

# Muni Art Featured Artist: Vanessa Fajardo

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## Dreams of Azul

Vanessa Fajardo, a third generation San Franciscan, is influenced and inspired by The City and its people. Witnessing the evolving social and physical landscape that is San Francisco; she strives to celebrate the city where her ancestors lived, worked, and loved. A photographer, printmaker and painter, Vanessa produces artwork available via her online print studio, Calibri Designs.

**Artist Thanks:** Thank you to my family for raising me to be proud of my past and instilling in me the strength to be my authentic self. A special thanks to the Imperiale family for their encouragement but especially to Eric for his love and support on my personal artistic journey.



## THE ANTIDOTE TO FASCISM IS POETRY

dear hidden gems  
riding on the bus

your green glow  
has something to say

to the artificial mind  
alive in those buildings

where time's spiders  
were invented to eat

the continual terrible  
boredom we emanate

looking down at our phones  
instead of a tree

under that cloud  
that looks like a door

**Matthew Zapruder**

Matthew Zapruder, "The Antidote to Fascism is Poetry." Reprinted with the permission of the author.  
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## TRAIN THROUGH COLMA

But will anyone teach  
the new intelligence to miss  
the apricot trees

that bloomed each spring  
along these tracks?  
Or the way afternoons

blazed with creosote  
& ponderosa?  
Spring evenings flare

with orange pixels  
in the bay-scented valley—  
where in the algorithm

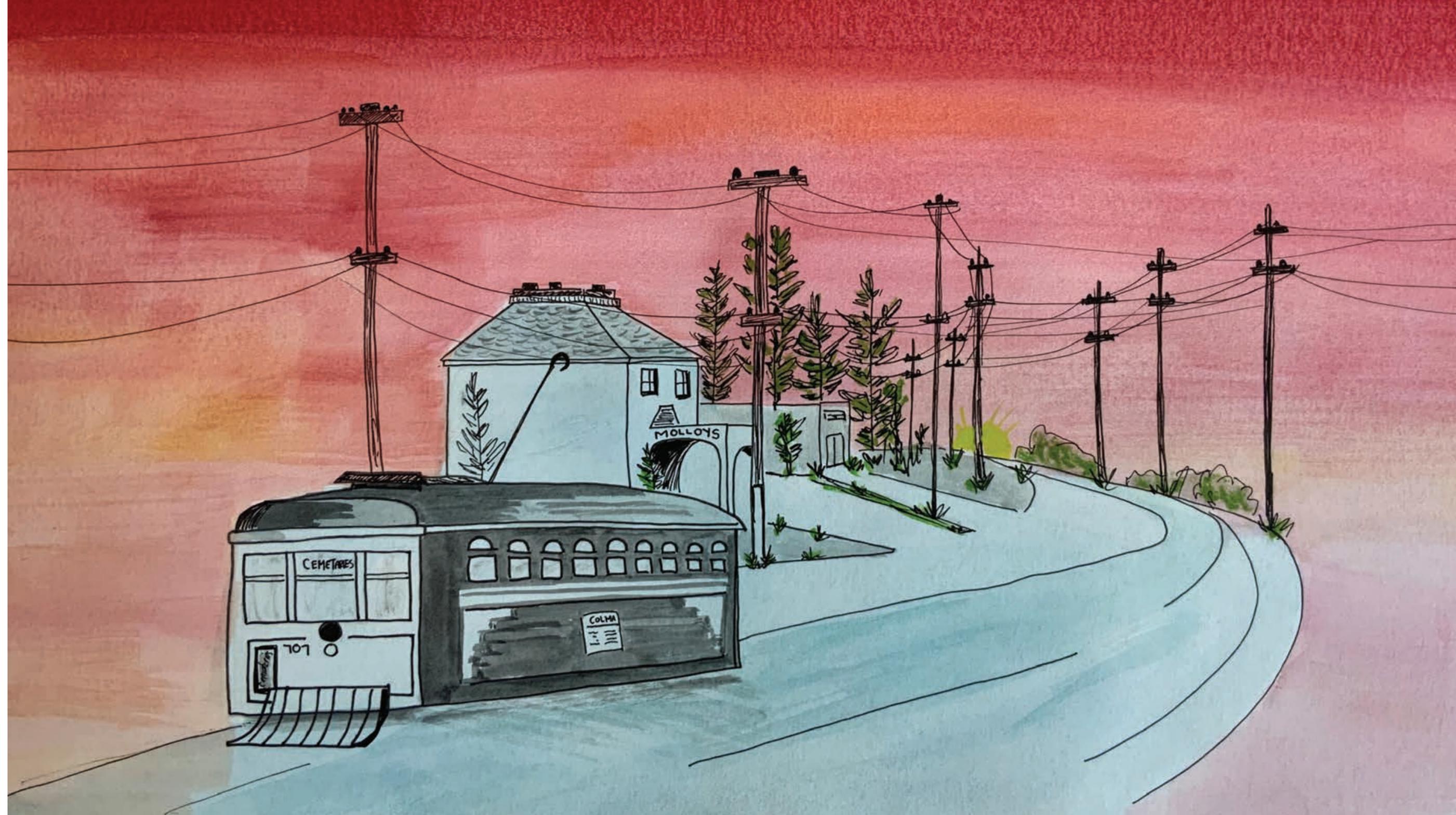
will they account for  
the rippling ponies  
that roamed outside Fremont?

When the robots have souls,  
will they feel longing?  
When they feel longing,

will they write poems?

**Tess Taylor**

Tess Taylor, "Train through Colma." Reprinted with the permission of the author. All rights reserved.  
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## Listening to the Caryatids on the Palace of Fine Arts

The curve of roof echoes the roll of golden  
coast hills solidified in travertine  
marble. In front, the reflecting pool's eye,

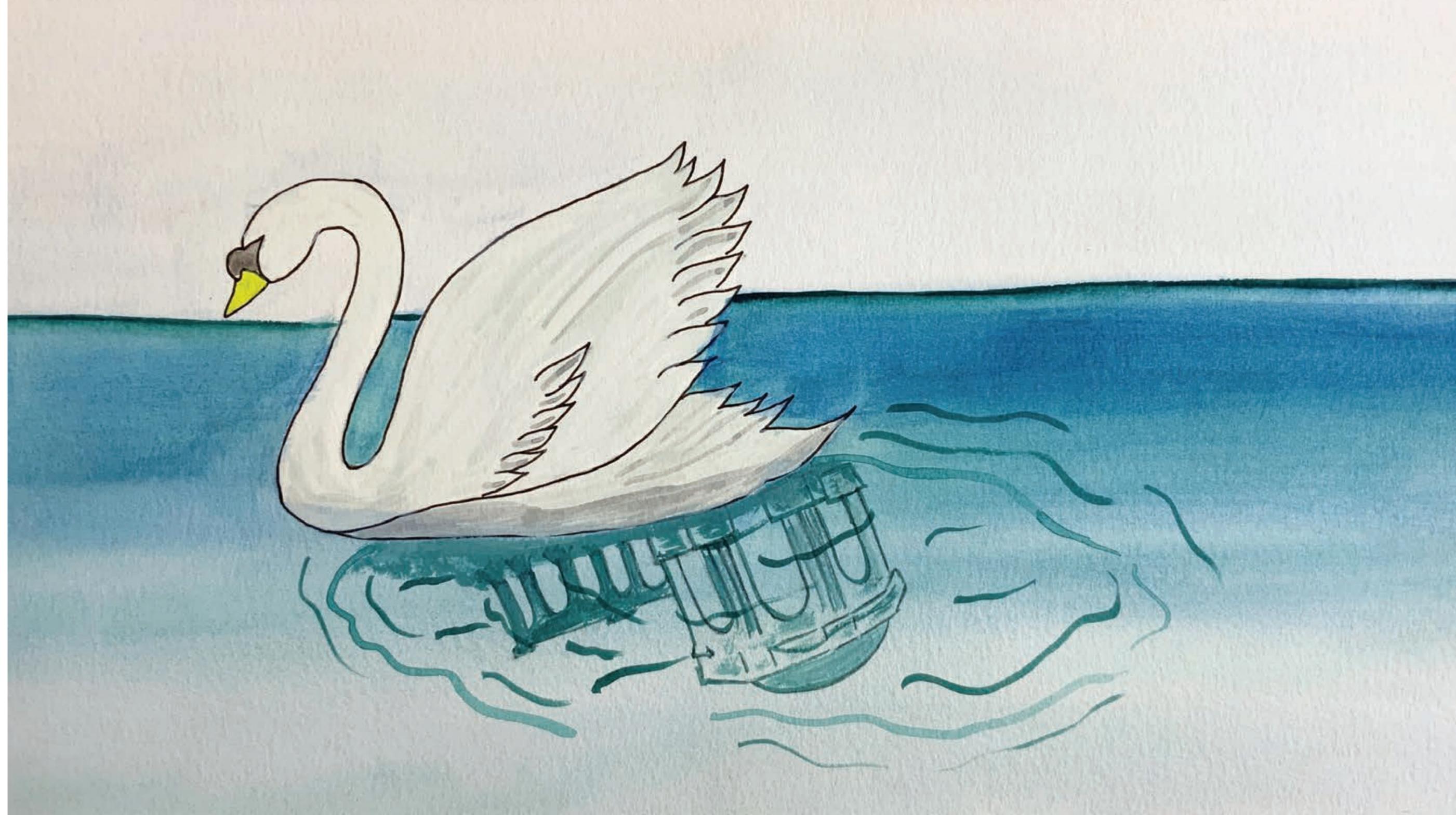
where the dome, the city's past, floats is split  
by swans. Once a city built from redwood  
plank and gold dust, until earth shook it down

to mud and ash. In 1915, twelve  
plaster palaces bloomed from the ruined  
Marina. For nine months, San Francisco  
grew fat again with visitors and fame.

The exhibition ends. Palaces razed.  
Only this mute Roman structure remains  
crowned in weeping stone maidens who,

whisper back to us in sea wind, bird song.

**Iris Jamahl Dunkle**



## Baker Beach

Close your eyes on that startled  
vision: fishing line strung taut  
by the waves' tall pressure: cold sugar  
of a fish's mouth clamping the bait's steel  
surprise. Hold fast against the tide, its spray  
finer than pleasure against your sun-  
ruddy face. Understand there's nowhere  
to go. I mean you have nowhere  
you must go. What we trust is the sound  
of the sea, its chill shock, our faith  
in its change. Rolling together and under  
and up and apart and on to the next  
body. This is the pacific.

Melissa Stein



## The Long View

Two lovers sit atop  
Dolores Park: they stop  
their argument to see  
a church, a bridge, a sea.

They play a little game:  
each man proceeds to name  
his list of lovers, dead.  
There's no one left unsaid.

Anxious pigeons wait  
for crumbs to fall. It's late.  
The weather starts to shift:  
all fog, all love, will lift.

**Randall Mann**







