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The Hummingbird

Author Unknown

Art by Plet Bolipata





A big fire was burning in the forest,
and the animals were forced to flee.

Only one small hummingbird stayed. It flew to the river, picked up one tiny drop of water in its small beak, flew back, and poured that drop on the fire.





Again and again, back and forth, it flew to the river, each time scooping up a single drop and pouring it on the fire.

The other animals watched in disbelief from the far shore. They laughed at and began to mock the hummingbird.





“Just what do you think you’re doing?”
the animals finally asked.



Without stopping,
the hummingbird
answered calmly,
“I’m doing what I can.”

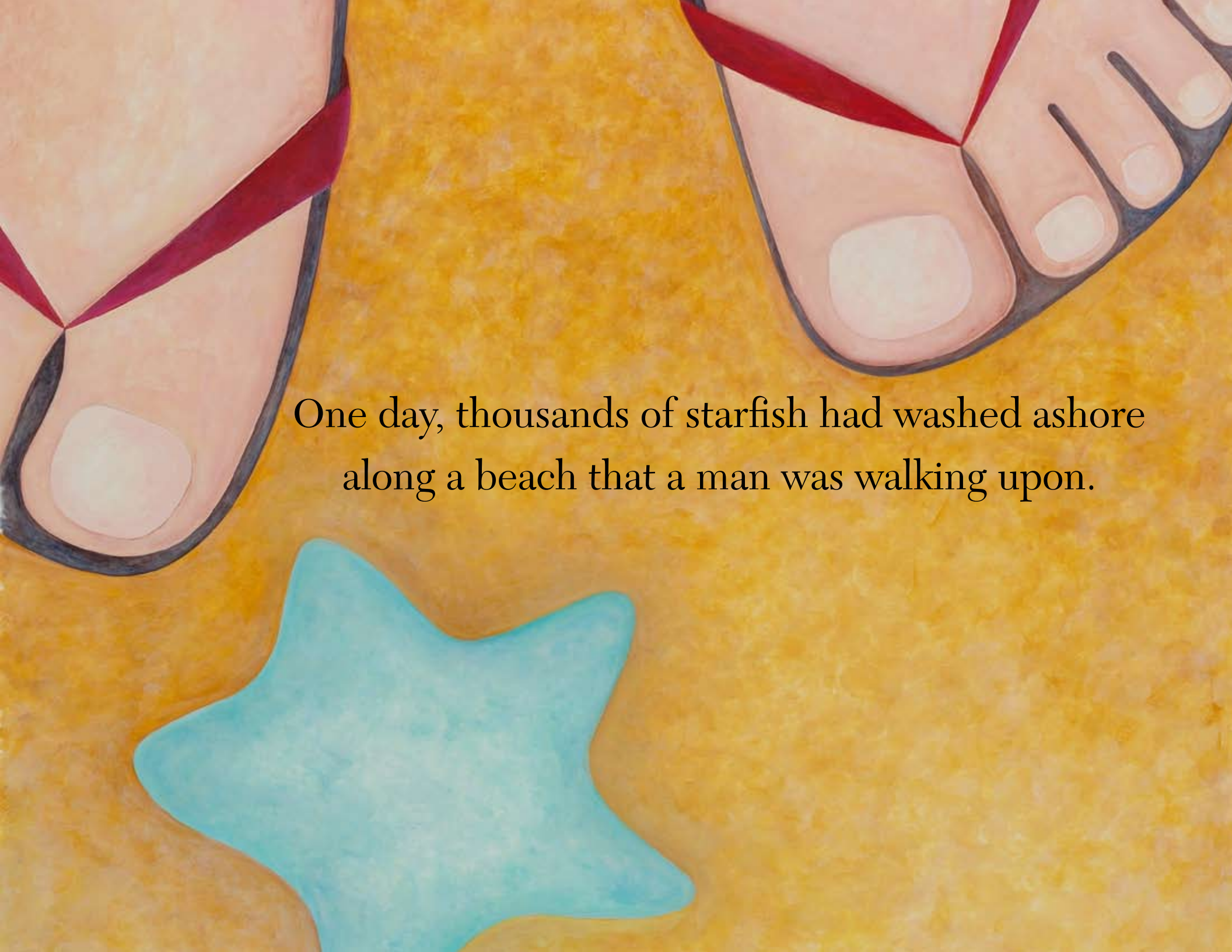


The Star Thrower

Author Unknown

Art by Liza Flores



An illustration showing a close-up of a person's feet wearing red-strap sandals on a yellow sandy beach. A single light blue starfish is visible on the sand in the lower-left quadrant. The text is centered in the middle of the image.

One day, thousands of starfish had washed ashore
along a beach that a man was walking upon.

As he looked down the beach,
he saw a human figure moving like
a dancer.

When he got closer, he saw that
it was a little girl and she wasn't
dancing. Instead she was reaching
down to the shore, picking up
starfish and very gently throwing it
into the ocean.

He called out, "Good morning! What are you doing?" The
little girl paused, looked up and replied "Throwing starfish
into the ocean so they won't die."





“Don’t bother, dear,” the man said, “There are too many starfish. It won’t make a difference.”

The little girl listened politely. Then she bent down, picked up another starfish and threw it into the sea, past the breaking waves.

She then looked up at the man, smiled and said, “Well, it made a difference for that one!”



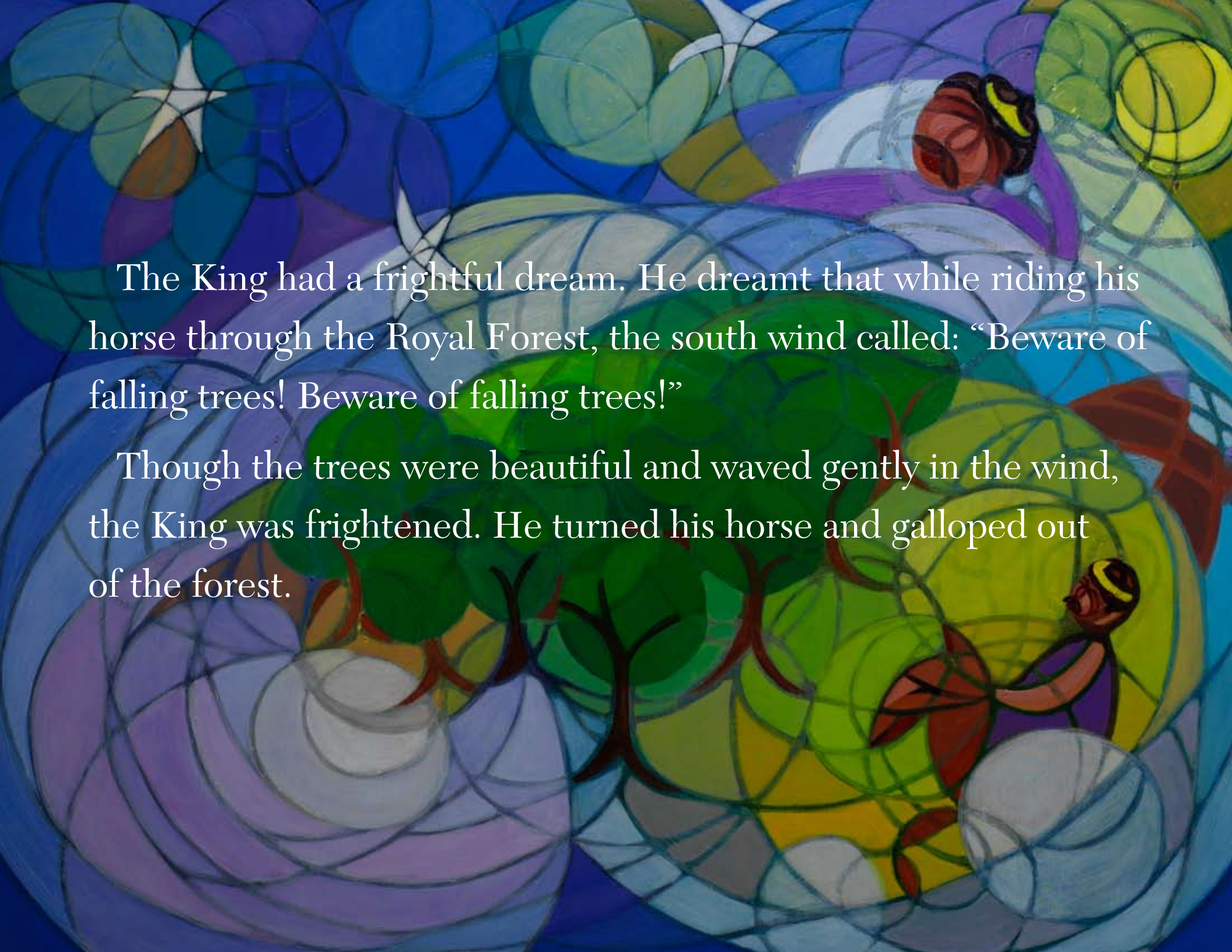


The King and the Royal Trees

Story by Paul Aird

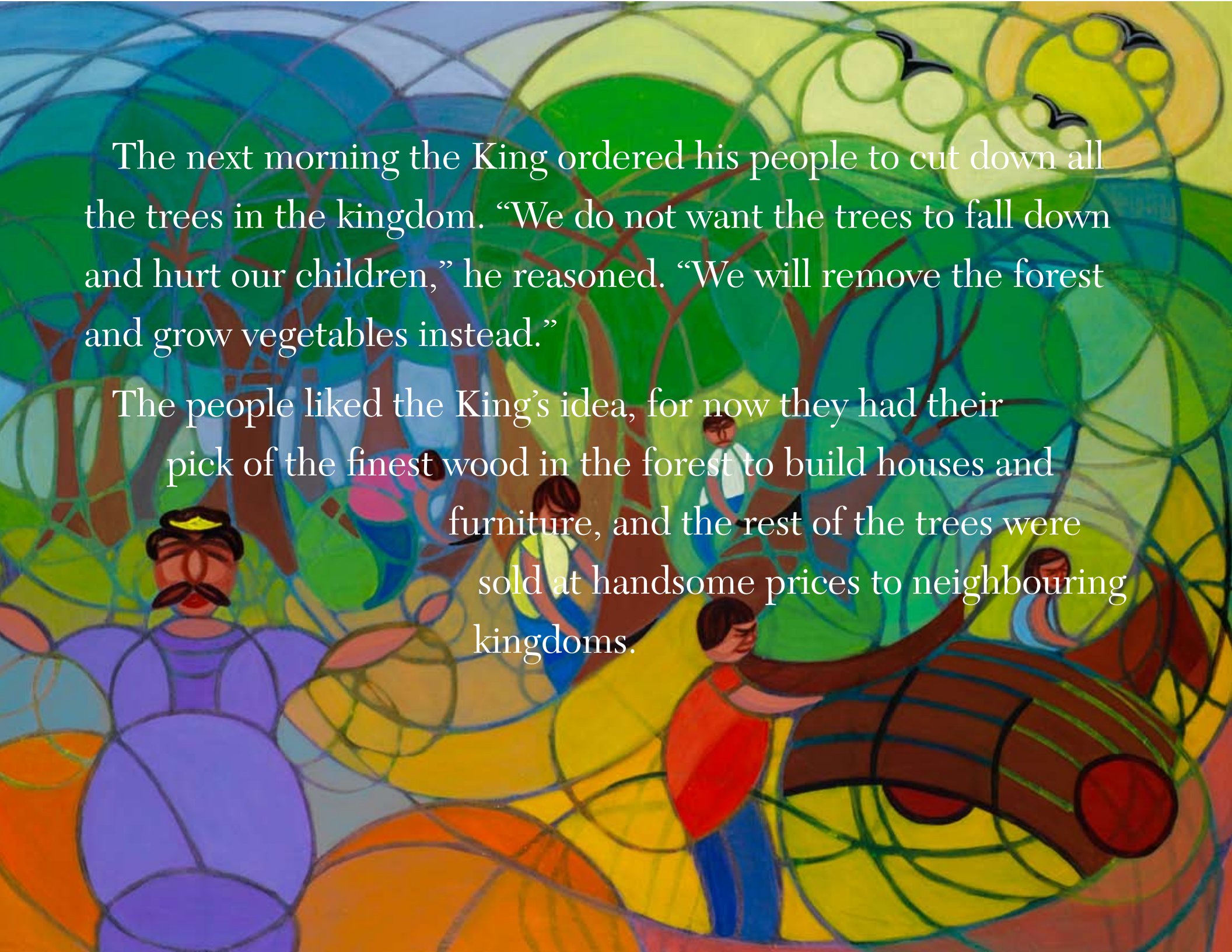
Art by Ivey Olivares-Mellor





The King had a frightful dream. He dreamt that while riding his horse through the Royal Forest, the south wind called: “Beware of falling trees! Beware of falling trees!”

Though the trees were beautiful and waved gently in the wind, the King was frightened. He turned his horse and galloped out of the forest.

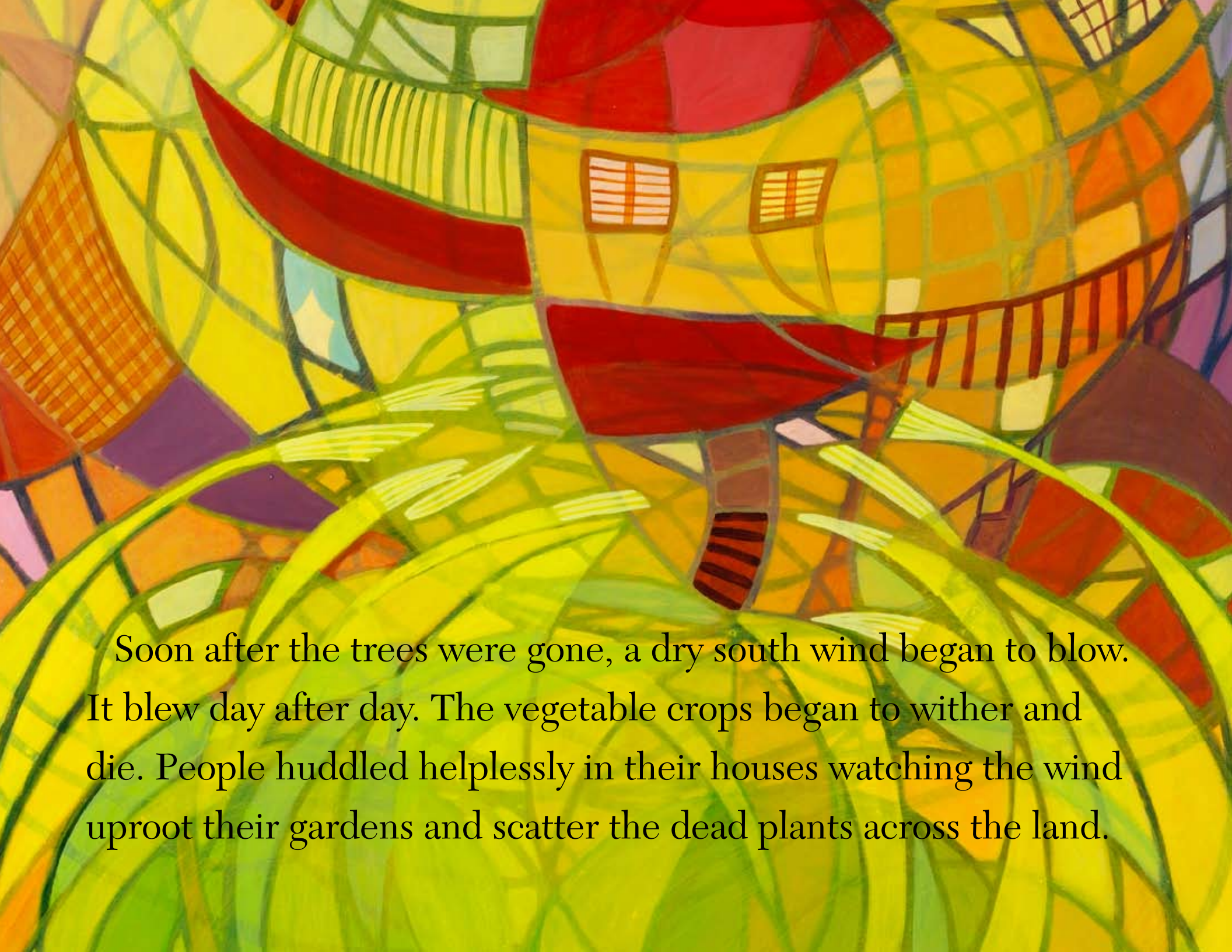


The next morning the King ordered his people to cut down all the trees in the kingdom. “We do not want the trees to fall down and hurt our children,” he reasoned. “We will remove the forest and grow vegetables instead.”

The people liked the King’s idea, for now they had their pick of the finest wood in the forest to build houses and furniture, and the rest of the trees were sold at handsome prices to neighbouring kingdoms.

Once all of the trees were cut down, the King felt happy - and relieved. But the people were unhappy. They missed the trees, which had provided work for loggers and carpenters, and homes for birds. Although they sadly missed their work, they missed the birds most of all.





Soon after the trees were gone, a dry south wind began to blow. It blew day after day. The vegetable crops began to wither and die. People huddled helplessly in their houses watching the wind uproot their gardens and scatter the dead plants across the land.



The King was worried. He called for his horse and rode through the fields to inspect the damage. There were no more trees to break the fury of the wind. As the wind blew faster, it swept withered plants and soil past the King, who watched dumbly as his kingdom blew northward.

Lost in clouds of dust and drifting sand, fatigue overcame the King. Nodding asleep in the saddle, he heard the south wind call: “Beware of falling trees! Beware of falling trees!”

A decorative border surrounds the page, consisting of numerous blue circles of varying sizes and a few green leaves, all set against a white background.

THE HUMMINGBIRD

The author of “The Hummingbird” is not known, and various versions of this simple yet powerful eco-fable can be found in Japanese, Brazilian, African, and likely other folklore.

About Plet Bolipata

“The Hummingbird” was Plet’s first show since she returned from her art residency as a Freeman Fellow at the Vermont Studio Center in the United States. It marks her return to oil, as well as her initial foray into new media.

Plet currently resides in San Antonio, Zambales with husband-painter Elmer Borlongan.

THE STAR THROWER

The authorship of “The Star Thrower” is not clear, but the inspiration is widely attributed to the writings of anthropologist Loren Eiseley. The story has been used by various motivational speakers, often without attribution.

About Liza Flores

Liza Flores is a highly respected illustrator of picture books, including “Chenelyn! Chenelyn!” which won the 2000 Gintong Aklat award. She was also one of the illustrators of “100 Questions Filipino Children Ask,” which won the 2006 National Book Awards and Gintong Aklat.

A former president of Ang Ilustrador ng Kabataan (Ang INK), the only association of children’s book illustrators in the Philippines, Liza obtained her degree in Fine Arts from the University of the Philippines. She now runs a design company, Studio Dialogo which specializes in brand, web and graphic design.

The Star Thrower was her first solo art exhibition.

A decorative border surrounds the text, consisting of various sizes of blue circles and some green leaves, creating a pattern reminiscent of a forest or a natural scene.

THE KING AND THE ROYAL TREES

About Ivey Olivares-Mellor

U.K.-based Filipina painter Ivey Olivares-Mellor studied sculpture and painting at the prestigious Chelsea College of Art and Design where she participated in and helped organize a group exhibition at the Fridge Gallery, an alternative art venue, and an installation exhibition at the Moravian Cemetery in London. In 1998, she held a well-received solo exhibition at the Hamilton Place in Park Lane, London.

Her usual subjects are landscapes loosely based on the English countryside as well as her memories of her home province of Zambales. Her pieces are introspective explorations of the sublime and abstract qualities of nature. The acrylic works, with their unique lines tempered with washes of colour, convey energy and emotion as well as gentleness.

For *The King and the Royal Trees*, Ivey departs from her usual style using circles as her inspiration and motif to symbolize the presence and threat of the south wind. The circles underpin the structures and provide the framework of the drawings.

Ivey Olivares-Mellor currently resides in West Sussex, England.

About Paul Aird

Paul Aird has promoted nature conservation through his twenty years of employment as a forest scientist in the Québec forest industry and twenty years as professor of forest conservation policy in the Faculty of Forestry and the Center for Environment, University of Toronto, Ontario, Canada. He has also served as a member of the university's Board of Governors and of the Ontario government's Niagara Escarpment Commission.

Paul's travels through forests, fields, rivers and lakes have inspired him to write about Canada's precious natural heritage of wild plants and animals.

His website www.loonsforever.com describes his conservation writings, which include his acclaimed book titled *Loon Laughter: Ecological Fables and Nature Tales*, and presents samples of his poems, animated poems, plays, articles, fables and essays.