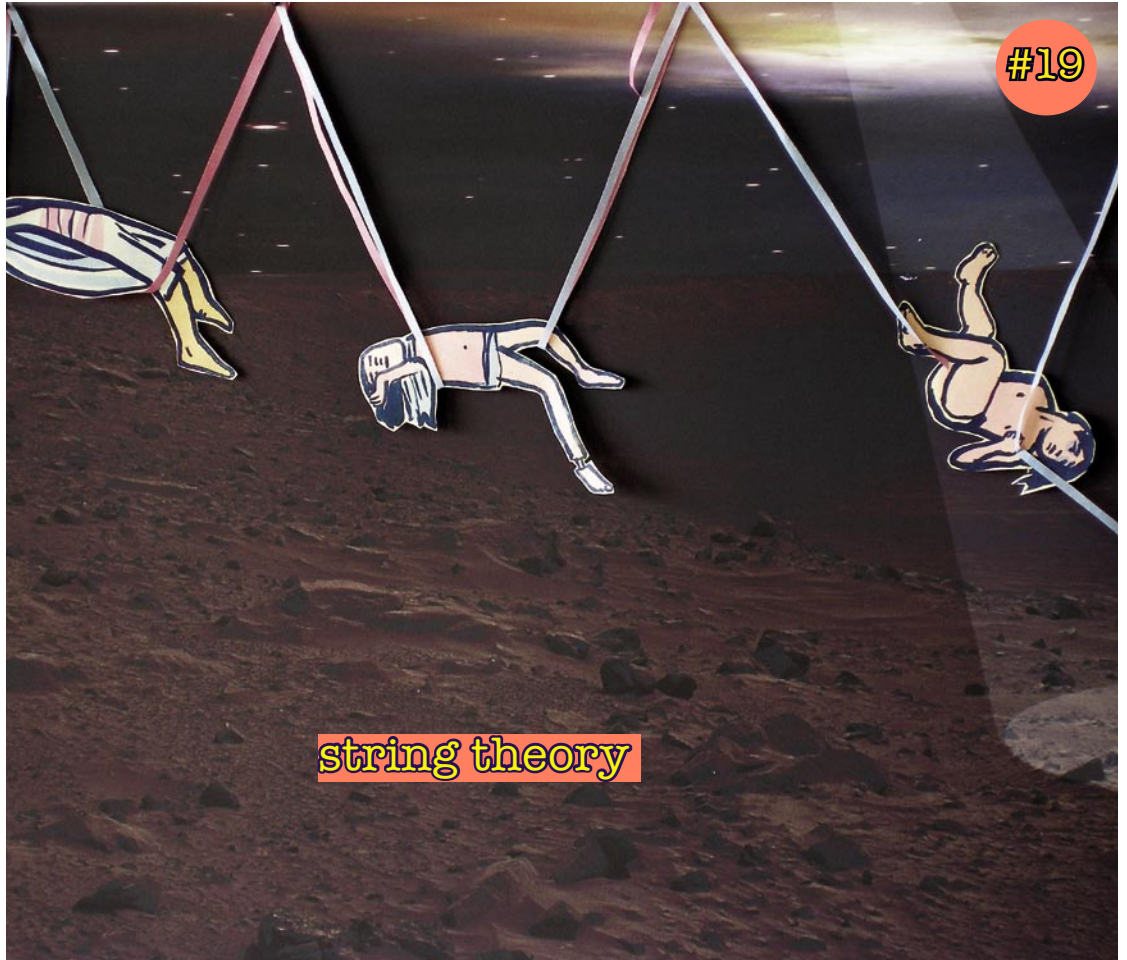


Libby Hague's

# martian odyssey # 19



string theory

#19

## Marianne's story: thread 20

This is it. I can't go on. We can't make it alone. We have to take a chance on that girl over there. She's alone. That's good. Smile. Be nice.

### 1000 YEARS AGO TODAY:

"8,000 KM FROM HOME  
Three Mexican fishermen who disappeared in the Pacific Ocean nine months ago have been rescued nearly 8,000 kilometers from their home, saying they survived by eating seagulls, drinking rainwater and reading the Bible."

Mary Vallis and Natalie Alcoba, National Post, August 17/06

"Their best minds had searched for the theory of everything by integrating quantum mechanics and general relativity. It promised an unshakable pillar of coherence forever assuring us that the universe is a comprehensible place."

Brian Greene - Nova / the Elegant universe / A Theory of Everything/  
<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/elegant/everything.html>





“In the standard model of particle physics, particles are considered to be points moving through space, tracing out a line called the World Line ... The standard model was designed within a framework known as Quantum Field Theory which gives us the tools to build theories consistent both with quantum mechanics and the special theory of relativity. Theories were built which describe Electromagnetism, and the Strong and Weak nuclear force ... but unfortunately the fourth interaction, gravity, beautifully described in Einstein’s General Relativity does not seem to fit into this scheme.”

Cambridge Relativity Public homepage <http://www.damtp.cam.ac.uk/user/gr/public/>



martian odyssey: string theory, stone lithography with digital output, 20 x 78 in.

. NASA credit: .....

“... the opponents of reductionism ... are appalled by what they feel to be the bleakness of modern science. The reductionist worldview is chilling and impersonal. It has to be accepted as it is, not because we like it, but because that is the way the world works.”

Steven Weinberg, “Dreams of a Final Theory” <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/elegant/everything/html>

There are strong forces that hold the particles of the universe together. However, at the large scale of entities with free will nothing physical stops us from going our separate ways. Yet for some mysterious reason we seem to stay together in clumps, fighting and loving and holding onto all the little pieces that are broken.

- Author unknown

## Earth Tales: String Theory Part 1

There were curious earth-people called scientists, and they invented theories. For hundreds of years, different people would work on trying to answer the same questions. Theories were a way of sorting these investigations, grouping information that belonged together, and creating special categories for odd ideas that did





not fit. Theories were also beautiful. Like the finest paintings in the greatest museums, theories formed pictures of the world, reflecting and refracting like perfect glowing jewels.

The curious people had a plan. They wanted to form one grand stellar shining theory, a perfectly symmetrical and finely faceted treasure that would contain all the pieces of information in the universe. This became their goal.

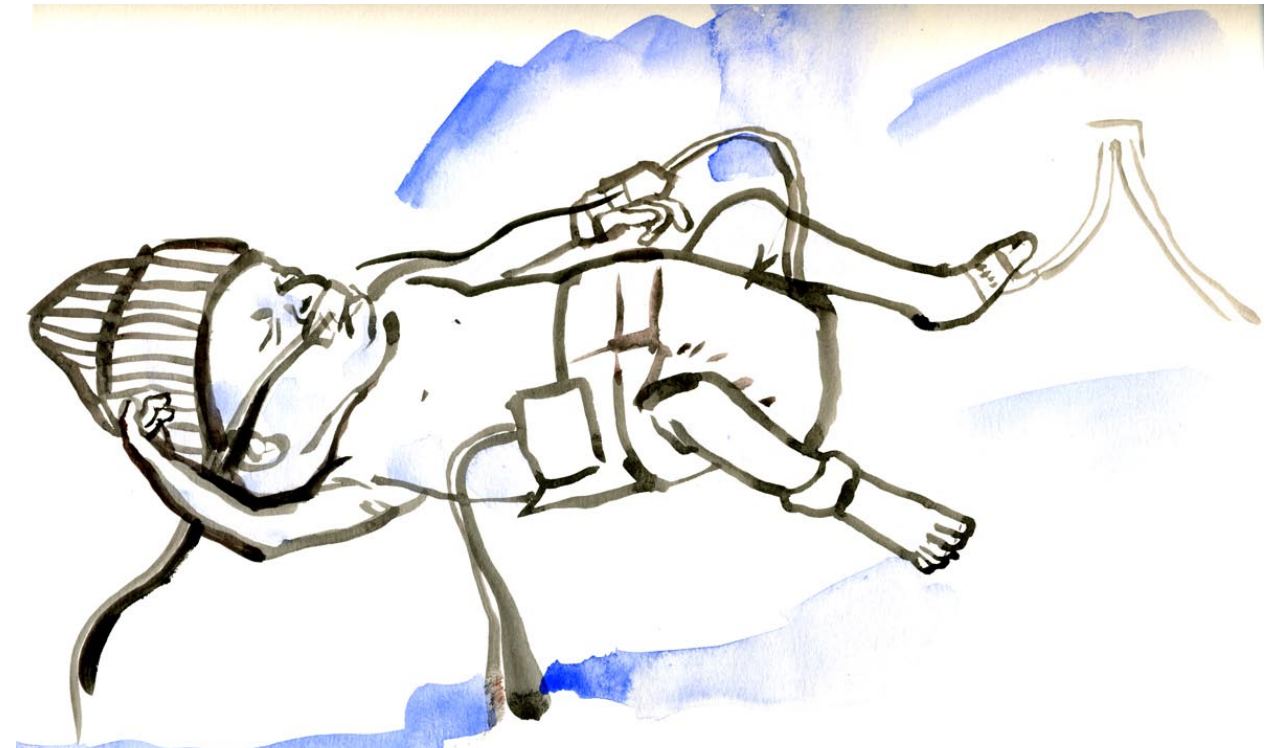
In trying to make the perfect theory, the curious people created many drafts. These theories were each more lovely than the last, but none was more beautiful than the theory of the singing strings.

Sally McKay

“**Although** it is by no means obvious, this simple replacement of point-particle material constituents with strings resolves the incompatibility between quantum mechanics and general relativity (which, as currently formulated, cannot both be right).

...  
More than half a century later, (Einstein’s) dream of a unified theory has become the Holy Grail of modern physics. ... From one principle – that everything at its most microscopic level consists of combinations of vibrating strands – string theory provides a single explanatory framework capable of encompassing all forces and all matter.”

Brian Greene, “A Theory of Everything”  
<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/elegant/everything/html>



“A man is normally not alone, and in his rise or fall is tied to the destinies of his neighbors; so that it is exceptional for anyone to acquire unlimited power, or to fall by a succession of defeats into utter ruin”.

Primo Levi, *Survival in Auschwitz* pg. 87, 88

## Grushenka tells the story of an onion

It's only a story, but it's a nice story I used to hear it when I was a child from Matryona, my cook, who is still with me. It's like this. Once upon a time there was a peasant woman and a very wicked woman she was. And she died and did not leave a single good deed behind. The devils caught her and plunged her into the lake of fire. So her guardian angel stood and wondered what good deed of hers he could remember to tell to God; 'She once pulled up an onion in her garden,' said he, 'and gave it to a beggar woman.' And God answered: 'You take that onion then, hold it out to her in the lake, and let her take hold and be pulled out. And if you can pull her out of the lake, let her come to Paradise, but if the onion breaks, then the woman must stay where she is.' The angel ran to the woman and held out



the onion to her. 'Come,' said he, 'catch hold and I'll pull you out.' he began cautiously pulling her out. He had just pulled her right out, when the other sinners in the lake, seeing how she was being drawn out, began catching hold of her so as to be pulled out with her. But she was a very wicked woman and she began kicking them. 'I'm to be pulled out, not you. It's my onion, not yours.' As soon as she said that, the onion broke. And the woman fell into the lake and she is burning there to this day. So the angel wept and went away".

Dostoyevsky, *The Brother's Karamazov*, chapter 3, pg. 7





“The realm of human affairs, strictly speaking, consists of the web of human relationships which exist wherever men live together. ... (The actions of a newcomer ) always fall into an already existing web where their immediate consequences can be felt. Together they start a new process which eventually emerges as the unique life story of the newcomer, affecting uniquely the life stories of all those with whom he comes in contact.”

Hannah Arendt, The Human Condition, pg. 163

### Thanks to:

Phil Anisman  
my parents  
\*Djivan Gasparyan for his song title  
Sally McKay, # 6, 8, 10, 14, 15,19, 26,  
27, 28, 30, 19, 21,  
Harry Glasbeek # 5  
Smadar Peretz # 23, 24  
Sasha Pierce # 7

and the many authors quoted in these books

### Brief project description:

This web /pdf edition of 30 booklets, connect and complicate the individual artworks in the Martian Odyssey series previously exhibited at Loop in Toronto. These booklets are intended to serve as a basis for comments on the artwork and their themes. If you want to have your comments considered for a web edition you can respond by sending an email to [libbylibby@sympatico.ca](mailto:libbylibby@sympatico.ca) with a subject heading of Martian Odyssey. I will be regularly updating the pdf's.

### Martian Odyssey titles:

1. luck 2. riddles 3. the animals 4. translation  
5. corps de ballet 6. The Girls 7. weave 8. net  
9. slow motion 10. Big Bang 11. alouette  
12. the wrong boat 13. the disaster  
14. RAGE 15. white arms 16. plague  
17. amnesia 18. ah.. 19. string theory 20.  
laughter 21. dreams 22. Rules 23. justice  
24. forgiveness 25. day after peace  
26. un-rebuilding 27. blue-sky-blue 28. play  
again 29. stars are wide 30. sing

**Libby Hague** is a printmaker + installation artist exploring themes of disaster, rescue and hope. [full cv](#)

• [hishuk ish tsawalk](#)

• **EVERYTHING IS ONE + ALL IS INTERCONNECTED**

• <http://www.nuuchanulth.org/>

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 ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL  
CONSEIL DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIO

“Catch hold and I’ll pull you out.”

THEIR BEST MINDS HAD SEARCHED  
FOR THE THEORY OF EVERYTHING.  
BY INTEGRATING QUANTUM

Y K P Y . C . H . O . N E P . R E . P . S . I . T .

PROMISED UNSHAKABLE  
PILVAR O ER EN O E FOREVER  
ASURING H Y T H O U N I V E R S E  
S A COM NSIBLE PLACE 20



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