

Unstable Orbits

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Unstable Orbits
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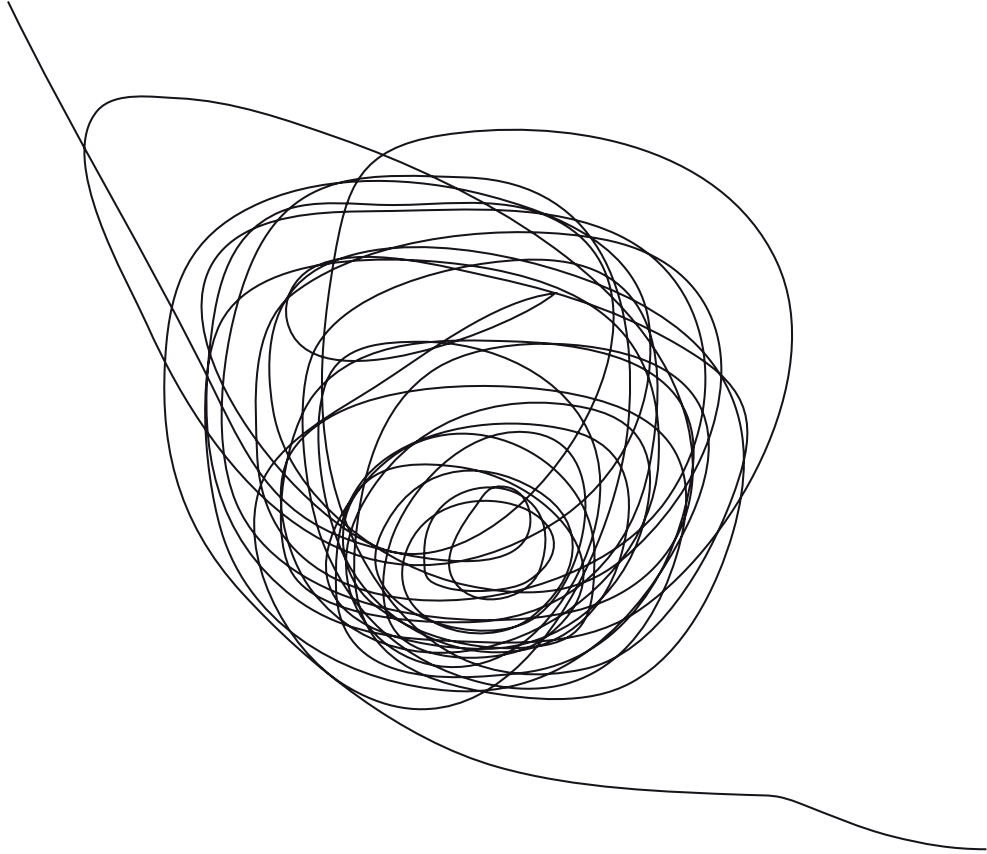
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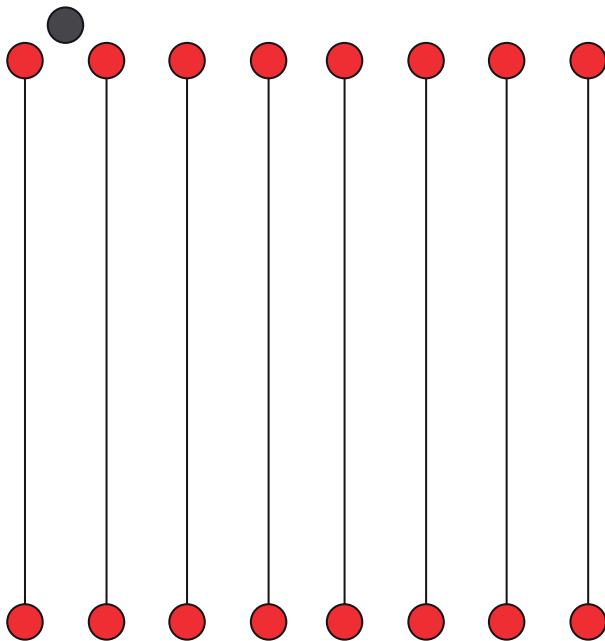
a forest without weight at the beginning of the afternoon
where leaves are as yellow as light



but the constant feeling is that time
could fade away



**there are states and conditions
in which we are sometimes brought by ourselves without knowing it**



the sun lingers out of sight

we

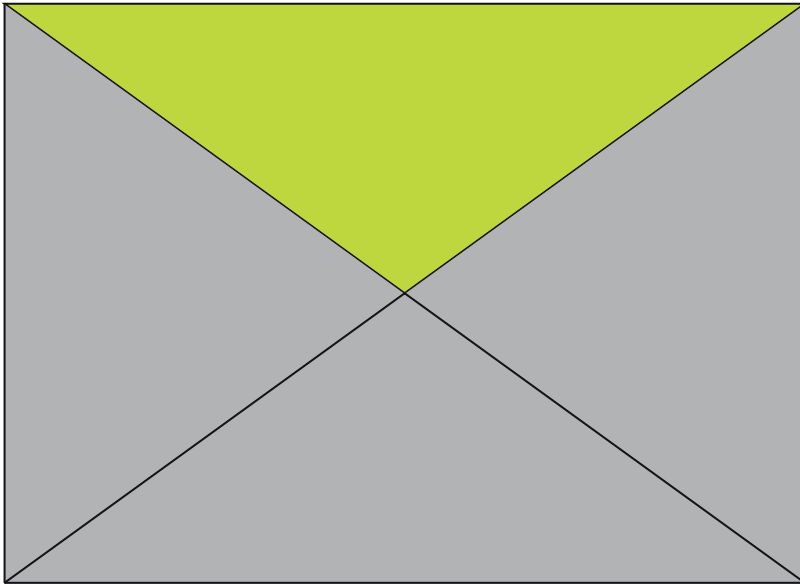
don't

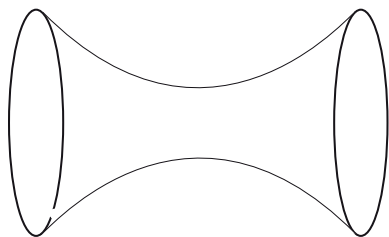
have

a say

in this

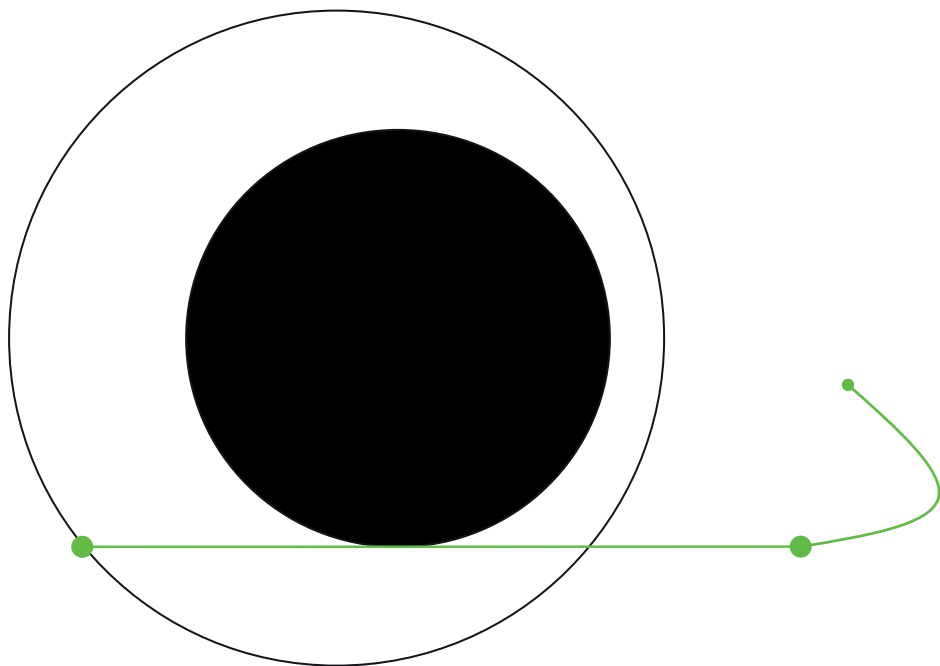
there are no strictly solitary lemurs



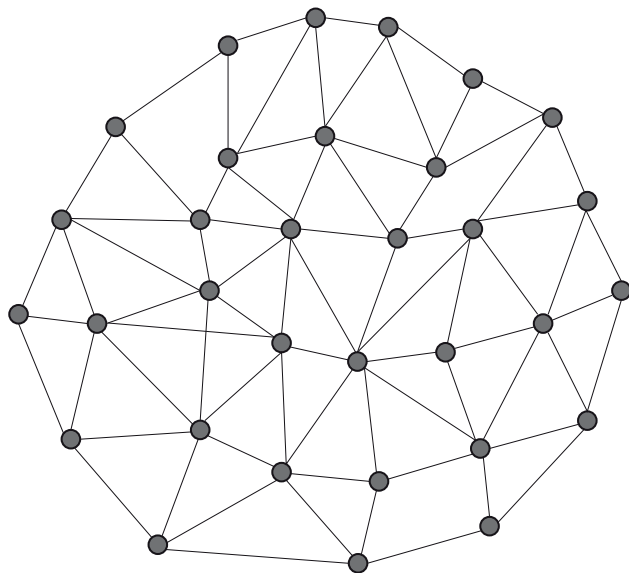


the flowers outside

the opaque shadow moving



this is rather a thought of the day to come



at the end of the afternoon
a shapeless mass a body without body
is waiting

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Unstable Orbits

Orbits are everywhere: in the universe, behind your eyes. Moons orbit around planets, planets orbit around stars, stars orbit around black holes at the centre of their galaxies, galaxies orbit around larger clusters of gravity... If you could be in the position of observing the universe beyond your lifetime, you would see that every orbit is unstable. Not only the ones that behave erratically here and now, but even the most apparently reliable ones. Every gravitational relation will come to an end. Bodies will end up floating in space, or crashing into each other. Every orbit implies some influence among bodies that are close enough to exert it and to feel it, but because of that same influence bodies move and change their position all the time. In all this wonderful instability, somewhere, here or far away, there is life, itself fragile and unstable, in its evolution, in its manifestations; and there are feelings and thoughts, so important to those who experience them and yet so ephemeral. A dense almost-nothing, like human history, with all its pain, its little successes, its repetitions; like animal life, with all its desires and needs, including ours. All this is happening in the void, because the void is the majority of what there is. We are just spaces and bodies in-between, yet we fill this void with our presence, and since matter is always the same, composed as it is by the same substance, we never really cease to exist. Even more than that: we are part of all there is, we belong to being. This book tries to approach a small portion of all this, a little part of everything: a thought or feeling left unsaid, a place in the sky that is still unknown, some relations among things, like planets orbiting around each other, like you and me. To do so, it relies upon interactions between two processes that are themselves unstable and fragile: impossible and inexistent schemes inspired by theoretical physics and complex systems, and a few lines of poetry.

ALESSANDRO DE FRANCESCO is a poet, artist, and essayist writing in Italian, English, and French. He currently teaches at the Bern Academy of the Arts and the Albertina Academy of Fine Arts in Turin, where he is based. His work was presented at Poestate Lugano, Basel Lyrikfestival, Kunsthalle Basel, the Kelly Writers House at University of Pennsylvania, the Louis Vuitton Foundation, the Centre Pompidou, the Berlin University of the Arts, the MAMCS, the Casa delle Letterature in Rome, Printed Matter Inc., and Yale University, among other venues. His books in English include: *Remote Vision: Poetry 1999–2015* (punctum books, 2016), *(((* (punctum, 2021), *And agglomerations, of trees or* (Mousse Publishing, 2022), *Mental Dough. Dialogue on Poetry and Artistic Practice*, with Marco Mazzi (Gli Ori, 2022), and *Continuum 2. Writings 2015-2022* (punctum, 2024). More information on www.alessandrodefrancesco.net

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