

# Pha Taem

The Wonder of Ubon Ratchathani

Story : Seksan Vichaipon

Illustration : Udomrat Dee-ang

English Translation : Pornwadee Thumjinda

The Local Knowledge Picture Book is a core activity of the One Book One City project, implemented across ten provinces by the Thailand Knowledge Park (TK Park). The initiative aims to create a platform for exchanging knowledge in order to produce children’s picture books inspired by the intellectual and cultural heritage of each locality.

The project is designed to encourage participation from representatives of all provincial network partners, guided by experts in children’s picture book production. The process covers every stage - from generating ideas, outlining stories, writing manuscripts, and illustrating, to publishing - ensuring that each book is not only a genuine source of local pride, but also meets professional quality standards. These books convey embedded local wisdom that can be shared with readers both in Thailand and around the world.

**Pha Taem The Wonder of Ubon Ratchathani**

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## The Wonder of Ubon Ratchathani

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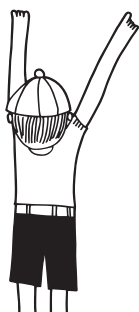
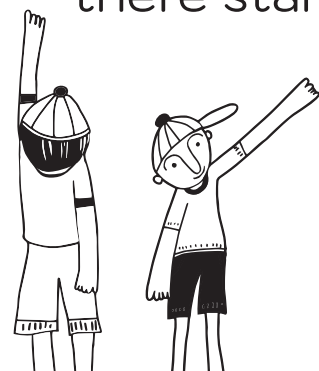
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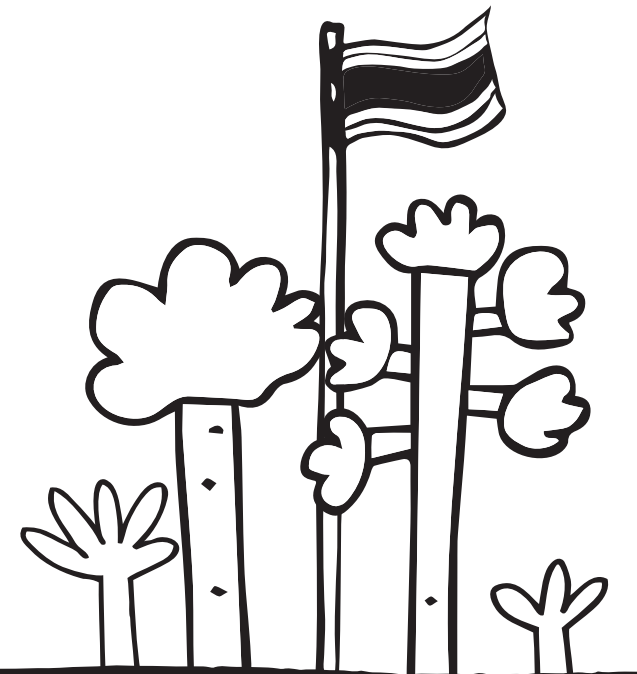
Pha Taem – the wonder of Ubon Ratchathani,  
there standing for thousands of years.

Among shapes, forms and colours,  
out of an array of paintings,  
there lie familiar creatures.  
Will you not try a game of guessing?

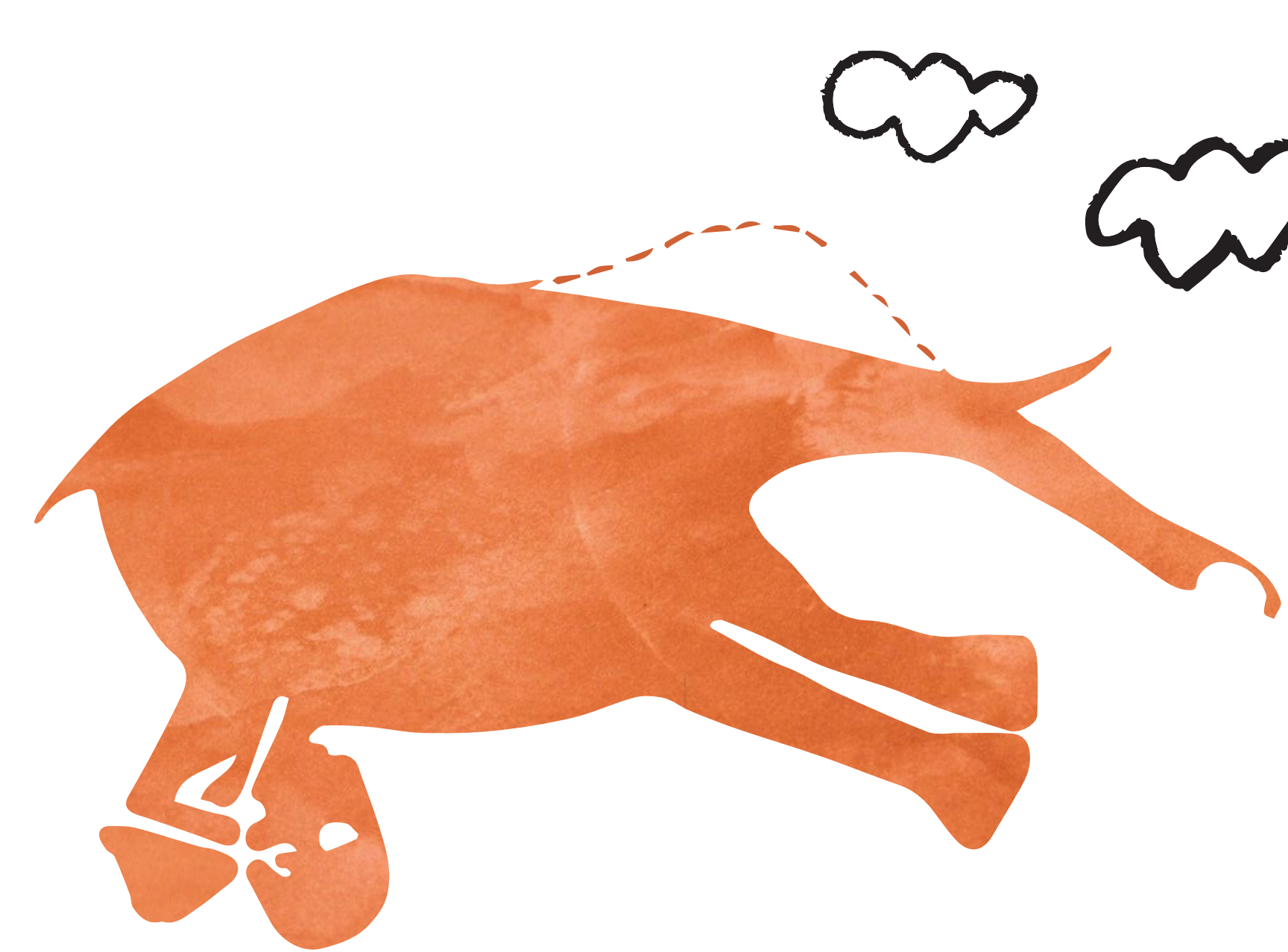




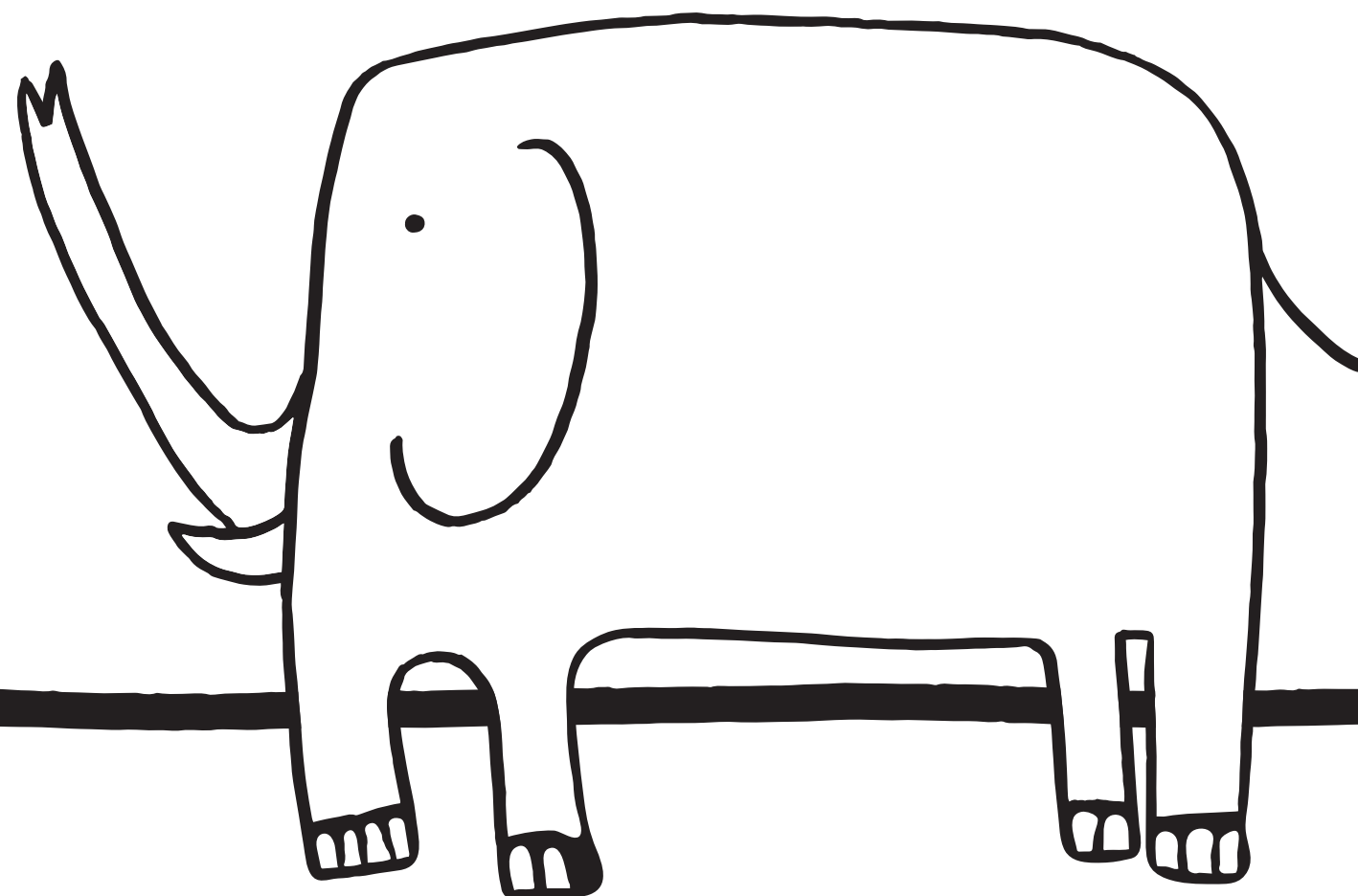
With its teeth big and long,  
that's the first you can see.  
Think fast and you can't be wrong,  
what animal could it be?

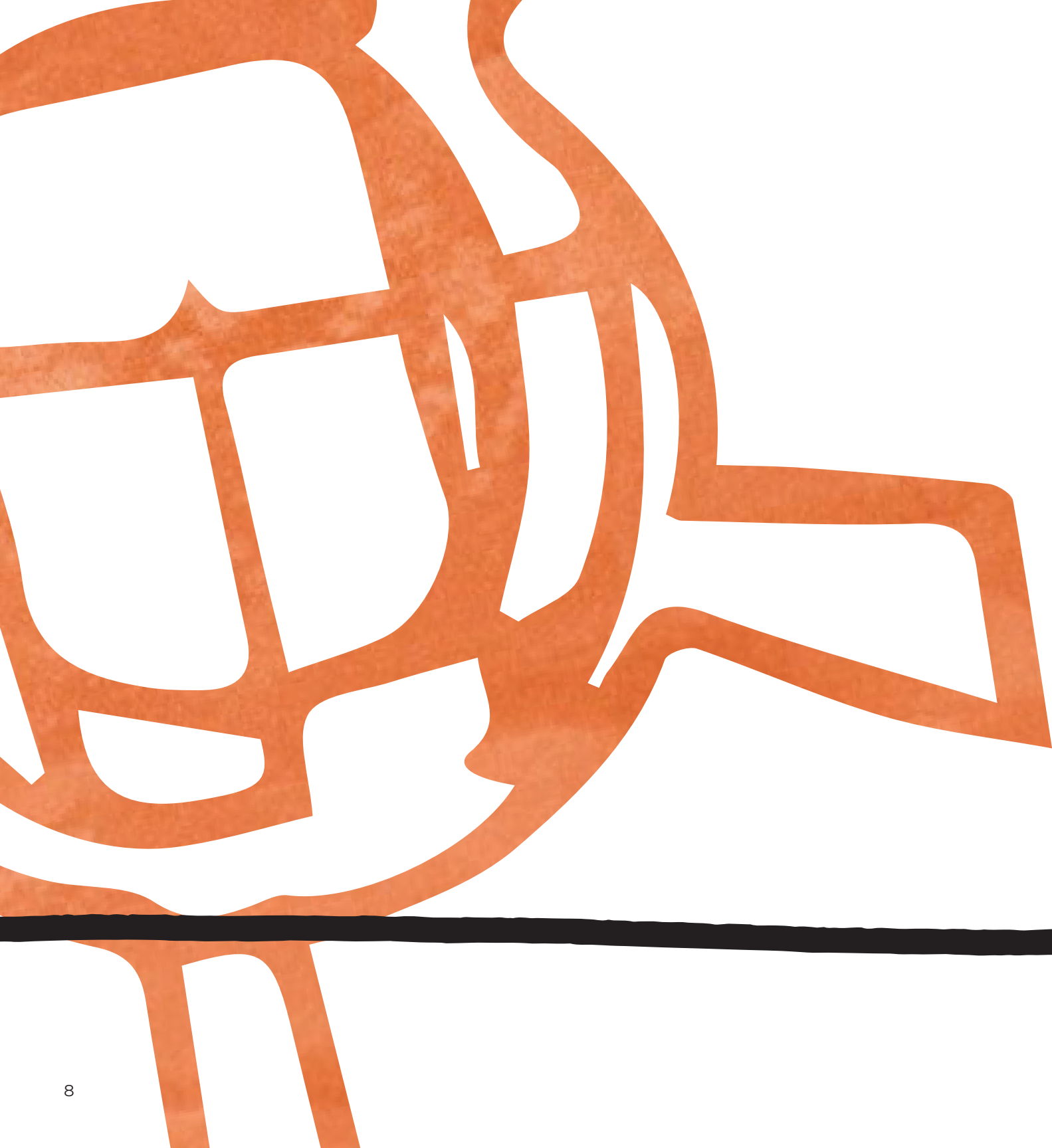






Thais' bulky best friends,  
a heap of help at work and war,  
with trunks at their fronts and tails at their ends,  
they are elephants that all adore.



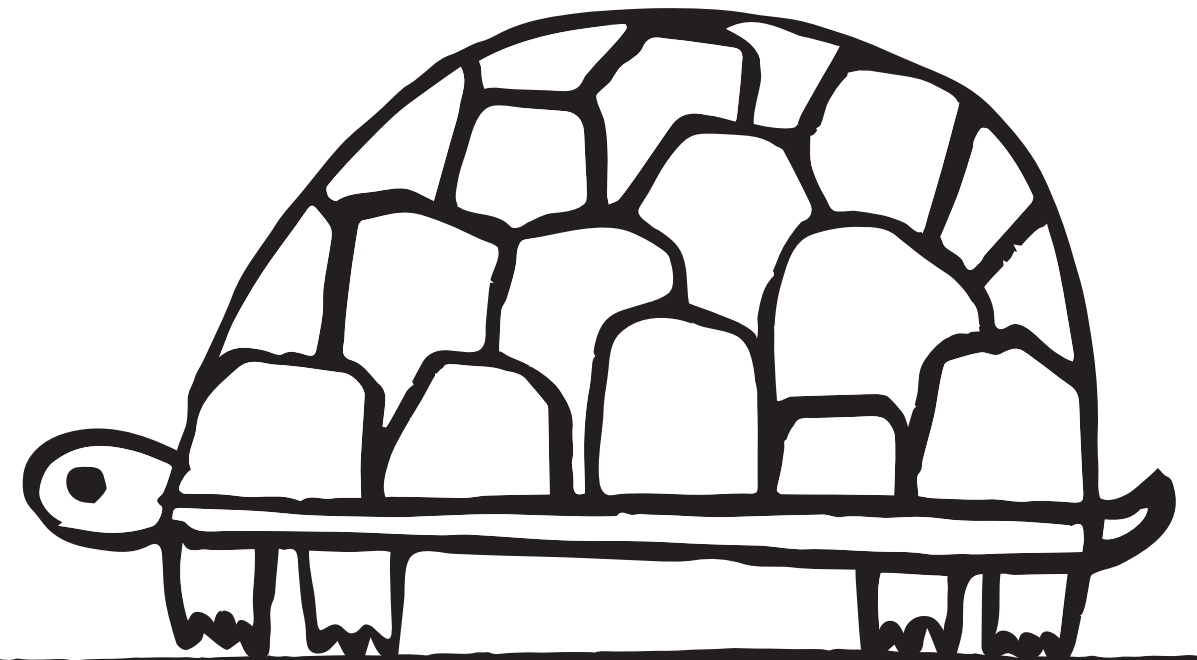


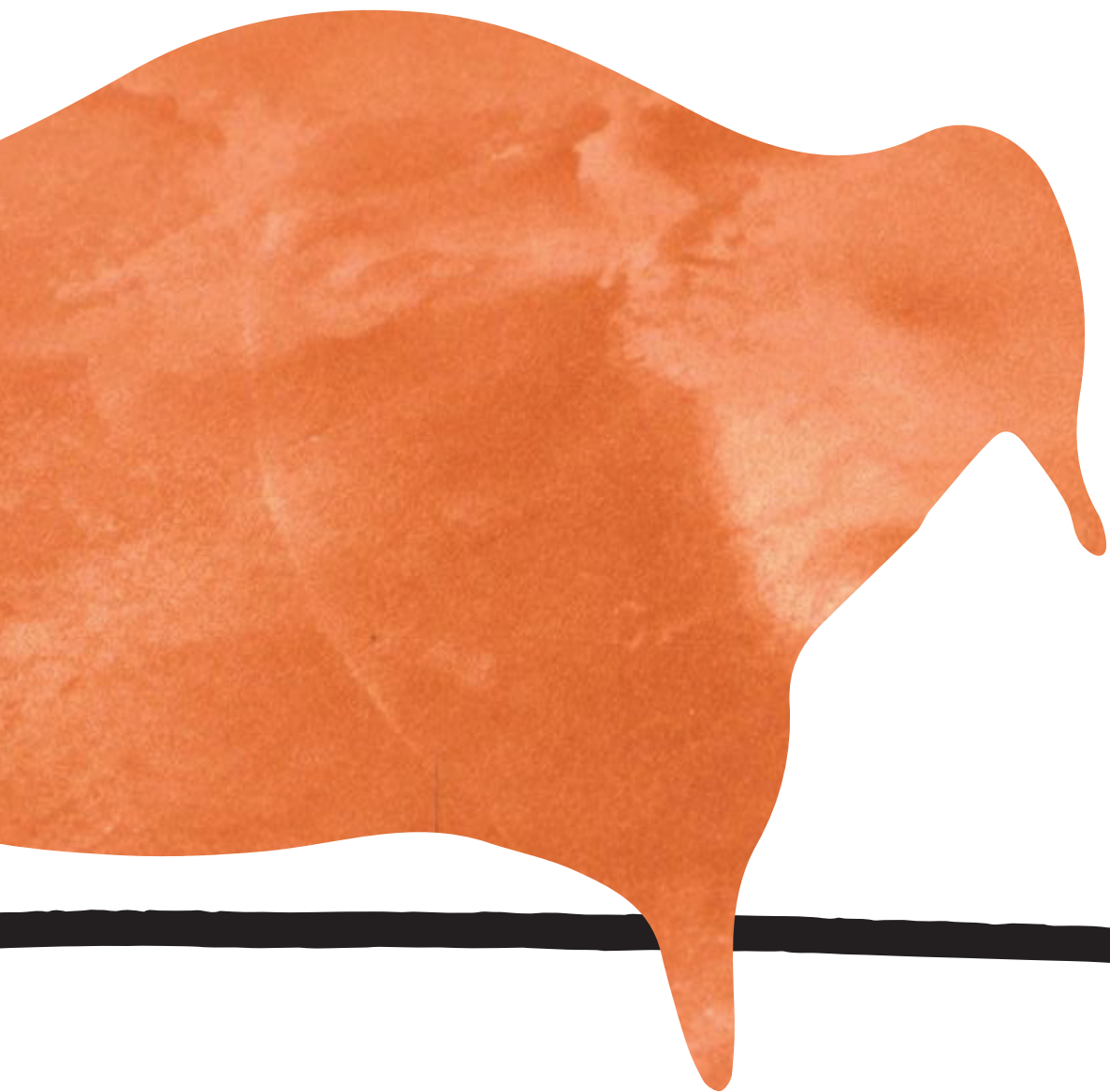
Next comes another painting,  
slowly pacing with no hurry,  
its head and legs, though, hasty in hiding,  
Can you guess what it could be?





Embraced with streams and rivers,  
and the richness of Ubon's greeneries,  
no one walks and swims like turtles,  
who enjoy yummy veggies.

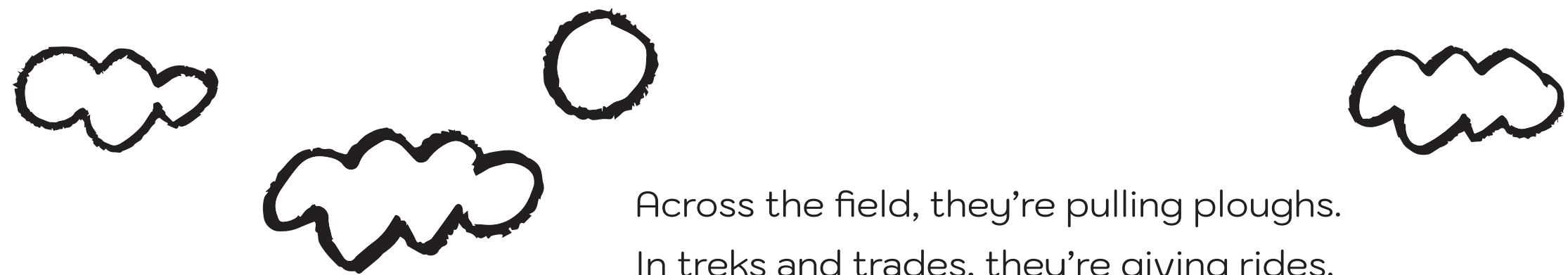
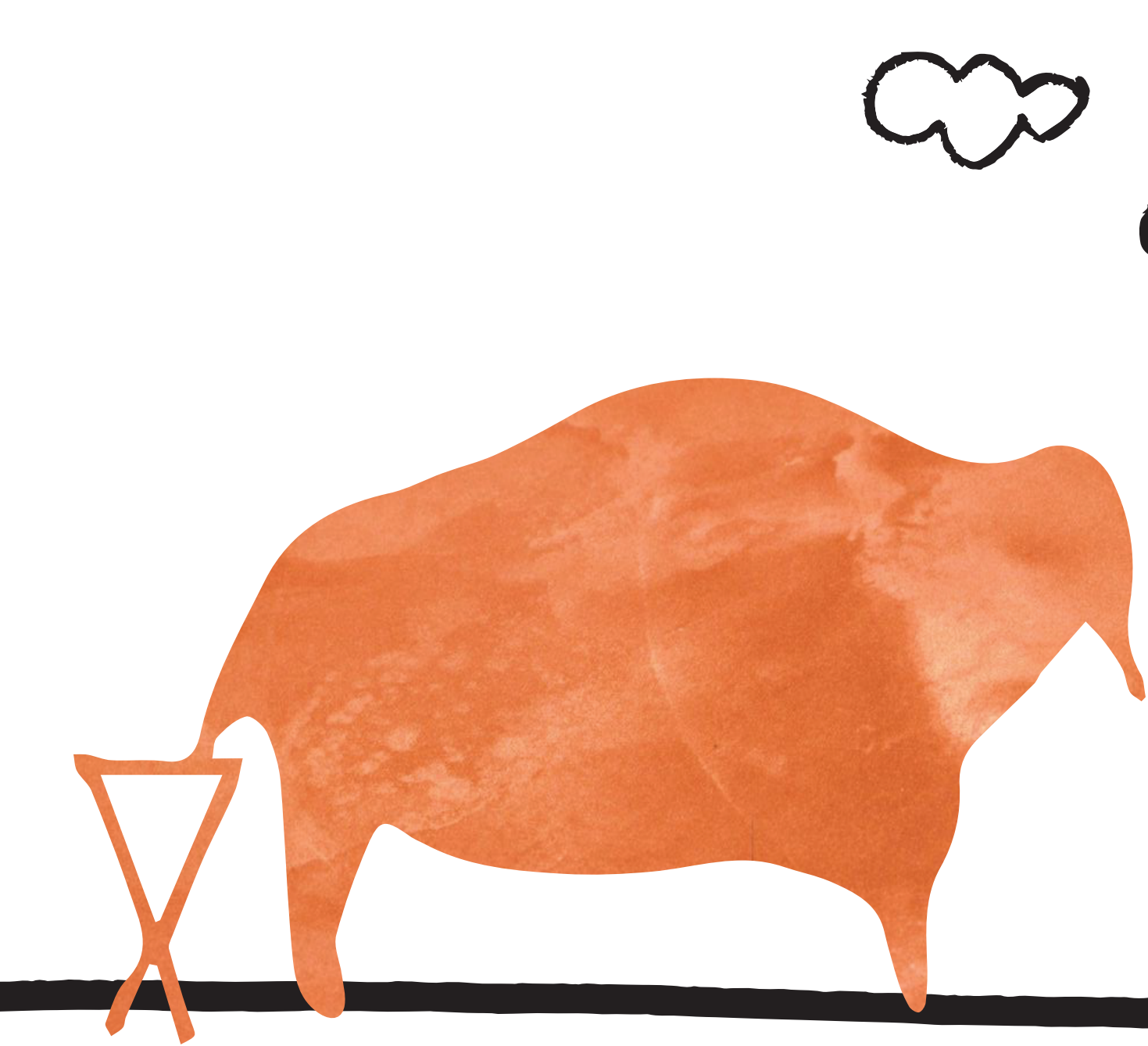




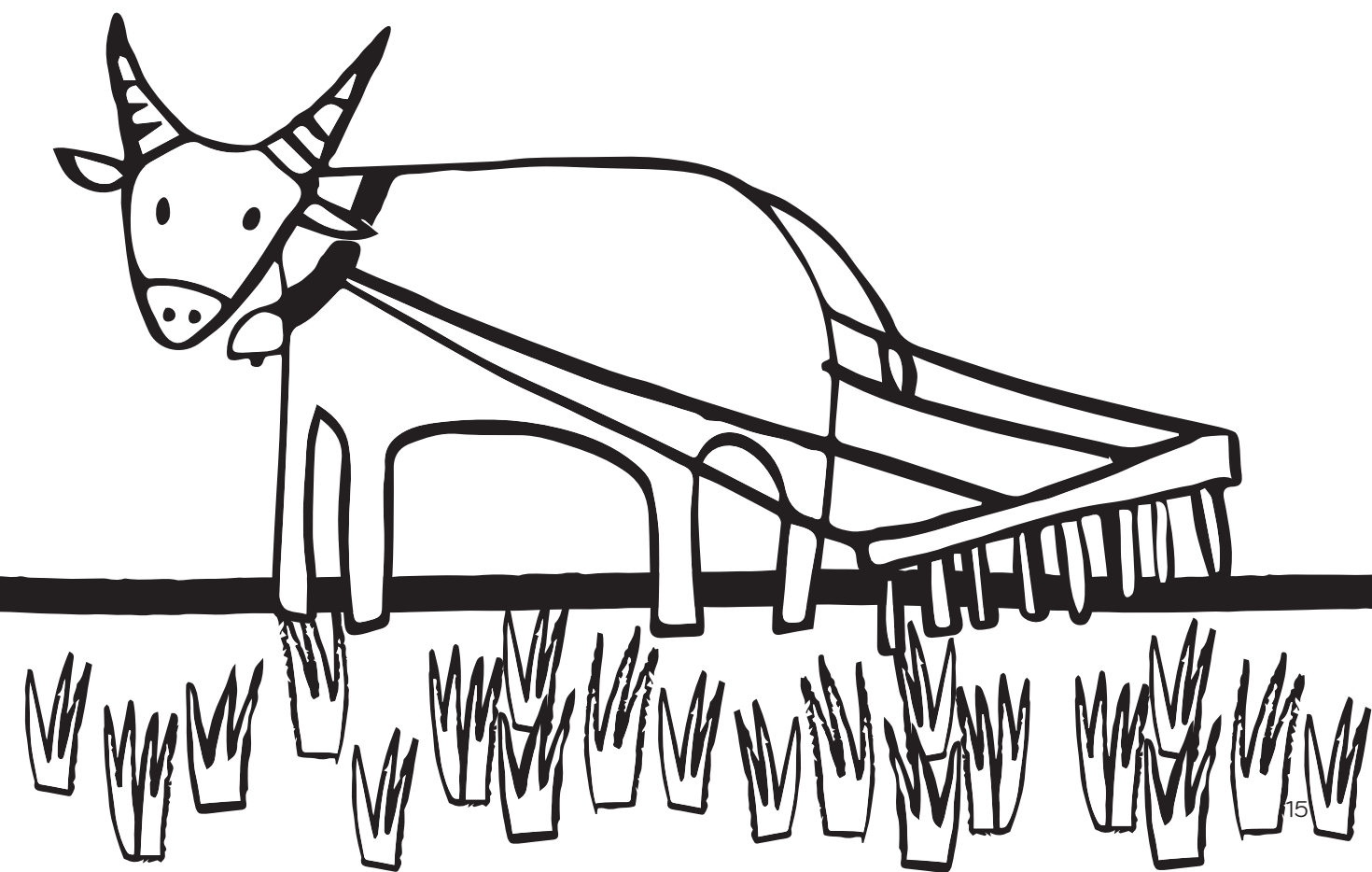
Brave and strong – they fight without fear.  
With bumps on their backs and two horns on their heads,  
Thai farmers' true friends – are what we have here,  
an easy one to guess, this painting in red.

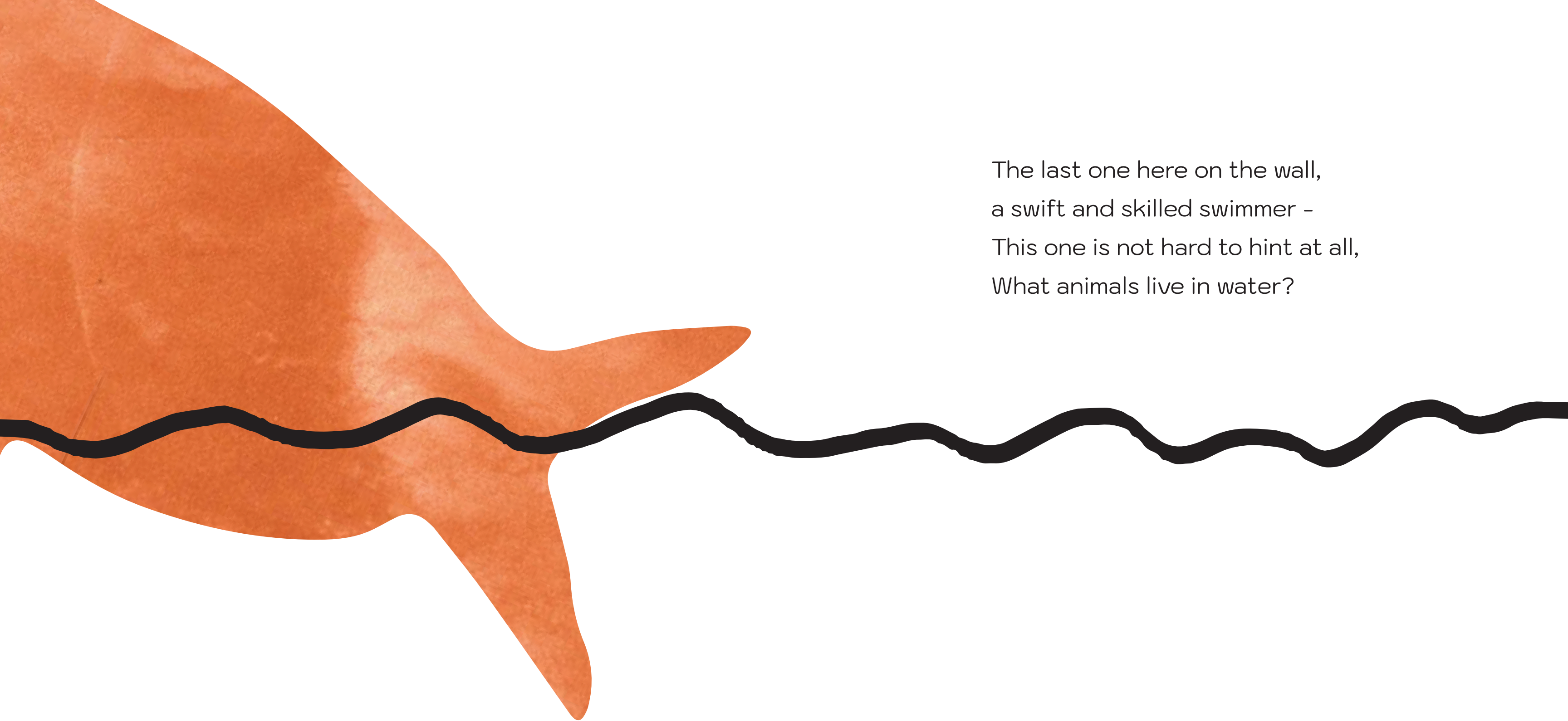






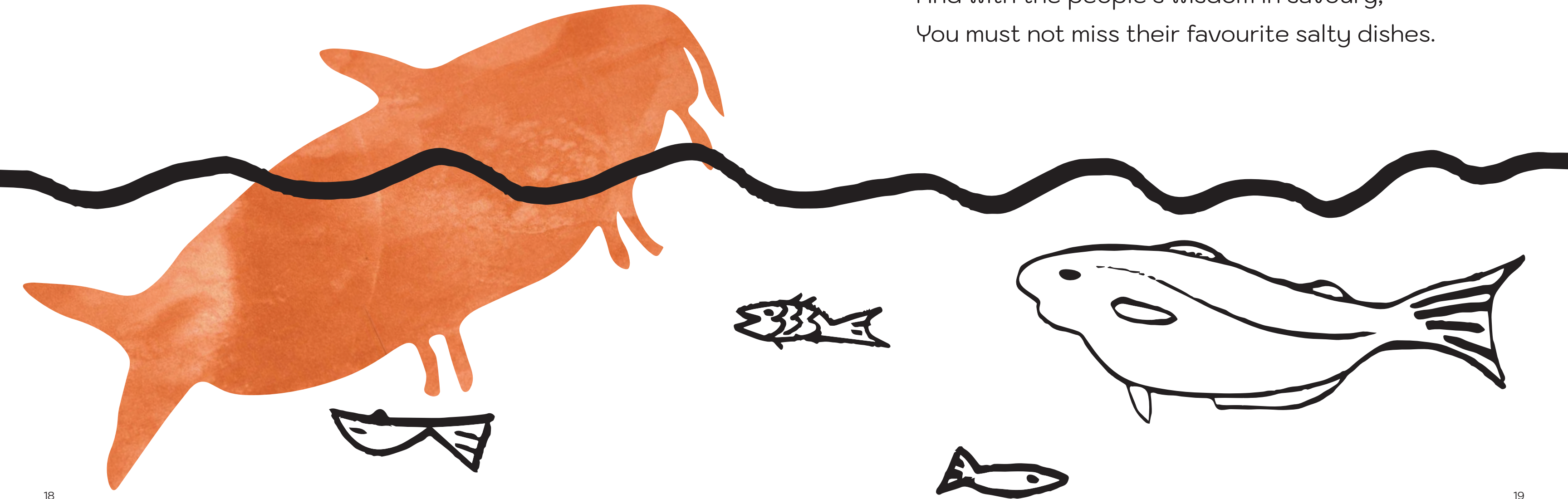
Across the field, they're pulling ploughs.  
In treks and trades, they're giving rides.  
Come, look closely and you'll see now.  
Such hard workers – these cattle hold their pride.





The last one here on the wall,  
a swift and skilled swimmer -  
This one is not hard to hint at all,  
What animals live in water?

Along the rivers of Ubon Ratchathani,  
Flapping their fins here are fishes.  
And with the people's wisdom in savoury,  
You must not miss their favourite salty dishes.







There are plenty more paintings on the mural.  
Pha Taem is now calling and waiting for you all!



**Story**  
**Seksan Vichaipon**  
Drama practitioner and facilitator

BFA in Drama, Thammasat University; MFA in Culture, Arts, and Design, Khon Kaen University. Volunteer project manager and art facilitator with the Chivasilp Art Volunteer Network, developing participatory theater for children with chronic illnesses in hospitals. Active in Ubon Ratchathani, organizing community art programs and children's activities at Sunpasitthiprasong Children's Hospital.



**Illustration**  
**Udomrat Dee-ang**

Originally from Ranong and now based in the Northeast, Kru Klong graduated in Art Education from Khon Kaen University. With experience as a lecturer, designer, children's activity organizer, craft researcher, and illustrator, now runs The First Sunshine Learning Center, a kindergarten and primary home-school program that embraces play and creativity, along with ArtTeach — an art studio for children.



**English Translator**  
**Pornwadee Thumjinda**

Pornwadee earned a Bachelor of Arts from the Faculty of Arts, Chulalongkorn University and a Master of Arts in Marketing and Advertising from University of Leeds.

A guest lecturer at universities, a market researcher and the founder of Preptitude Tuition Center, Pornwadee enjoys lifelong learning and trusts in endless boundaries of human potential.

Also a mother to a son, she believes in the power of letting children explore the world through plays and storybooks.





