

Piano Sonata #6

'17 Graeme Lee prints'



with aphorisms by Arjun von Caemmerer

Composed and performed by Michael Kieran Harvey during the 2020 pandemic, Piano Sonata #6 was commissioned by artist Graeme Lee in response to 17 prints he produced in July 2020. The music, the prints and Arjun von Caemmerer's aphorisms are highly contrasting and individual.

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Michael Kieran Harvey

Piano Sonata #6: '17 Graeme Lee prints'

with aphorisms by
Arjun von Caemmerer
(2020)

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|----|-------------------------|-------|
| 1 | Floating Item | 2'27" |
| 2 | Hot Rolls II | 0'48" |
| 3 | Pyramid | 3'22" |
| 4 | White Shapes III | 0'46" |
| 5 | Vase | 3'07" |
| 6 | Pattern | 0'49" |
| 7 | Globe | 3'32" |
| 8 | Coloured M | 0'55" |
| 9 | Stage | 2'33" |
| 10 | Gap | 2'30" |
| 11 | Oysters | 1'14" |
| 12 | Tower | 3'03" |
| 13 | Black Bowl | 2'22" |
| 14 | Item Falling | 2'31" |
| 15 | Man Running | 1'43" |
| 16 | Mound II | 2'44" |
| 17 | Fitzroy Jazz II | 2'53" |

P*iano Sonata #6 '17 Graeme Lee Prints'* was written during the 2020 pandemic. It was commissioned by Graeme Lee, and is a response to the series of prints he produced during July 2020. A further interpretational layer is added with the aphorisms of Dr Arjun von Caemmerer, who wrote the accompanying text "Leeward Epigraemes" as a response to both the images and nascent musical sketches.

I owe a great debt to my father in law, Tom Teniswood and his wife Jane, who allowed me to stay with them on their property "Windsong" and compose this work during 2020 as a respite from the urban environment. I am also grateful for the dialogue and friendship of Ansel Luk during this time, to whom the last movement is dedicated.

The main binding element in the 17 sonata movements is the intuitive hermeneutic response to each Lee print. Originally conceived as a collection of pieces, the work coalesced as a sonata due to the mereology of its constituent elements.: 17 is the only prime number to be made up of four consecutive primes (2,3,5,7), and these figure constantly throughout the sonata. In the same way, Lee's prints and von Caemmerer's

aphorisms are at once highly contrasting and individual, yet bound as a series by their overarching and distinctive visual "language".

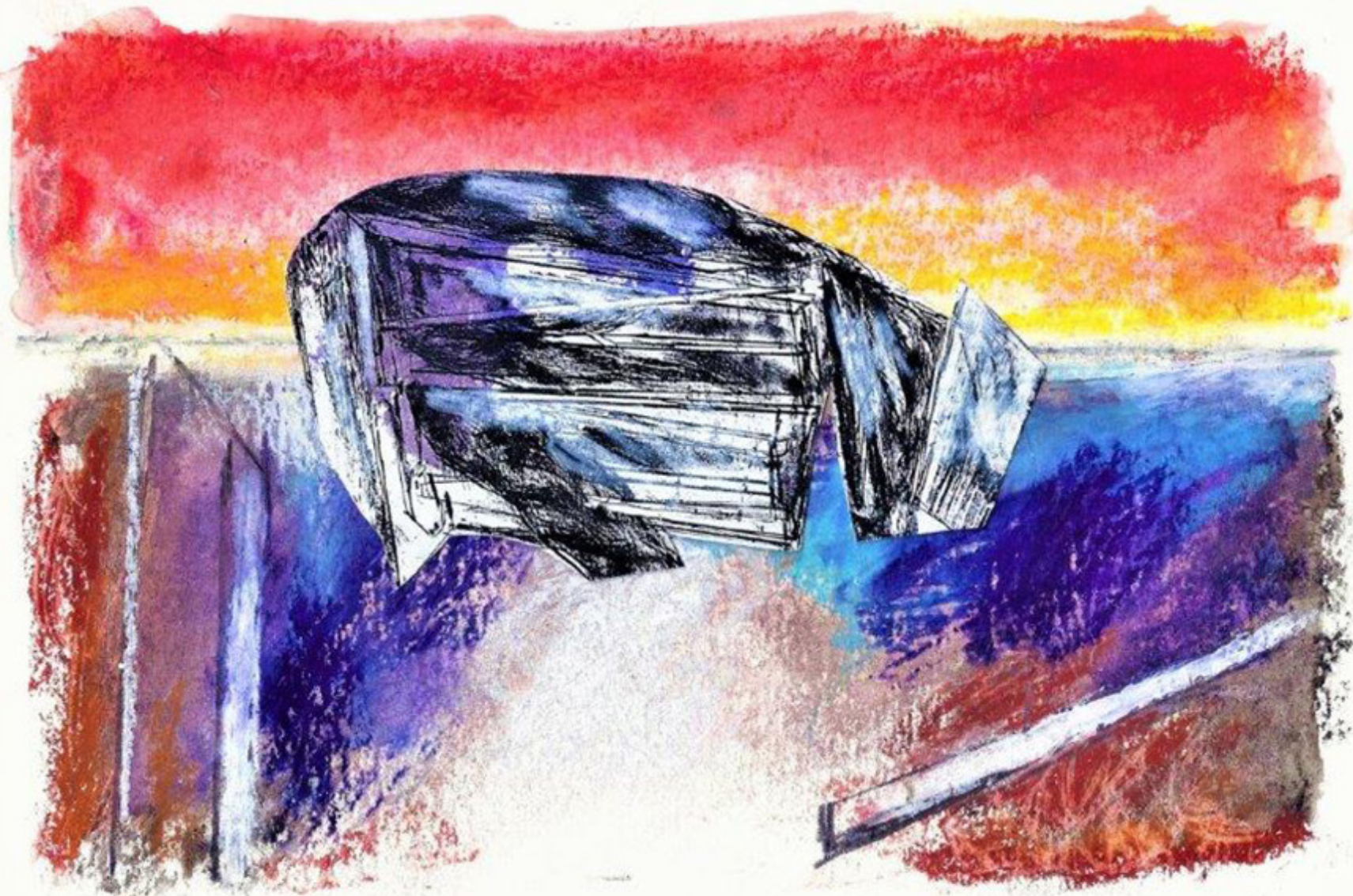
To emphasise the interdependence between the visual, text and music, each movement is preceded by an aphorism and the appropriate print.

Michael Kieran Harvey

All prints mixed media on A4 paper
The cover print is entitled *Objects in a Landscape*

LEEWARD EPIGRÆMES

aphorisms by Arjun von Caemmerer (2020)



Floating Item

Lee

I **Floating Item**

Zappa dubbed our Ocean 'The Ultimate Solution'—
Yet our Source teems and turns with plastic pollution.

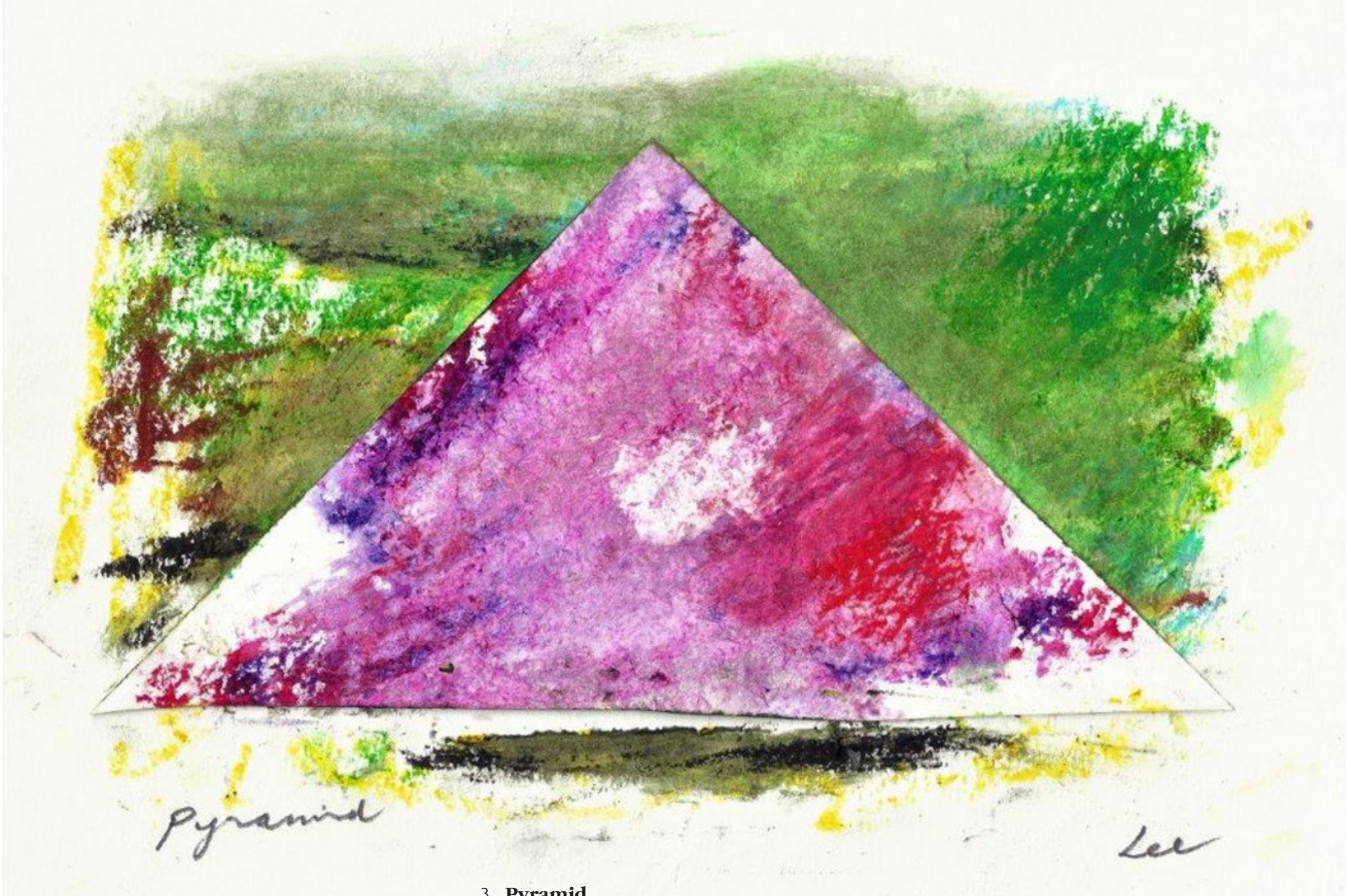


Hot Rolls

Lee

2 Hot Rolls II

Hot buttered rolls, so good you take two
May leave that one extra roll growing on you.



3 Pyramid

Pyramid schemes sell shares of the sea, topped with the lure of a boat.
(Beneath the waves drift columns of dreamers, still dreaming of staying afloat)



White Shapes III

Lee

4 **White Shapes III**

Our constructs and systems — that free and enslave —
Continue cresting and crashing, wave after wave...



5 **Vase**

We measure and mark our diminishing hours
Beholding the fast fading treasure of freshly cut flowers.



Pattern

6 Pattern

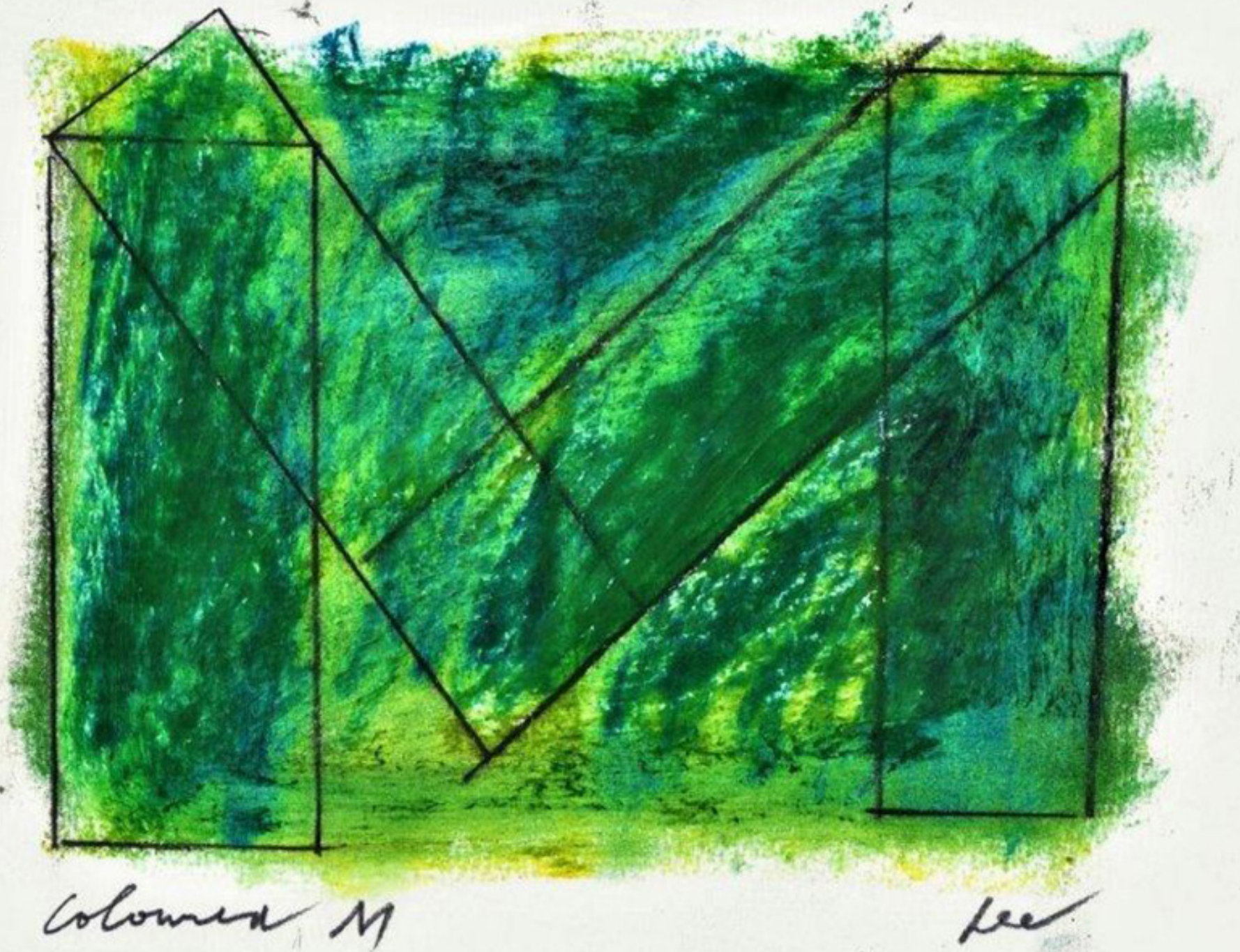
At one with itself, unfazed by fashion, unmoved through time:
Odd 17: another unruly, off-centre, stand-alone prime.

Lee



7 **Globe**

When deprived of a Voice, and denied the Vote,
It's not *Globus Hystericus* seizing her throat.



8 Coloured

The flipside of *Home on the Range* under Arches of Gold:
Between slabs of white starch, browned cows, culled cold.



Stage

Lee

9 Stage

On the busted world stage
Bubble repute does rage.



Gap

Lee

10 Gap

The song's broken line, chanted Left-wise to Right:
"CLOSING THE GAP" — 13 black letters, Typeset on white.

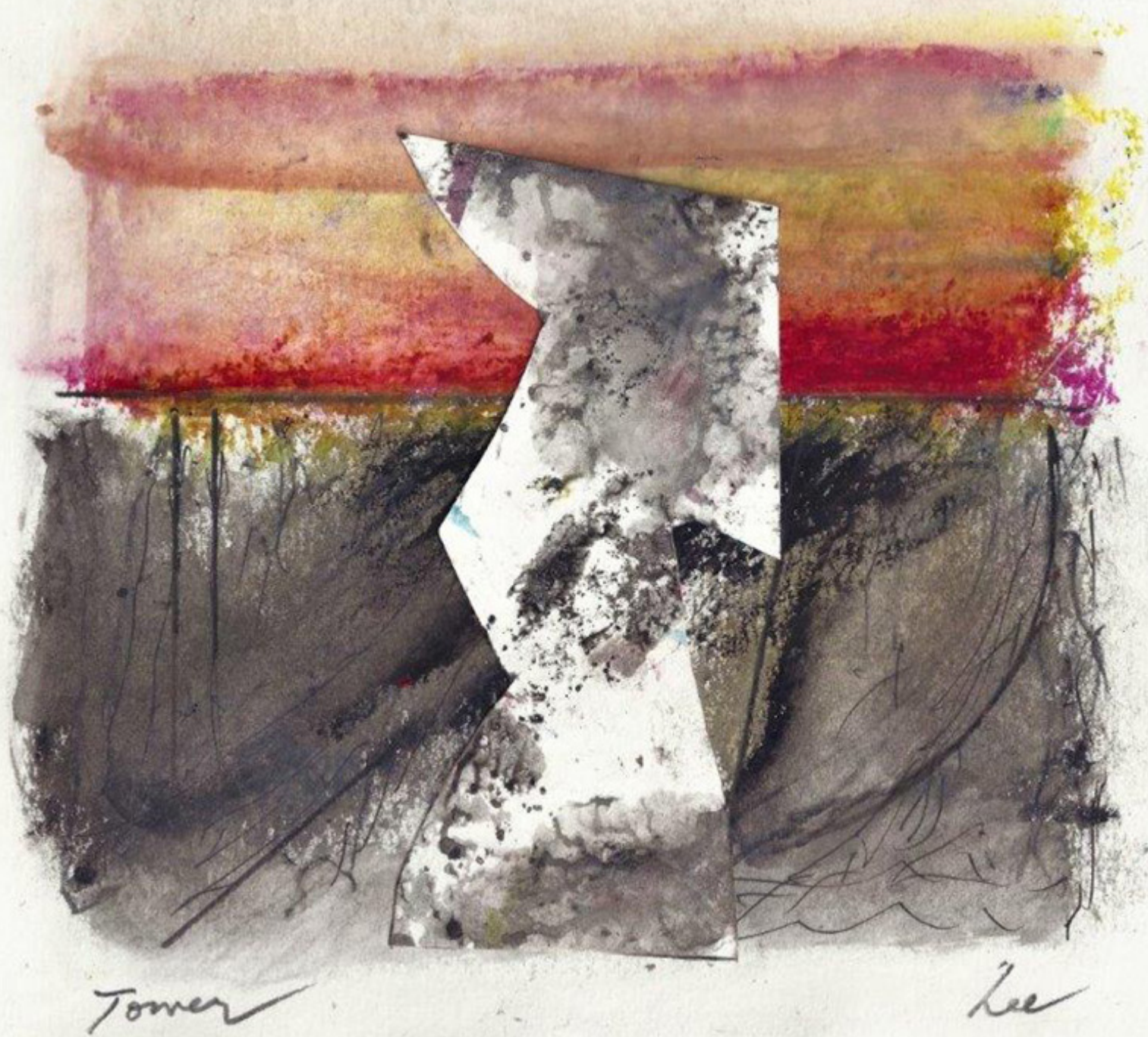


Oysters

11 Oysters

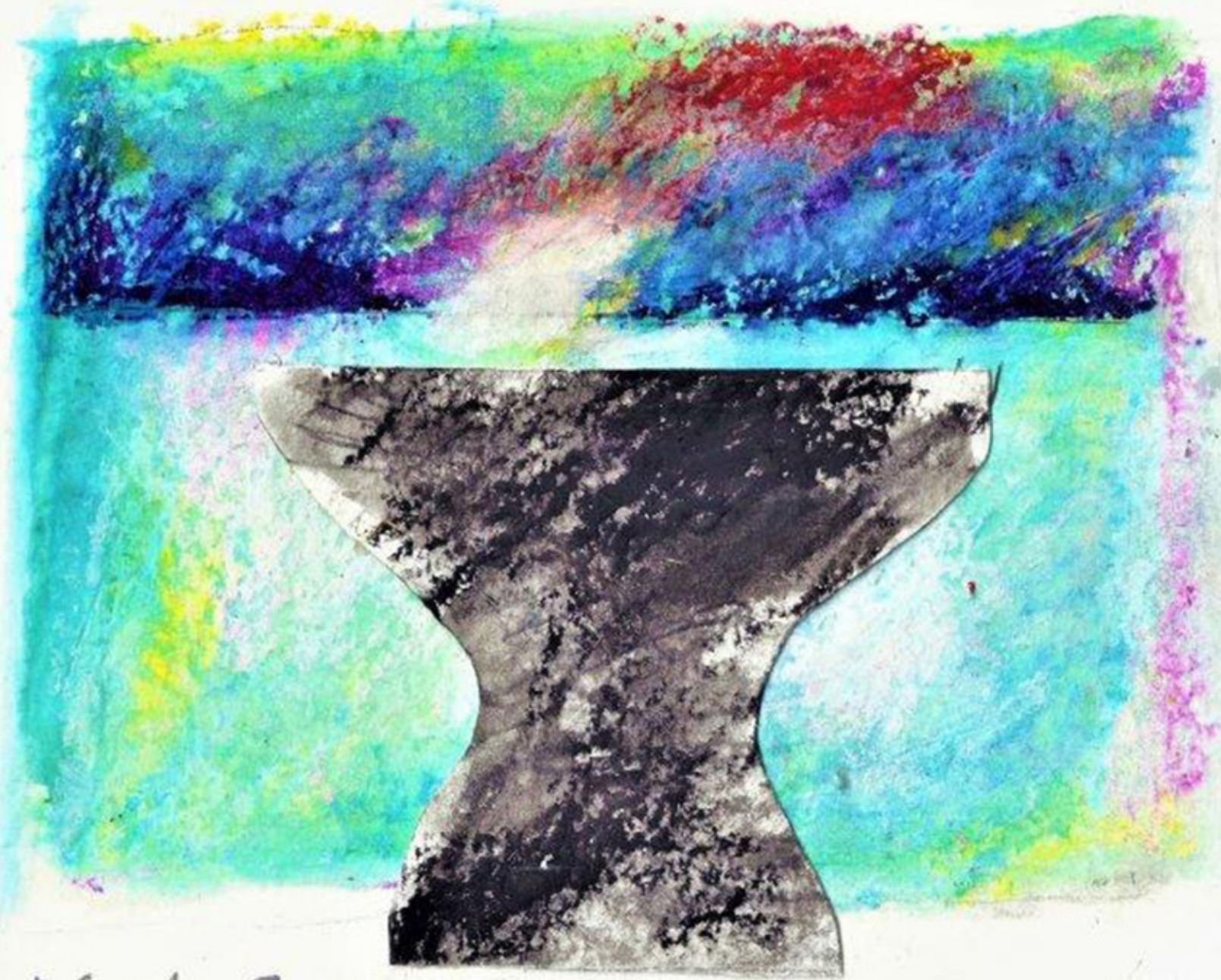
When a noisy noise annoys an oyster
An uncalm clam can clam, clamp, cloister.

Lee



12 **Tower**

One Twit's Tweet-showers
Dwarfs the grim Twin Towers.

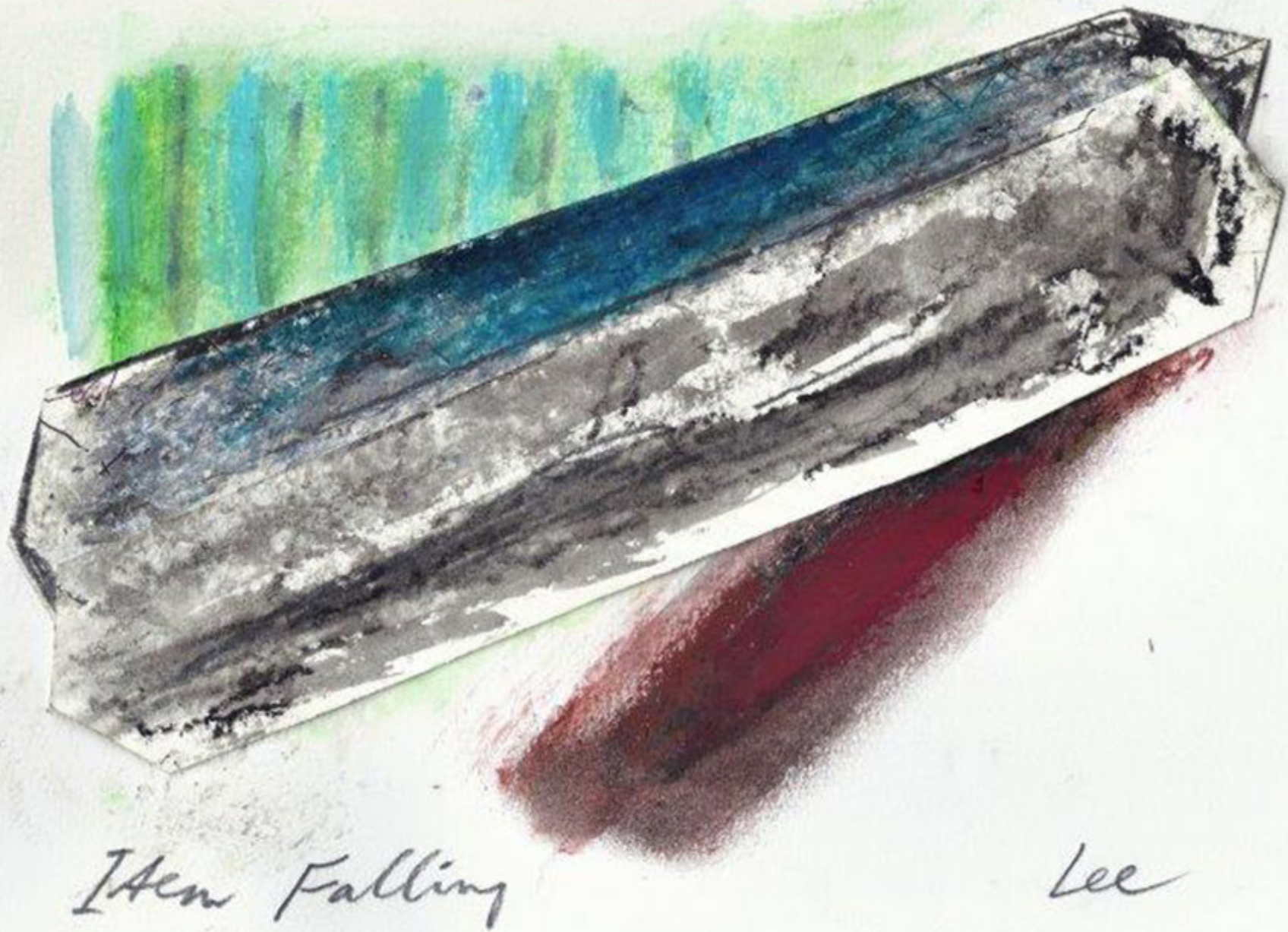


Black Bowl

Lee

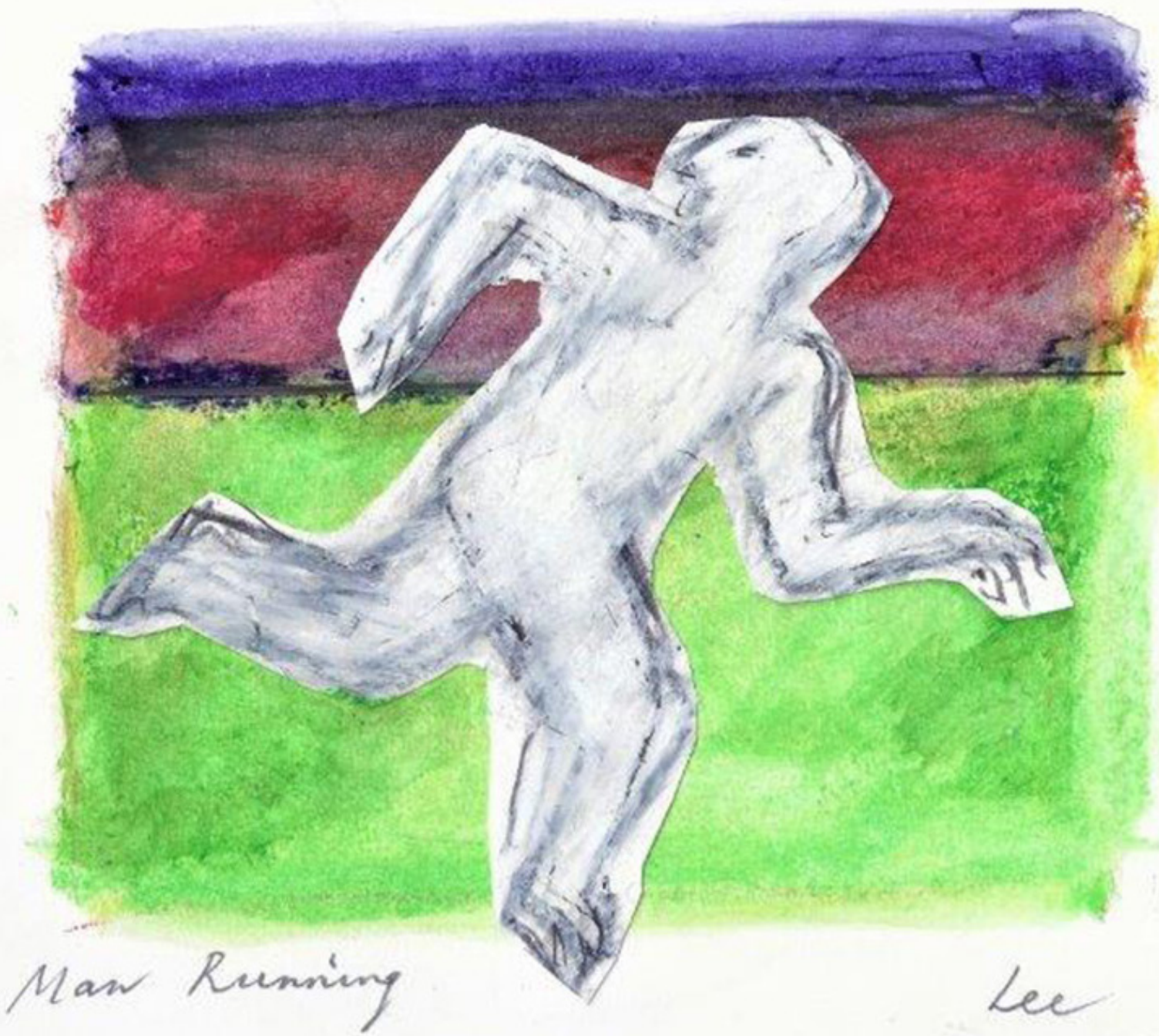
13 **Black Bowl**

It's said the Buddha's last meal was begged (dodgy) meat.
Still he ate — grateful, awake, at one with his bowl — empty; replete.



14 **Item Falling**

Struck Newton spoke apples, but every full, falling fruit
Sees parent Earth pull offspring back whence they first shoot.



15 **Man Running**

Every day he runs and runs, annulling loss, dispelling win.
But whatsoever he is running from, or running to, his shadow ties as twin.



Mound II

Lee

16 **Mound II**

Scientists guess that ants have roamed many million years and more!
And ants still will roam when scientists are faint footnotes (...) in ant lore.



17 **Fitzroy Jazz II**

A poem for Pi.O

Fuck the Spelling! his book raps; so too, his zine:

Unusual Work @ the Uptown Jazz scene.