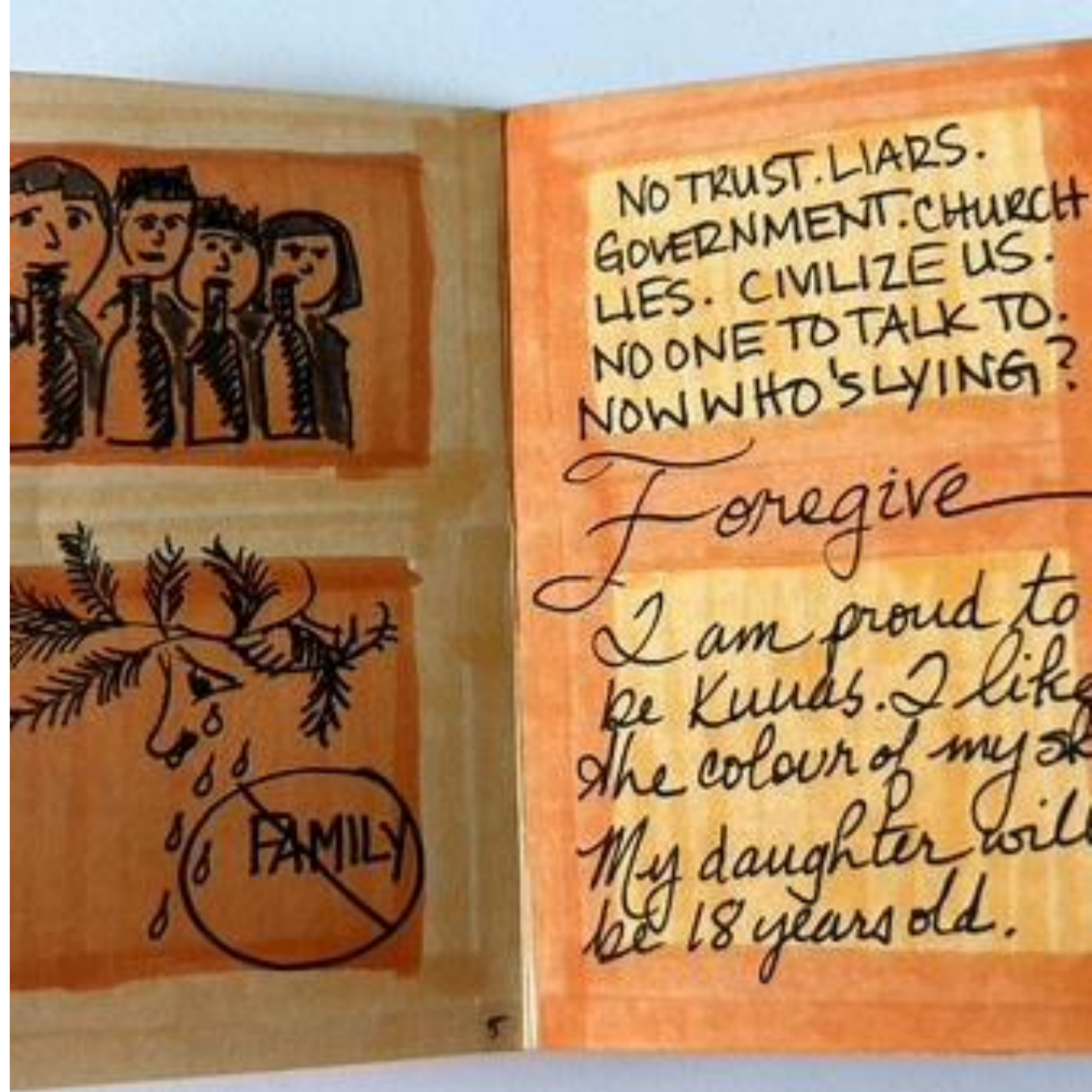




Drawing as witness workshop

WHAT WE WILL DO TOGETHER IN THE WORKSHOP:

- Create a 6-page personal zine with an introduction to you as a witness, drawings/sketches made while watching recorded TRC testimony, and write a closing Witness Statement.
- Witness 3 voices/perspectives from the TRC Hearings in Port Alberni, B.C. audio-video recorded in March of 2012:
 - Commissioner Marie Wilson (15 minutes)
 - Tseshah Nation Elected Chief Councilor Les Sam (6 minutes)
 - Alberni IRS Survivor, Charles August (34 minutes)
- Write a personal Witness Statement (10 minutes)
- Reflect through discussion on the role of creativity in reconciliation and education with Survivor Mark Atleo (Ahousaht First Nation, and Dr. Andrea Walsh, University of Victoria).



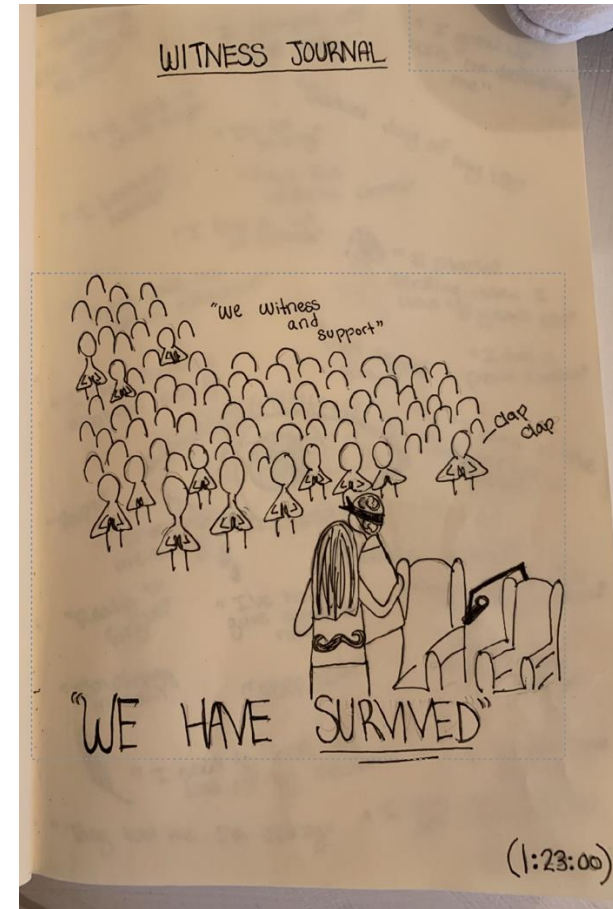
DRAWING AS WITNESS

- BOTH DRAWING & WRITING are MARKS that COMMUNICATE OUR THOUGHTS:

We write draft ideas, make notes, lists, etc. We can write privately or collaborate with others; so, too with drawing. Our drawings today are like personal notes, we are drawing our thoughts *and our learning process*. Our drawings need not visually replicate what we witnessed; they are visual expressions of our individual experiences of witnessing.

- DRAWING IS A PROCESS:

Drawing visualizes our thoughts immediately and differently from our use of written language. Drawings typically require 'reworking' to complete our ideas. The process of creating drawings can be enlightening itself.





BE BRAVE - MAKE MARKS!

- Your marks are your truth, and they are evidence to your thoughts. Use of colour (or lack thereof) and lines (dark, heavy, light, jagged, meandering) are ways to communicate thought.
- Negative space (blank space) can be as expressive as one filled with lines. More lines and colours are not always the most appropriate way to express an idea.
- Your marks are mnemonic – they are yours to use to recount your story of witnessing.



WITNESS STATEMENT

- A short piece of writing that recounts something you learned through your witnessing, which you will carry forward. This statement may be guided by *what* you learned, or *how* you learned.
- It can be a reflection on your experience today, and/or thoughts about your vision to learn in the future.
- The Witness Statement can relate to the drawings you created for the zine. There is no one way to witness the truth.

forward. I have found myself sharing the stories that I heard with family and friends bringing their awareness, along with my own, to the dark history of this country. Through

Witness statement

While watching the 7hrs of the survivor statements, I found myself taking many breaks from the video as it was very upsetting. The stories told by the survivors were horrifying accounts of the trauma they experienced at the residential schools and I found that just hearing the atrocities that they had been through made me sick to my stomach. The stories made me feel angry, sad, disgusted but most of all, amazed. I was amazed by the strength of the survivors to come and share their stories and have the strength and courage to face the traumatic reminders of the past. Looking at

In closing my witness journal, I caught myself wanting to say "At the end of my witnessing...". However, in being here, I realize in many ways I am just at the start. This country's systemic racism is ongoing, not just a matter of history.

And that's just it, you know? Ongoing. Residential schools aren't truly history while their effects are felt so deeply.

We begin together with mindfulness and intention

Before we begin our work as witnesses, please write an introduction to who you are as a witness on the cover of your zine.

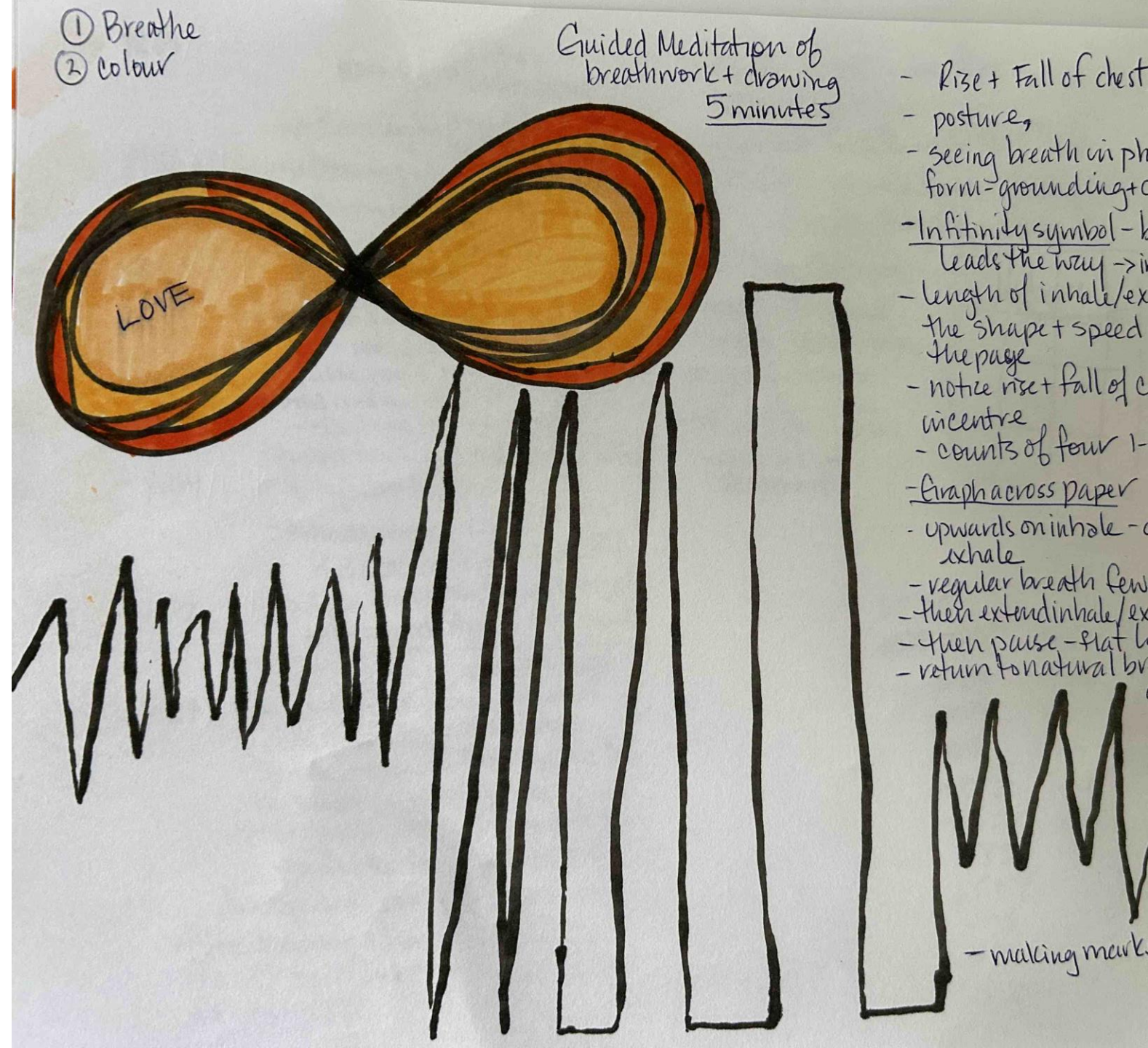
We will begin our work as witnesses with the creation of a Breath Drawing on page 1 of our zines during the opening prayer and song recorded in the archives of the TRC Hearing in Port Alberni in 2012.

Choose a format: Infinity loop or graph. Chart your breath with your pen/pencil on the inhale and on the exhale.

The focus of this exercise is to connect your internal breath and thoughts to the external sounds you hear. Come into awareness of the connection between sound and the lines your body shares with you.

From page 2 onward please draw in ways you feel best suits your own learning and experience.

When we conclude our witnessing of the archived testimony, we'll take 10 minutes to write our Witness Statements.



Sharing Knowledge. Teaching Ourselves. Inspiring Others.

- We will conclude our workshop with a discussion of our creative work and how witness drawing is method to approach teaching *and* learning about residential schools in Canada and their legacies through the words and memories of Survivors.
- More information is available.
Dr. Andrea Walsh
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