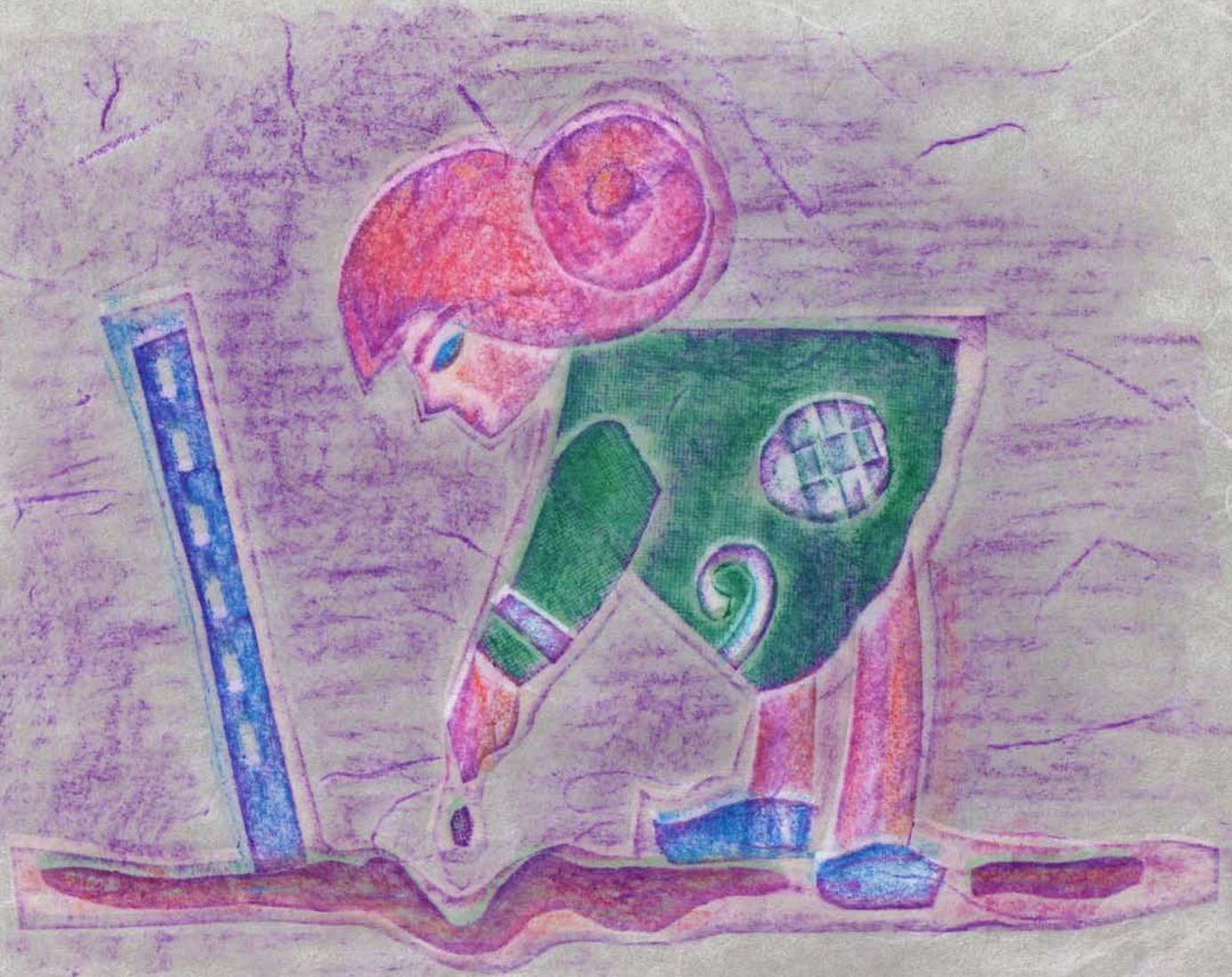


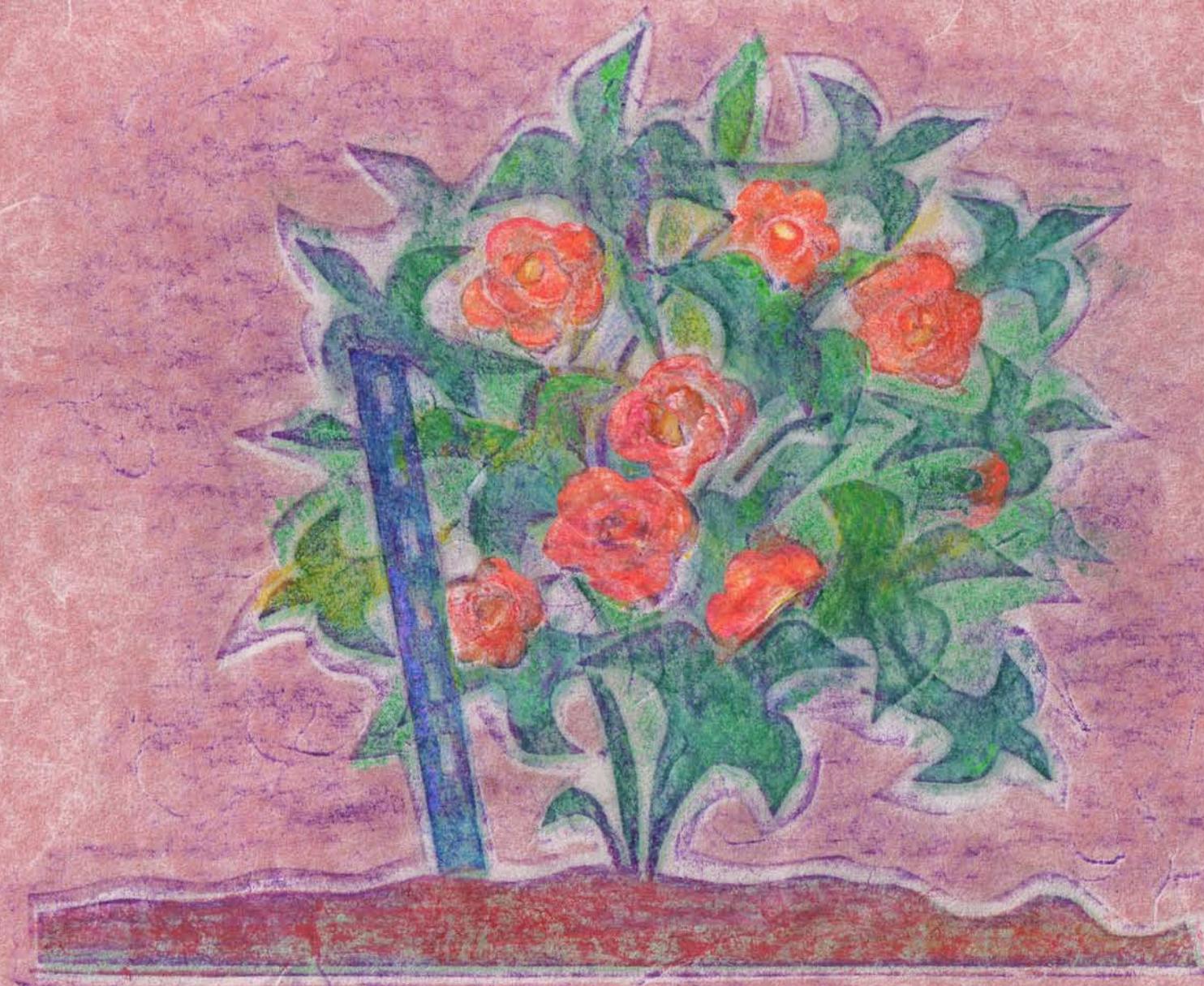


The Seed

Story and illustrations by **Karina Kudymova**



Marta had always wanted to grow a real watermelon.
One day she found some seed, and planted it in her garden.



Soon, a large green bush grew from the seed. On it were big orange flowers, and Marta was sure that they would soon be juicy watermelons.



And so it was, because the flowers were quickly replaced by round fruits! They grew bigger and bigger until finally, stripes appeared. Marta would water her plant every day. But at one point, she forgot all about the watermelons for an entire week. Despite being without water, the melons kept on growing! Strangely, they were no longer striped, but instead, plaid!



Marta was very surprised, “What sort of a watermelon would be blue and plaid?” She curiously picked one off the bush, and realized that it makes a wonderful bouncing ball! “I’ve grown playing balls instead of watermelons!”, exclaimed Marta.



When Marta got tired of bouncing the ball around, she decided to check what could be inside such a mysterious fruit. So she cut out a slice, and tasted the strange pink pulp. She then understood, that the inside was pure bubble gum!

Marta had no idea that the seed which she planted, was dropped by a dragon!
Because dragons, in their magical world, grow themselves bubble gum in magic orchards!

