Flash Art

CHITRA GANESH

Chitra Ganesh, Urgency or The Thick of Time, Flash Art Magazine,
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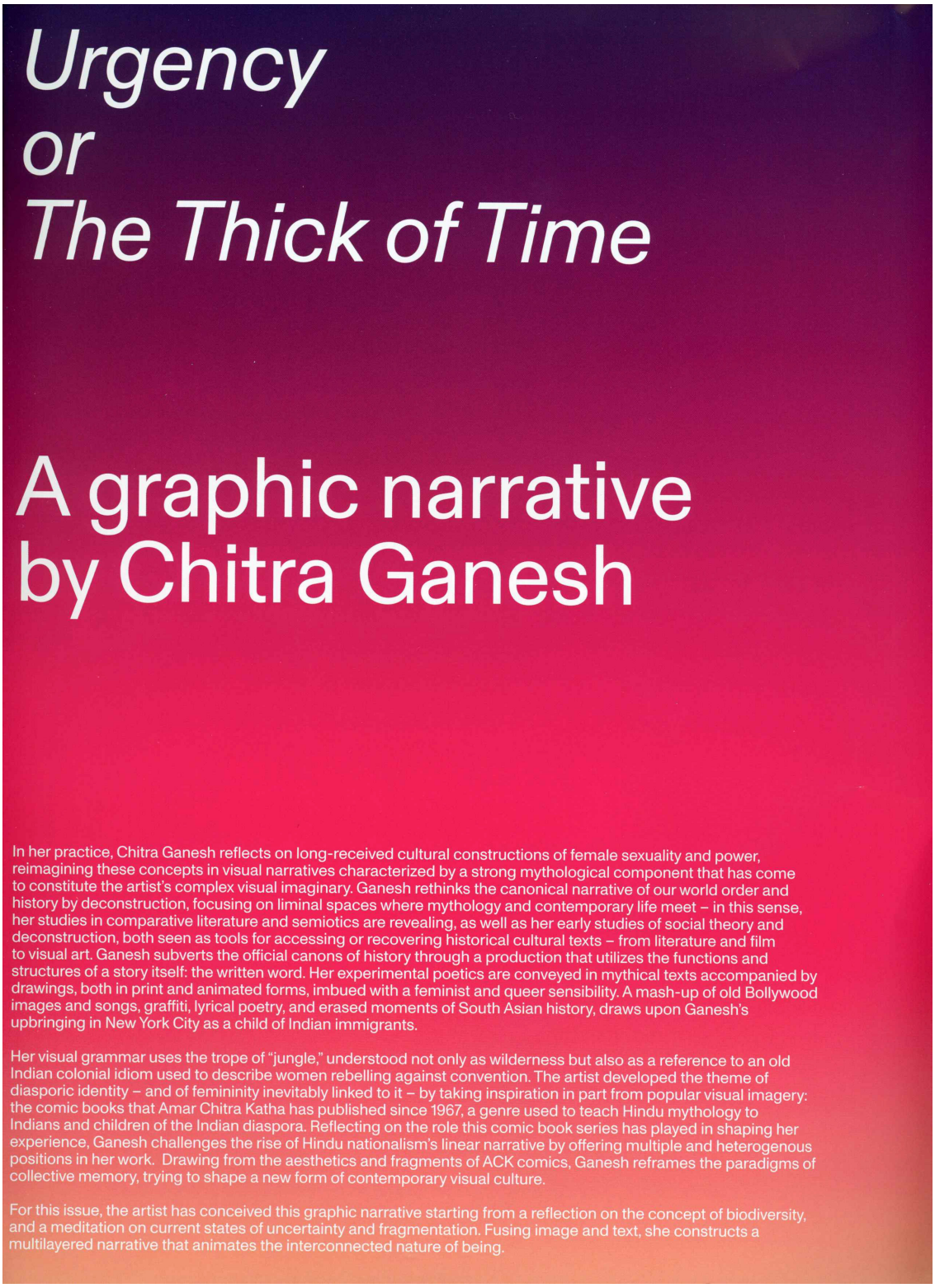

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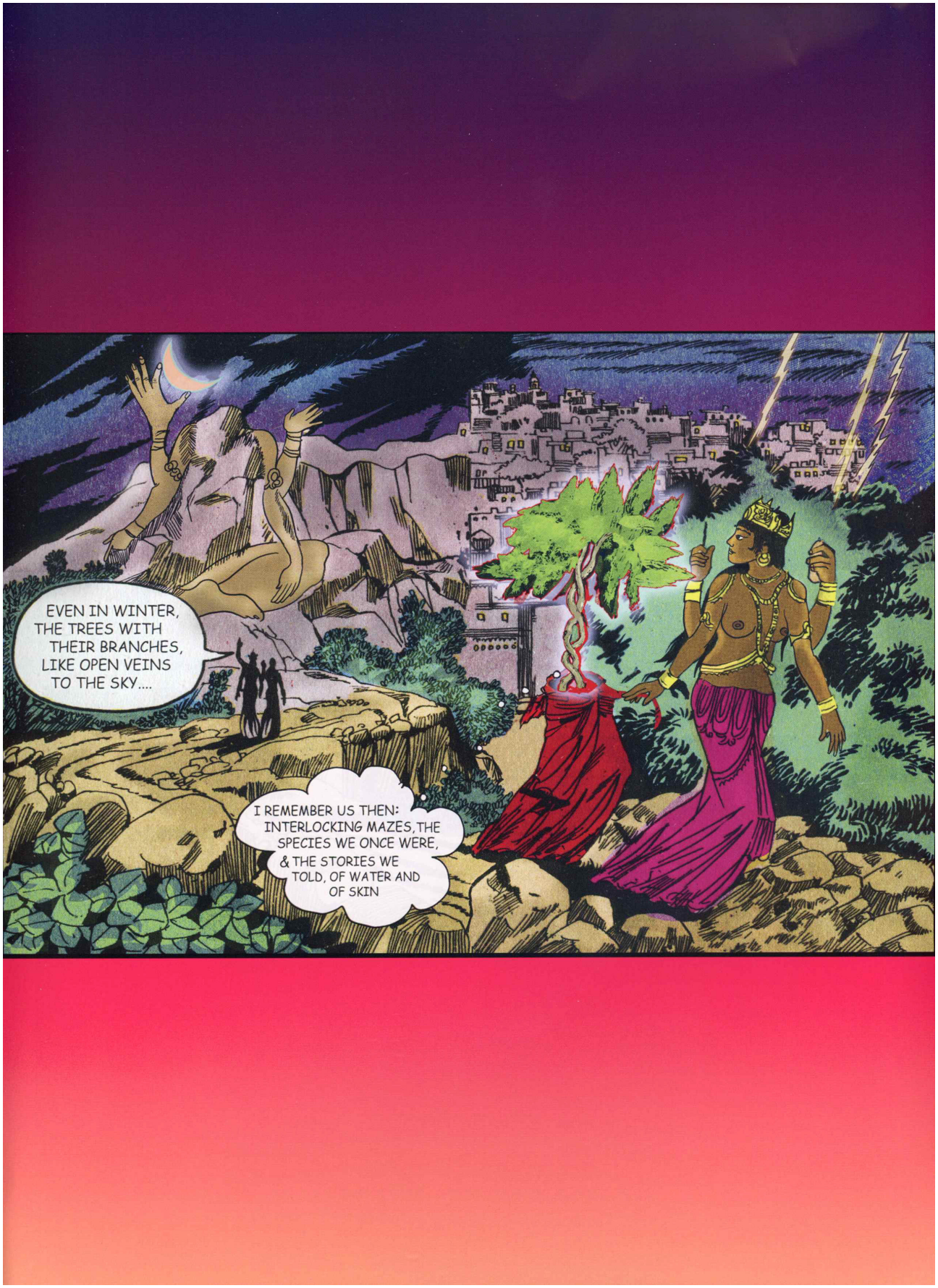
EVEN IN WINTER, THE TREES WITH THEIR BRANCHES, LIKE OPEN VEINS TO THE SKY....
I REMEMBER US THEN: INTERLOCKING MAZES, THE SPECIES WE ONCE WERE, & THE STORIES WE TOLD, OF WATER AND OF SKIN

THAT NIGHT IT SEEMED ⤳ A MOUNTAIN HAD DISAPPEARED FROM ITS STATION -- WALKED AWAY FROM THE HORZION, ONCE AND FOR ALL. THAT NIGHT ≥TIME≤: UNFURLED ITSELF LIKE A PARACHUTE, EXTENDING FROM HER FINGERTIPS, FLUTTERING LIKE A TORN SAIL...
AND I AM HIS DAUGHTER...
HOVERING OVER THE EVENT HORIZON, I FELT MYSELF SLIPPING IN.
---TO COMPOST A GARDEN WITH THIS BATTLE'S REMAINS---

TO GATHER GHOSTLY ECHOES FROM THE ROADSIDE, AND CAST THEM ON OUR SHADOWS ---
IS A PRIVATE EXPERIMENT: OF BURSTING LATE AT NIGHT, OF NOT CARING IF THE WATCHER SEES ME
WHERE IS SHE, ANYWAY--HOW LONG HAS SHE BEEN GONE?

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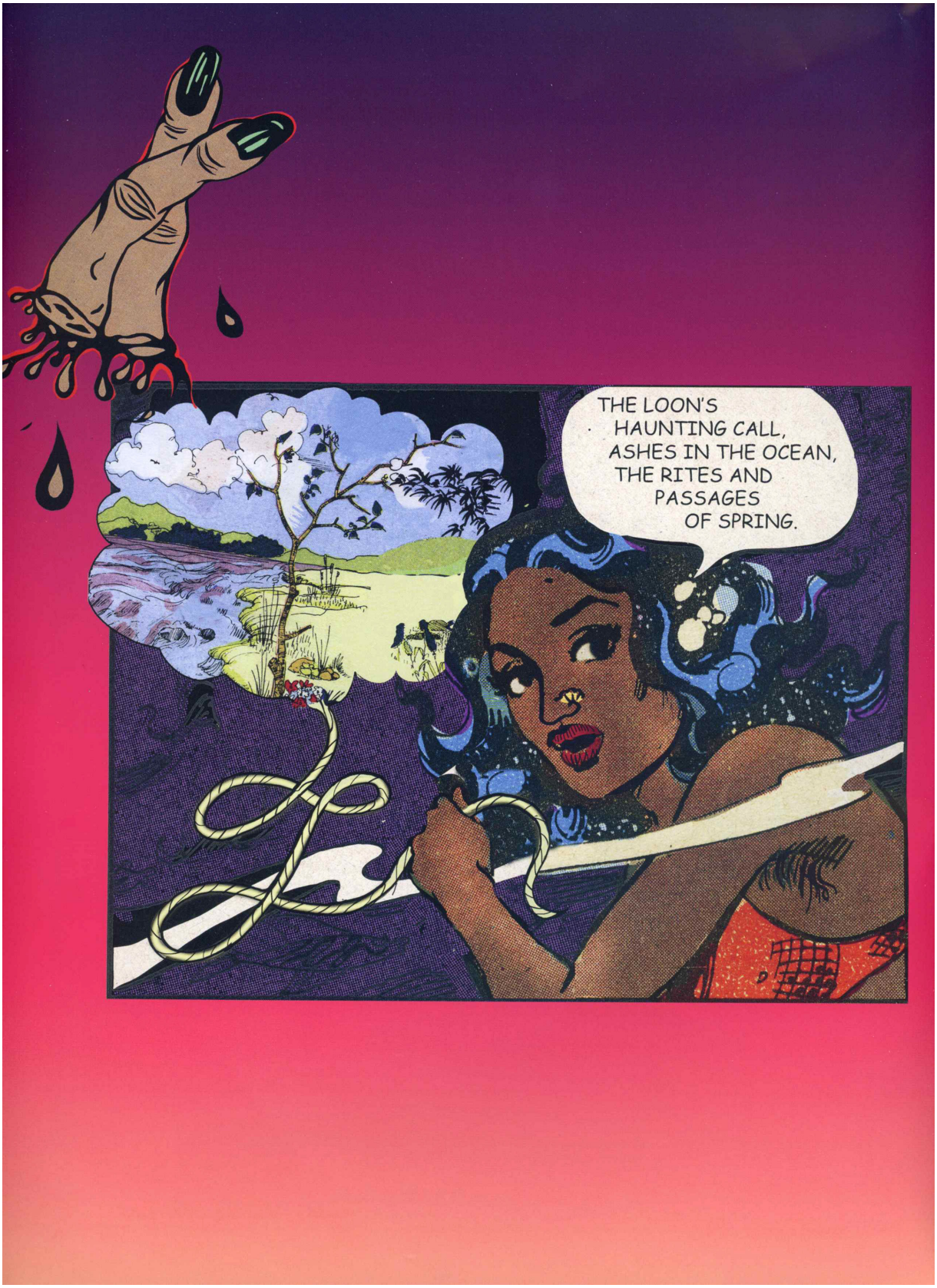
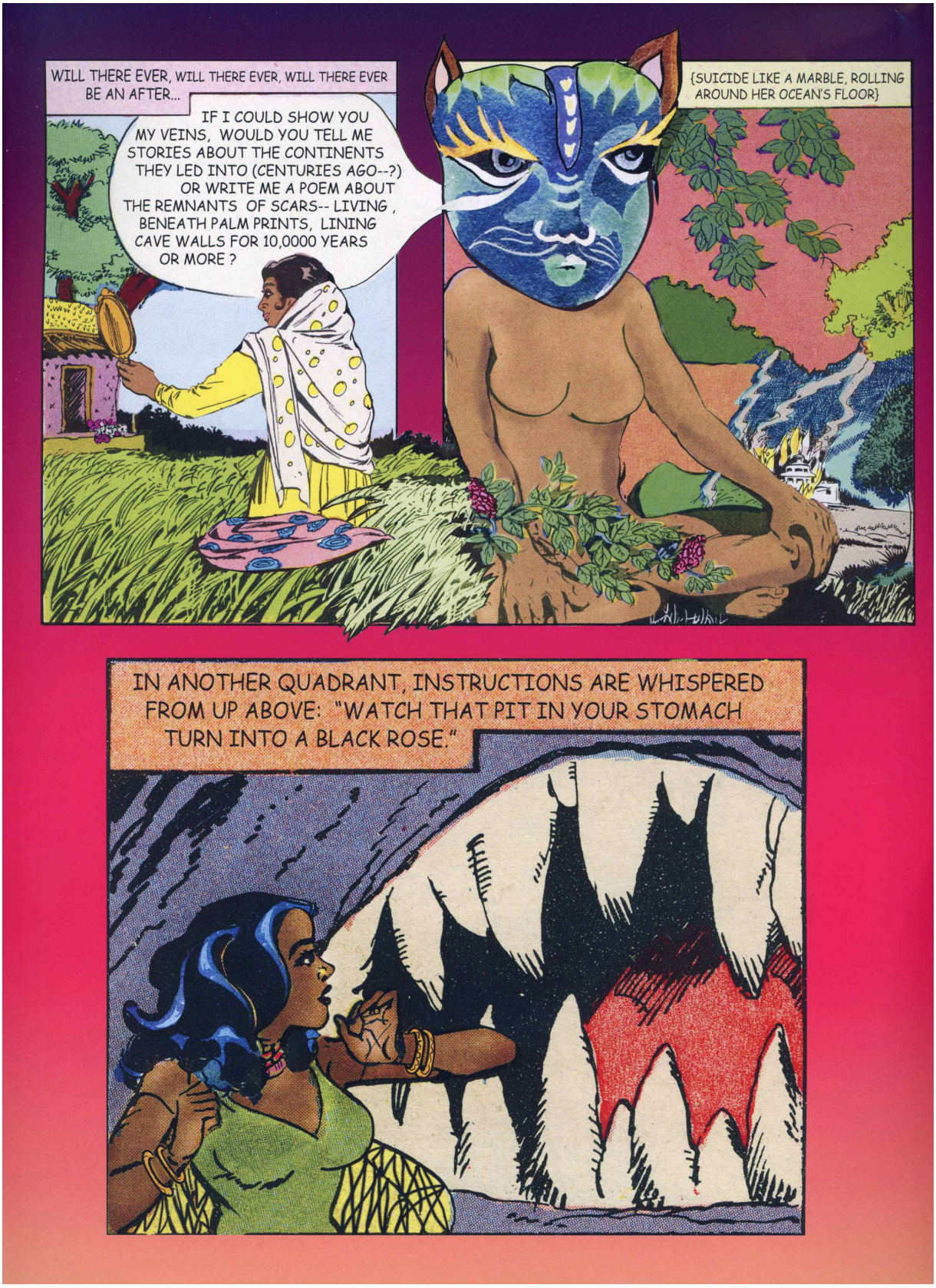
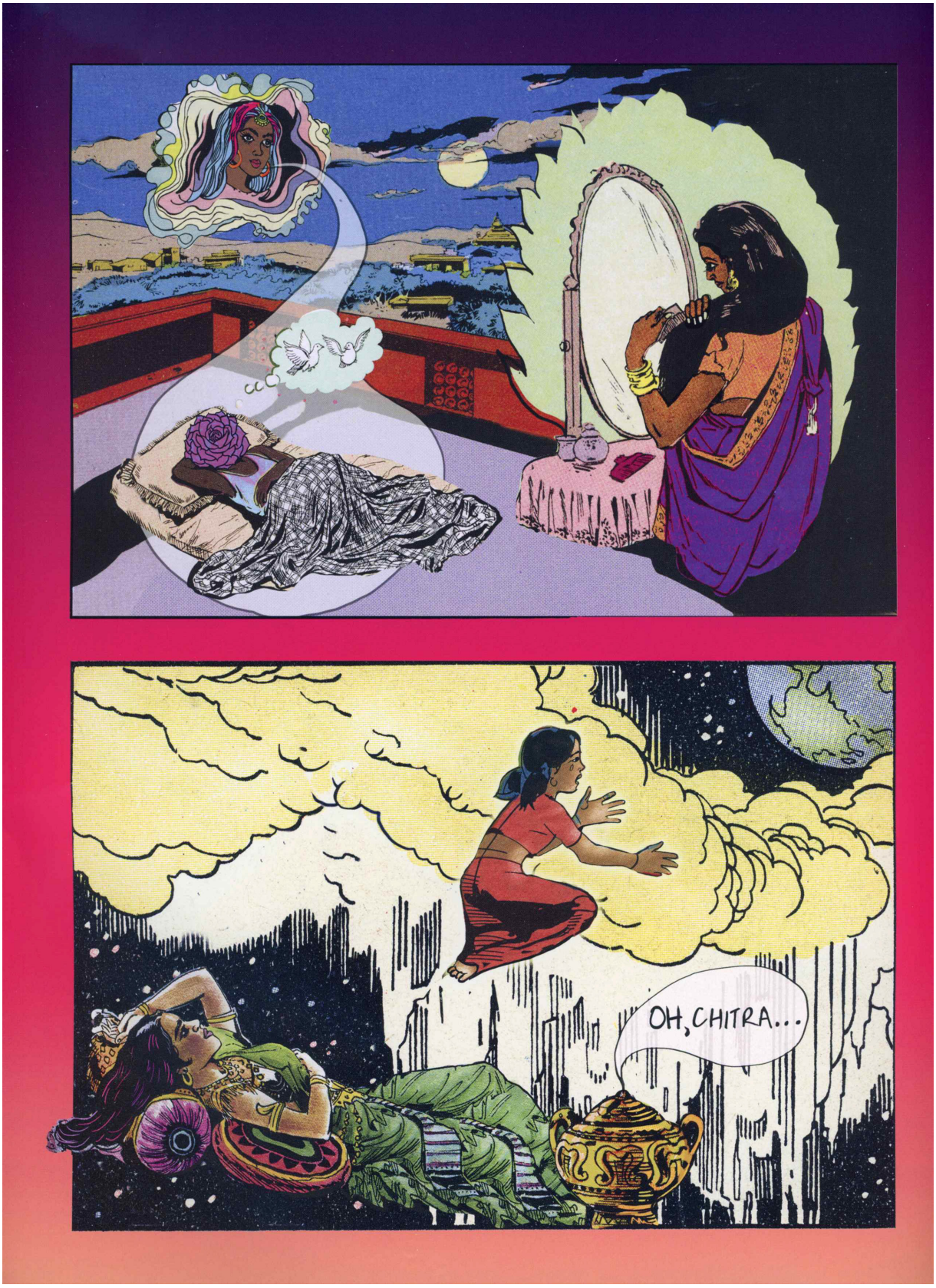

THE LOON'S HAUNTING CALL, ASHES IN THE OCEAN, THE RITES AND PASSAGES OF SPRING.

INSIDE THE LOOKING GLASS, A MURDER OF CROWS CALLS HER BY HER CHILDHOOD NAME:
WITH ROSES SPILLING OVER HER SHOULDER, RIDING A LONE GRAY WOLF
THOSE DAYS WERE LIKE RIVERS,-- LIKE RIBBONS OF SAND RUNNING THROUGH YOUR FINGERS
"WEB OF INFINTE SELVES"


WILL THERE EVER, WILL THERE EVER, WILL THERE EVER BE AN AFTER...
IF I COULD SHOW YOU MY VEINS, WOULD YOU TELL ME STORIES ABOUT THE CONTINENTS THEY LED INTO (CENTURIES AGO--?) OR WRITE ME A POEM ABOUT THE REMNANTS OF SCARS-- LIVING, BENEATH PALM PRINTS, LINING CAVE WALLS FOR 10,0000 YEARS OR MORE ?
{SUICIDE LIKE A MARBLE, ROLLING AROUND HER OCEAN'S FLOOR}
IN ANOTHER QUADRANT, INSTRUCTIONS ARE WHISPERED FROM UP ABOVE: "WATCH THAT PIT IN YOUR STOMACH TURN INTO A BLACK ROSE."



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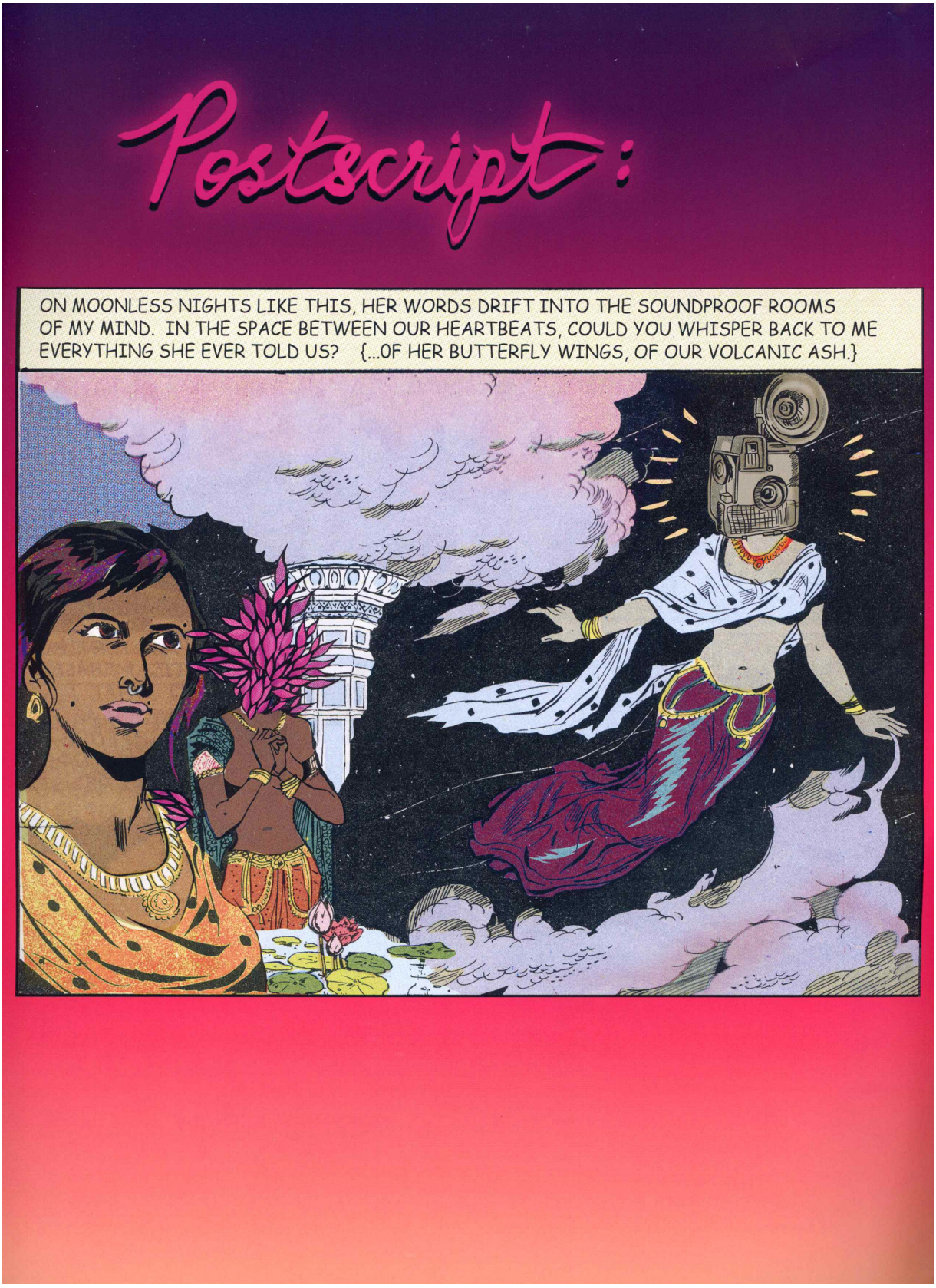
Postscript:
ON MOONLESS NIGHTS LIKE THIS, HER WORDS DRIFT INTO THE SOUNDPROOF ROOMS OF MY MIND. IN THE SPACE BETWEEN OUR HEARTBEATS, COULD YOU WHISPER BACK TO ME EVERYTHING SHE EVER TOLD US? {...OF HER BUTTERFLY WINGS, OF OUR VOLCANIC ASH.}

OUR LADY OF THE HOUR {OUR SUBJECT} IS TIME. SHE WAS: AN ABANDONED HOUSE DRAWN FROM MEMORY, SHAKING LOOSE THE CONTENTS OF MY INSIDES... INVISIBLE CONTINENTS AND IMPROBABLE FUTURES, PLUCKED FROM THE EDGES OF DAWN...THE HAND OF FATIMA ON ME, HER LIGHT & AMPUTATED TOUCH. TOOLS OF HER TRADE? A SPIDERWEB, A RAINBOW, AN EYE THAT CANNOT CRY...
THE STRANGLING POWER OF DUST AND STARS...

Chitra Ganesh's current and upcoming solo exhibitions include: "A city will share her secrets if you know how to ask" at Leslie-Lohman Museum of Art from October 18 through June 2022; Sultana's Dream, Rochester Art Museum, Fall 2021; Hales Gallery, New York, November 2021; and Contemporary Calgary (forthcoming Fall 2022). Group exhibitions include: "Born into Flames: Feminist Futures Bronx Museum" through October 2021); the Honolulu Triennial (forthcoming January 2022); and "New Time: Art and Feminisms in the 21st Century," at Berkeley Art Museum through January 30, 2022.