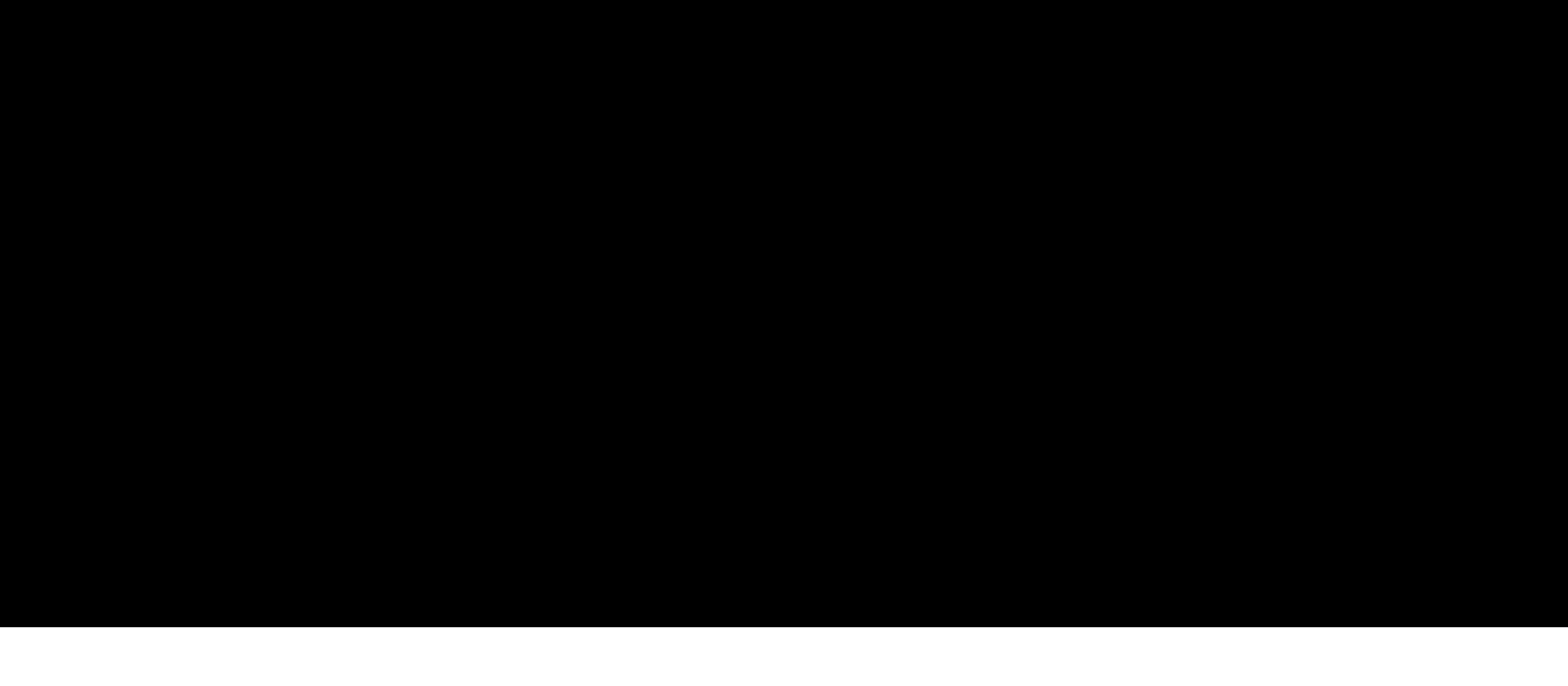


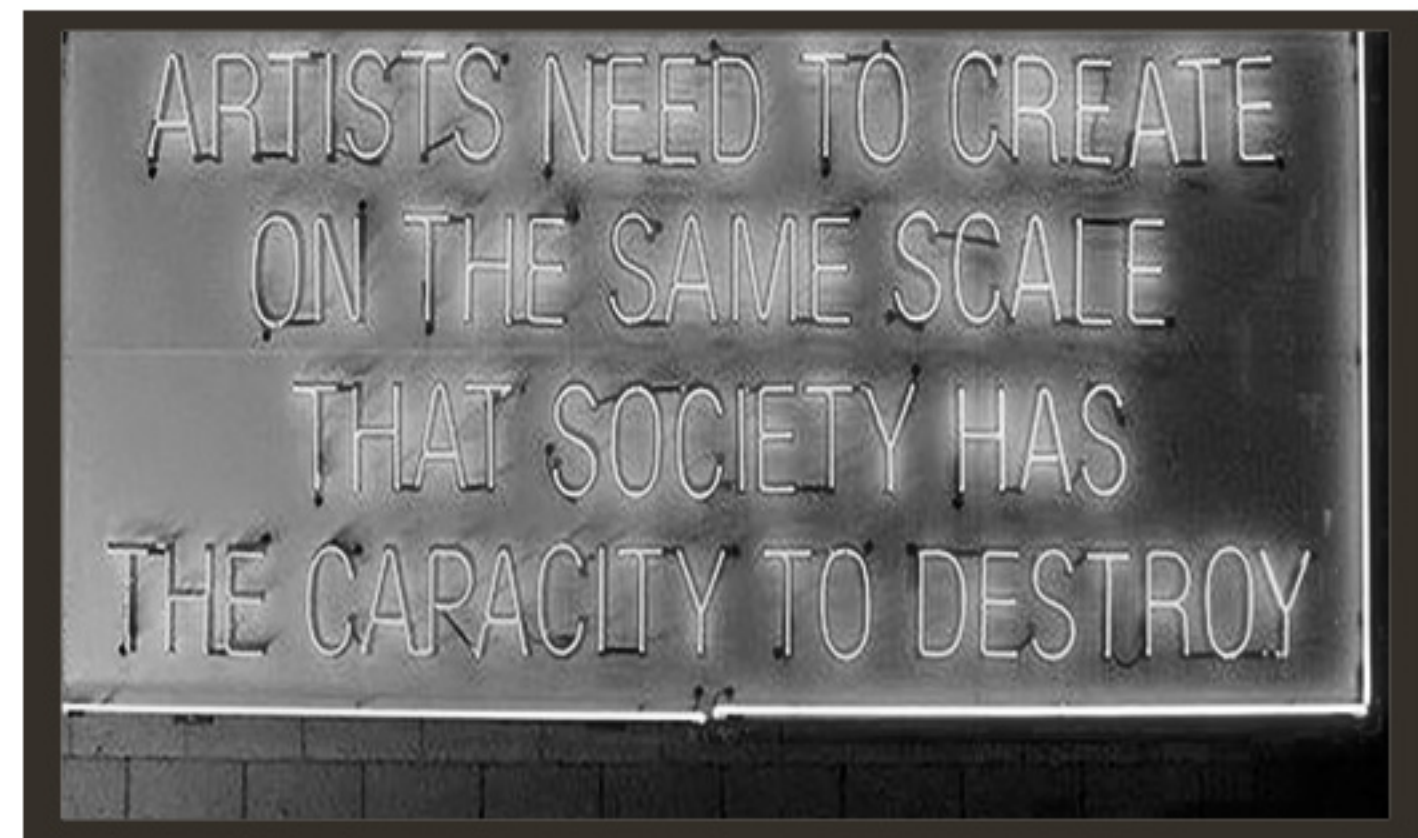


((( Rise )))  
Layla Love

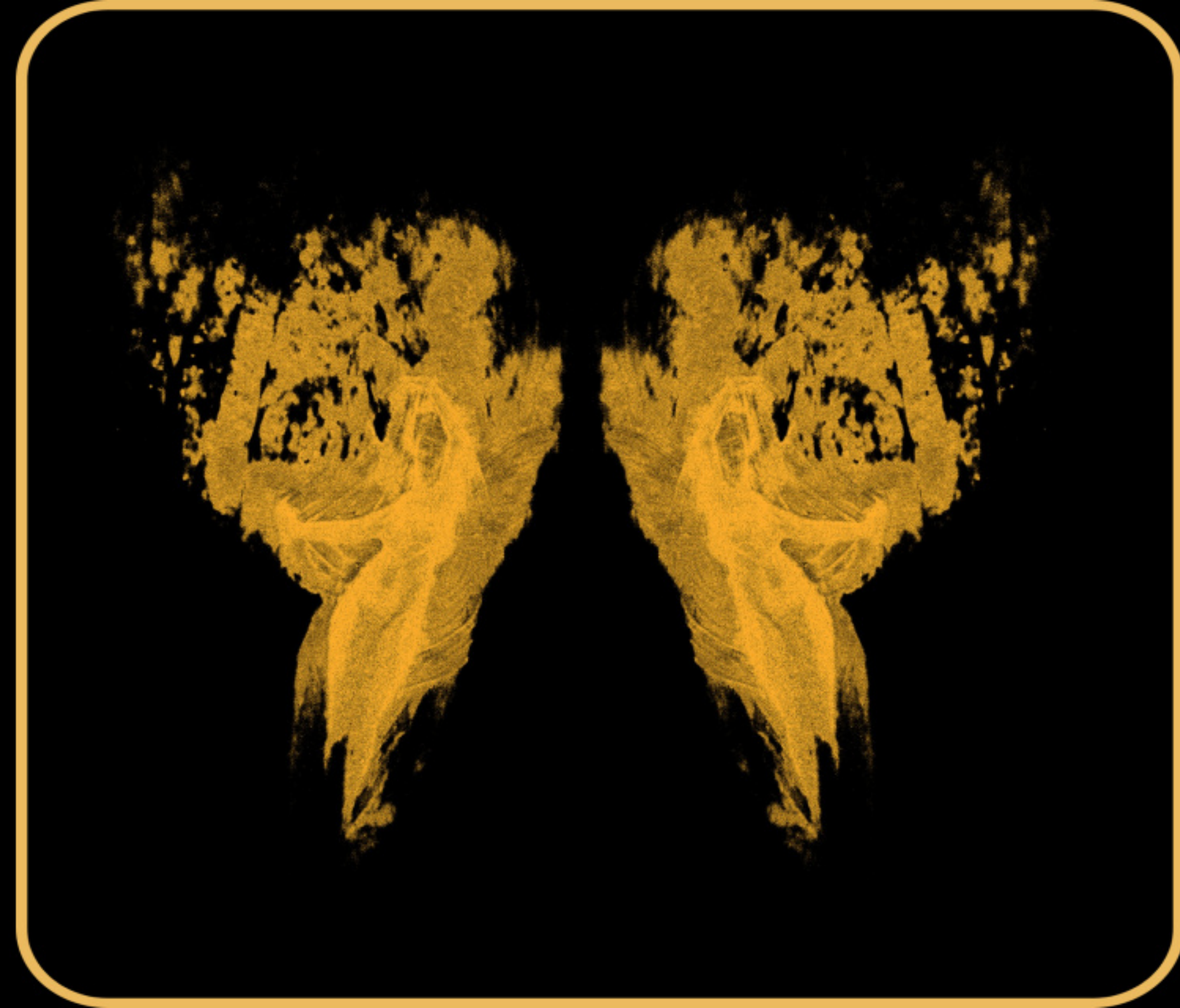
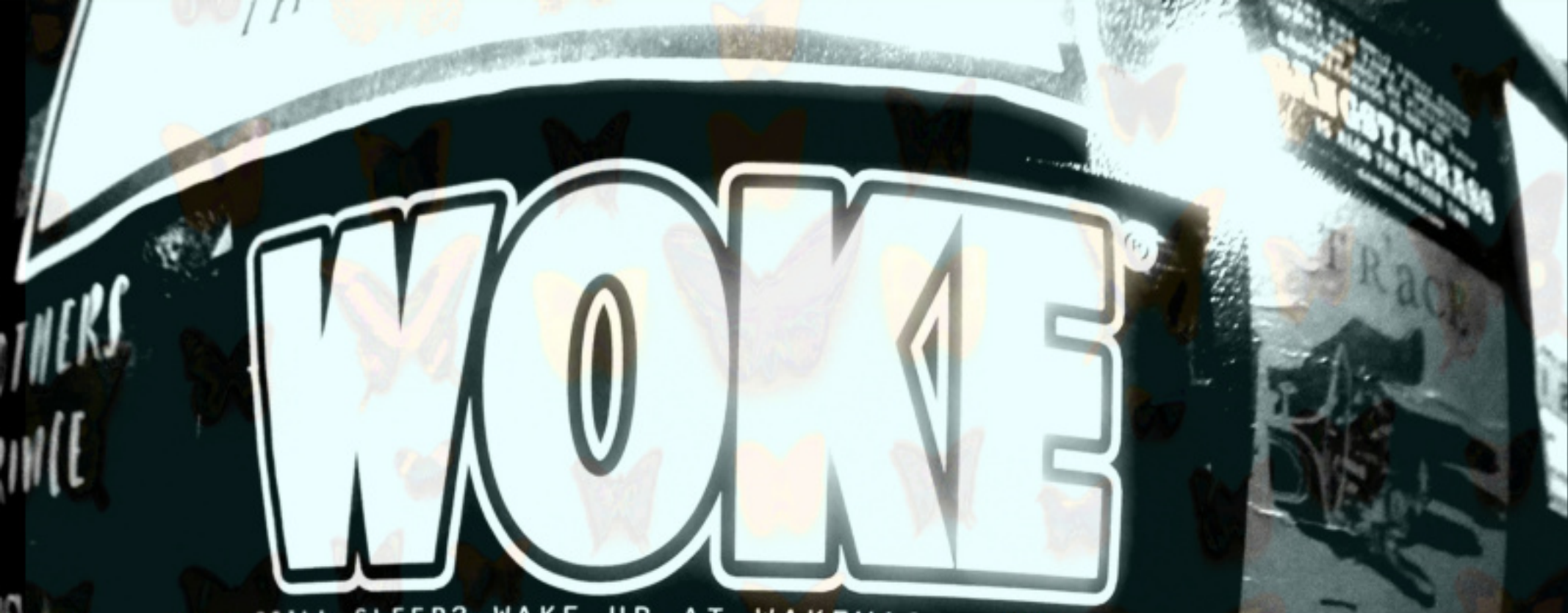


Rise













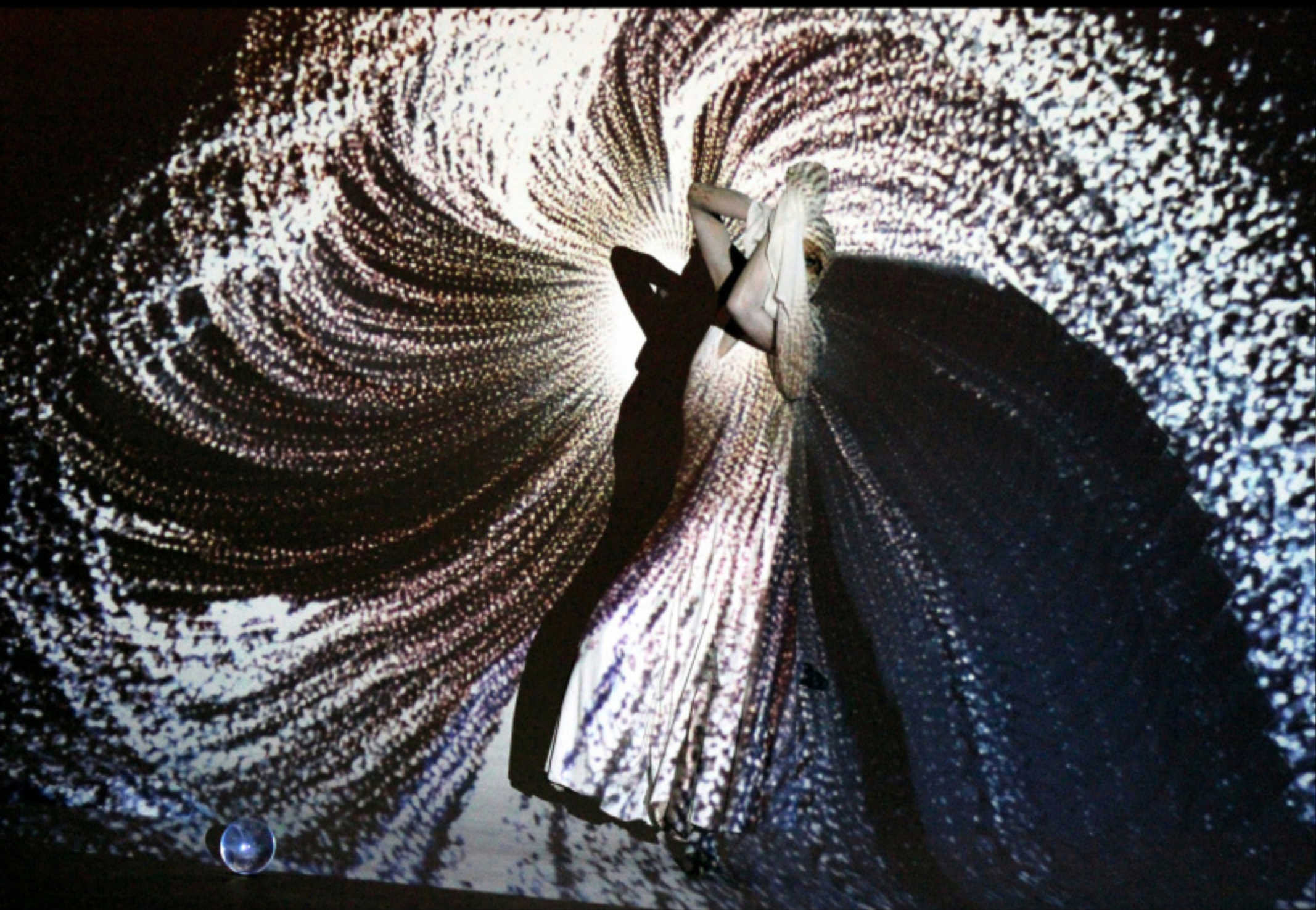
...RISE...

IN TRIBECA AS A YOUNG WOMAN WALKED TO THINGS GOT MY ATTENTION, ONE BEING SHE WAS CARRYING A PORTFOLIO AND THE OTHER WAS THAT THERE WAS SOMETHING ABOUT HER, A TREMULOUS, GUARDED QUALITY I ASSOCIATE WITH EXTREME SHORT-SIGHTEDNESS. SO I WAS SURPRISED SHE TOLD ME SHE WAS A PHOTOGRAPHER AND ASKED ME TO LOOK AT HER PICTURES. THESE WERE QUITE A MIX OF INCLUDED STUNNERS. SHE WAS IN HER TWENTIES. AND THE FIRST THING? SHE WAS FACING SOME OPERATIONS, SHE SAID, WITHOUT SELF-PITY, AND HER SIGHT WAS AT RISK. MY INVOLVEMENT IN LAYLA LOVE'S PROFESSIONAL CAREER BEGAN AT THAT POINT AND HAS CONTINUED EVER SINCE. I HAVE ALWAYS WORKED CLOSELY WITH PHOTOGRAPHERS. THIS INDEED WAS VERY MUCH PART OF A WRITER'S JOB IN THE GOLDEN AGE OF MAGAZINES, A LOST TIME, AND A TIME DURING WHICH PHOTOGRAPHERS TENDED TO BE CORRALLED INTO THREE CATEGORIES. THERE WAS REPORTAGE, A GENRE WHICH WAS ABOUT THE NAILING OF A MOMENT, IN WHICH THE ACES WERE HENRI CARTER-BRESSON AND CONFLICT SNAPPERS, ROBERT CAPA AND DON MCCULLIN. THERE WAS STUDIO PHOTOGRAPHY, PORTRAITURE, A FIELD IN WHICH THE HEROIC FIGURES WERE IRVING PENN, ARD AVEDON, LATER, ANNIE LIEBOWITZ, AND THERE WAS ART PHOTOGRAPHY, WHICH INCLUDES THE PRACTICES OF MAN RAY, MOHOLY NAGY AND, SAY, BILL BRANDT'S. BUT NOW AND AGAIN AN OUTLIER HAS APPEARED, SOMEBODY WHO MELTS BORDERS, OR IGNORES THEM. SUCH A PHOTOGRAPHER IS LAYLA LOVE. A WORD ABOUT THIS ARTIST: SHE OF GOD. LOVE'S EYESIGHT HAS BEEN HEALED, THANKS TO STEM CELL THERAPY, AND SHE HAS DEDICATED THIS BODY OF WORK TO THOSE WHO STILL LIVE IN SHADOWS, FORGOTTEN HUMAN BEINGS, AKA SLAVES. THERE ARE NO AGREED STATISTICS AS TO THE SIZE OF THE POPULATION OF THESE BUT IT IS WIDELY AGREED THAT AS A CRIMINAL SUPPLY IT RANKS THIRD BEHIND NARCOTICS AND ILLEGAL ARMS. SUCH MEDIA COVERAGE AS THERE IS USUALLY FOCUSES ON THE SEXUAL TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN WHO ARE OFTEN BROUGHT INTO THE BUSINESS AS YOUNG AS 12, BUT WORK ALSO ACCOUNTS FOR A SUBSTANTIAL PERCENTAGE, HERE MEN BEING ALSO A TARGET. THE IMAGES YOU SEE HERE COVER A WIDE TERRAIN, BOTH SOCIAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL. SOME COMMUNICATE RAW EMOTION, THERE IS A THIRST FOR TRANSCENDENCE WHICH MIGHT UNNERVE A REALIST, OTHERS HAVE A SHARP WIT OR THE TOUCH OF A HUMOROUS PHOTOGRAPHER'S REALISM. YET OTHERS APPROACH ACTION, THE EXPLOSIVE GEOMETRY OF MANDALAS OR ABSTRACT, AND THERE ARE MOSTLY MINIMALIST IMAGES, SUCH AS THE SUBMARINE SHOT, THE ONE WITH FOUR FOLDS WHICH RESEMBLES LIKE POST-HUMAN BODY PARTS AND ANOTHER, THAT WHICH COULD BE MICROBIAL OR COSMIC, BUT IS COMPOSED OF THE BREASTS. IT'S CLEARLY A WOMAN'S WORLD BUT NOT SUBJECTIVELY LIVED NOT OBJECTIVELY NARRATED. IT'S THE WORLD OF LAYLA LOVE, TIMES WILDLY UNALIKE IMAGES, BUT ONE CLEARLY HERS.

-ANTHONY HADEN-GUEST







Diamonds are made under pressure...  
An ode to luminescent beings...



eARTh angels rising... rise some more.

























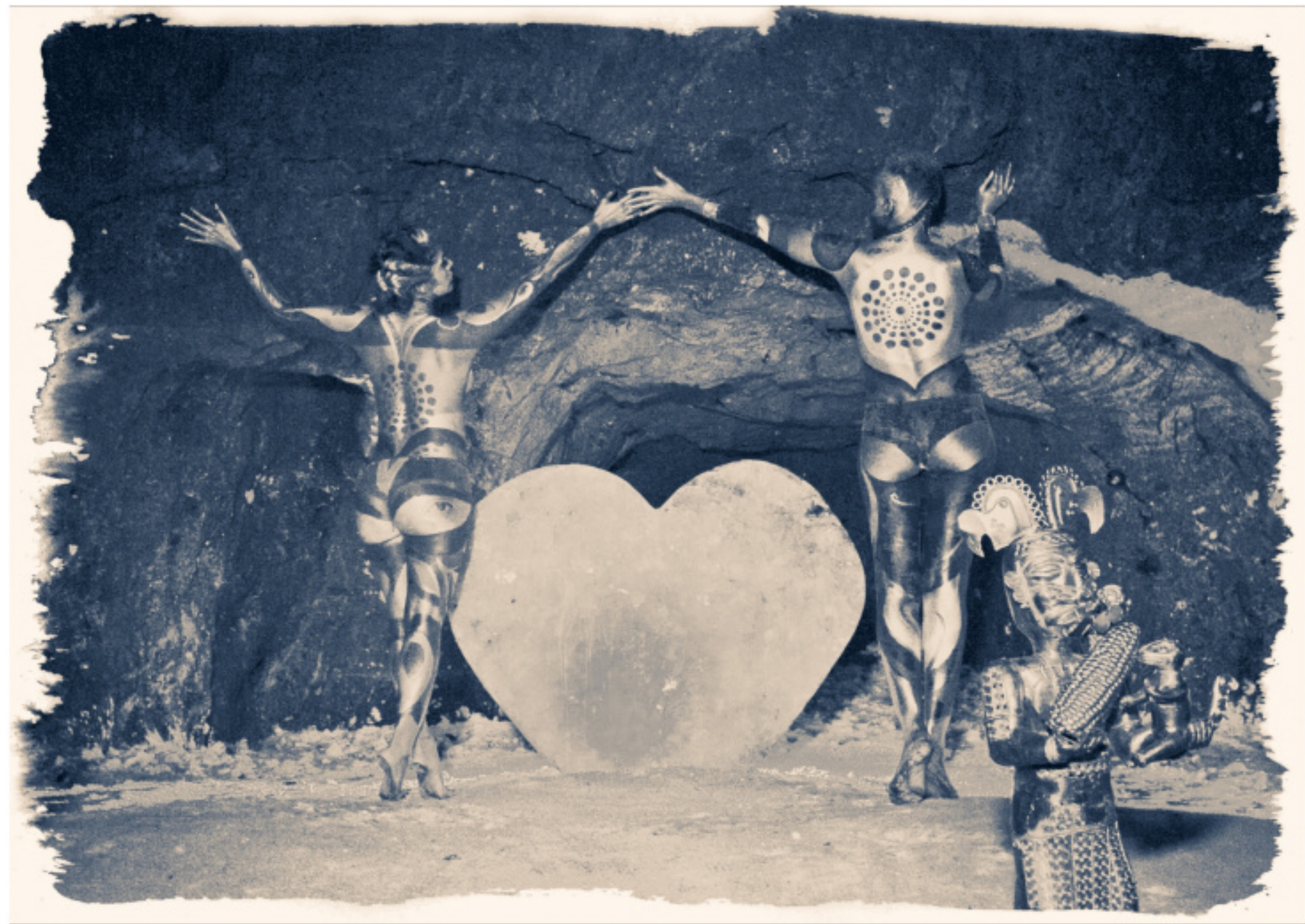




























" I am circling around God,  
around the ancient tower,  
and I have been circling  
for a thousand years, and I  
still don't know if I am a  
falcon, or a storm, or a  
great song."  
  
- Rilke's  
"The Seeker"







"Life is too short for shitty sex and bad relationships. So go find someone who fucks you right and treats you how you deserve to be treated." Nadya Tolokonnikova "Stand up. Fight back. You have a voice. Use it." Nadya Tolokonnikova "for every lie I unlearn I learn something new I sing sometimes for the war that I fight 'cause every tool is a weapon - if you hold it right." Ani DiFranco "It's about being alive



"Stand up. Fight back. You have a voice. Use it." Nadya Tolokonnikova "for every lie I unlearn I learn something new I sing sometimes for the war that I fight 'cause every tool is a weapon - if you hold it right." Ani DiFranco "It's about being alive and feisty and not sitting down and shutting up even though people would like you to." Pink "Life is too short for shitty sex and bad relationships. So go find someone who fucks you right and treats you how you deserve to be treated." Nadya Tolokonnikova

"You've got your whole life to do something. And that's not very long. So why don't you give me a call When you're willing to fight For what you think is real, For what you think is right." Ani DiFranco "This is a reminder to stand up for what is right and never let your truth be silenced." Nadya Tolokonnikova "At the same time, I wanna hug you I wanna wrap my hands around your neck you're an asshole but I love you and you make me so MAD I ask myself why I'm still here Oh, where could I go You're the only love I've ever known but I hate you, I really hate you so much I think it must be True Love" Pink "there's a crowd of people harbored in every person there are so many roles that we play and you've decided to love me for eternity I'm still deciding who I want to be today /Willing to Fight/" Ani DiFranco "Stand up. Fight back. You have a voice. Use it." Nadya Tolokonnikova

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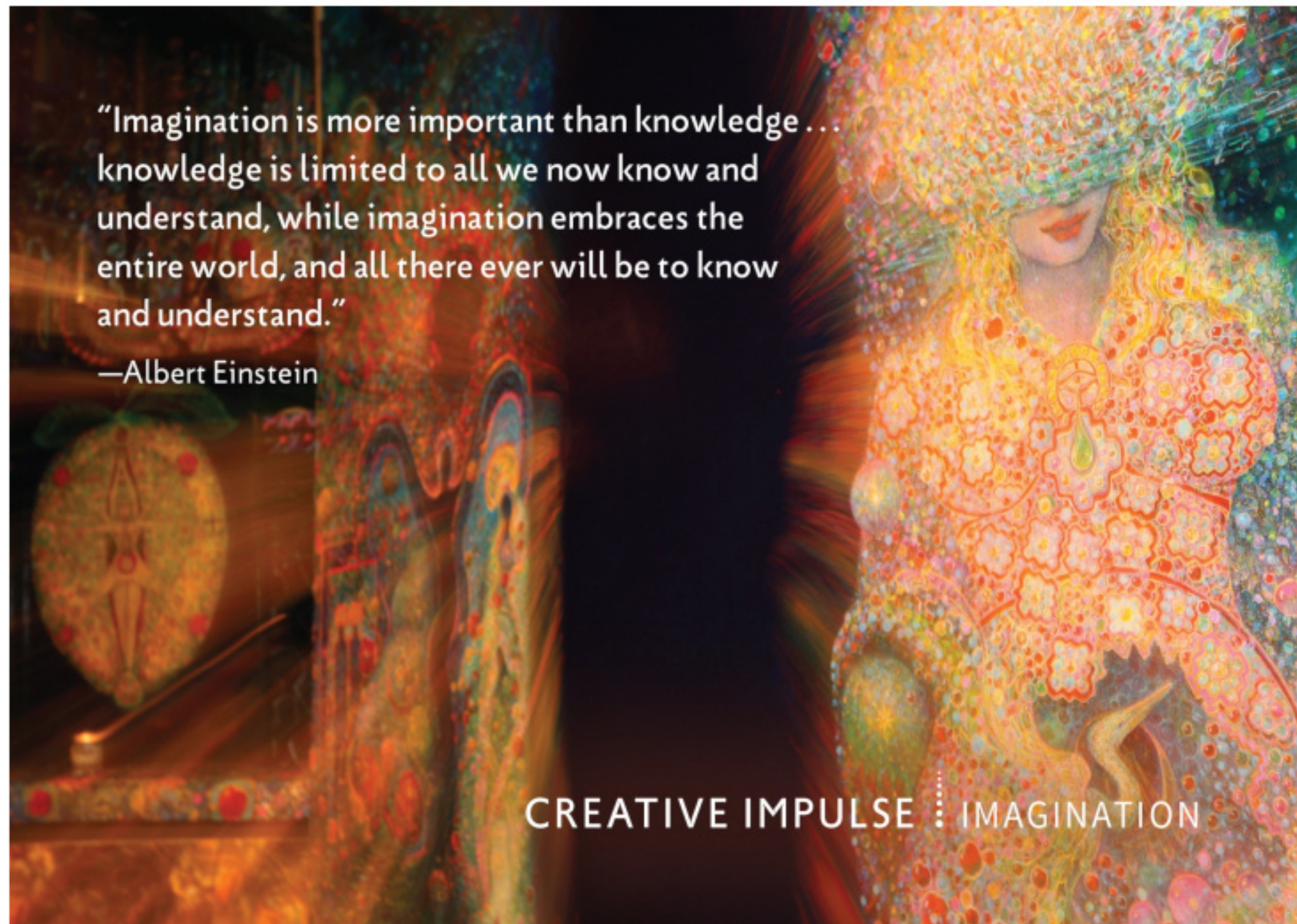




"Imagination is more important than knowledge . . .  
knowledge is limited to all we now know and  
understand, while imagination embraces the  
entire world, and all there ever will be to know  
and understand."

—Albert Einstein

CREATIVE IMPULSE : IMAGINATION
















“The moment a woman comes home to herself, the moment she knows that she has become a person of influence, an artist of her life, a sculptor of her universe, a person with rights and responsibilities who is respected and recognized, the resurrection of the world begins.”

—Sister Joan Chittister

CREATIVE IMPULSE : HOME



