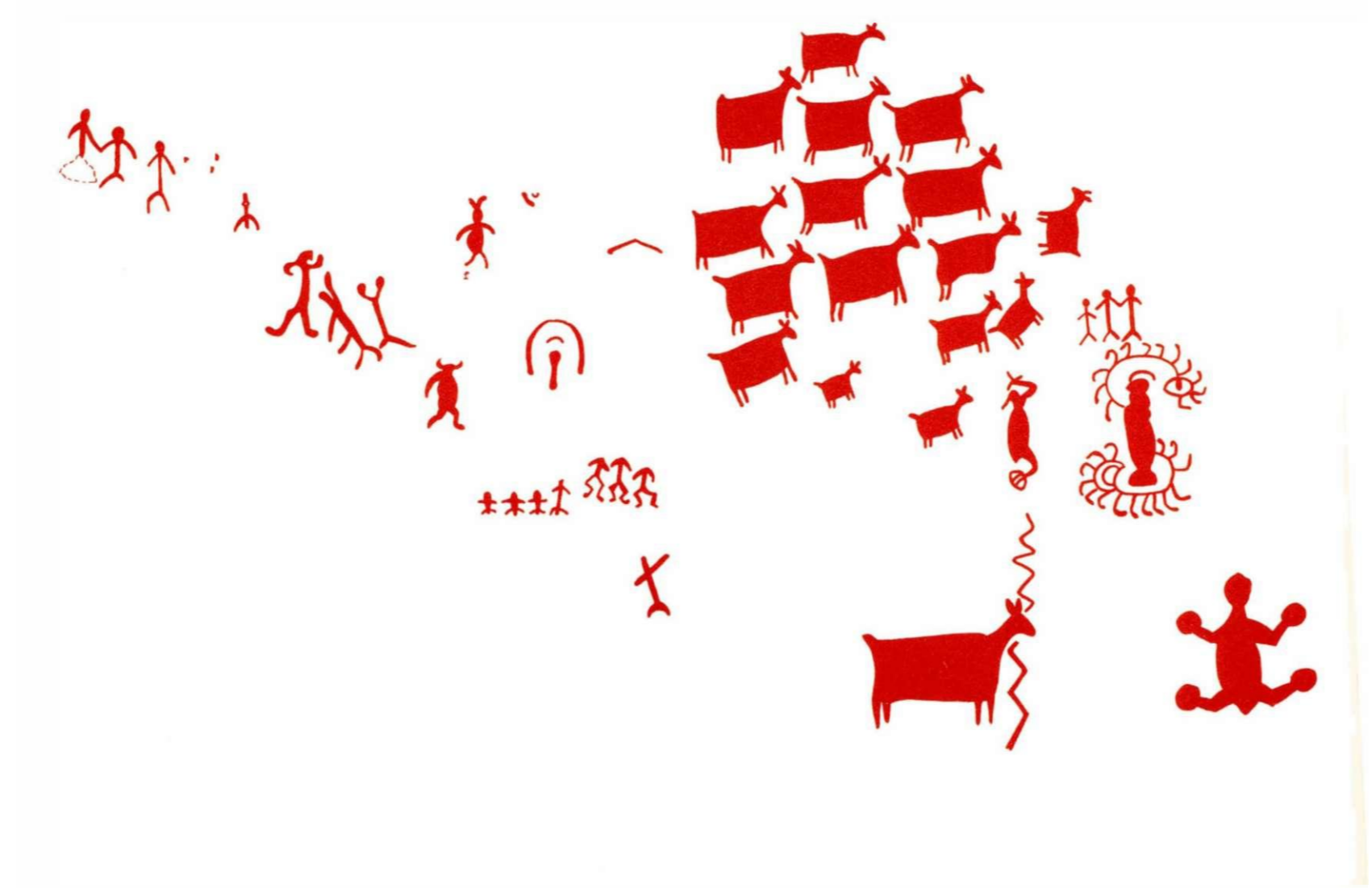


beautiful
big
surfacing
lake

old grey white sturgeon
everything for bait

sticks
traps
gaff-hooks

bloody big
beautiful belly
full fish
flesh



I walked into a battle
with the forest
I tried on the buffalo-horn headdress
things happened to me
visions and pictures
two or three signs

I pushed one way
and I pushed another way

size gave dance to me
the deer showed me form

the larval, it
opens up.

Handwritten text in red ink, possibly a signature or a specific code.

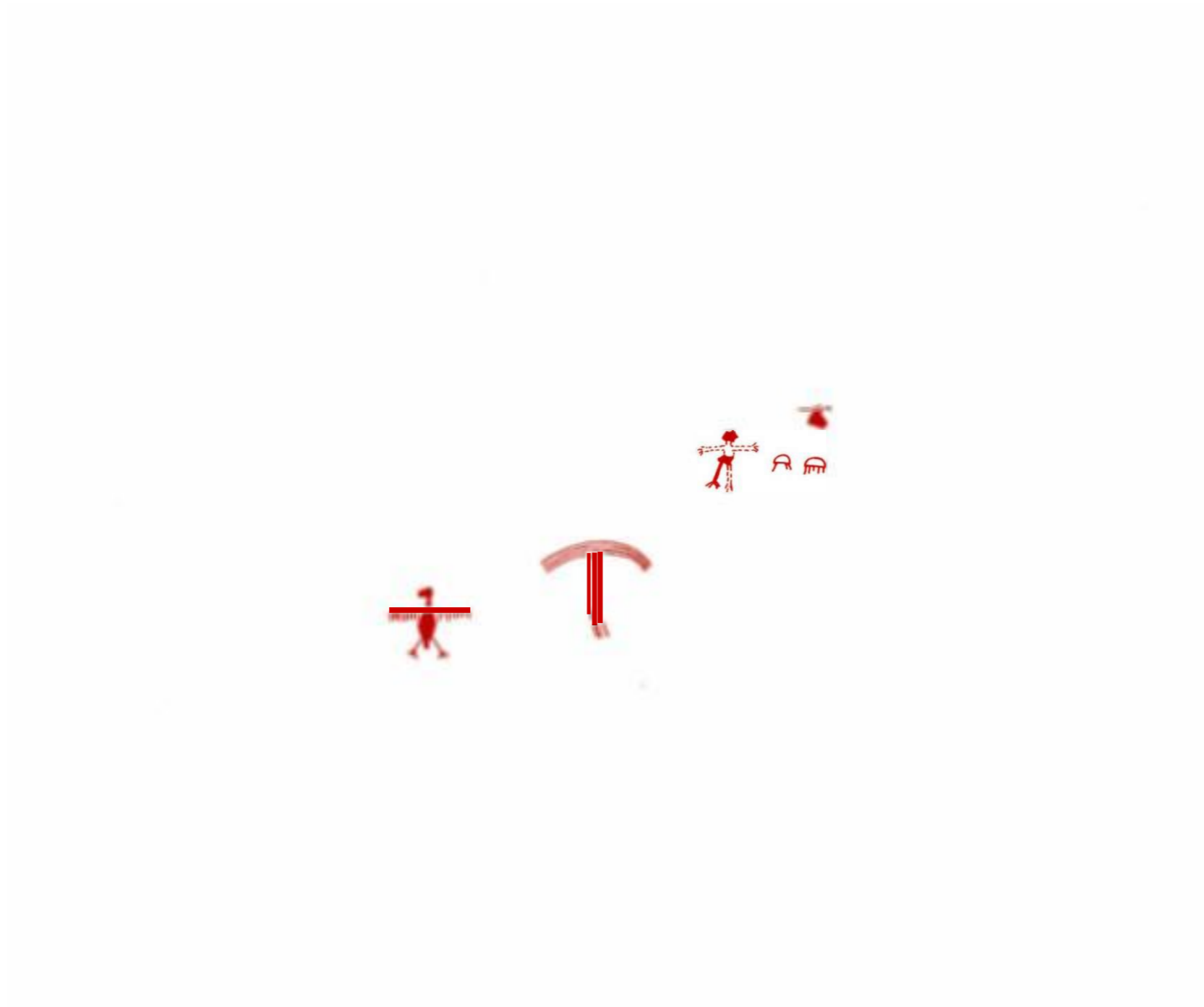
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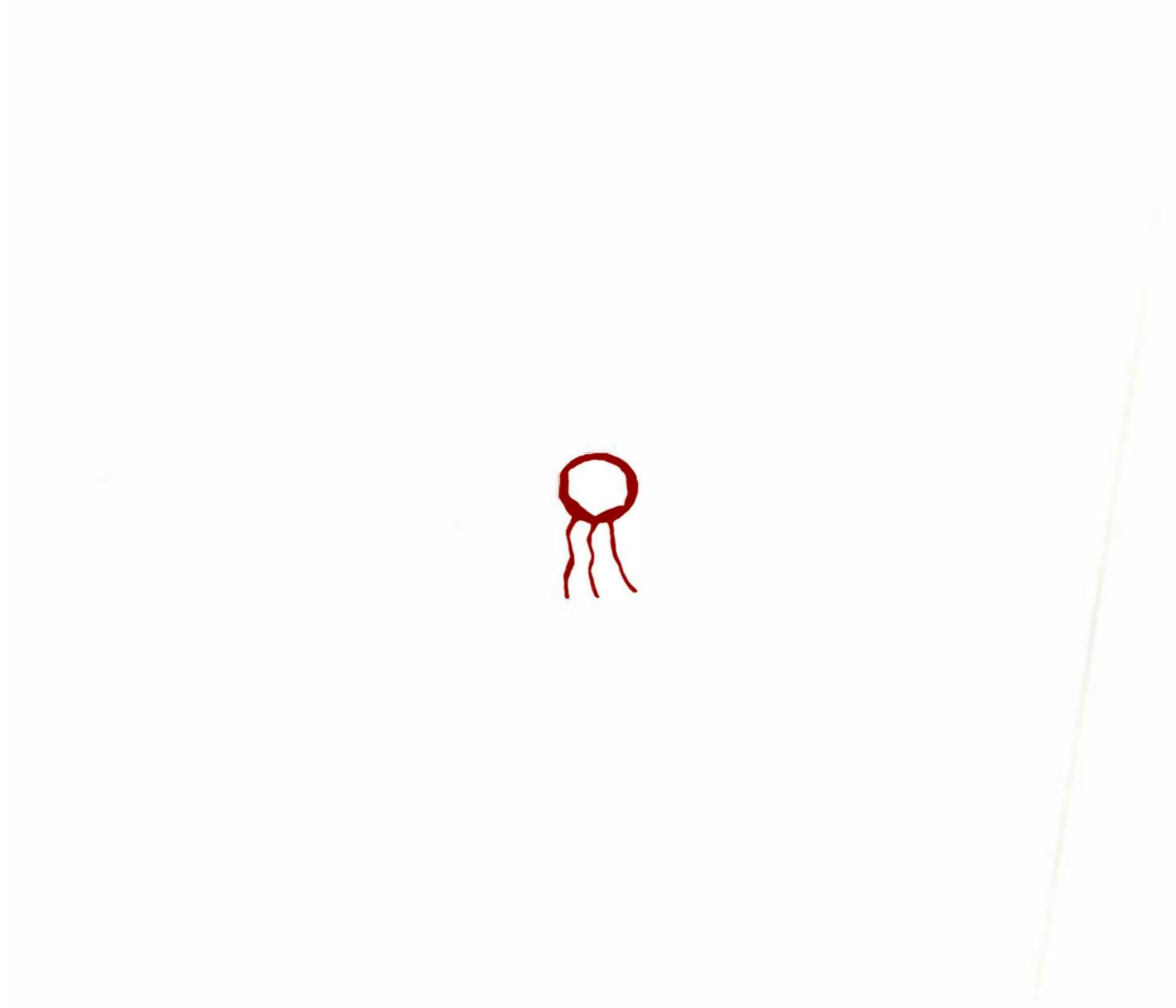
Only three persons and a dog survived
and one man
had the entire map of himself
shot out
others also
lost what had been gained
the winners were heroes
thinking more to win over
than could ever be remembered.
Remember?



nv s
tr ck



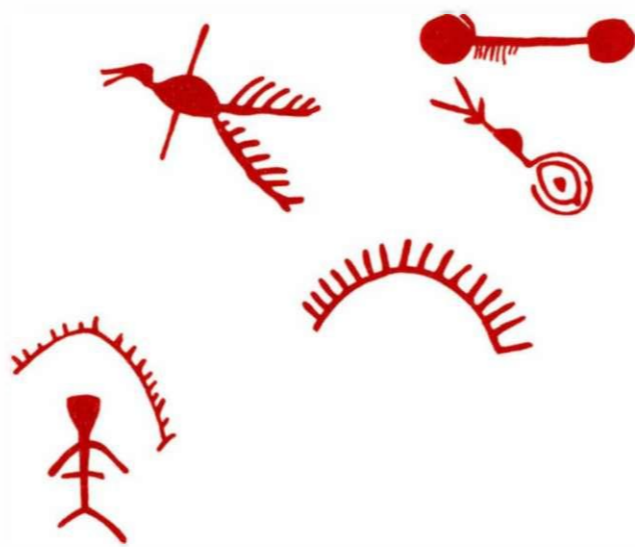
Birds, plants, animals
a dream of myself as whole
parts of a body
wings outstretched
a rainbow and a father.



Lost
amidst Caloplaca
and rising
as a bubble
from earth to sky



Moss
and the spring bloom of Peacock
or Shooting Star
Granite walls
Chariot
of the Gods
it doesn't matter
manner somehow
will get us
to the hole

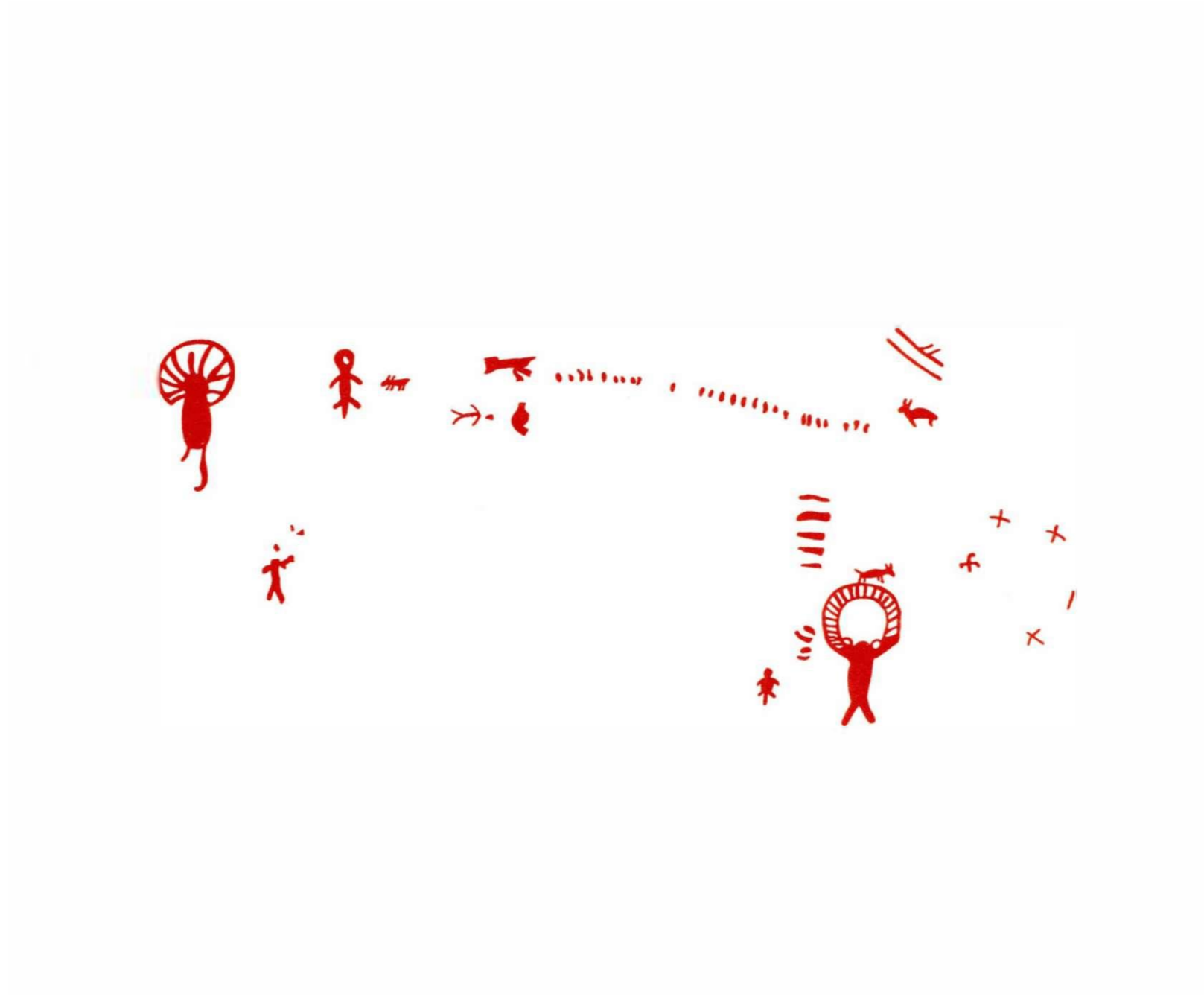


Death's stick
only
a tool
of any horizon
mountain, tree or lake.



When they come
they come through
one way or another
or they don't get in
and stand outside wondering
but if they do
all they see are the names of me
counted out on the ochre poles.

They say one carries equally
what has been lived into death
so that I will be sheltered there
by my life. Now
its all new to me
and not so clear
where the others have crossed.



We are different
from one another
in the space between us
a lot happens
more than of only you or I

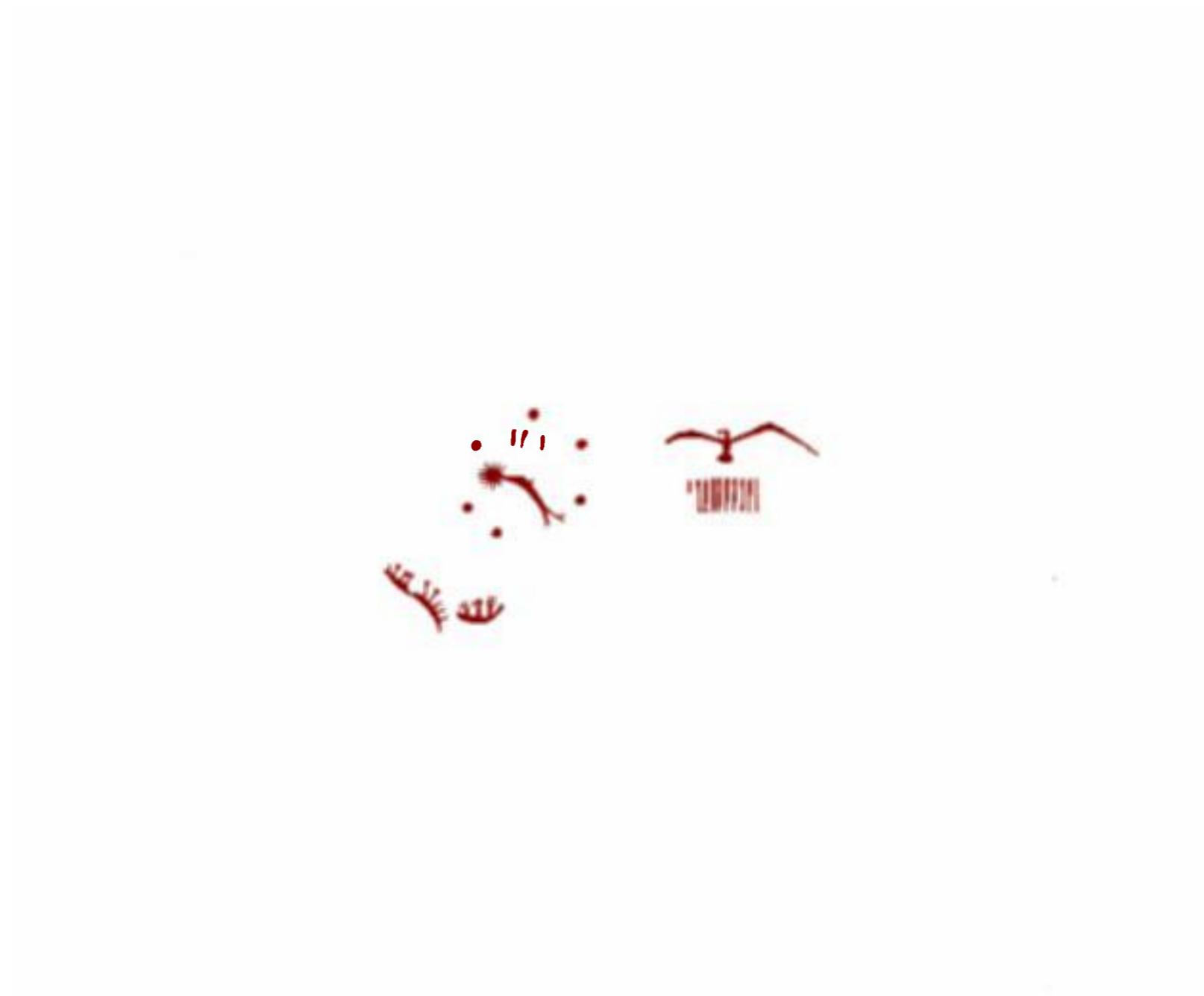
the air
or through it all
(dog, turtle, beaver
fallen trees by the roadside
I remember)
I have come to be
no different from them

one by one one can
become the other

such as night serves
to show day's stars

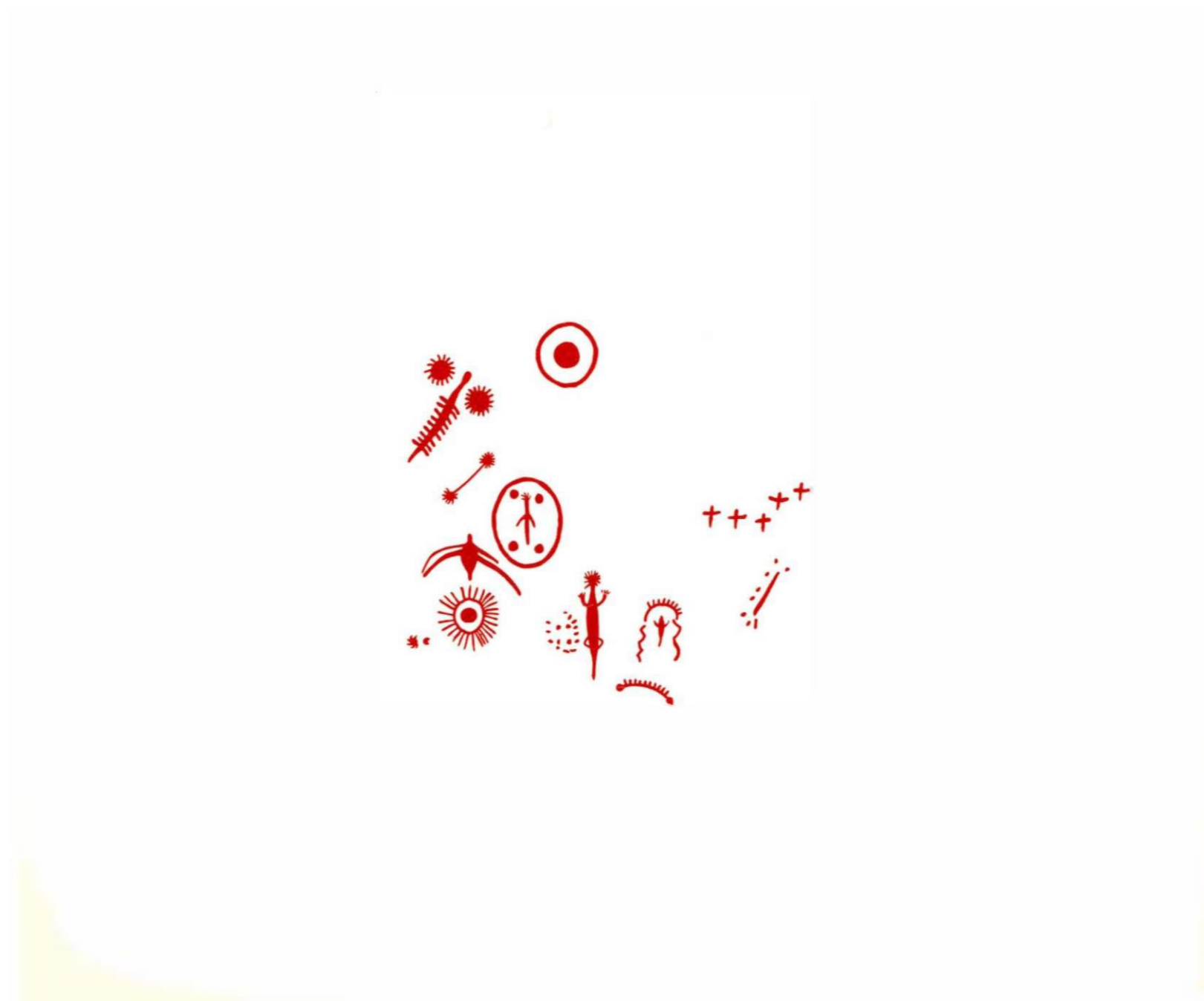



Wapiti knows the way, a path
chris-crossed with events
within the roots of the flowers of vision
even inside the mountain of the idea of it
worn as horns or a headdress outside
through the trees along the lakeshore
and all over the mountains' sides
over the inside and over the outside
cover of the many, many ways Wapiti knows.



Here
this is the way
strut after strut
the blue grouse wakens stars for us
and stroke after stroke
we pass through night's constellations

that's just what the Osprey sees
we say
that's right he says
we see we see.

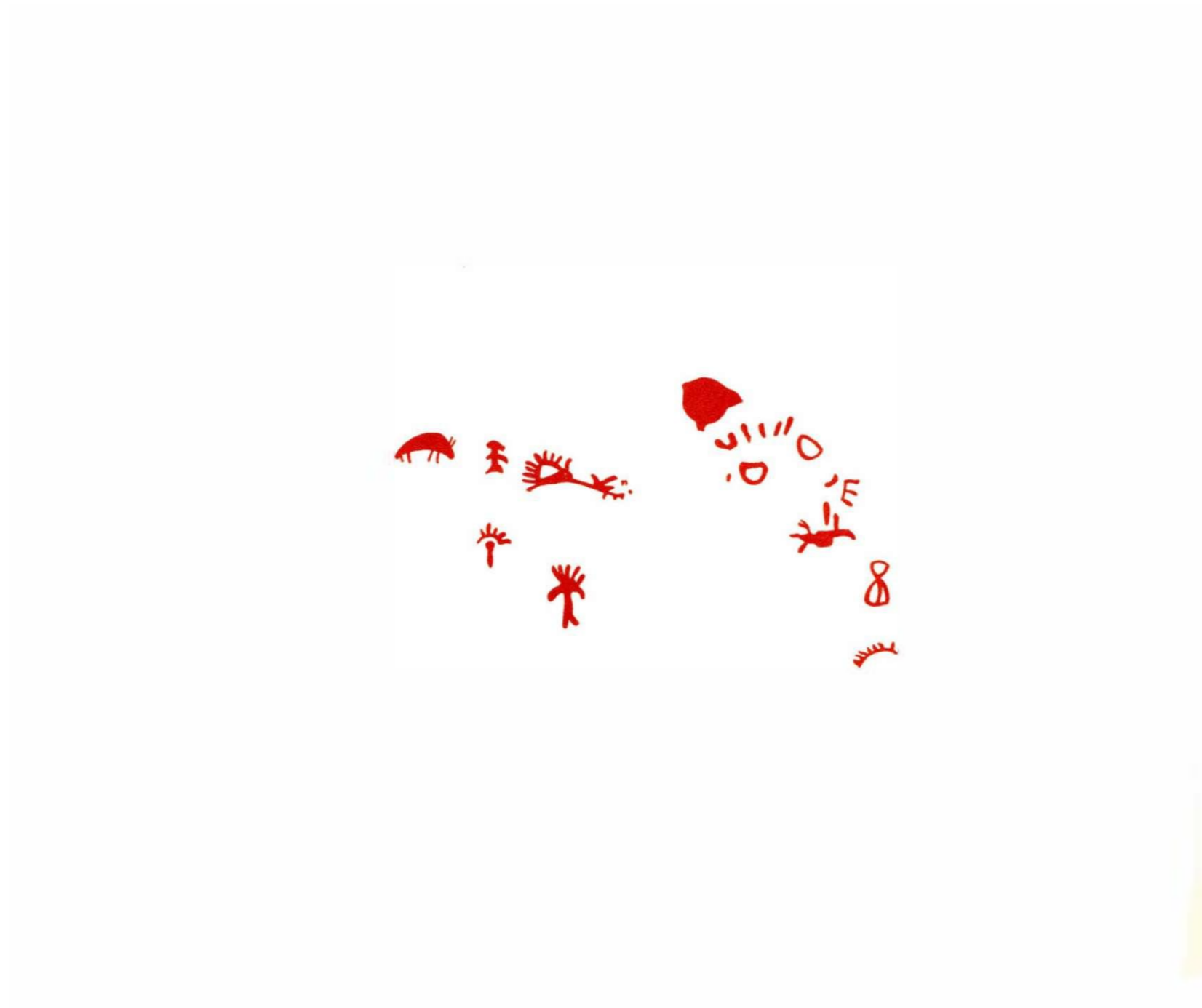




Floating and floating
over and flying over
above or below
under and in

skein of mirror
seen as a net

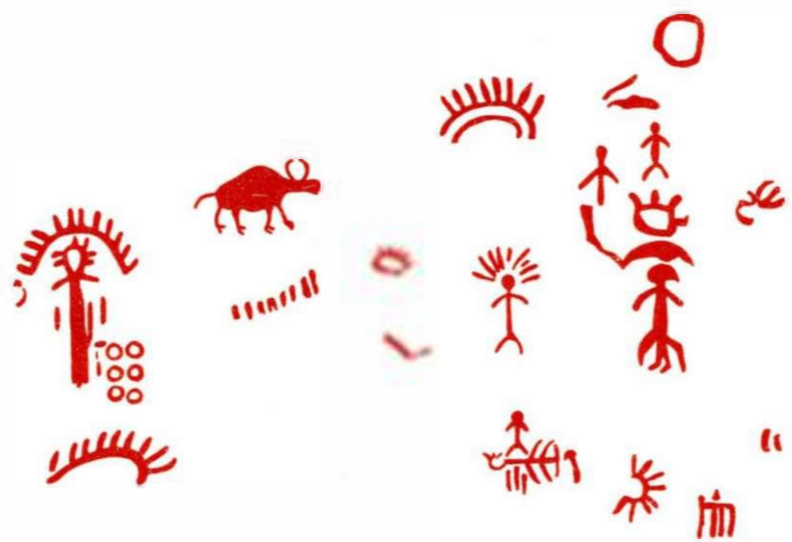
the earth's and sky's
planets stars birds
flowers on the surface
of a noonday pond.



Its a place
humpbacked ant
a trap or map
foot/ the *idea* of foot

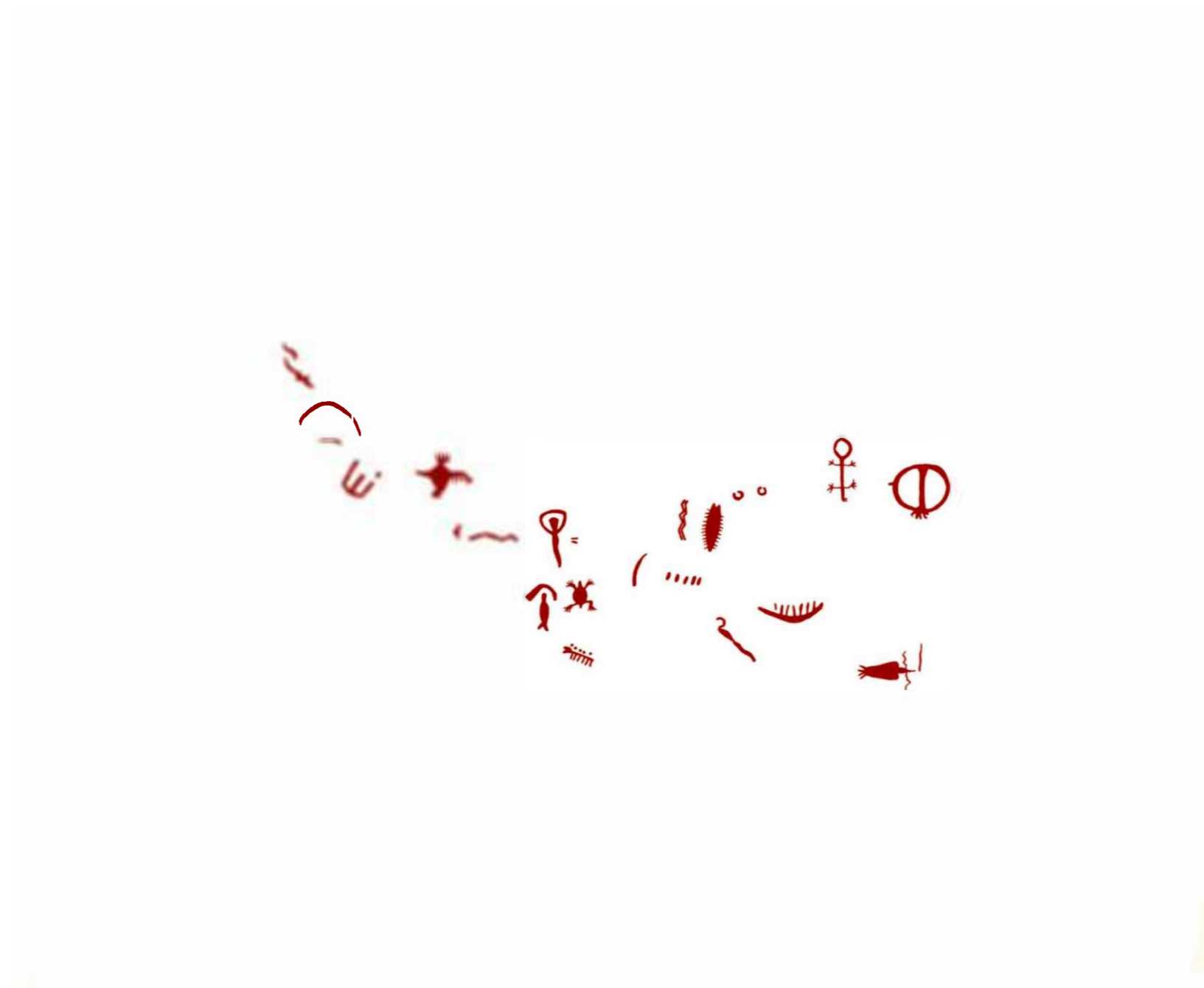
a where
a vegetable
two lakes and trees
(pine?)

five 6 seven nine and ~~ten~~
its a trap.



Ambling along
out of you
I count it all
in my mind

many many many
pretty straight
across a sky.



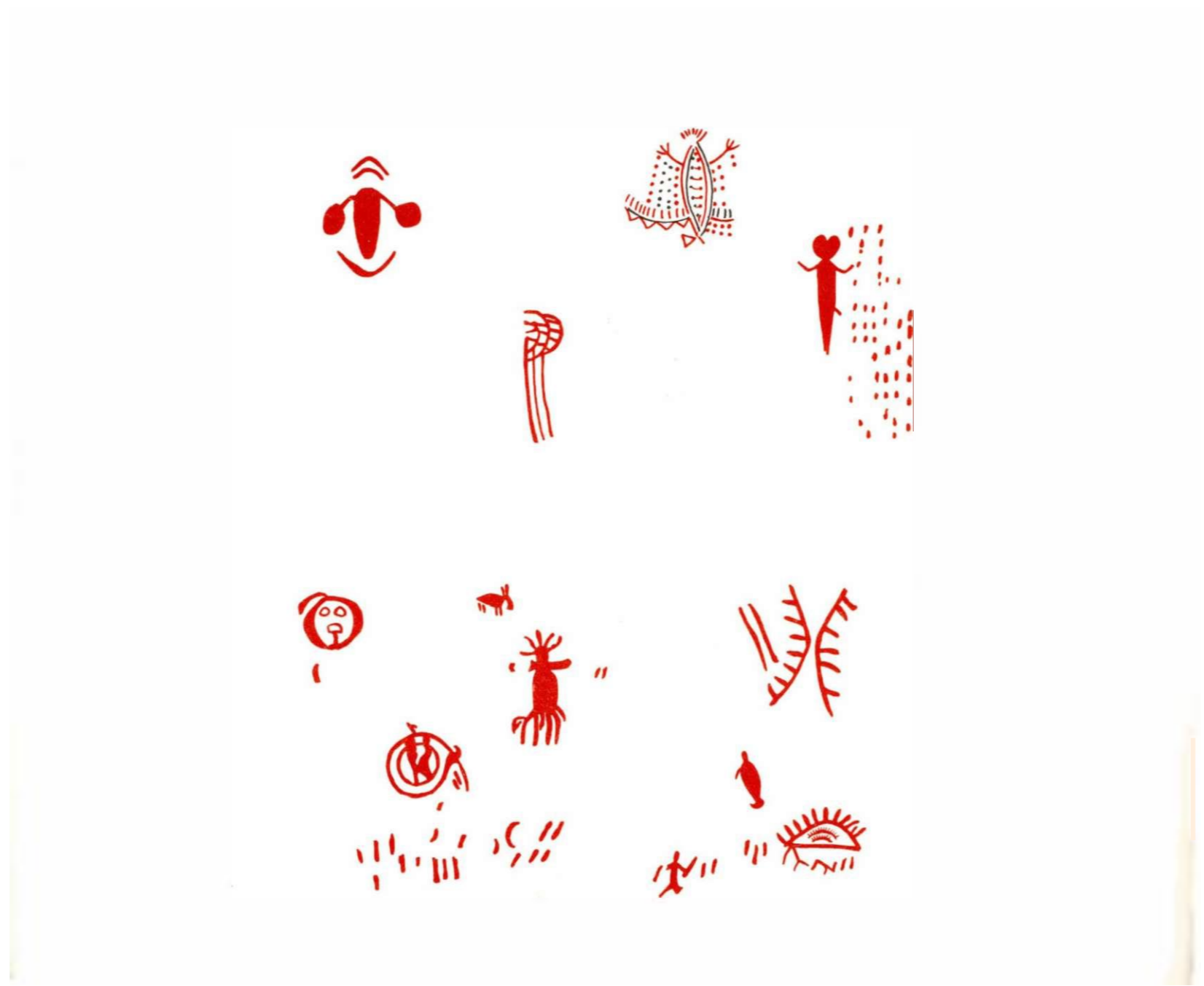
seagulls and a blue blue sky
seagulls' lake's sparkling waves
for other birds

horizon

of mountains
far from here the driftwood beaches there
trees to the shoreline
a stretch of sand

a place

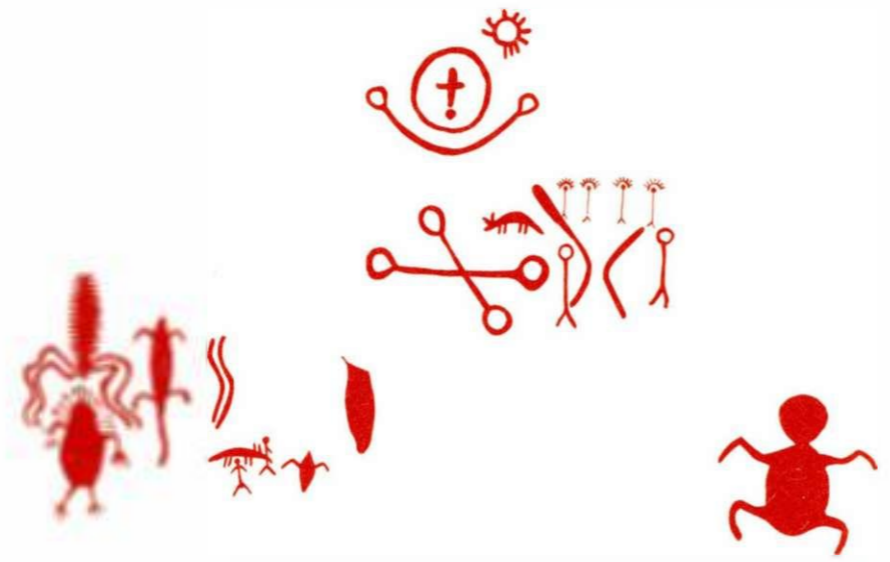
open like this boat
antipodean
to the sky between




Another granite wall/cliff
frantic signals/reflections
from the lake
ripple/go (a verb
"to move")

here, look at this
just look at this
will you see me
("to see")

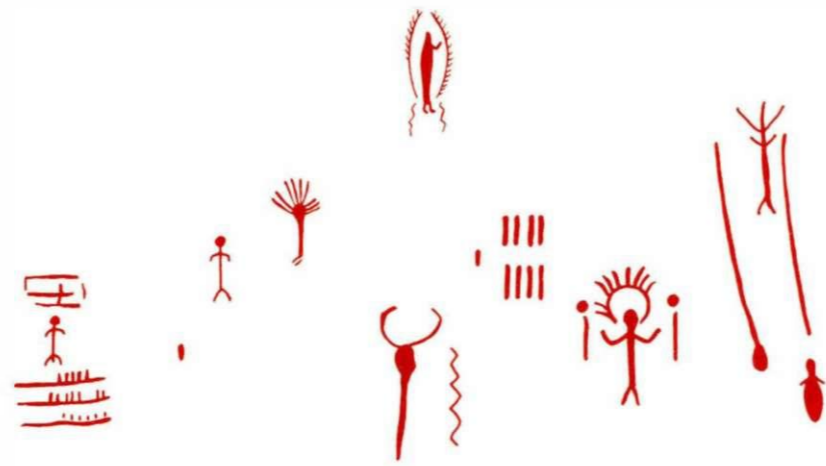
faces in my dream/directions
where the lake narrows
a full and complicated shining jewel
green, in the distance
another cliff or wall/granite



dayless
meadow of dandelion blown to seed
pasture where the lake narrows
crabgrass and sand
sunning the insides of myself / all of 
for four days frog vision
how to stand
present the body to the body
lizard insect fish
every day
all day



An arc
a clown (moon-face in clouds)
old friends and relatives
rattling around in the boat
seen with old peckernose our neighbor
old lizard old night-to-day

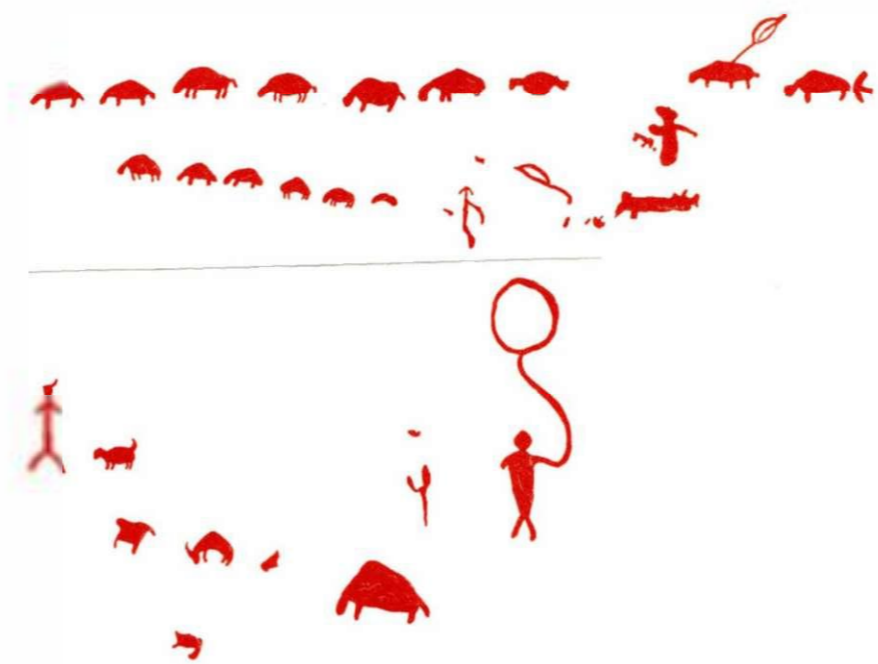


Count up the pure places
homes in our heads
headdress, horns to push

everytime we carry
the surrounding accompaniment
(the din)

and pass forward
through the passageway
side to side

whose face, who
goes with us
how many



The wish
from what is inside
for what is out

by rope snare or spear
this is every thing I figure

Heart
Animal (arrow

what can be left

1. Site No. 61/ Mica Creek Road/ Interior Salish (Okanagan)
2. Site No. 80 - Panel a/ Pavilion Lake No. 1/ Interior Salish (Shuswap)
3. Site No. 67/ Cape Horn/ Interior Salish (Lakes)
4. Site No. 77 - Panel b/ Canal Flats/ Kootenay
5. Site No. 75/ Redman Point/ Kootenay
6. Site No. 62/ Mica Creek Road/ Interior Salish (Okanagan)
7. Site No. 95/ Mana Lake No. 3/ Interior Salish (Shuswap)
8. Site No. 86 - Panel b/ Adams Lake (Tshinakin Point)/ Interior Salish (Shuswap)
9. Site No. 63 - Panel a/ Christina Lake/ Interior Salish (Lakes)
10. Site No. 102 - figure e1/ Stuart Lake No. 2/ Athapaskan (Carrier)
11. Site No. 72/ Twin Bays/ Kootenay
12. Site No. 71/ Twin Bays North/ Kootenay
13. Site No. 76/ Huscroft Mill/ Kootenay
14. Site No. 6 - Panel a, figs. a & b/ Stein River No. 2/ Interior Salish (Thompson)
15. Site No. 97 - figs. g,h,k,m/ Creighton Valley/ Interior Salish (Shuswap)
16. Site No. 68 - Panel a/ Procter/ Kootenay
17. Site No. 74 - Panels a & b/ Washout Creek No. 1/ Kootenay
18. Site No. 79/ Dog Creek/ Interior Salish (Shuswap)
19. Site No. 66/ Caribou Point, Lower Arrow Lake/ Interior Salish (Lakes)
20. Site No. 63 - Panel b/ Christina Lake/ Interior Salish (Lakes)
21. Site No. 78 - Panel b/ Armstrong Bay/ Kootenay
22. Site No. 73/ Washout Creek No. 2 Sturgeon/ Kootenay
23. Site No. 69/ Kuskumook/ Kootenay
24. Site No. 77 - Panel a/ Canal Flats/ Kootenay
25. Site No. 78 - Panel a/ Armstrong Bay/ Kootenay
26. Site No. 89/ Shuswap Lake No. 2/ Interior Salish (Shuswap)
27. Site No. 103/ Fraser Lake No. 1/ Athapaskan (Carrier)
28. Site No. 64/ Christina Lake/ Interior Salish (Lakes)
29. Site No. 1/ Anderson Lake/ Interior Salish (Lillooet)
30. Site No. 63 - Panel c/ Christina Lake/ Interior Salish (Lakes)
31. Site No. 60/ Mica Creek Road/ Interior Salish (Okanagan)

32. Site No. 65 - Panel a/ Cayuse Creek/ Interior Salish (Lakes)
33. Site No. 65 - Panel b/ Cayuse Creek/ Interior Salish (Lakes)
34. Site No. 65 - Panel c/ Cayuse Creek/ Interior Salish (Lakes)
35. Site No. 65 - Panel d1/ Cayuse Creek/ Interior Salish (Lakes)
36. Site No. 65 - Panel d1/ Cayuse Creek/ Interior Salish (Lakes)
37. Site No. 65 - Panel d3/ Cayuse Creek/ Interior Salish (Lakes)
38. Site No. 65 - Panel d4/ Cayuse Creek/ Interior Salish (Lakes)
39. Site No. 65 - Panel d5/ Cayuse Creek/ Interior Salish (Lakes)
40. Site No. 65 - Panel e/ Cayuse Creek/ Interior Salish (Lakes)
41. Site No. 65 - Panel f/ Cayuse Creek Interior Salish (Lakes)
42. Site No. 70 - Panels a & b/ Tye/ Kootenay

