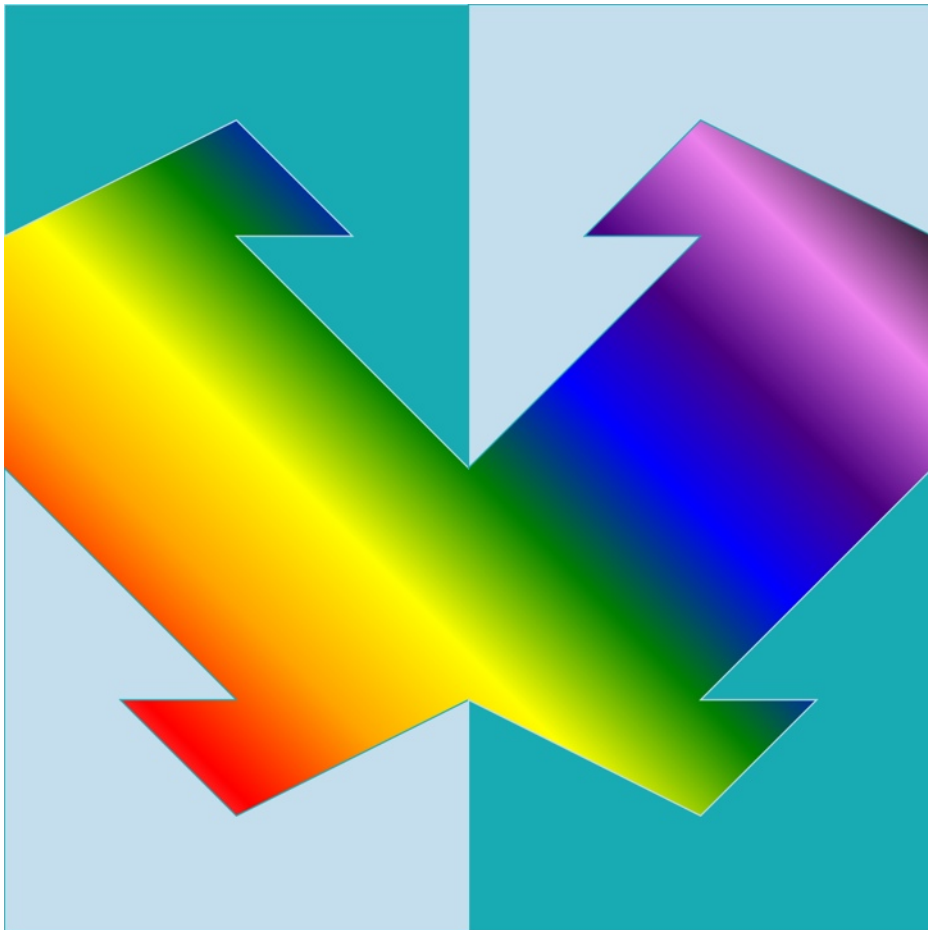


Background



By Teradyne Ezeri
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Carl munched down on his hot dog as passers by barely acknowledged the world beyond their phones. Their eyes were glued to words and videos and images, unaware of what happened around them. Shoes lost on the sidewalk, tripping them as they chose to focus on the latest influencer, or as they looked into the camera to *be* that influencer.

No one noticed the occasional person slip from view around a corner that didn't actually exist. No one realized that someone who'd been inches away one moment was gone in that brief instant they'd gone out of view. No one took note that they saw themselves being sucked through the walls and into the ground.

Tails appearing from nowhere, whipping into existence without a sound. Ears poking out from heads, sometimes in unusual numbers. Eyes opening where once there were none. Eyes disappearing, leaving blind those who only listened. Legs more numerous than before, and arms of higher quantity than they once bore. Heads that looked in every direction they didn't, and mouths that spoke in circles.

Hands in place of heads, and heads in place of hands. Feet becoming paws. Paws becoming hooves. Hooves becoming wings and claws and talons. Parts missing, and parts misplaced. Parts becoming the floor, and the floor becoming parts.

The sun shone overhead in the park as creatures of the void pranced around, their bodies beyond comprehension for many a mortal. Still, they stared at the screens and tablets and holograms, watching as others entertained and communicated with them. Unaware of the chaos and entropy around them. All while L'rac sat in the middle of the angles, eating his cylinder as he watched them go by.