



wam!
the
space man
charlesbrucefoundation.org

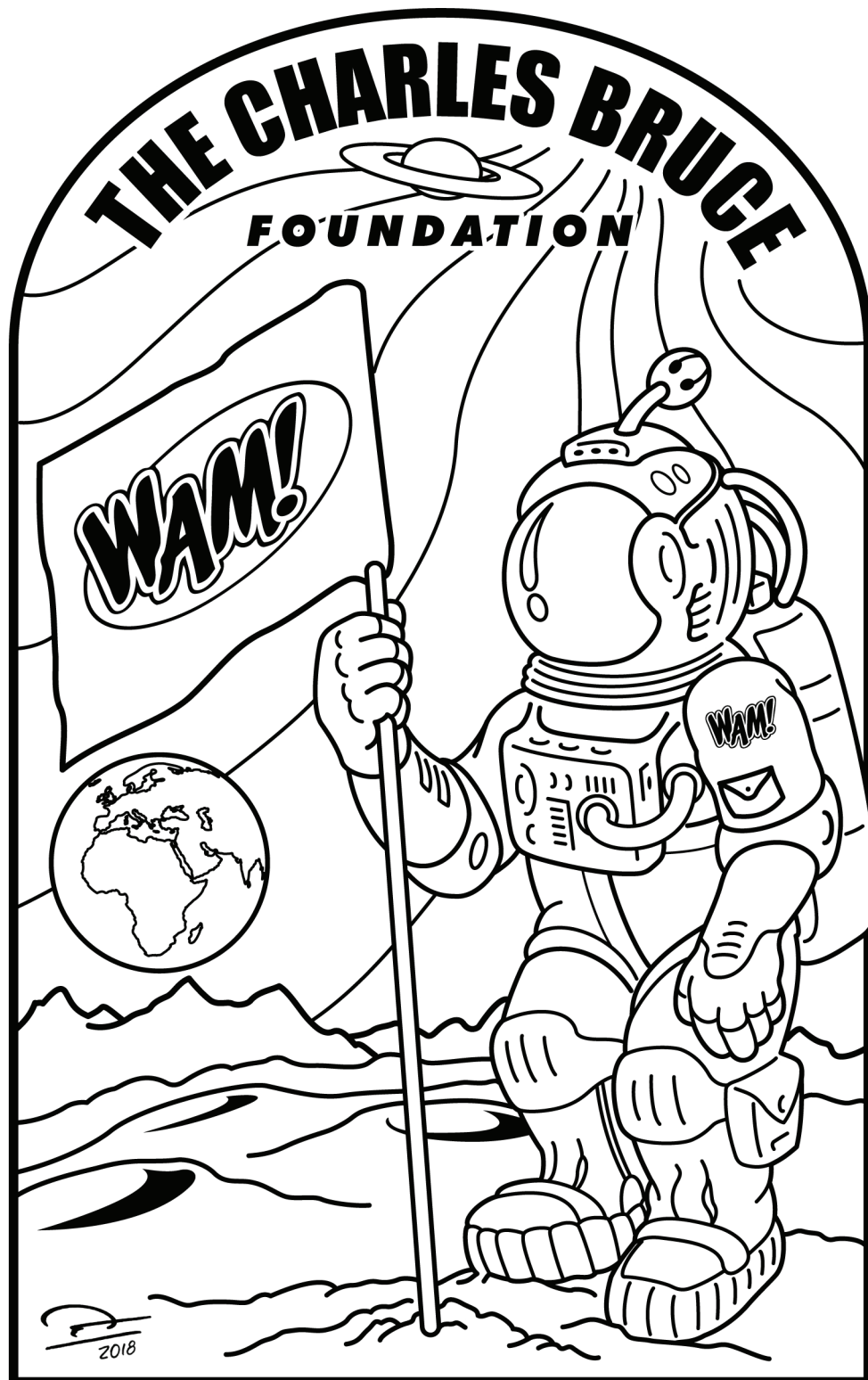
—AN—
**ORIGIN
STORY**
—

—BY—
**CHAD
BRUCE**

Charles Bruce Foundation
Carlisle, Pennsylvania

To Mildred and Charles Bruce
who adopted me and gave me every
opportunity to reach my potential.

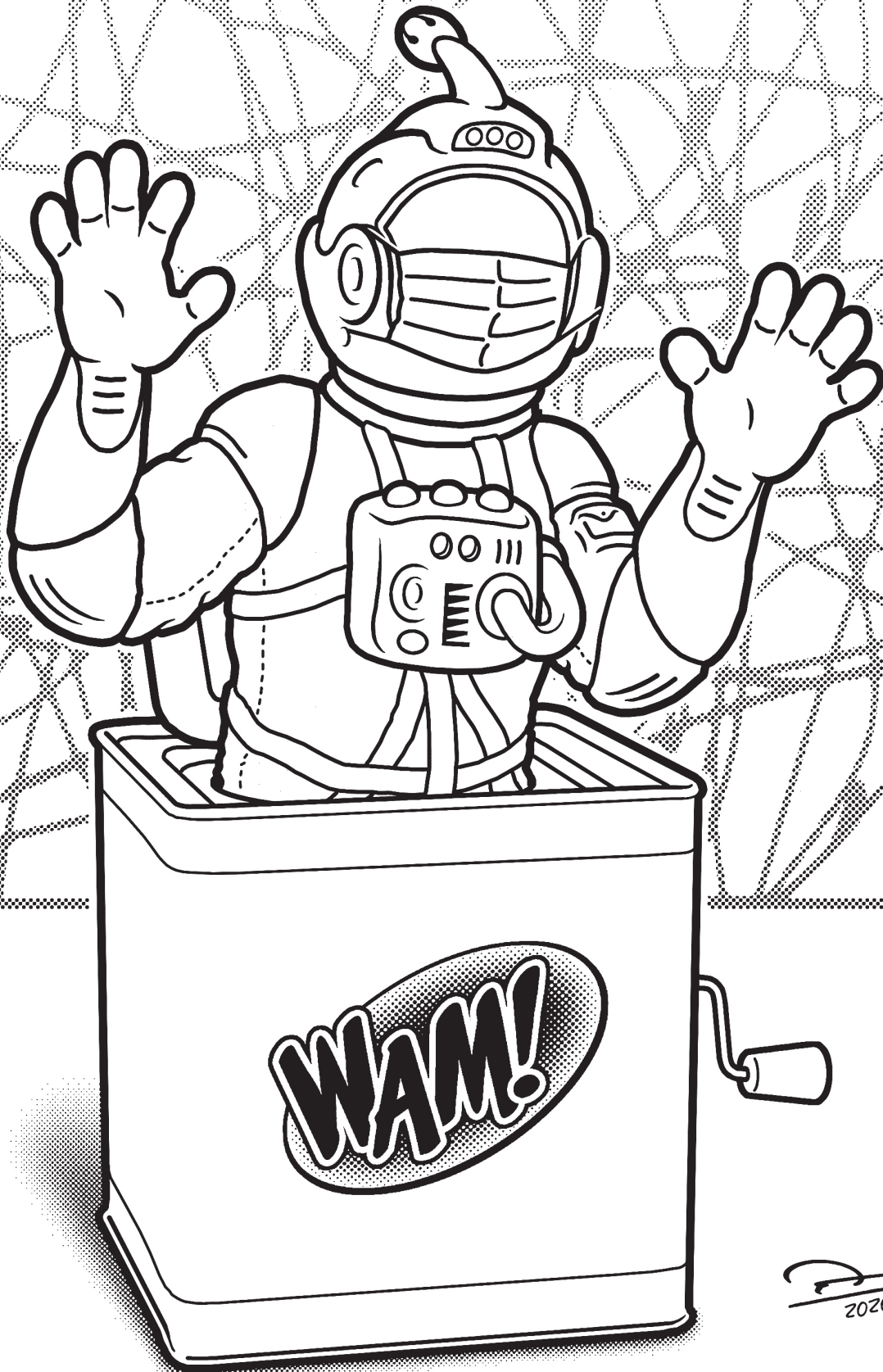








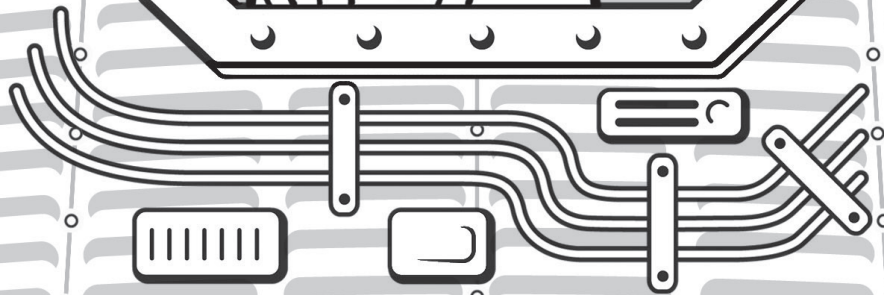
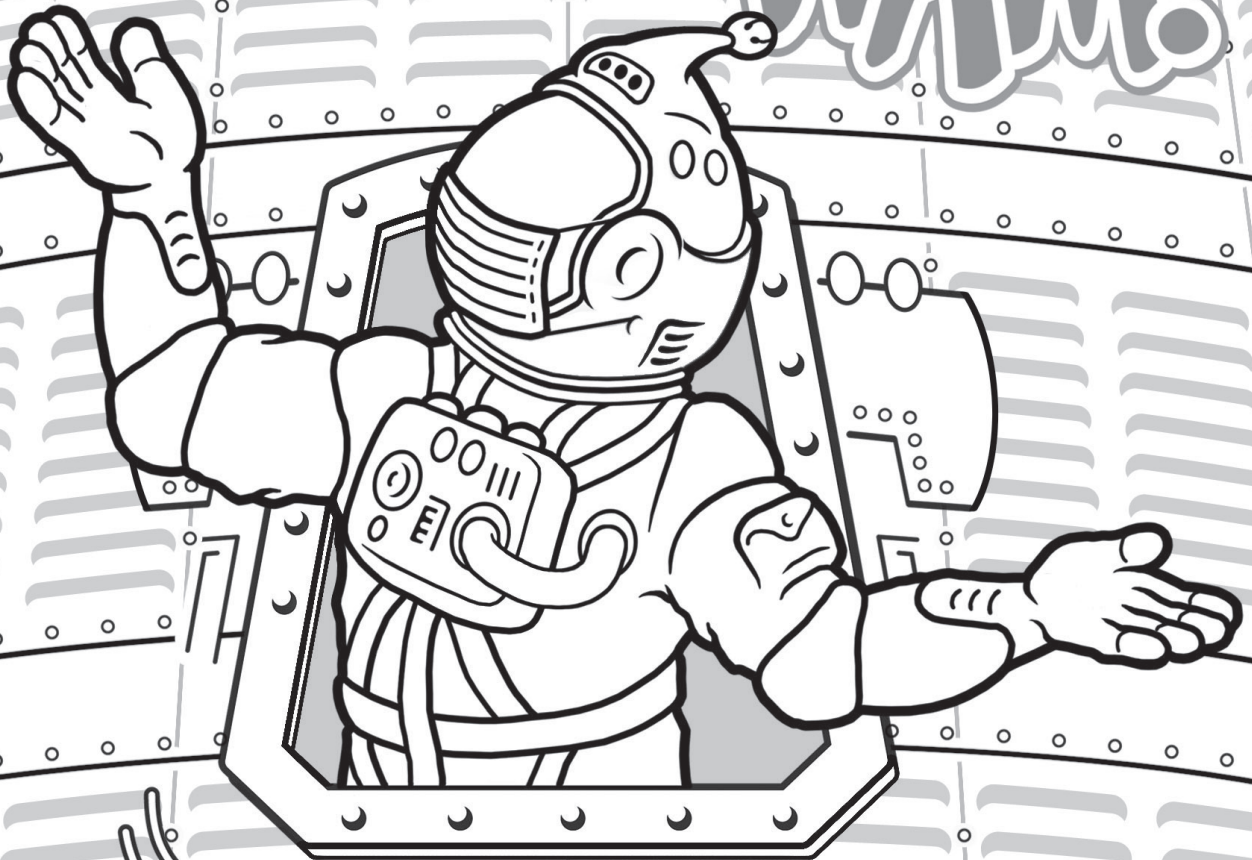
THE CHARLES BRUCE FOUNDATION



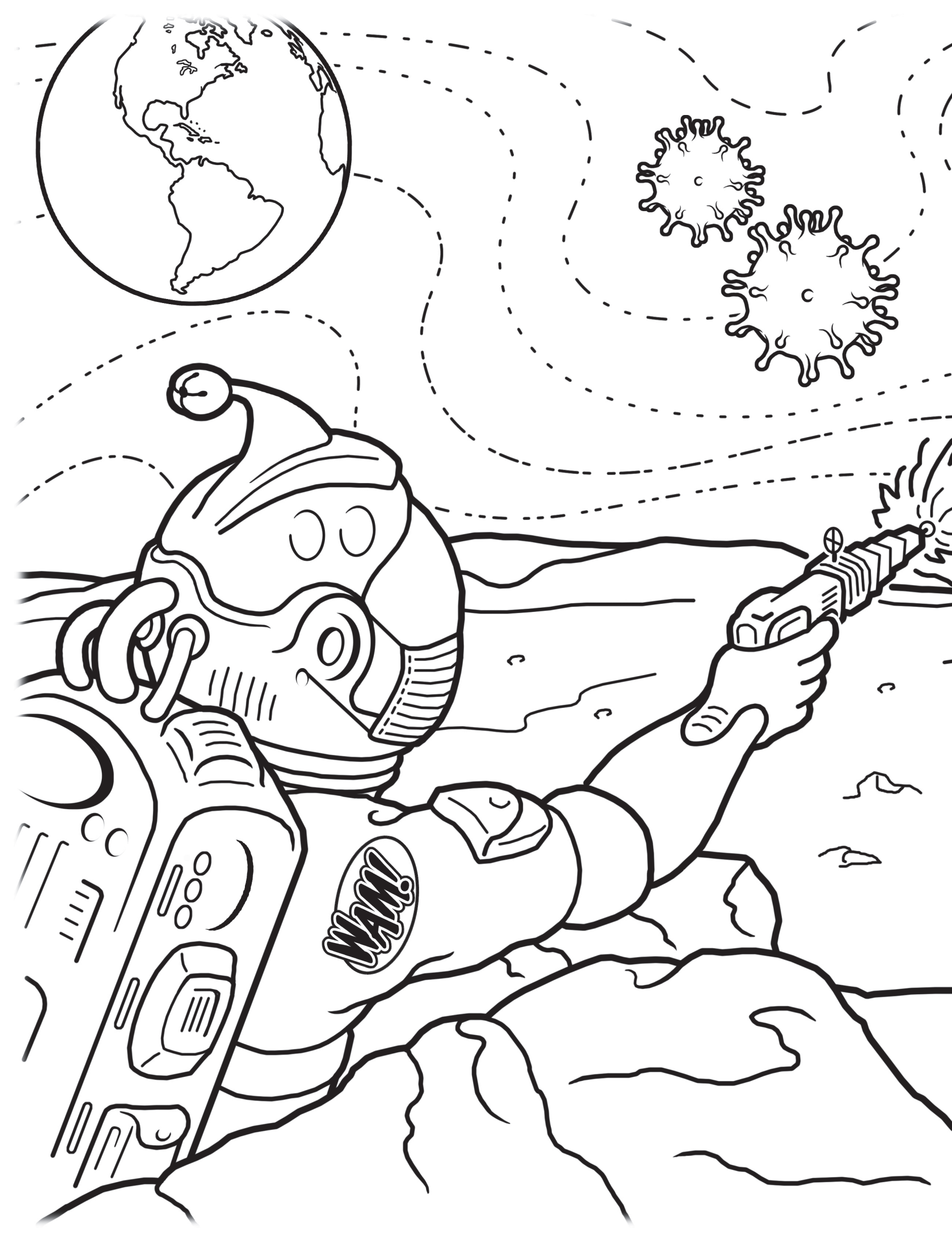
2020

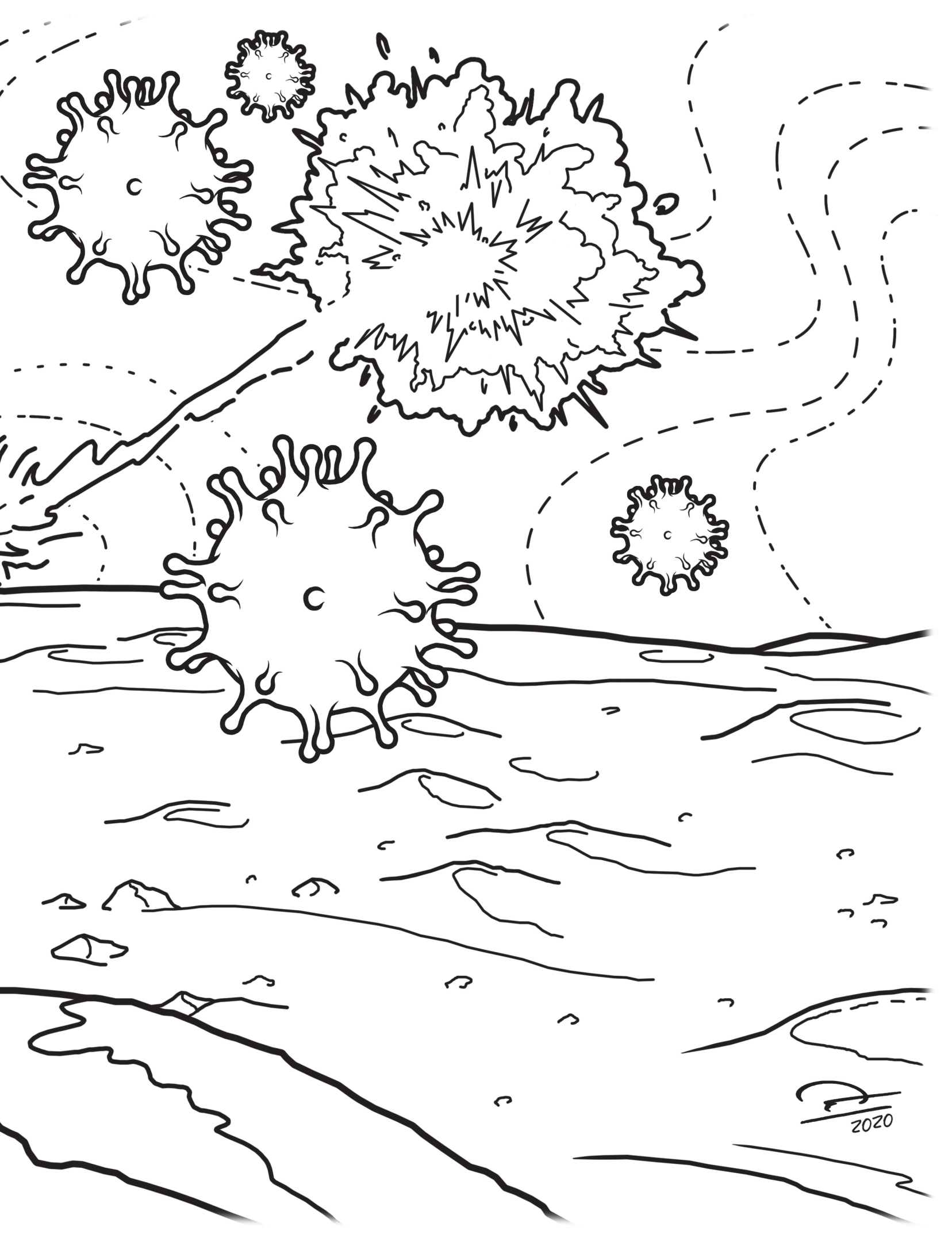
THE CHARLES BRUCE FOUNDATION

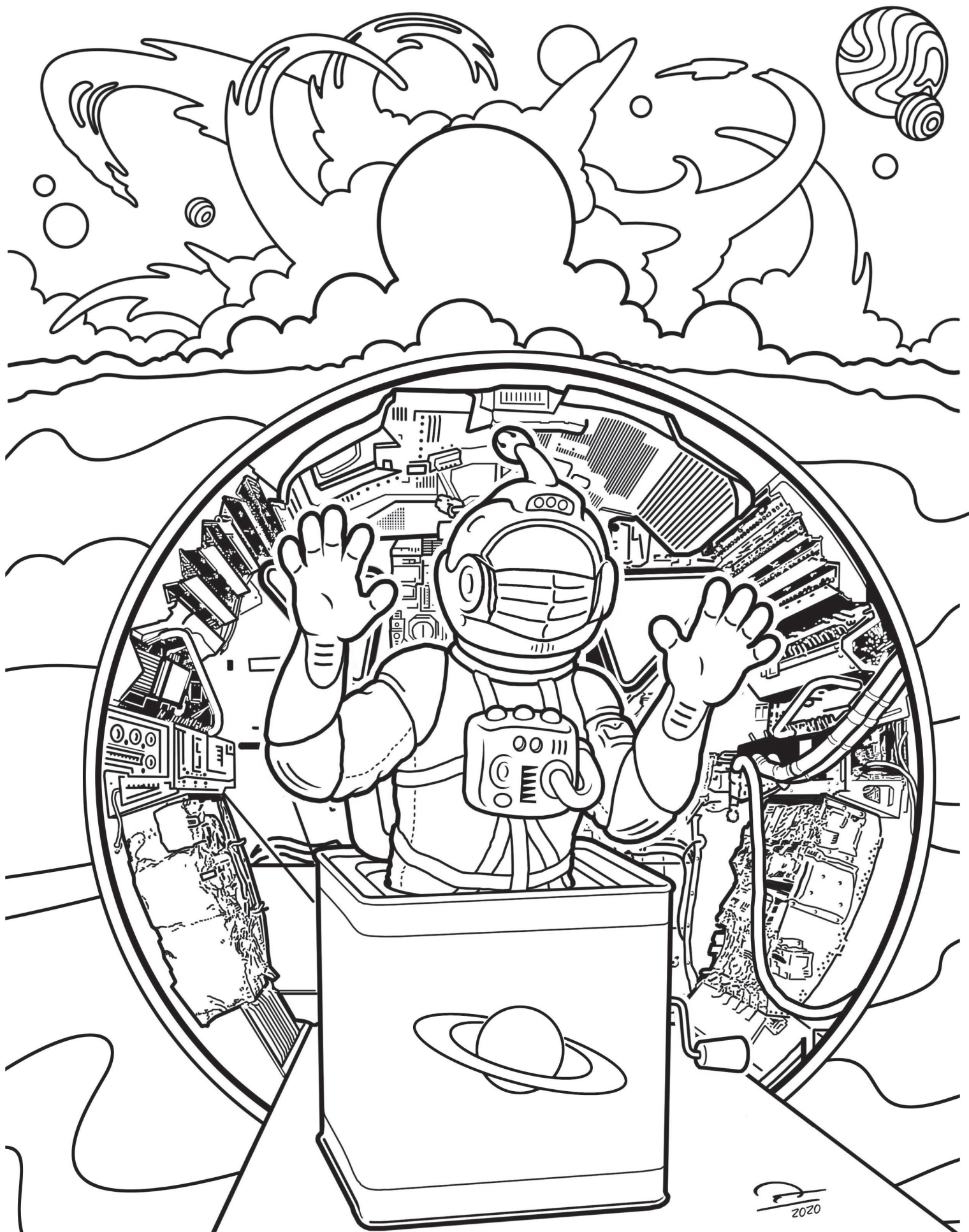
WAW!

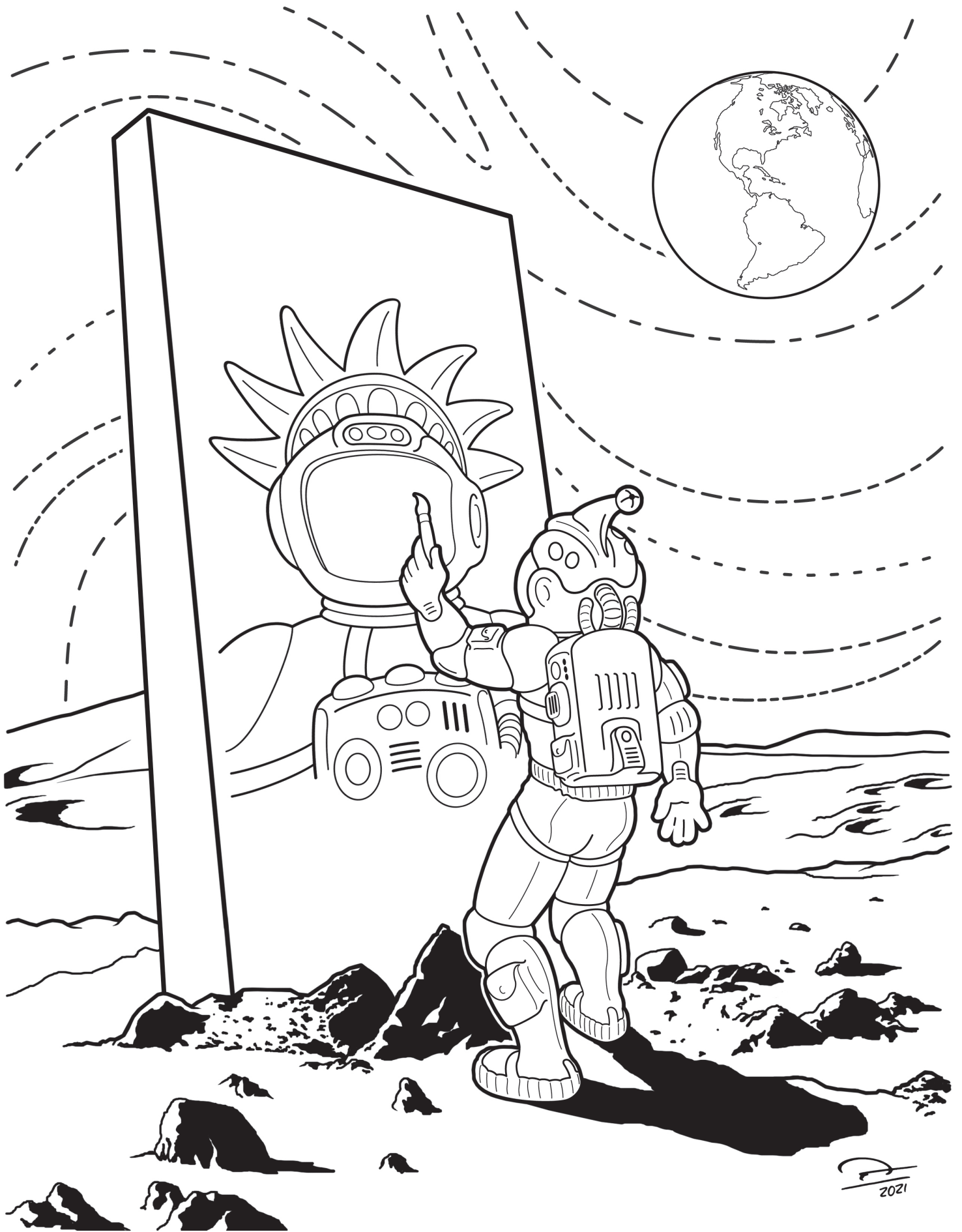



2020

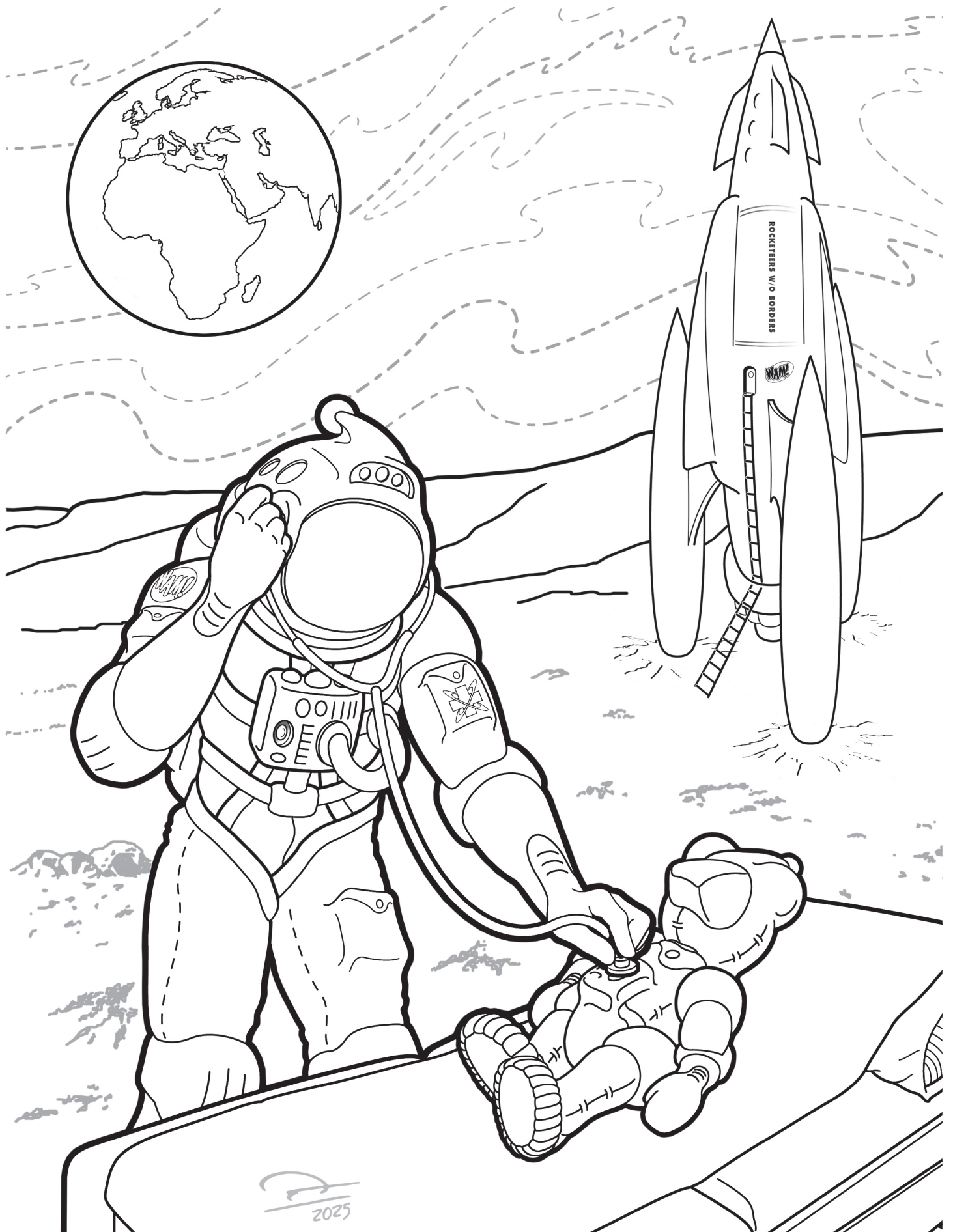


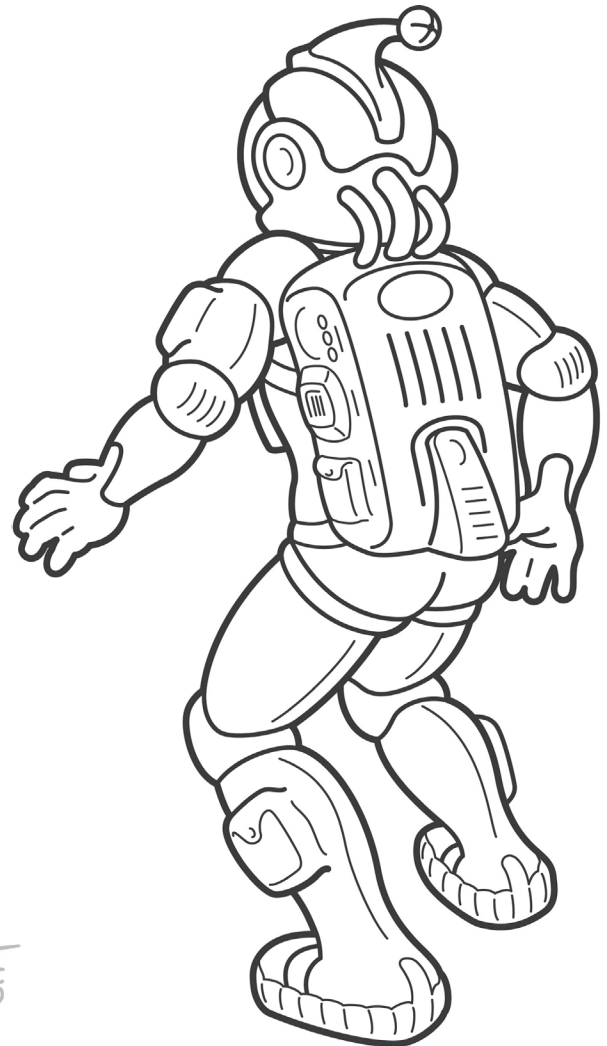
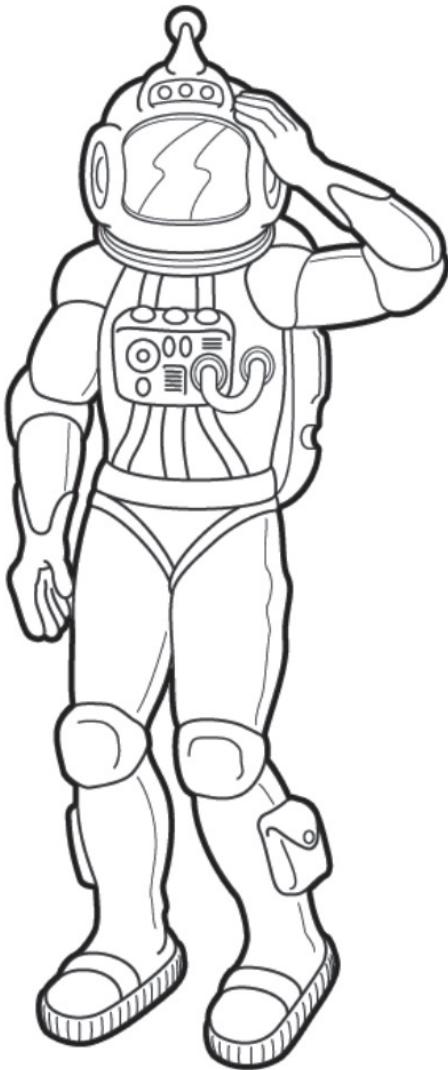
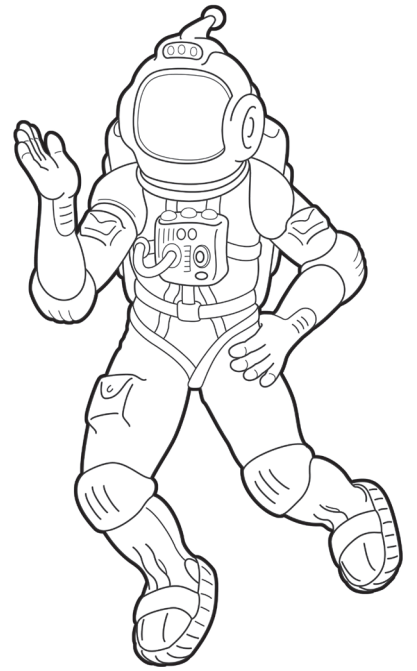








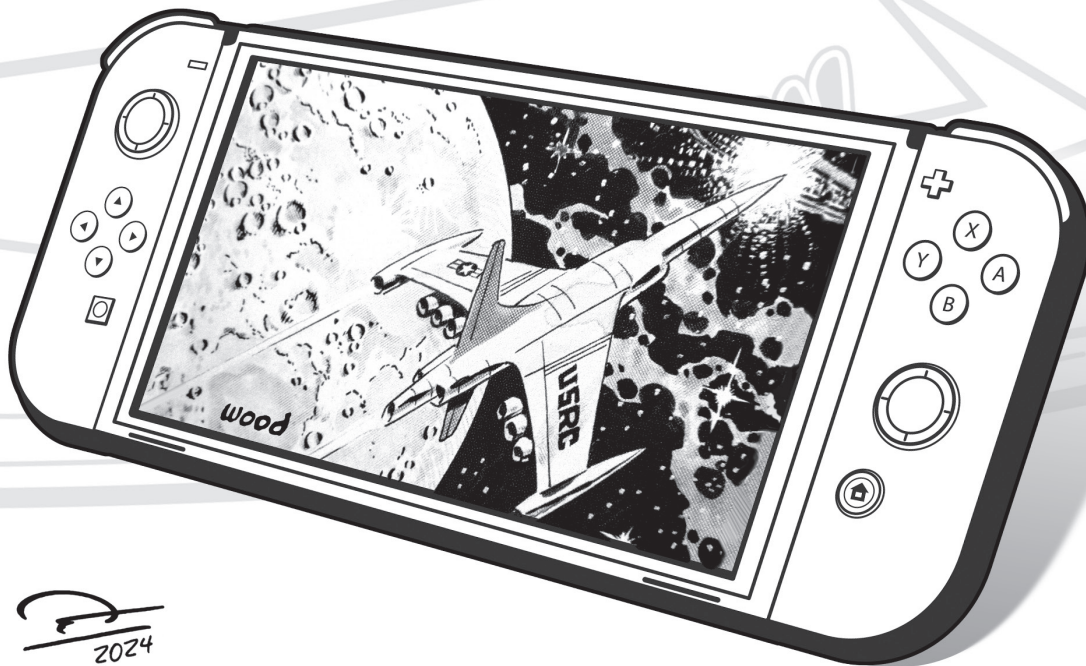




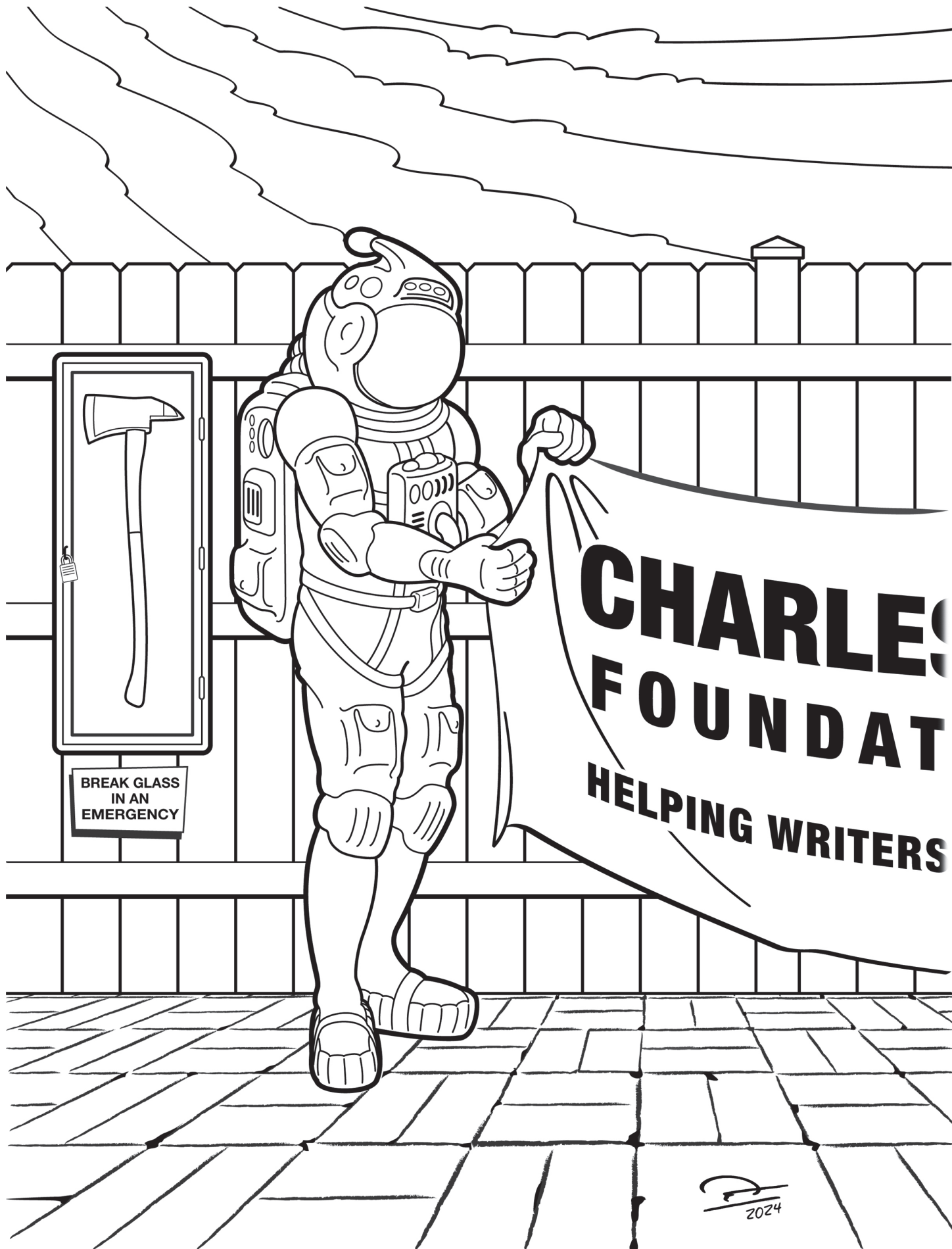


WAM!

WHAT WILL GAMING BE LIKE IN THE *FUTURE?*



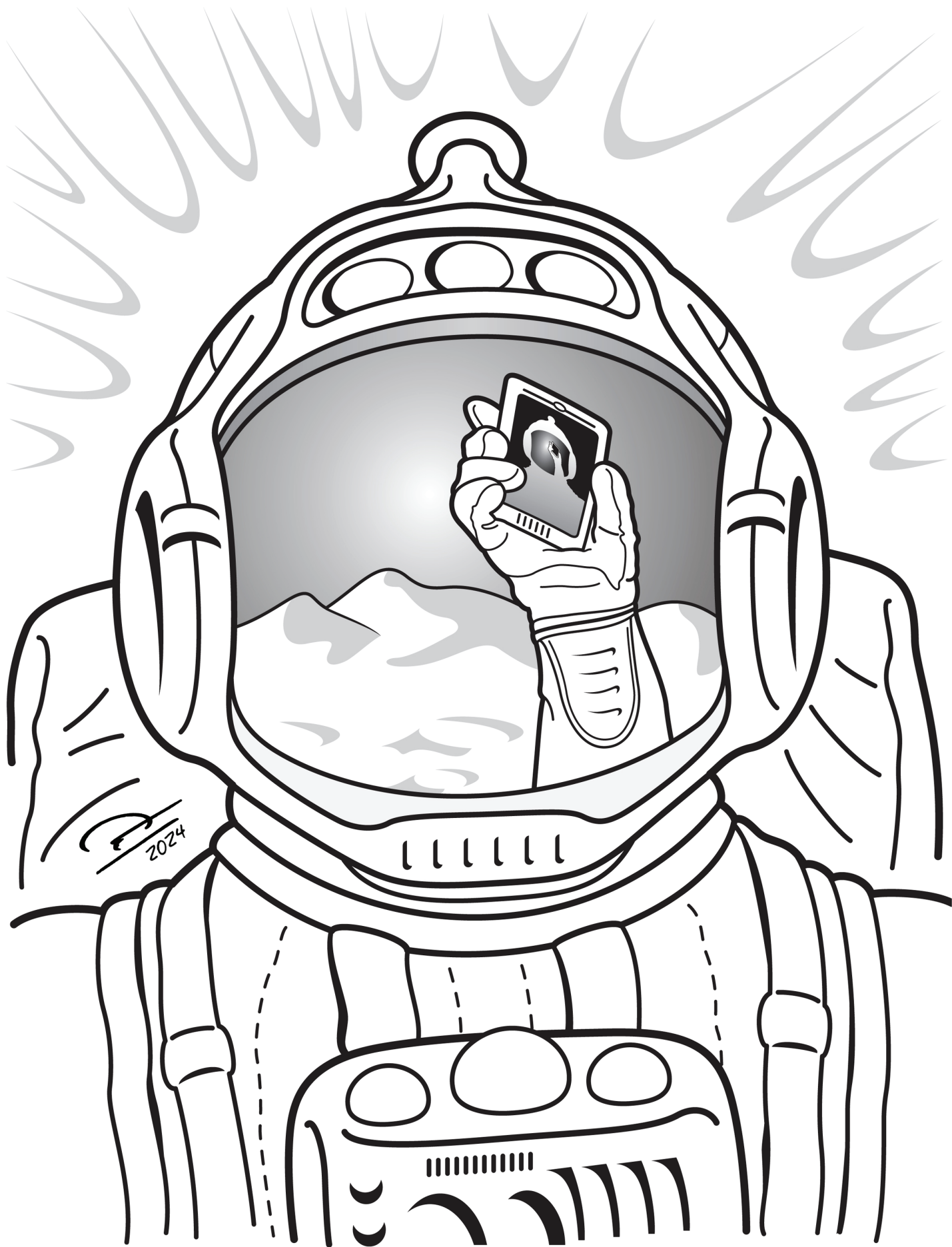
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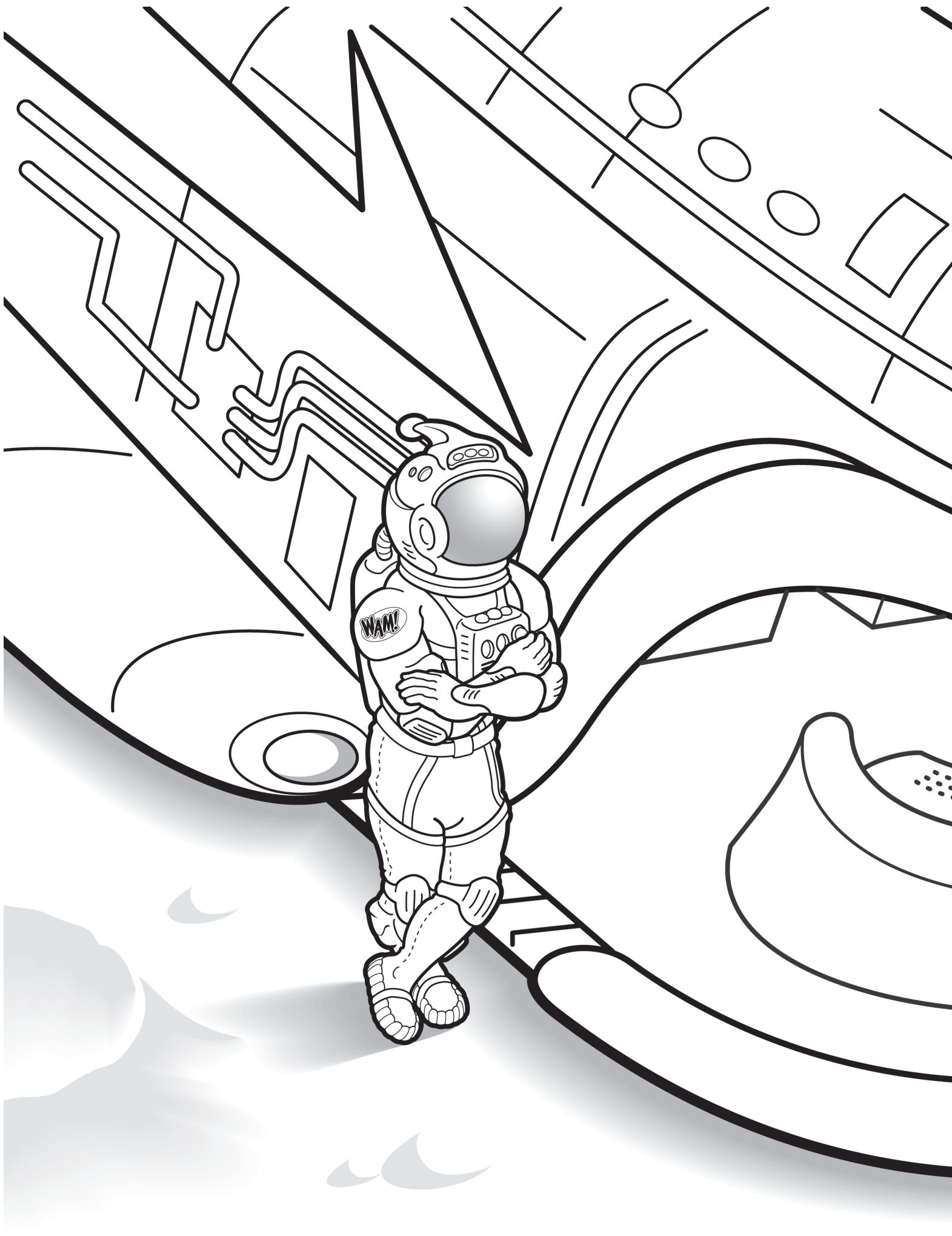


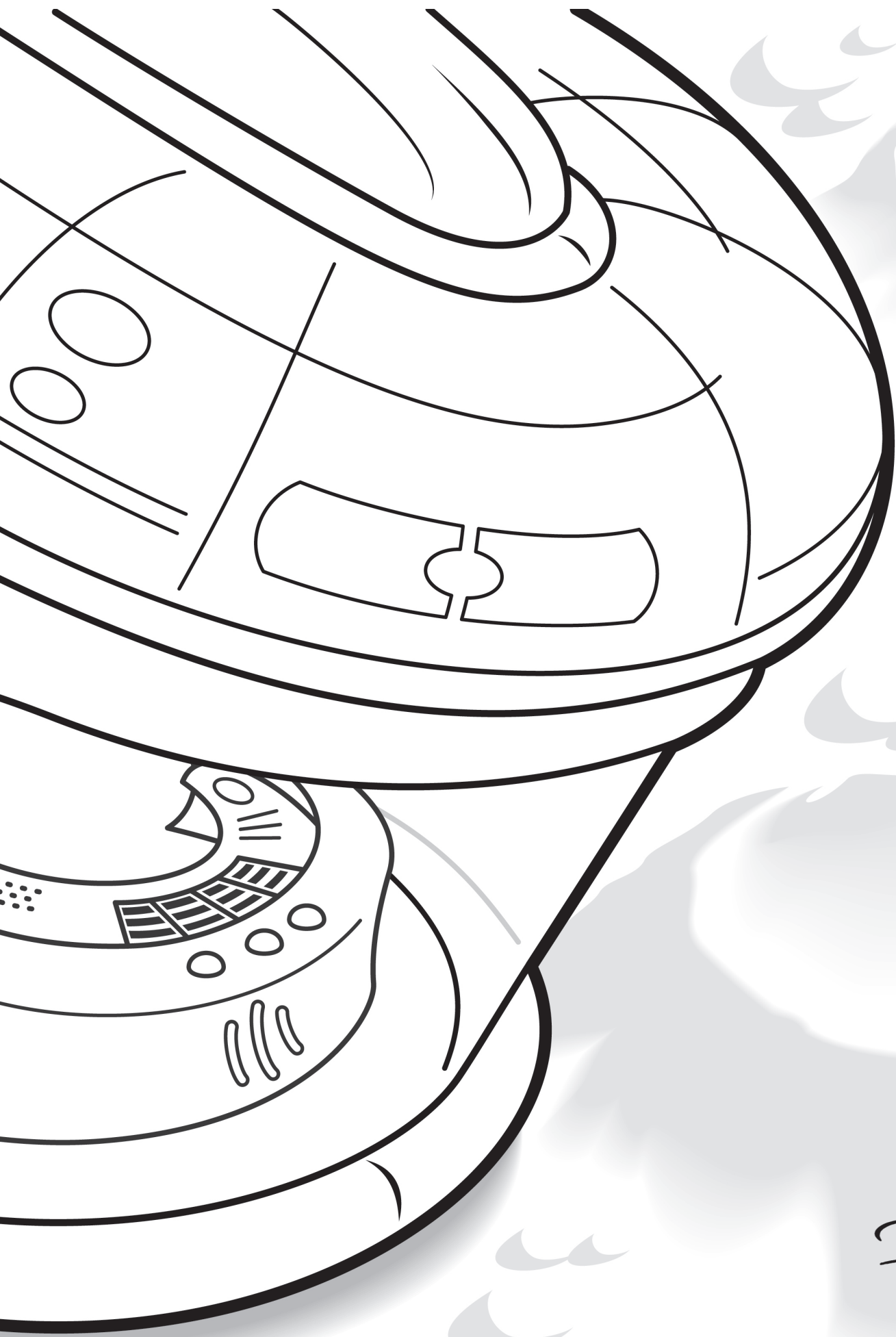
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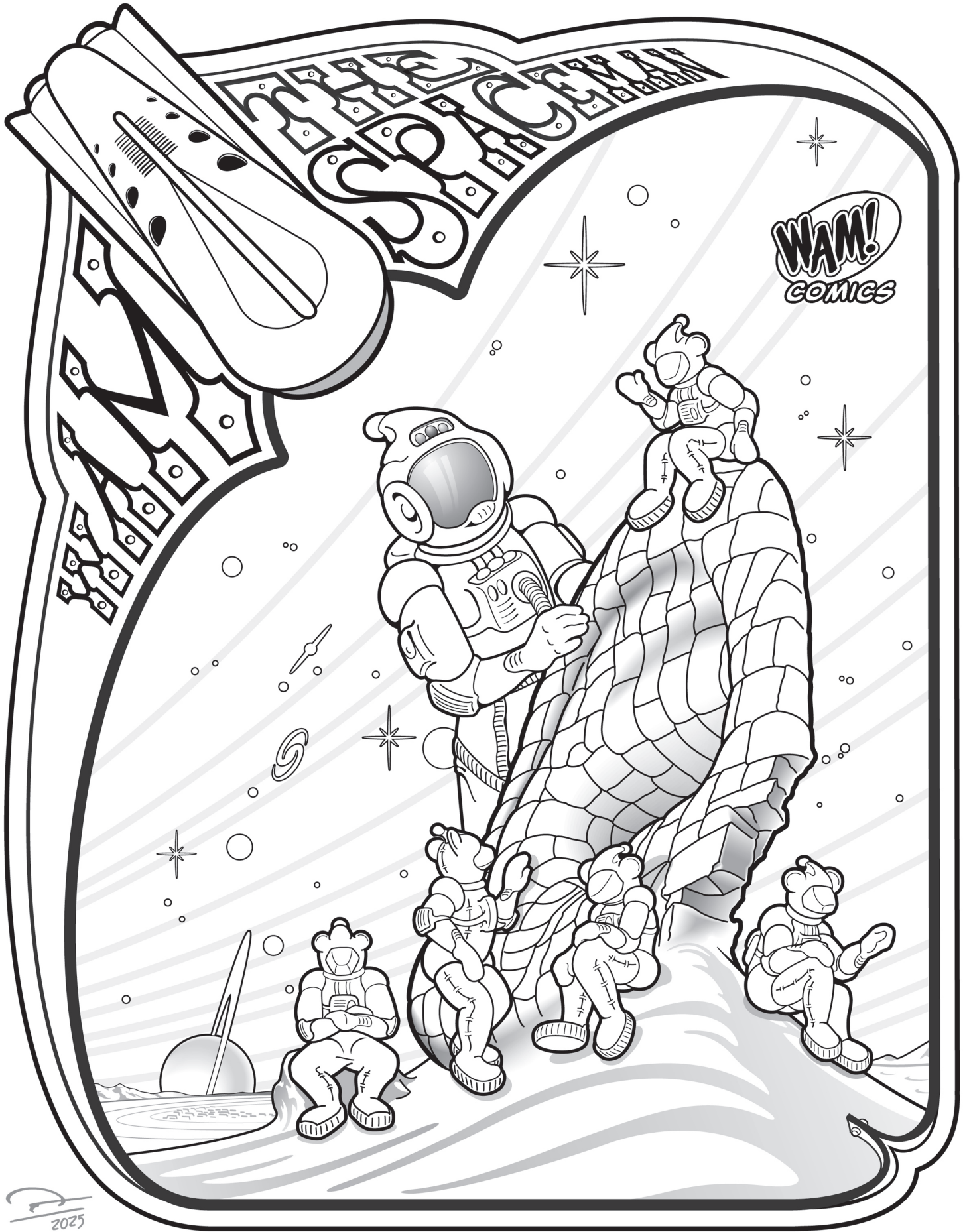
WE WANT

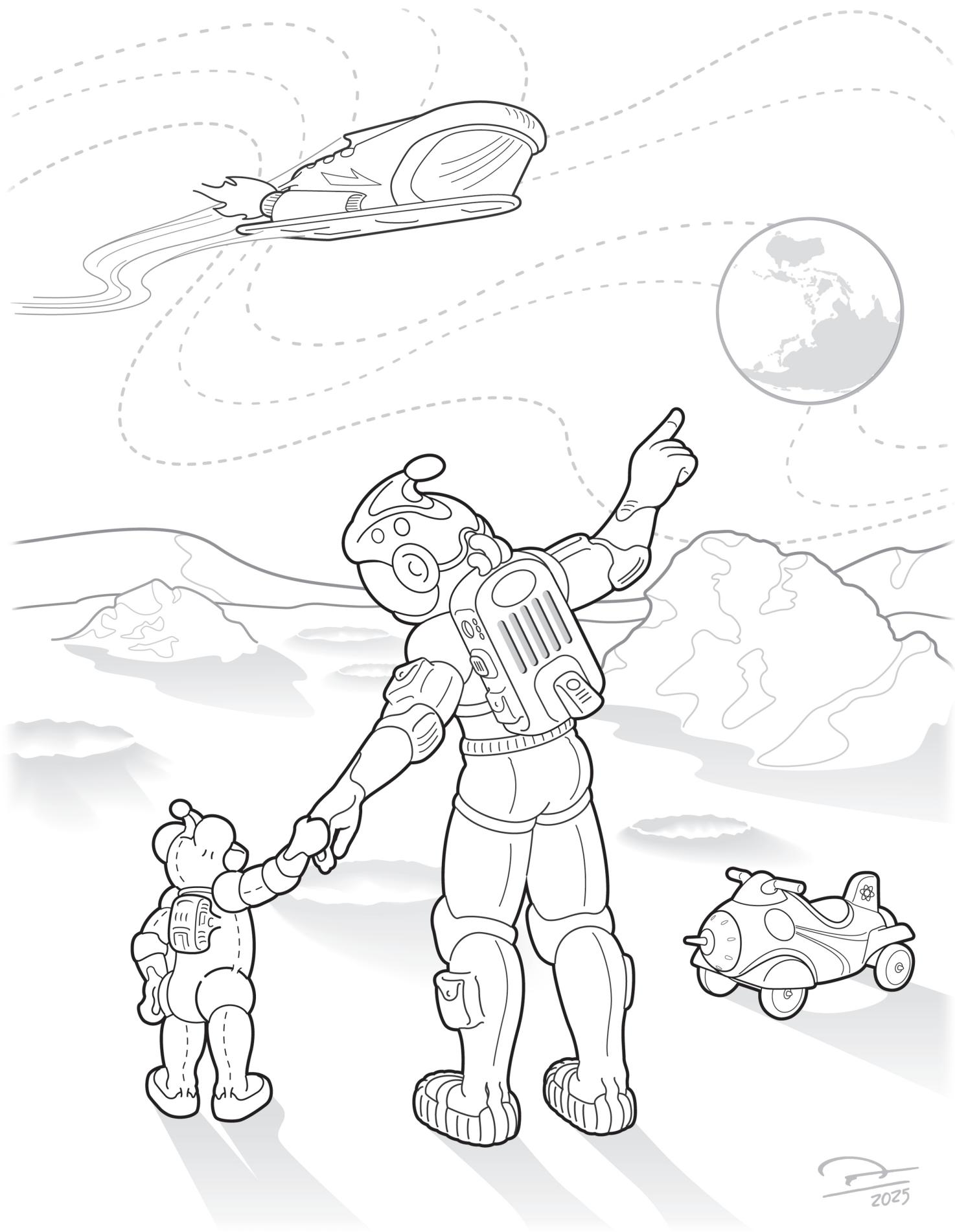


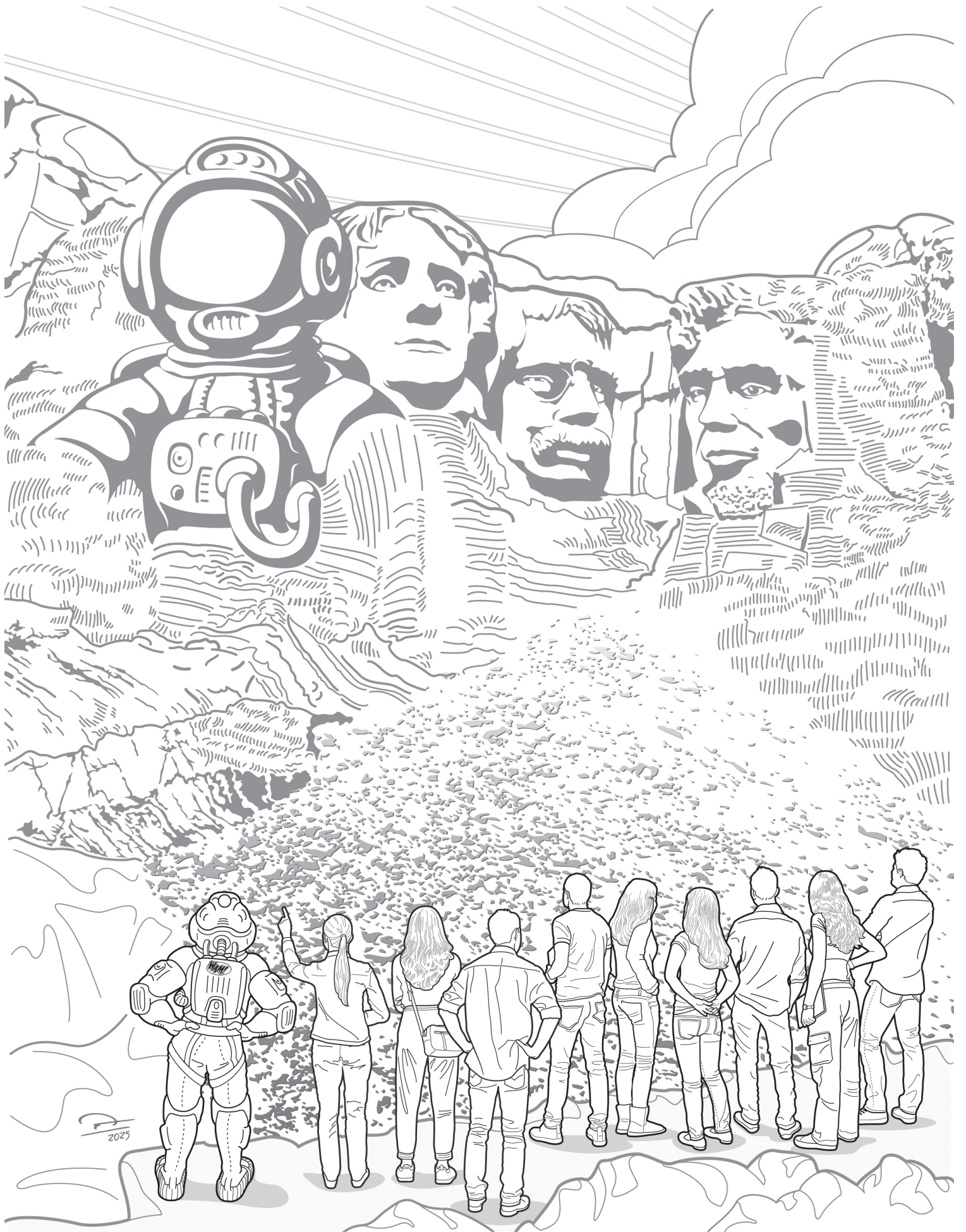


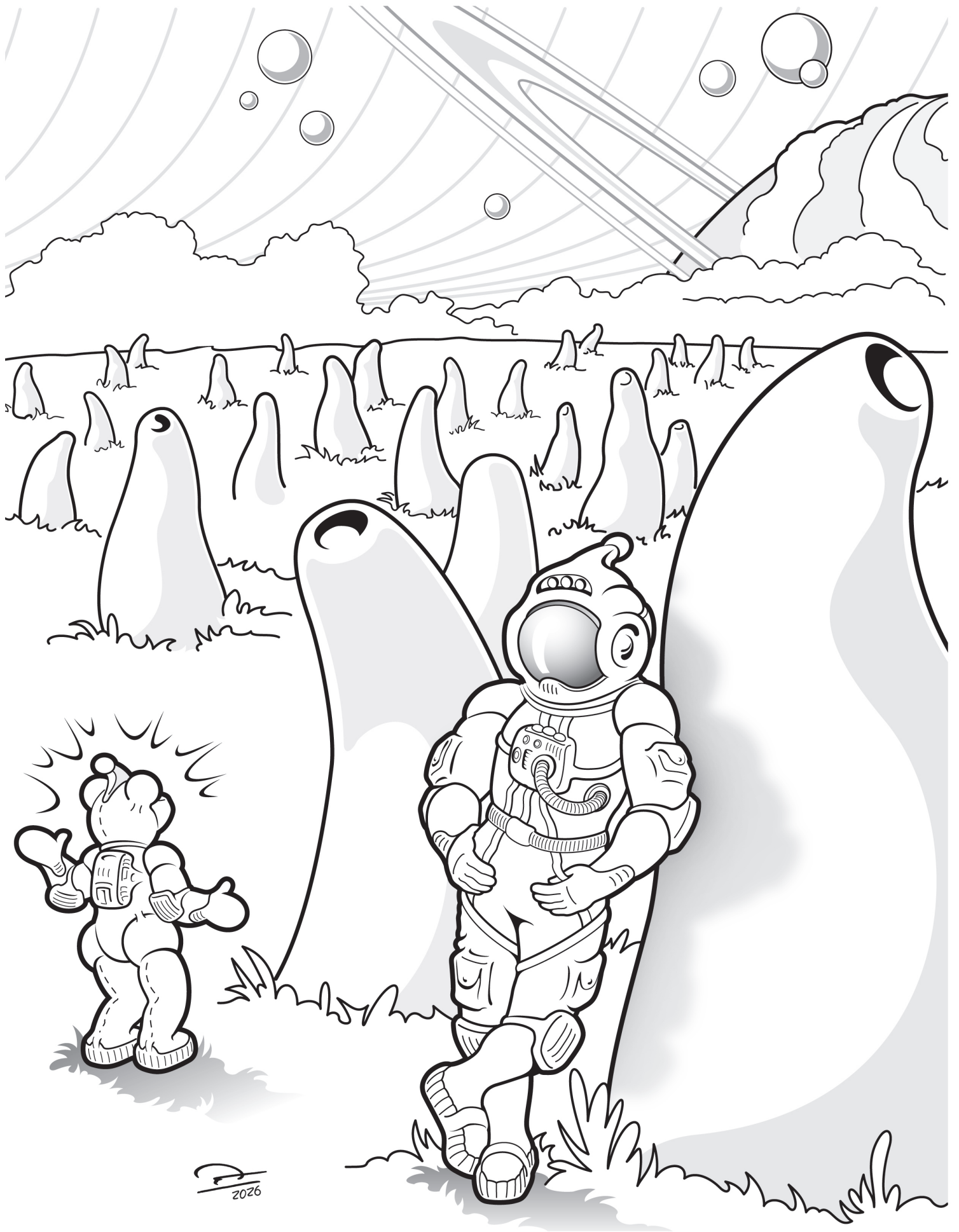


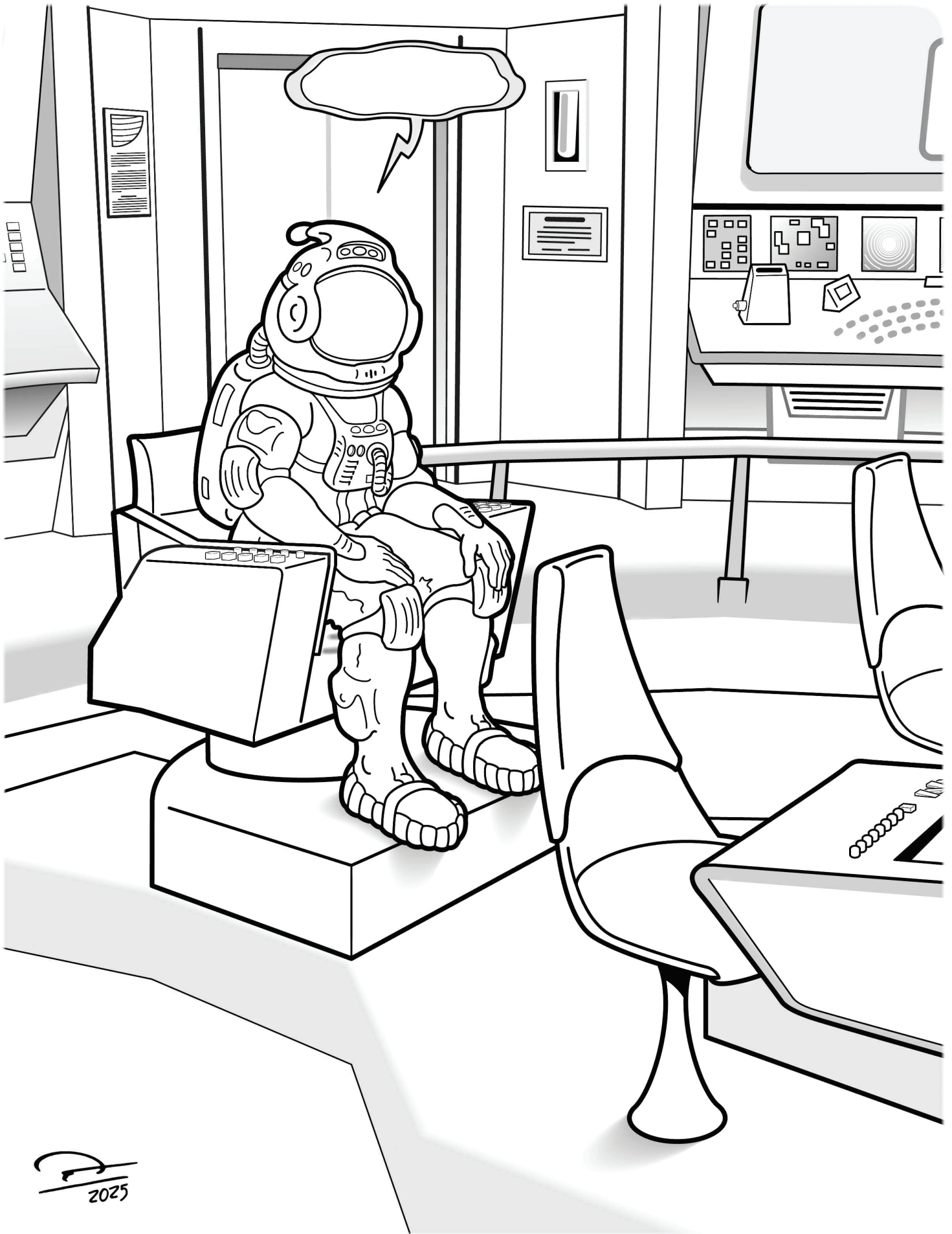


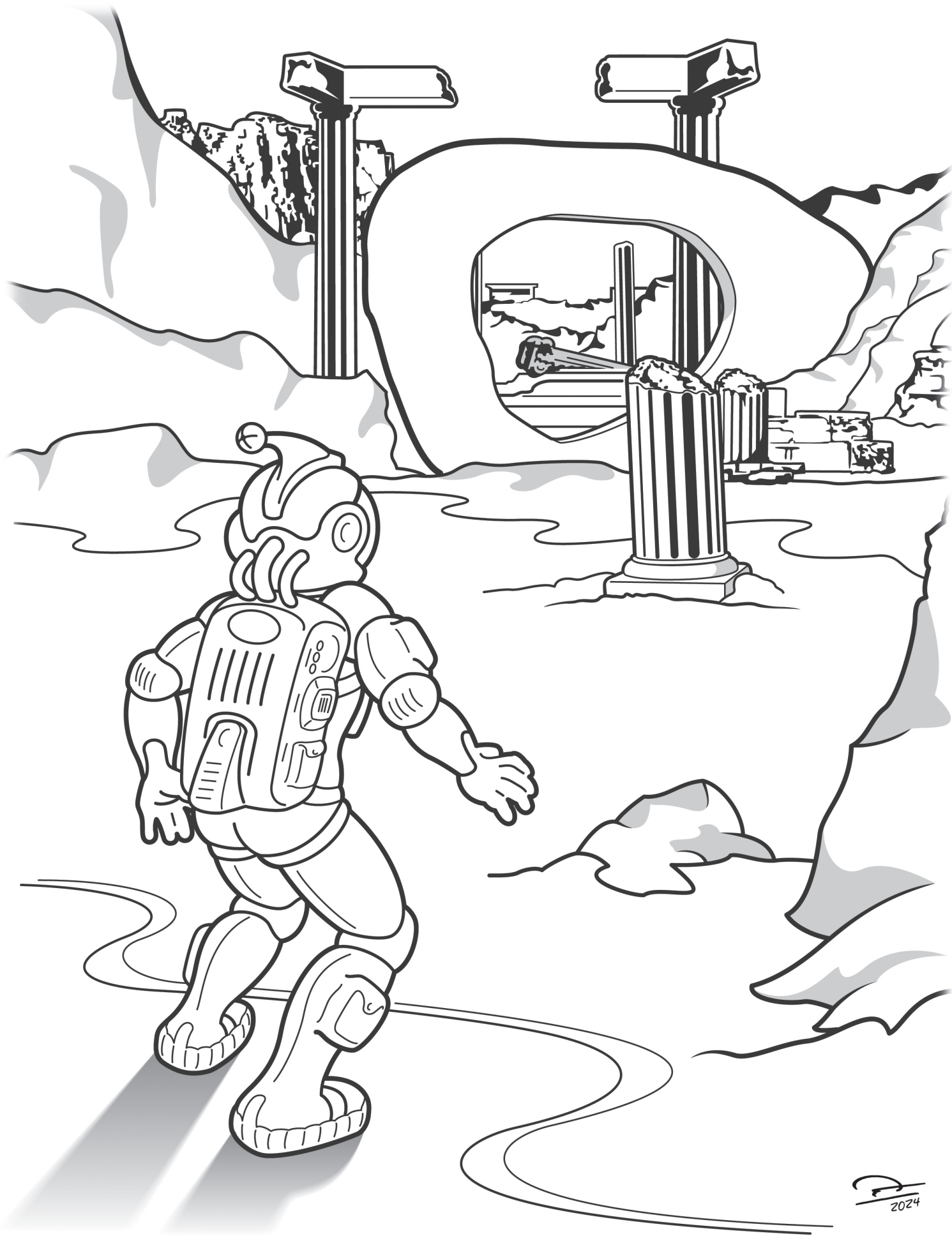


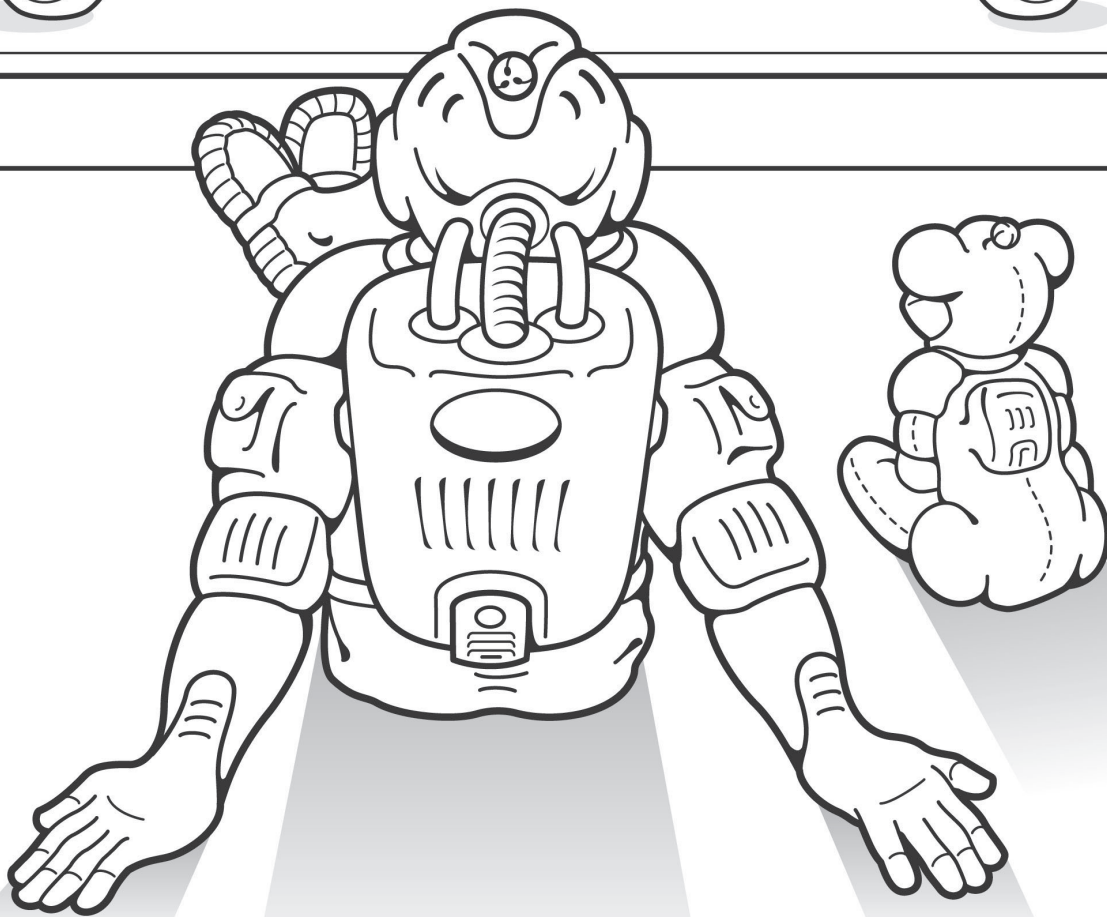
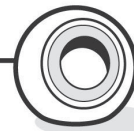
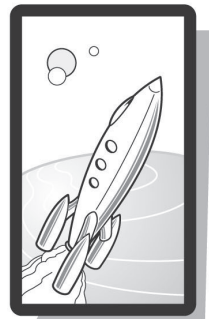
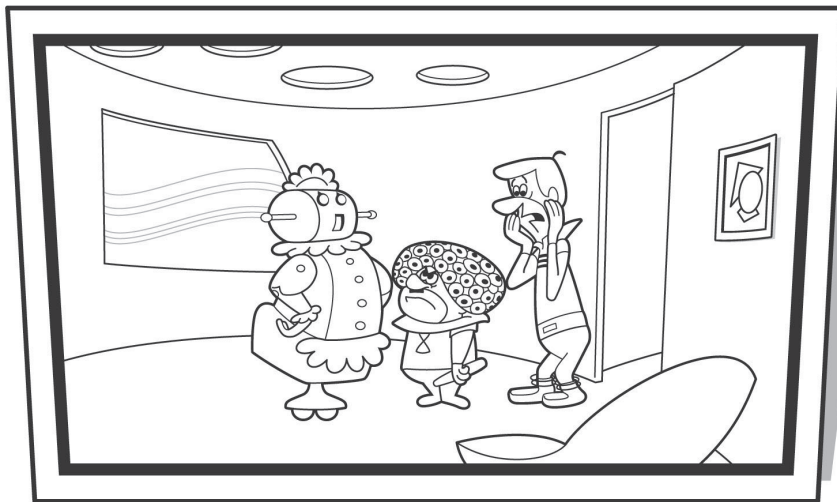


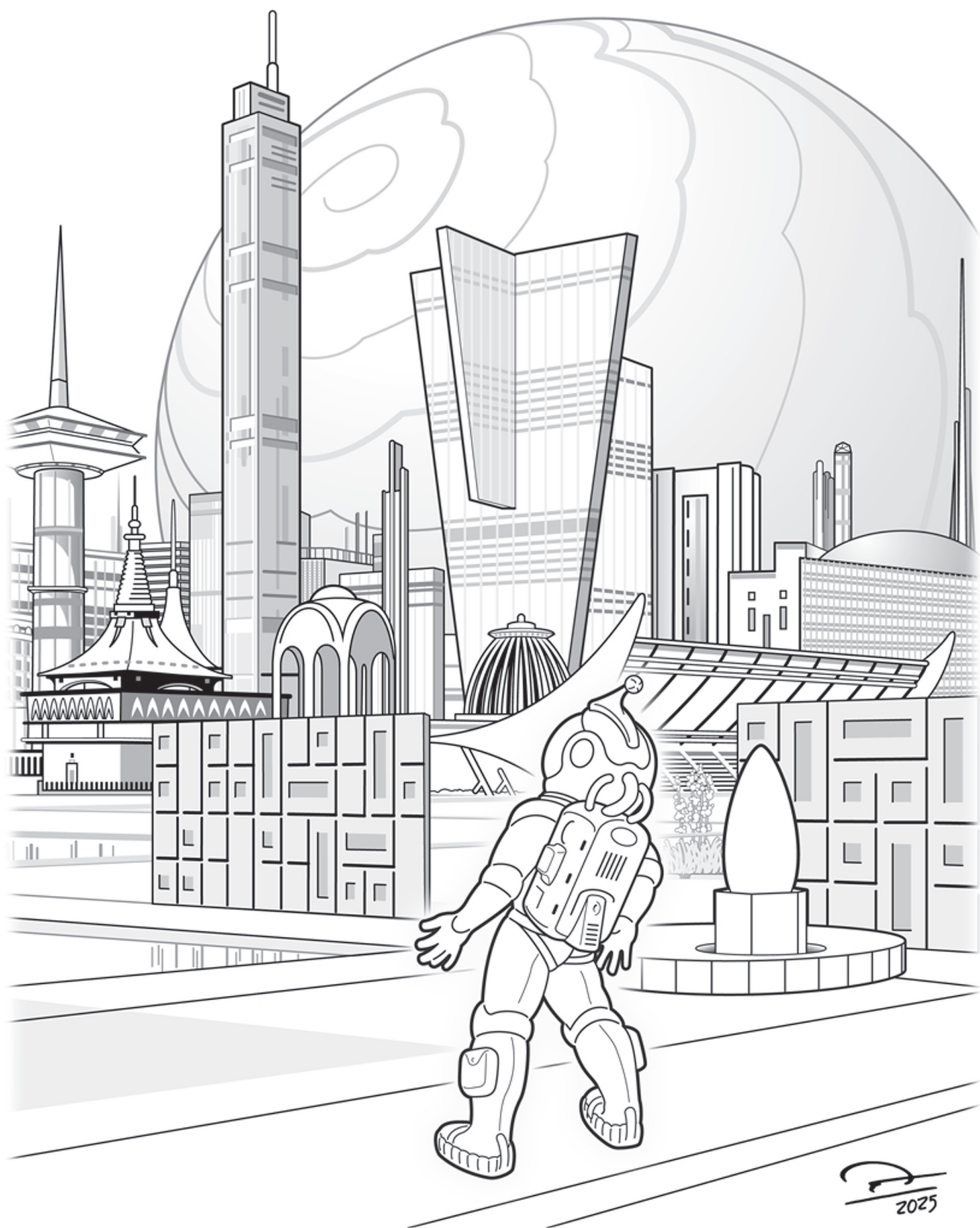


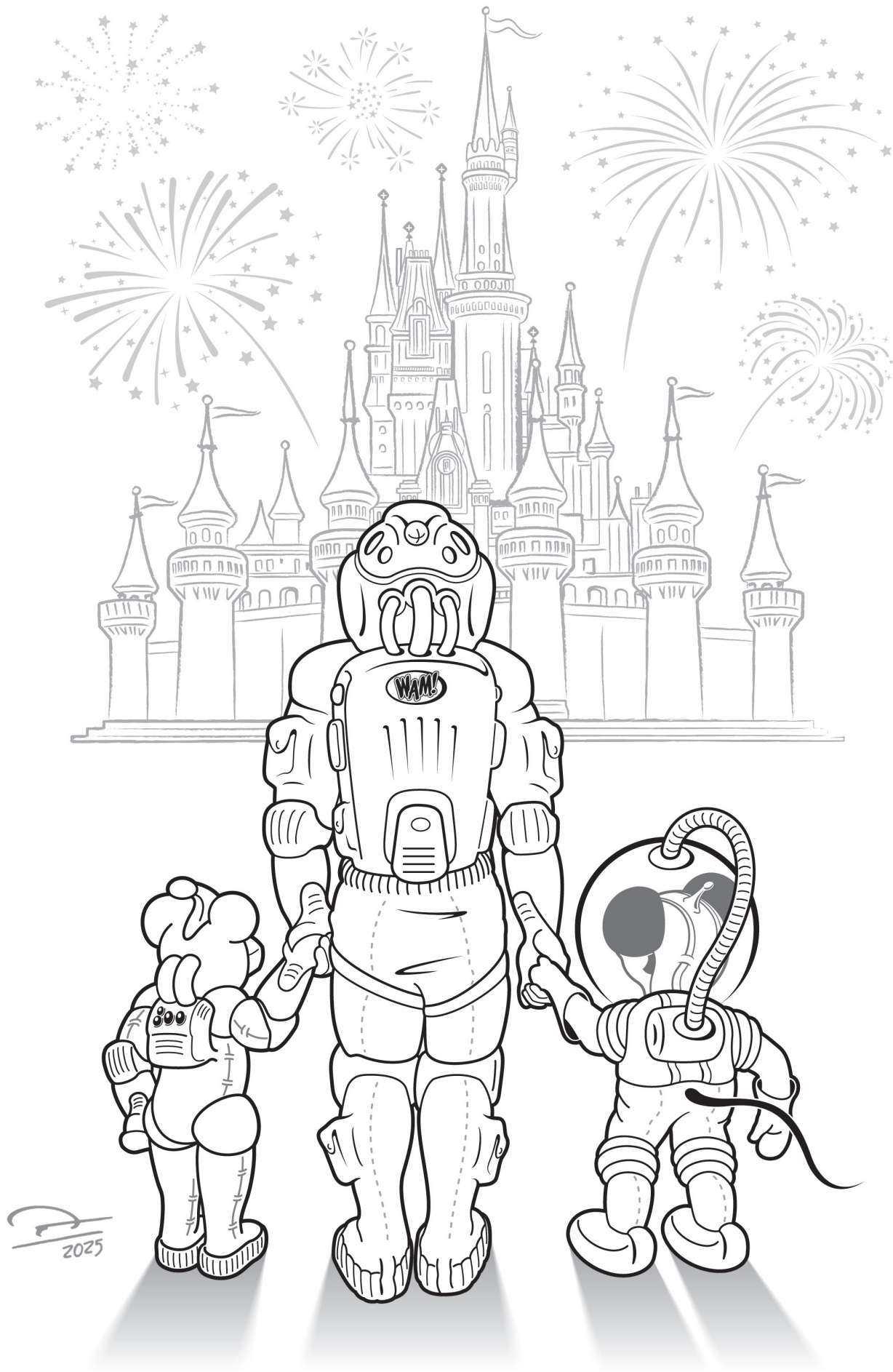




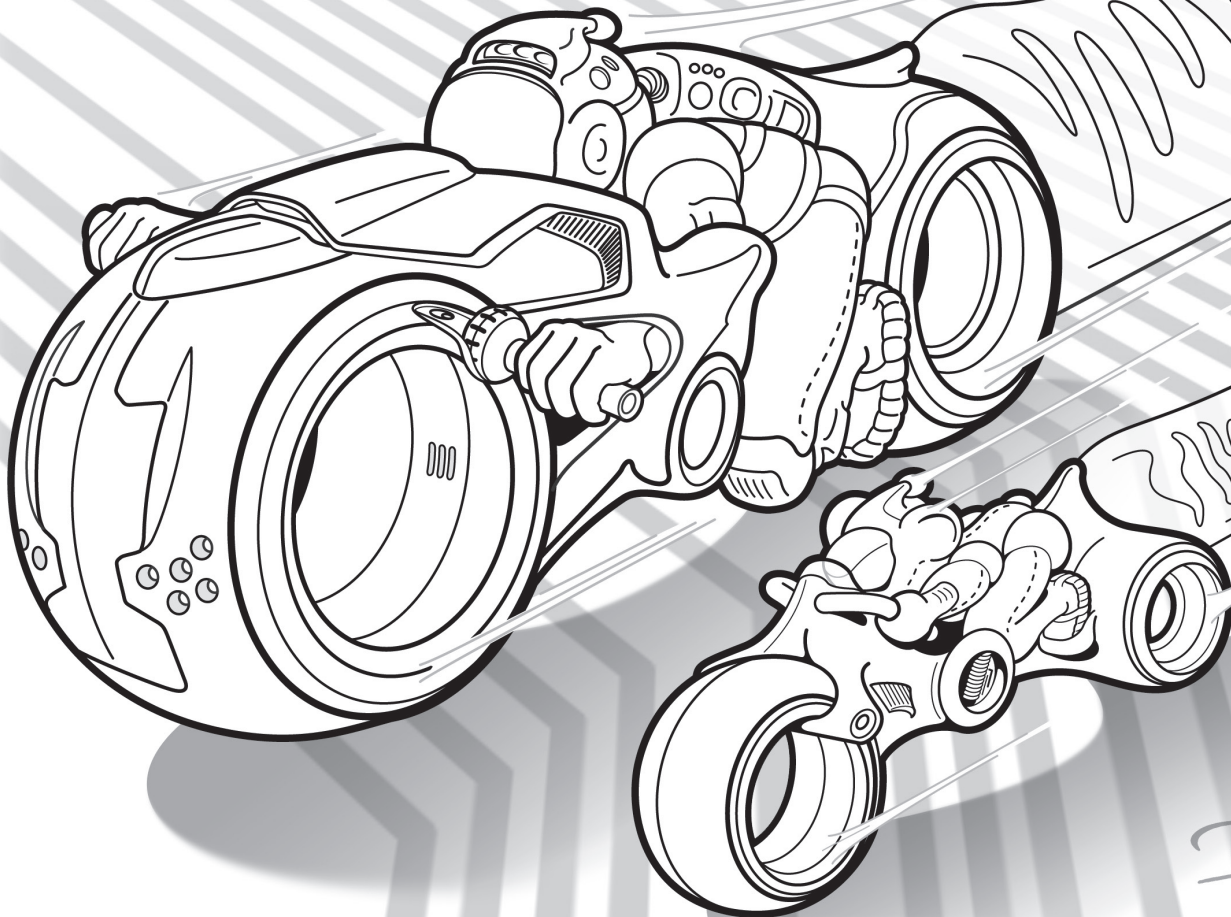




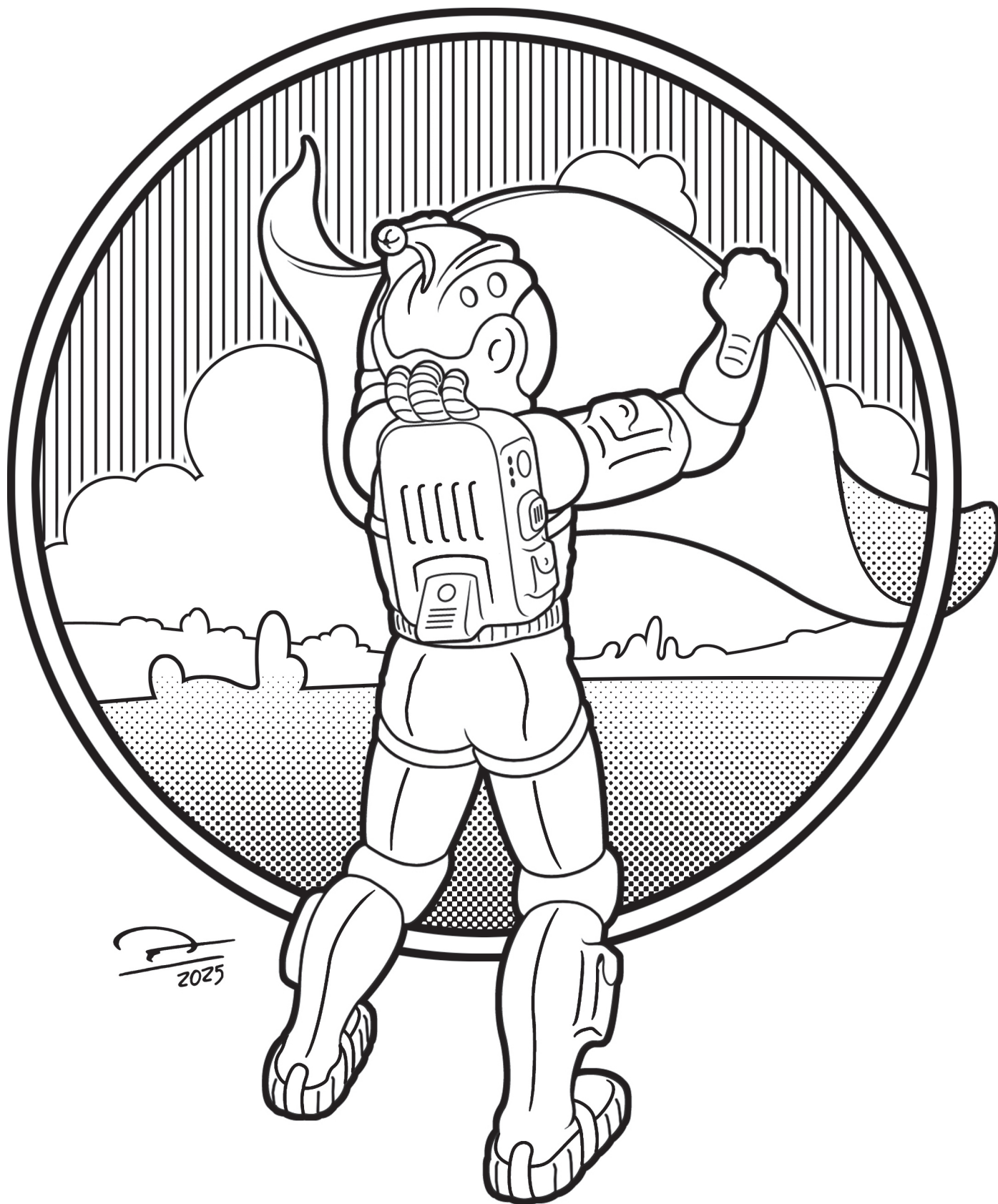




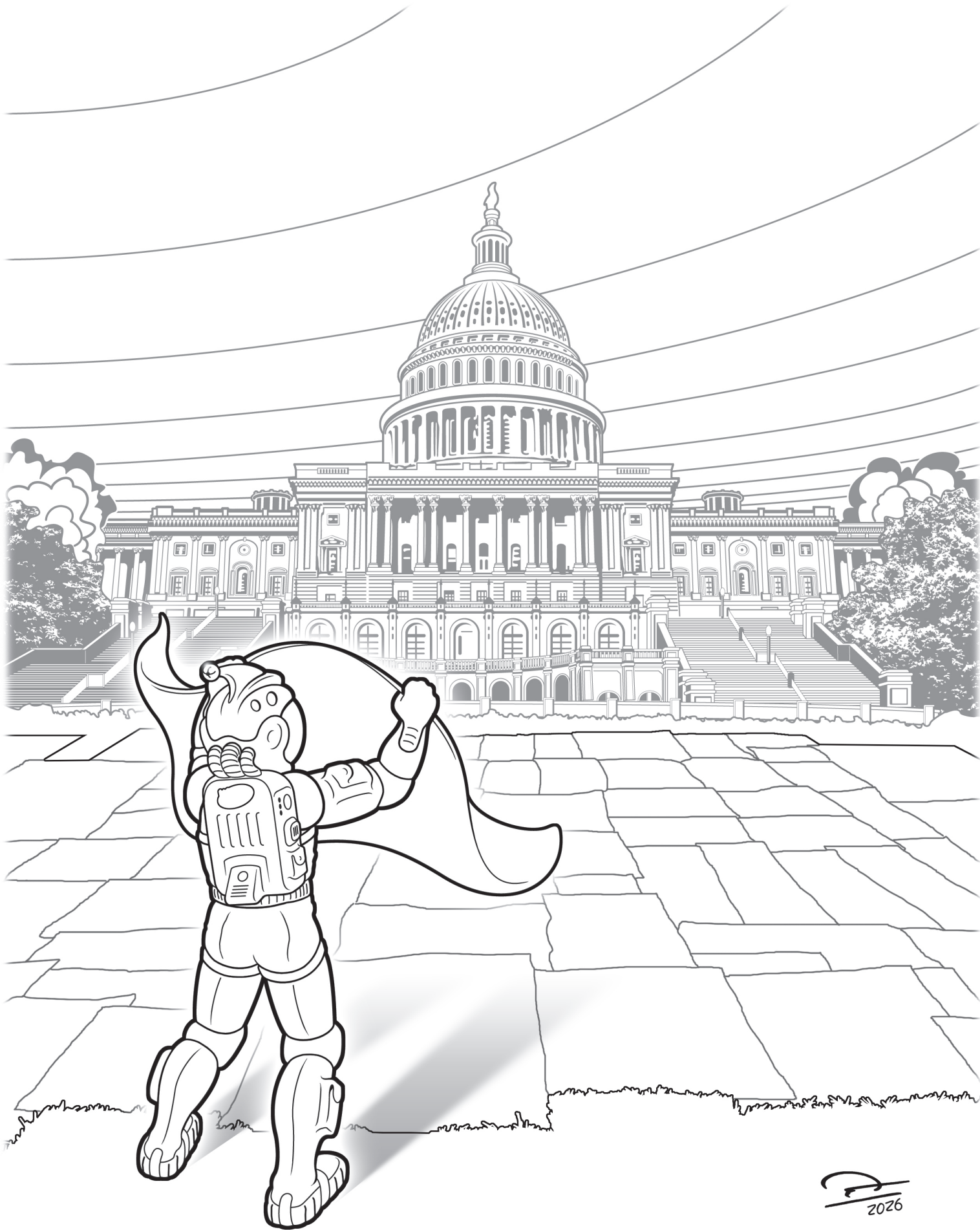
WU
#200
on the grid!

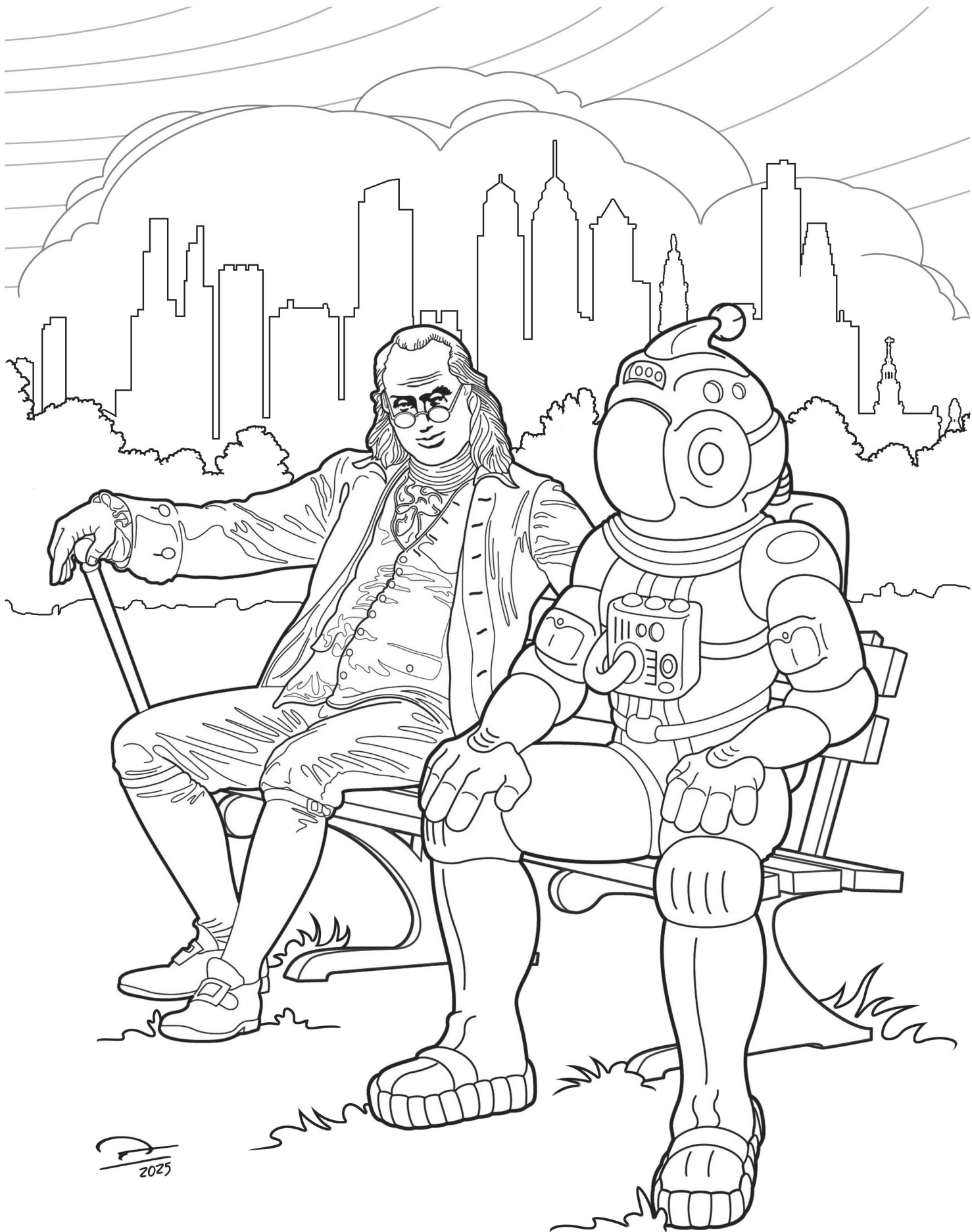


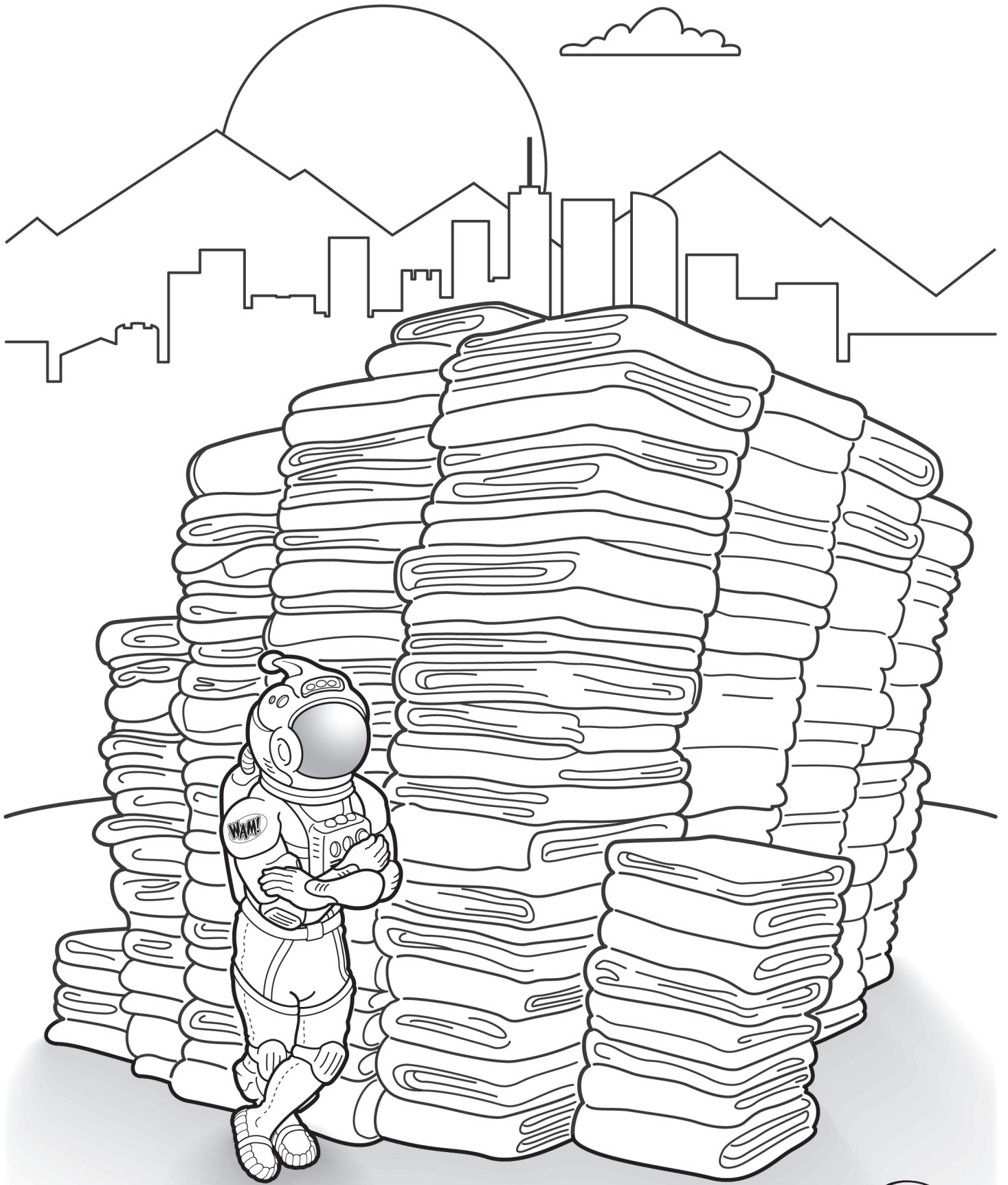

2025



WWW.MEMORIALBLANKET.ORG







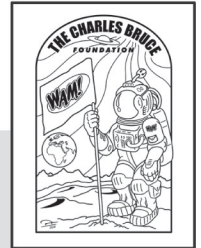


glossary



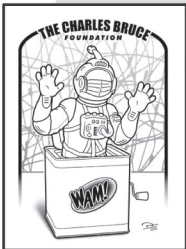
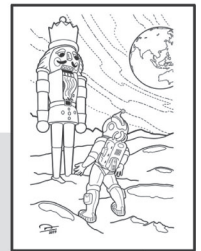
For the Charles Bruce Foundation's (CBF) tenth anniversary, artists came together to produce a coloring book filled with their tribute art – each with their own representation of WAM! the Spaceman. In that book, Chad drew an illustration portraying the day his parents adopted him.

Chad's science fiction passion merged with his love of artist phenom, Peter Max, to create a mascot for the social justice 501c3 dedicated to supporting the arts and the artists who create them. WAM! the Spaceman was born in this original iteration illustrating the moon landing symbolizing WAM!'s first appearance in a CBF publication.



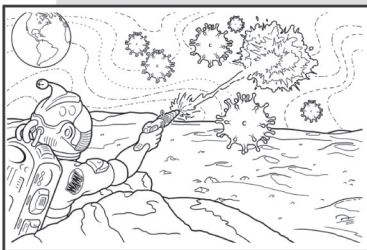
One of the CBF spaceman's earliest space vehicles was shaped like a holiday stocking decorated in the style of Chad's greatest artistic influence – Peter Max. Chad Bruce credits Max for inspiring him to create an innumerable number of illustrations which include Max-style exploding planets.

In the early days of the Charles Bruce Foundation, the organization created artwork for holiday celebrations. WAM! the Spaceman journeyed to the moon only to find an enormous Nutcracker carefully positioned and paying homage to the monolith in Chad's favorite film, *2001: A Space Odyssey*.



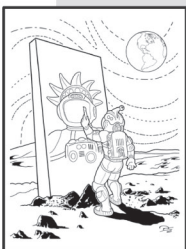
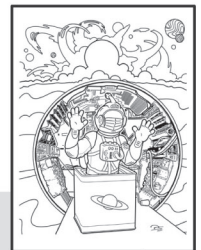
As the years went by, CBF's mascot started "popping up" in illustrations to delight the kiddos who colored his image. This WAM! in the Box was a particular favorite.

Children who were born in the 1950s, as well as space travel history buffs, may recognize that WAM! is pictured bursting through the bulkhead of one of NASA's Gemini rocket ships.



In 2020, the COVID19 pandemic sent children home from school and into lockdown. WAM! leapt into action, destroying the SARS-CoV-2 virus as it approached a planet he'd sworn to protect.

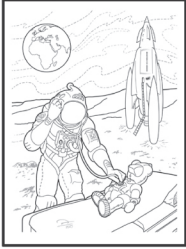
An homage to Peter Max surrounds WAM! in the Box as the space man emerges from NASA's Lunar Excursion Module (LEM).



Back to *2001: A Space Odyssey* – but this time the monolith is intact. What's a clever artist mascot to do? Why, paint a mural on it, of course. We bet that Stanley Kubrick and Arthur C. Clark would approve!

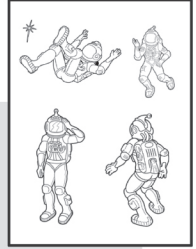
After a hard day's work, WAM! and his sidekick – Booboo – settle in for a nap. This is Booboo's first appearance with WAM!. It's also the first time that CBF's signature, largest annual event is featured in a drawing. For more information on #memorialblanket go to [memorialblanket.org](https://www.memorialblanket.org)





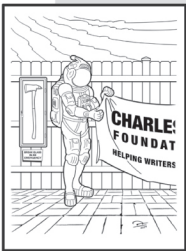
By 2022, Americans had come to understand the vital role played by first responders. To emphasize the importance of emergency personnel, WAM! takes an ambulance rocket to nurse poor Booboo who has been knocked down by a cosmic space bug.

Also in 2022, Chad illustrated *A Magical Halloween* written by Phyllis Orenyo. This playful tale of children trick-or-treating featured a youngster wearing a WAM! the Spaceman Halloween costume. Mayhem ensues and WAM! gets knocked around in the storyline. If you'd like a copy of *A Magical Halloween* – or any Charles Bruce Foundation publication – they are available wherever books are sold. Or Jeff, our favorite local bookseller, can help at WhistleStoppers.com



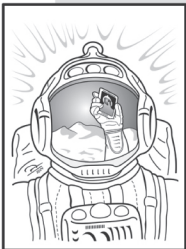
2023 – holy smokes – 10 years of the Charles Bruce Foundation!

If you're looking for a WAM! the Spaceman video game, you'll have to wait a little while longer. But, we're working on it! The image on the *Game Boy* screen was created as an homage to the style of the late, great Wallace Wood. If you or someone you know likes to create online content, we'd love to have a chat. Just take a moment and reach out to epicjourney10@gmail.com for more information.



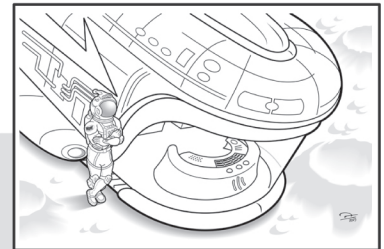
A patio fence at WAM!'s favorite deli makes a great place to hang the Charles Bruce Foundation banner.

We Want You! is a tribute to an old-timey U.S. recruiting poster featuring Uncle Sam. We used our *We Want You!* poster to recruit blanket makers and other types of volunteers for our memorial blanket project. Learn more at memorialblanket.org



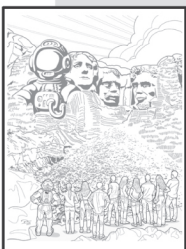
WAM! taking a selfie on the moon!

When Chad was a young boy, his dad bought him a toy spaceship. He loved that *Golden Sonic* spaceship and – starting in 2024 – it came back to life in various WAM! illustrations. The original *Golden Sonic* was created in 1957 by Tigrett Industries in Jackson, Tennessee.



Another enormous influence in Chad's life is music. This illustration pays homage to an album cover (33 rpm – for those who still use turntables and not downloads) that featured a giant stone ear! The band was *Iron Butterfly* and the illustrator, another great Chad Bruce influencer, Armando Busich.

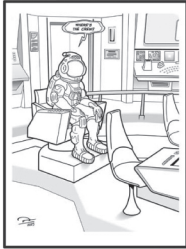
WAM! and Booboo share an instructional moment watching the distant earth as the Sonic cruises by on auto-pilot. The picture also holds a clue to their location on the moon. Can you guess the location?



There's been a fair amount of chatter lately about adding one person or another to Mount Rushmore, WAM! decides the matter once and for all! Clearly, the assembled audience approves.

Booboo and WAM! share a relaxing moment on an imaginary planet prompted by a dream about a tree farm populated by unusual organic forms inspired by a 1977 shape study that Chad started while at the University of Wisconsin.

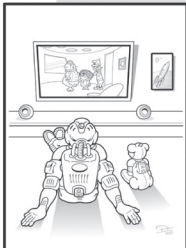




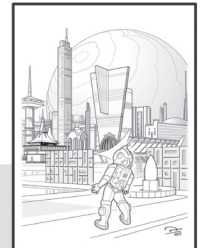
No series of drawings by Chad Bruce would be complete without a trip to the USS Enterprise – original series, of course.



While seeking the source of a planetary disturbance WAM! encounters the *Guardian of Forever* in the original Star Trek episode – *The City on the Edge of Forever*.



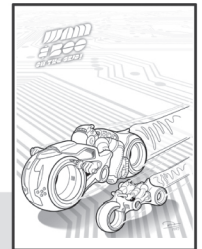
Mid 20th century science fiction held a sacred spot in cartoons. WAM! and Booboo take a break to watch one of their favorites, *The Jetsons*, just ahead of its new live action release.



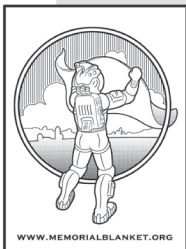
WAM! marvels at the central city on Eminiar VII from Star Trek: The Original Series episode – *In the Wink of an Eye*. This creative city-scape was also used in *A Taste of Armageddon*.



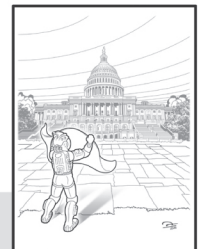
Finally, WAM! and Booboo have a chance to relax and go on vacation. They ventured to Orlando to visit with their favorite space-exploring mouse.



While at Disney World, WAM! and Booboo hopped on some *TRON* light-cycles for a thrilling ride.



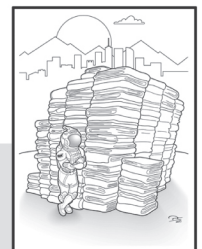
Probably some of WAM!'s most important work is as the mascot for CBF's Homeless Remembrance Blanket Project (#memorialblanket). Over the last six years, thousands of artisans have hand-crafted nearly 10,000 blankets for display. Afterwards they are gently folded then given to folks in need.



In its second year, #memorialblanket placed more than 18,000 square feet of handmade blankets on the West Lawn of the U.S. Capitol.



Year after year, the blanket display has traveled the United States. In 2024, CBF created a massive blanket display at Independence Hall in Philadelphia. Because, really, you don't need to sit down with Ben Franklin to know that without a home, no one is truly independent. And yes, this was WAM!'s first official visit with an American historical figure.



In 2025 the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless invited #memorialblanket to Denver where we placed an entire city block's worth of blankets on the road flanked by the Colorado Capital and the Denver City County building. The number of volunteer hours has risen to more than half a million!



Next stop? The Big Apple. WAM! Kong will take Manhattan! Be a part of this exciting annual event. Check out the website at memorialblanket.org or email epicjourney10@gmail.com for more information.

Who was Charles Bruce?

He and his wife adopted a small boy and they changed that young man's life.

After Chad Bruce's parents died, he became overwhelmed by feelings of gratitude.

Adopted as a baby in post-World War II Austria by Charles and Mildred Bruce, Chad started contributing to charities and music festivals in his father's name. Calling his efforts the Charles Bruce Foundation, Chad hoped to support the arts by supporting local artists. Fast forward two years. He and his new friend (current wife), Pat LaMarche were moving furniture in his apartment when an antique tabletop swiveled. Hidden above the faux bottom was an envelope containing decades-old savings bonds with face values of \$25 and \$50. A quick trip to the bank yielded several times their original value – enough to hire an attorney and file all the paperwork to transform the Charles Bruce Foundation into a bonafide 501c3.

Since then, the foundation has sponsored music festivals, murals, street musicians, art shows, individual performers and group events. Nearly all their work is financed through a publishing wing of the charity. CBF publishes children's books as well as adult fiction and non-fiction. They even publish comic books!

Chad Bruce, a graphic artist and world class harmonica player (Chad's so good that he's performed at presidential inaugurations for Presidents Clinton, W. Bush and Obama) collaborated with LaMarche – a journalist, homeless advocate and professional writer, yielding a catchphrase for the organization. WAM! helping Writers, Artists and Musicians. (Eventually WAM! took physical form - as you may have noticed in this coloring book). The foundation supports other forms of the arts as well, to include film makers, slam poets, and more.

In 2026, for the first time in our 13-years as a 501c3, CBF will be hosting a show outside the United States. Our *Art from the Front Lines* featuring the courage and creativity of Ukrainian artists, displayed by three US communities, showed in Pennsylvania, Minnesota and California. The show travels to the *Nordfriesland Museum Nissenhaus* in Husum, Germany. The show is a unique snapshot of work created in Russian occupied Vesele as well as the front line community of Losova in the Kharkiv region. Art historians have spent centuries cataloguing work created in wars dating back thousands of years. Our shows use 21st century technology to allow art fans to speak directly with modern-day wartime creators. Supply shortages, rolling blackouts and unimaginable grief impact the work done by people in times of war. We connect the peacetime public with these artisans.

Want to help?

You can make a contribution to the Charles Bruce Foundation by scanning this QR code or mail a check to the Charles Bruce Foundation
PO Box 914
Carlisle, PA 17013

