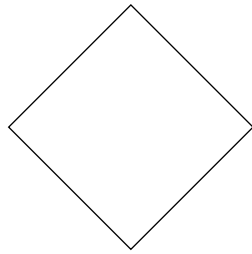


Please don't tap the windows



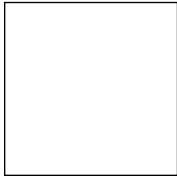
Inside the argyle, a glint like an eye's: yolk yellow, crayon thick.
Looking straight there is a dare.

Mascara brown crosses black outlining diamonds. This net a
tattoo, jagged bitmap.

Off-white skin glistens, oozes cream—pus swelling from a
wound? A part in its upper body widens slightly and narrows—
color jutting like a rib—is this breath?

A head that could be a doghead with a snout. Two eyes, black
lines echo inside.

Carpet bag, couch upholstery, or a long, fat, finely decorated fire
hose tapering at the end, folded for storage. A small plastic
purple ball rests on one of its folds. Two sets of teeth, one to
propel an animal forward into its unhinged jaw and the other a
gate to lock prey inside. No chewing. Just swallowing. Much of its
tubular body curls over itself, a few diamonds pair up. Its upper
body heaves rhythmic scales stretching like accordion pleats.



Read: The bat-eared fox can hear underground. Here only movements above ground. A painted wall mural of a desert with distant brown hills and green shrubs, interrupted by a door and its metal knob. Nursery blue sky.

Enter the quiet zone. Kids screech in the bare, dank house. Concrete floor, no brown dirt like in the fox pen. Tall stalls, tiles urinal-style. Fluorescent, windowless. Pallid yellow walls, measured breaths against the humid stench. *Every giraffe has its own individual spot pattern, like a fingerprint.*

A female gorilla sits with her back to the glass. Gently scratches her shoulder with her fingers. Her figure graceful in repose. Human presence like a ghost. Windowless. *She and Terry, the Silverback with whom she shares the cage, have gotten along for 10 years, the sign says, but haven't reproduced, so one of them may be moved to another zoo.*

A black swan wades in a puddle and a kangaroo hops past. Some animals get to see the outdoors. Zebras under a parasol in winter snow. Birds clip to branches in one room. A male tortoise emits a series of bass chords as it climbs a female tortoise. Sudden *ma*, Japanese for “the powerful silence” from which music moves and returns. Nearby, the desert zone.

The Snow Leopard's the biggest leopard in the world, only 40 left in the wild. The leopard asleep now on snowy rocks in a fenced ground about the same size as the one opposite, a cat's.

endangered

We are devoted to the preservation of ~~extinct~~ species.
[préservé 'to save from an evil that might happen' præ before + servre to keep, protect]
To keep alive, from perishing; to keep in existence, from decay, make lasting (a material thing, name, memory).
A vivarium.
A place or enclosure, a piece of ground or stretch of water, specially adapted or prepared for the keeping of living animals under their normal conditions.

A single peacock out on the grass, its body mostly a hip, like the python's, spreading.