

A Thaili of Curiosities



A non-fiction graphic comics anthology
VOL 2

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A Thaili of Curiosities
A non fiction graphic comics anthology
Year: 2024

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सोशल साइन्स बहाः
SOCIAL SCIENCE BAHĀ



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Introduction

This body of work is the output from our 4th Non-fiction graphic comics workshop in January of 2024. The stories are based on short anthropological research and visual output on the everyday life of people living, working or passing in the neighbourhood of Patan.

This workshop was a purely hands-on experience and practice based, where both artist and writer collaborated from the get go, practiced various genres and forms of non-fiction comics and at the end screen printed their comic. Promina Shrestha facilitated the workshop through which these comics were produced, with help from Erika Hoffmann-Dilloway, and Julia Christensen

12 participants were from Nepal, and eight of the participants were students from Oberlin College (United States). While the comics focused on the details of everyday life in Patan, the collaborations were international in nature.

This non-fiction graphic anthology is part of the
'BATOUGHATO: HIMALAYAN LIVES & LANDSCAPES, AND THE ROADS THAT CHANGE THEM'

The project is a communication initiative focused on a research-based graphic novel that delves into the politics of road construction in rural Nepal. It aims to catalyze discussions on development, democracy, and civil society while introducing graphic storytelling to a wider audience. Through visual narratives, the novel portrays the perspectives of various stakeholders involved in road construction, challenging common narratives about its consequences. The project involves translation, illustration, and collaboration with publishers to ensure accessibility and natural dialogue. Led by Stacy Leigh Pigg and a team of artists and researchers, 'Batoghato' is based on the work of the research group 'Infrastructures of Democracy.'

The project is financially supported by
the Open Society Foundations (OSF),
Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (Canada)

Foreword

In the bustling streets of Patan, where life unfolds in a myriad of colors and stories, a unique collaboration between artists and writers has blossomed. Embedded within the daily rhythms of this vibrant neighborhood lies a treasure trove of narratives waiting to be unearthed and shared.

The body of work presented here is the fusion of anthropological research and visual storytelling, creating a collection of narratives that vividly portray the essence of life in Patan.

Led by Promina with the support from Erika Hoffmann-Dilloway and Julia Christensen, this workshop was more than just an exploration of artistic techniques—it was a journey into the heart of storytelling. Through this hands-on practice and collaboration, artists and writers alike delved deep into the nuances of non-fiction comics.

What makes this endeavor truly remarkable is the diversity of voices that have come together to create these narratives. With participants hailing from both Nepal and the United States, this workshop transcended geographical boundaries, fostering an international exchange of ideas and perspectives. As a result, the comics presented here not only capture the intricacies of life in Patan but also reflect the interconnectedness of our global community.

Join in and embark on this visual journey through the streets of Patan, immerse yourself in the rich tapestry of stories woven by the creators.

Dr Stacy Leigh Pigg

Author

Batoghat: Himalayan Lives and Landscapes, and the Roads That Change Them

Sometimes Friendships BEGIn With a BaGful of Pleasantries

Sofie and Ritu





...SOMETIMES THEY DON'T HAVE BEGINNINGS,
BUT THEY ARE ALWAYS PRICELESS.

WRITER: RITU RAJBANSHI
ARTIST: SOFIE BILL

FEATURING
KRISHNA MAHARJAN (GURU BAA)
BAU KAJI MAHARJAN (AAJU BAA)

Purna KO Sapana

Kriya and Jenna



"PURNA KO SAPANA"

BY: KRIJA & JEENA



A regular day at Narayan's Thangka store. He's scrolling on Facebook while waiting for customers as usual.

P PURNA SKJ
1d . ago



Namaste! My name is Purna. I am from a small village in Mugu, Northen Nepal. Even till today we still don't have electricity or much technology. And after finishing the 10th grade, I decided to go on my own journey.

I had been a helper at an NGO. Though they wanted me to continue working for them, there was a voice that shouted, "I AM NOT SATISFIED, I WANT TO BE A LEADER!" So, I came to Kathmandu to continue my education.



However, I was scammed by a "third party" into working for an oligarch. This caused me to miss my college in-take. If anyone can help or provide for me to go to college now., please contact me at 9xxx-xxx-xxx.



LIKE 

COMMENT 

SHARE 





Narayan calls Purna through the contact that was mentioned.



A WEEK LATER

Narayan finally meets up with Purna. He takes Purna to his store and they meet with Ritesh, who runs the store with Narayan. He offers Purna to work at the store part-time while Purna continues his studies.



Around half a year later, Purna enrolls in a local college.

Two years later, he successfully joins into university for sociology and Nepali journalism.

PURNA'S PIN-BOARD



Creators note: Special thanks to Ritesh and Purna, it was a heart-warming experience to have talked with them and had a glimpse of their bond.

A Vibrant Family History

Gigi and Prathana



A VIBRANT FAMILY HISTORY

Written by Prarthana Dixit

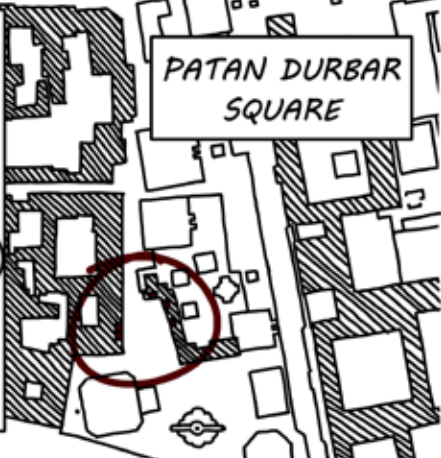
Illustrated by Gigi Row

A woman wearing a white jacket and a red hijab is shown from the chest up. She has her hands raised in a gesture of speaking or explaining. A speech bubble is positioned above her.

My family is Newa: Muslims, and we own five chura and pothey shops in this area.

These shops have been here for around 40 to 50 years.

Sama Banu

The same woman from the previous panel is shown from the waist up. She is holding three circular symbols: the Nepali character 'क', the Hindi character 'क', and the Urdu character 'ک'. A speech bubble is above her.

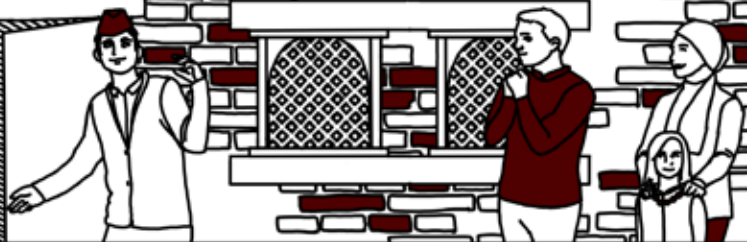
We speak Nepali, Nepal Bhasa, and Urdu. At home, we speak them simultaneously. Our kids learned these languages through us.

A man wearing a white jacket and a red scarf is shown from the chest up. He is holding a necklace with a large circular pendant. A speech bubble is above him.

Our ancestors were brought to Patan during the Malla era for trade and business.

Our family business has existed for maybe over 200 years.

Abdul Kha Sama's husband



During the Iraq War, anti-Muslim sentiments were on the rise. The Newa: community protected our family and other Muslims from the hostility by hiding us in their homes.

There is a lot of cultural exchange between our family and Newa: in Patan.



Next time, bhoj is at my place!

*Raj Kaji
friend of the family*



We hope that this sort of community love stays alive in the streets and homes of Patan.

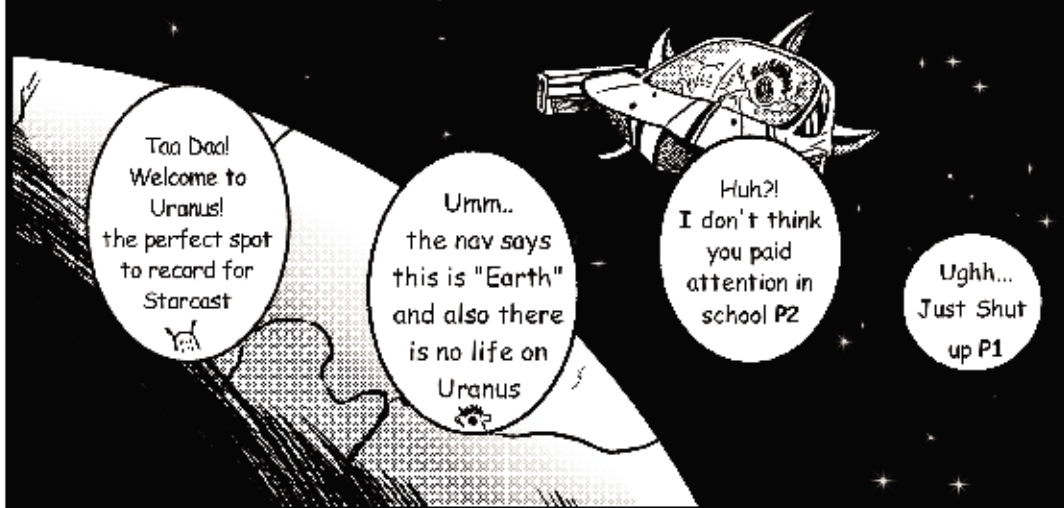
ADventures of P1 & P2

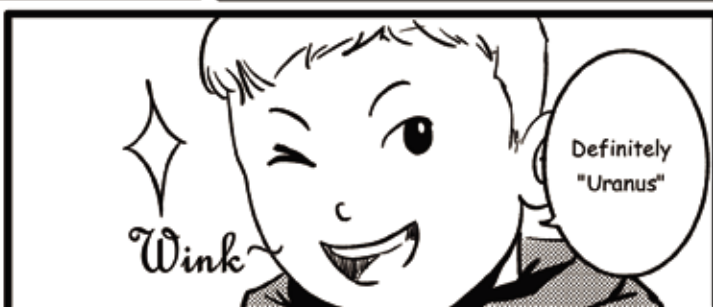
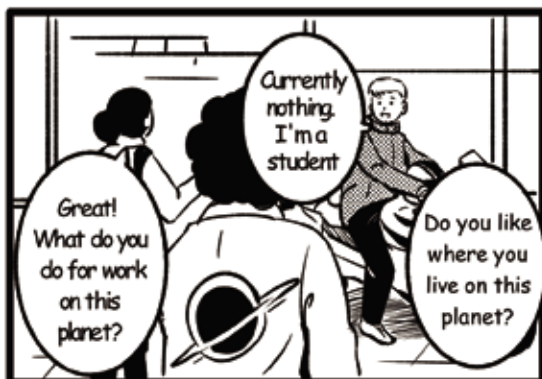
Gaurab and Nash



ADVENTURES OF P1 & P2

@gd.arts and @the_fake_nash





Lost On My OWN TERMS

Dosi and Birat



LOST ON MY OWN TERMS

WRITER: BIRAT BIJAY OJHA
ILLUSTRATOR: DOSI WEED

I WASN'T IN A GOOD PLACE. I DIDN'T FEEL STRONG ENOUGH MENTALLY OR PHYSICALLY.



I DECIDED TO CHANGE AND PUSH MYSELF.



I STARTED KICKBOXING.



YOU HAVE LOST YOUR WAY, SON.



I HAD NO SUPPORT, SO I DID IT FOR MYSELF



DAY 3



DAY 15



DAY 40



NATIONAL KICKBOXING TOURNAMENT



I MANAGED TO GET THIRD.



I'M PROUD OF YOU, SON.



Kabita at Work

Pranika and Juwayria



KABITA AT WORK

NAMASTE EVERYONE:-
I AM KABITA MAHARJAN.



I AM A DEAF AND MUTE PERSON.
I USE SIGN LANGUAGE.



AFTER SLC, I APPLIED FOR JOBS...



NOTHING.

FINALLY, I GOT A JOB AT A PUBLIC TOILET RUN BY AEROSAN.



INCLUSIVE
MALE
FEMALE

A TYPICAL DAY...




I AM GRATEFUL FOR MY JOB AND ALL IT HAS PROVIDED FOR ME.



MY COWORKER (AND FRIEND)

JAN 2024



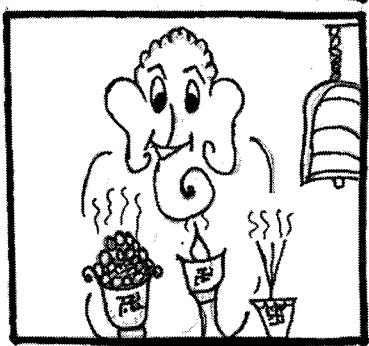
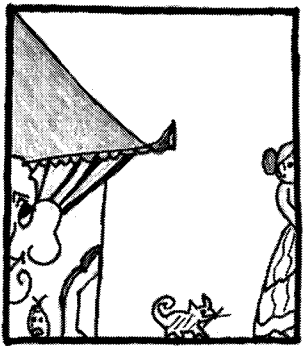
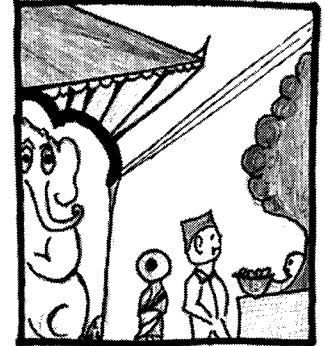
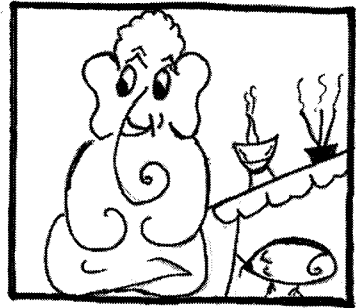
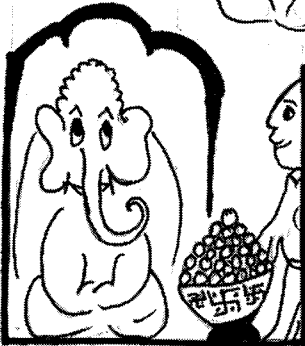
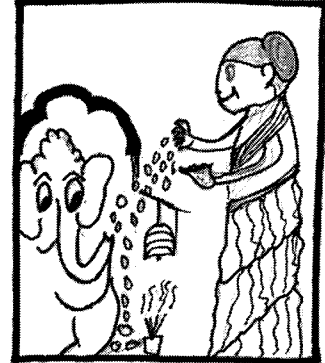
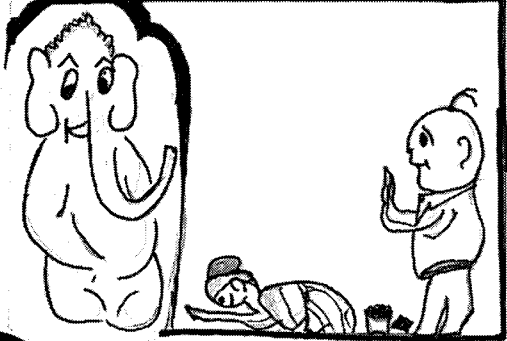
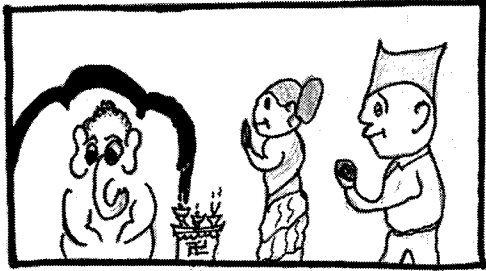
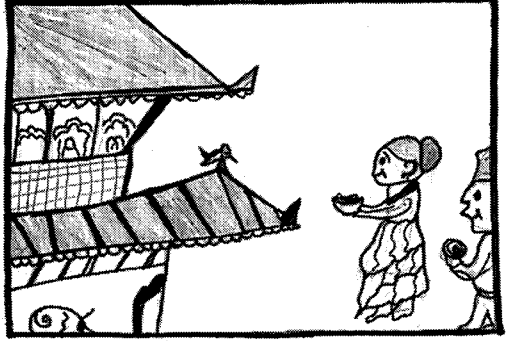
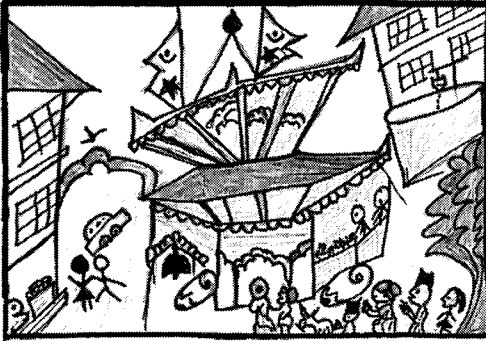
PRANIKA KABITA JUWAYRIA ERICA

Nitya Karma

Bedhika and Lakpa



NITYA KARMA



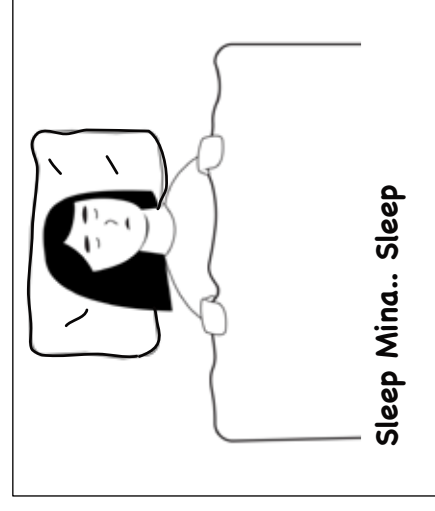
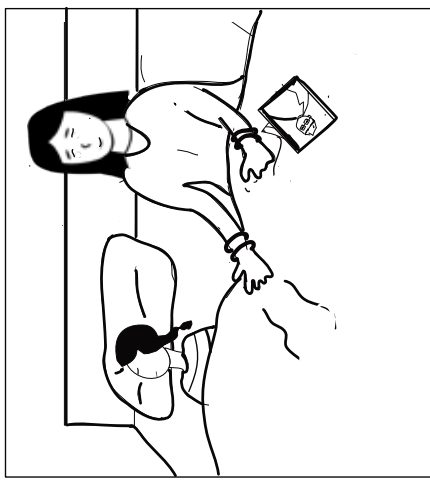
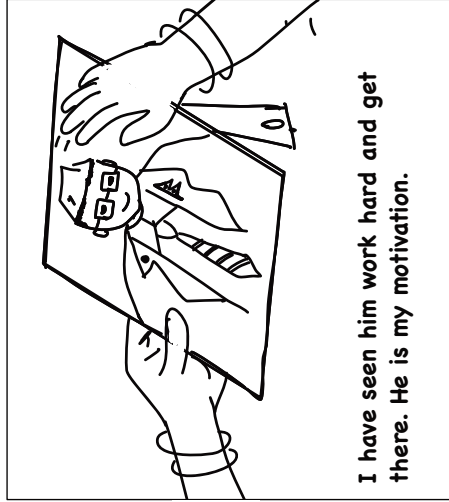
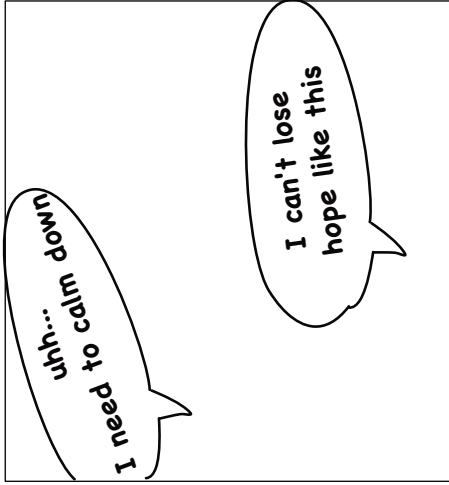
WRITER: BEDHIKA PUDASAINI
ARTIST: LAKPA LAMA HYOLMO

WRITER: BEDHIKA PUDASAINI
ARTIST: LAKPA LAMA HYOLMO

Amma

Padma and Bishal

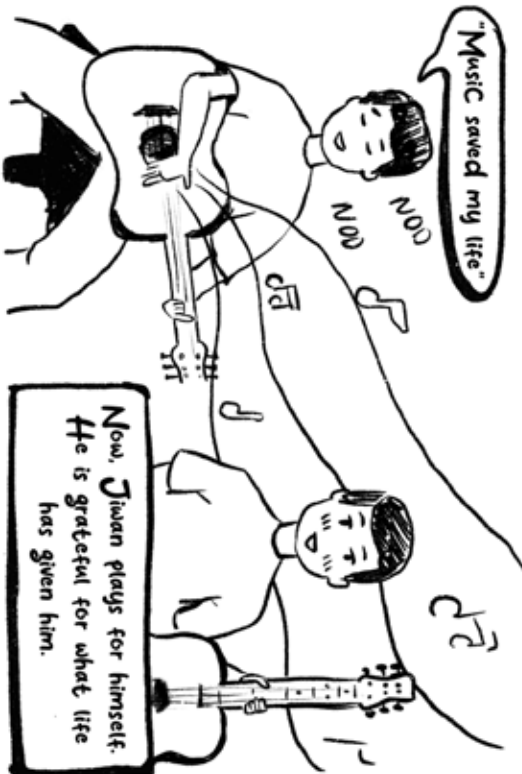




JiWan Lama's Story

Ellis and Spriha





"Music saved my life"

Now, Jivan plays for himself. He is grateful for what life has given him.

Jivan's Lama's Story

Illustrated by
Srinika Shrestha
@shrikrishna
@sishore



Written by
Eris Lieberkind Gausler
@delicantnessofficial
@otshwartz



When those dark days came, Jivan turned to music in the form of guitar lessons.



But there is more to Jivan than his suit.

Jivan has had dark days. He felt hopeless when he was unable to find a job.



Jivan Lama is 26, and had lived in Kathmandu for over 10 years now. He works in hospitality, and even gets to wear a fancy suit as part of his uniform.

XYZ HOTEL

A Tea Love Story

Malcolm and Swornima



PULL
HERE



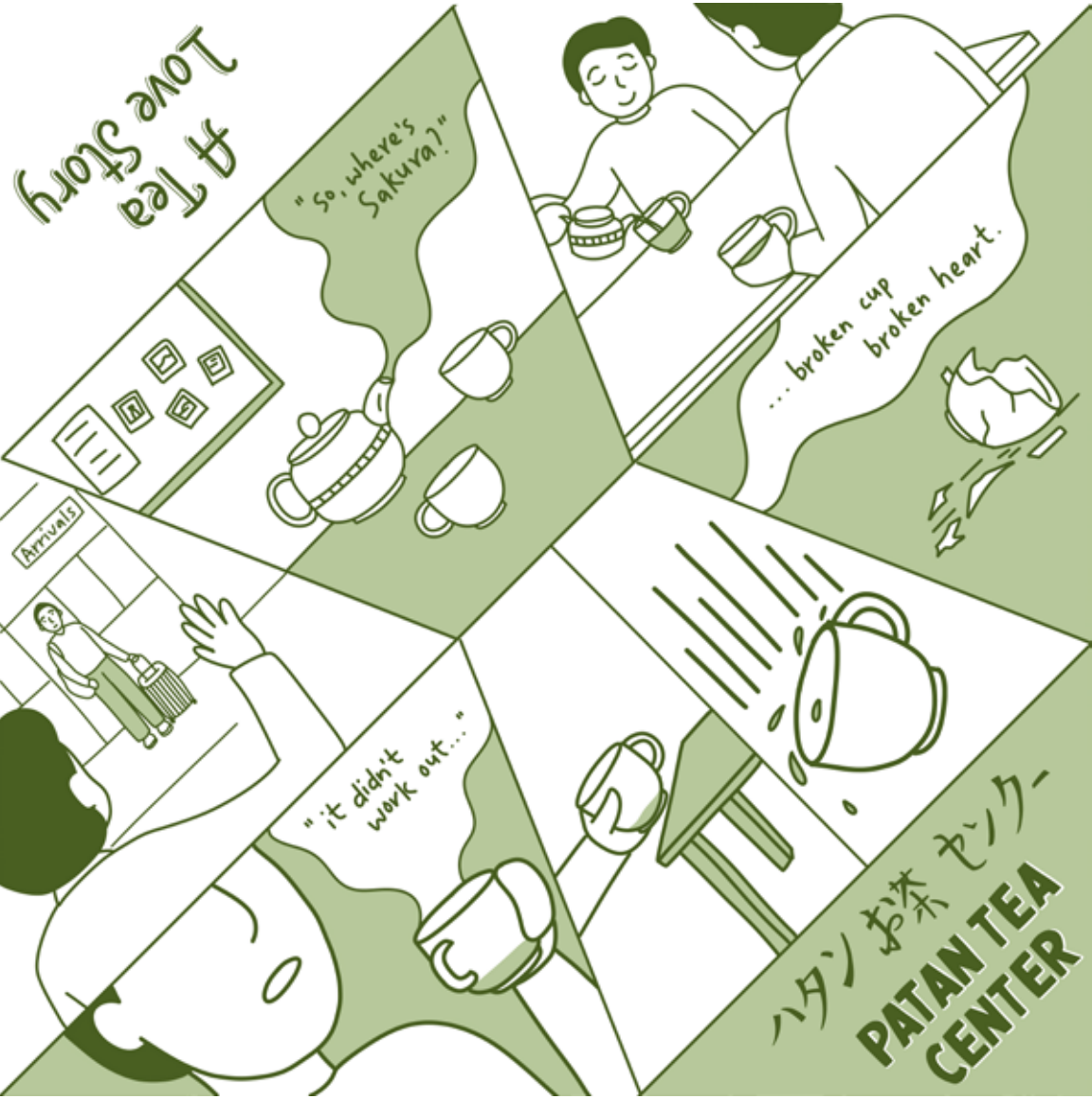
SWARNIMA
MALCOLM.B
IN PULLER



• d112



A Tea Love Story



"So, where's Sakura?"

... broken cup
broken heart.

"it didn't
work out..."

ハタンお茶センター
PATAN TEA
CENTER

Arrivals



 VIRANGANA
COMICS