

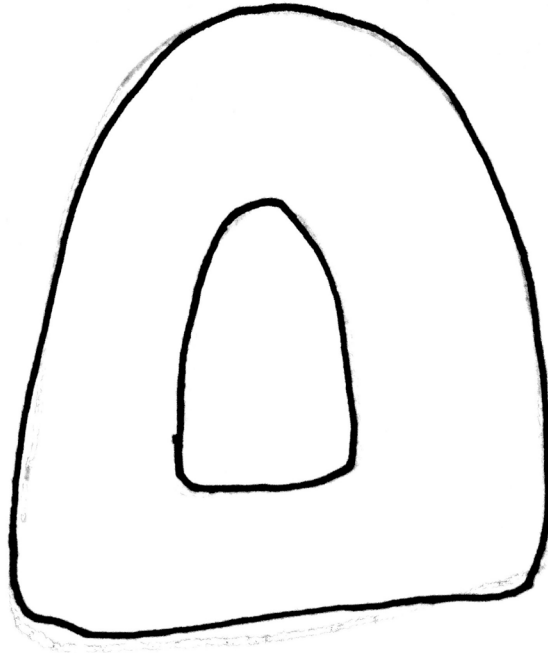
the infinite

Glossary of Terms and Symbols

julia haft-candell

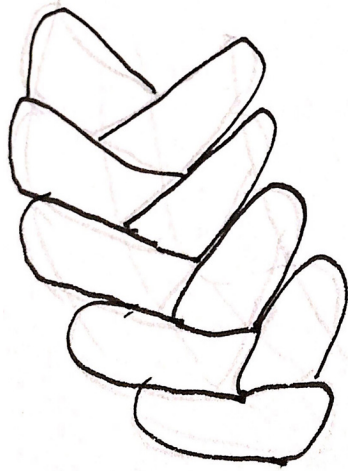
I talk about the gods; I am an atheist. But I am an artist too, and therefore a liar. Distrust everything I say. I am telling the truth. The only truth I can understand or express is, logically defined, a lie. Psychologically defined, a symbol. Aesthetically defined, a metaphor.

-Ursula K. Le Guin



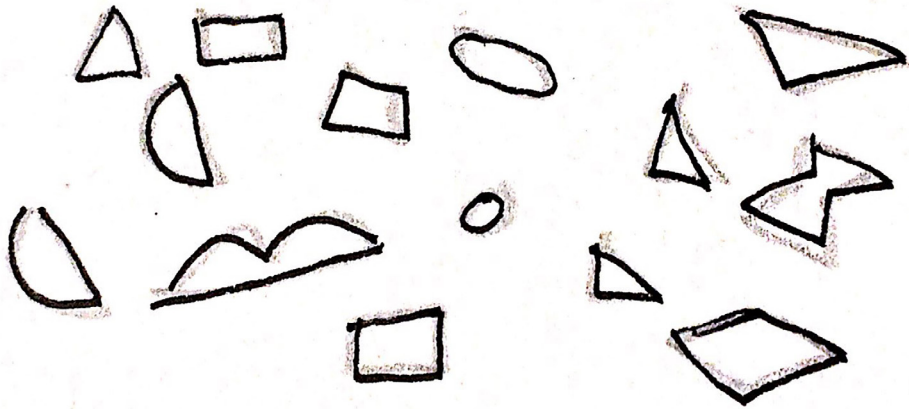
THE ARCH

The Torus with a flat bottom, rounded on top. Also refers to a half moon shape; the moon caught somewhere between waxing and waning. Resembles ancient rock and architectural formations, doors and portals.



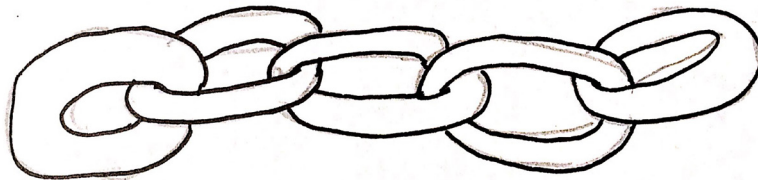
THE BRAID

The folding of the Dash or Line in a repetitive pattern. A Braid functions as a way of holding hair back, as well as decoration or ornamentation. There is rhythm in the action of braiding, and ritualistic associations that range from childhood bonding to eating Challah bread. Although it expresses movements of the Dash form, it is associated with femininity.



THE BURST

A mayhem or scatter of shapes that came from a burst of excitement. I often can't find appropriate words to express excitement, or the feeling of being overwhelmed, frazzled and excited simultaneously. This combination of feelings is best described with the burst. The shapes are represented as a variety of geometric forms spread over space, and are variations on the Dash.



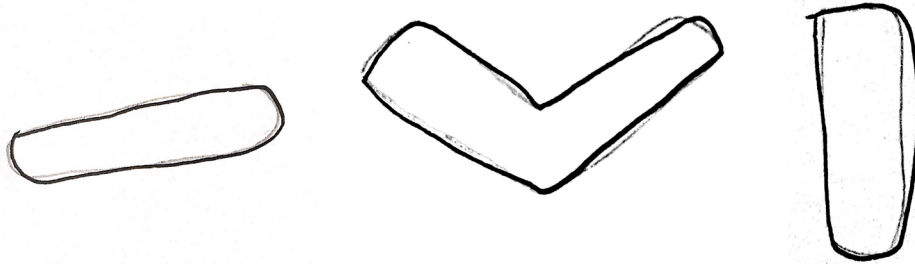
THE CHAIN

Similar to the Infinity in its expression of masculine and feminine (or Dash and Torus) in one form, and is a symbol of restraint, separation, pulling or hoisting, as well as decoration, ornamentation. It can also represent connection, joining and holding; actions that should be present when providing a space that invites intersecting viewpoints, such as the Infinite. The Chain symbolizes that rather than following a hierarchy of ideas, it is important to link, morph, change, empathize and be flexible in order to move forward and create progress.



THE COMB

A form referring to tools with specific function of styling, teasing, volumizing and detangling hair, as well as being a decorative or ornamental object. There is ritual, rhythm and repetition in the action of using combs. Often a form of mother-daughter interaction, or feminine bonding. Associated with femininity, yet is a variation on the Dash.

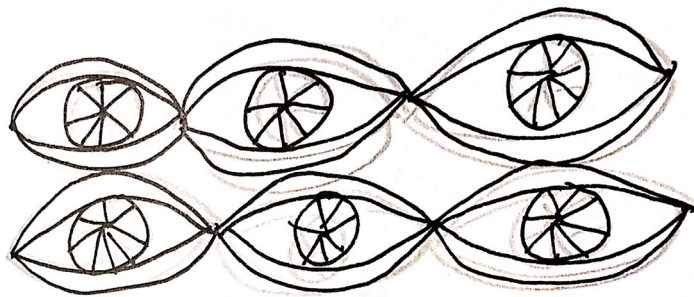


THE DASH

Along with the Torus, one of the two main shapes that make up all forms in the Infinite. It can be seen as a brushstroke in the context of painting, a line in drawing and geometry.

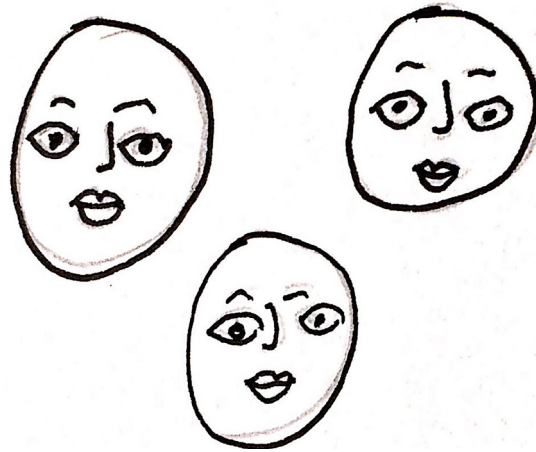
As it bends and stretches it can become many different shapes, including the Torus if it bends in a complete circle.

It is associated with the male, and in anatomy it refers to the form of the phallus as well as fingers, bones, arms, legs, arteries and veins. In the linear world the Dash might be seen as oppositional to the Torus, but in the Infinite the two are dependent on each other. Two of the Infinite's key forms such as the Infinity and the Chain are hermaphroditic combinations of the Dash and the Torus.



THE EYE

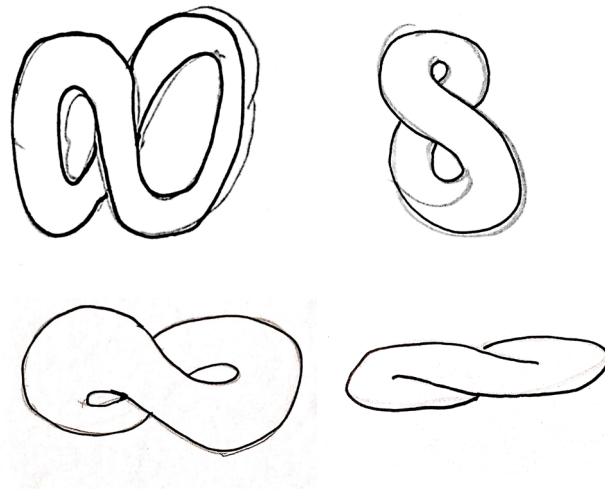
A representation of humans; as a stylized image repeated it becomes a pattern. A reminder to look, observe and pay attention. The eyelid shape is made by the Dash, and the lids create spaces of corneas, irises and pupils, all openings, associated with the Torus.



THE FACE

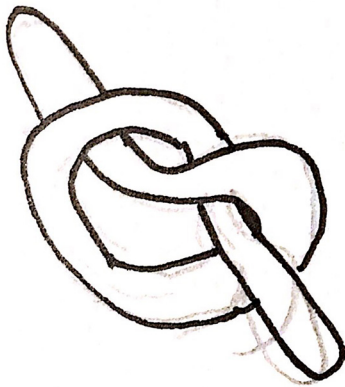
Another representation of humans, based on a woman's face but is androgynous with no hair and an expression that is worried, happy or surprised; It all depends on placement of eyebrows and mouth, and is a reminder that feelings change and evolve, nothing is permanent. The face, eyes and mouths on the face are Toruses, but the eyebrows and noses are Dashes. When placed repetitively together on a surface the faces represent community and strength in numbers.

In addition, the face represents the value of empathy. By paying attention to people's expressions, we can try to perceive how they feel, we can empathize, which in turn can encourage collaboration.



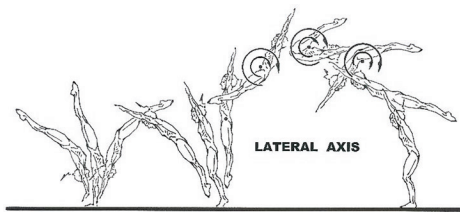
THE INFINITY

A symbol of masculine and feminine, embodying the movement of the Dash or phallus, a forward, thrusting action, which then turns into a Loop, or a Torus, an opening, a space, the female. Thus, these shapes symbolize the simultaneous existence of all genders. A shape can turn more masculine or more feminine depending on the circumstance. As in the concept of hermaphroditic organisms, each shape can 'act' as male or female as a way to enhance survival. Depending on perspective, bending or warping, the infinity can resemble the Torus or the Dash. It is important that the shape can mutate as necessary, from masculine to feminine, to in-between. Its definition is not fixed, but constantly changing and multiple, embodied in one concept.

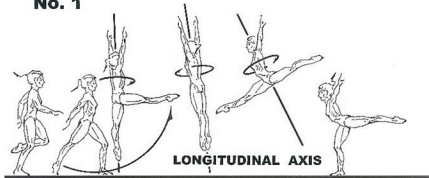


THE KNOT

The Dash turning in on itself, creating an opening or a torus. Possesses similar hermaphroditic attributes as the chain and the Infinity. Knots serve many functions in many different occupations or activities associated with all genders, from sewing to truck driving. Female associated activities such as sewing, quilting, knitting, crocheting, embroidery, weaving and needlepoint all rely on a variety of knots. In addition, Knots are used by truckers, boy scouts, rock climbers, sailors and surgeons, all traditionally masculine associated trades.



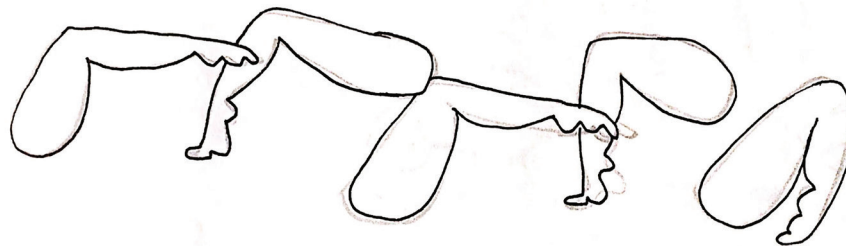
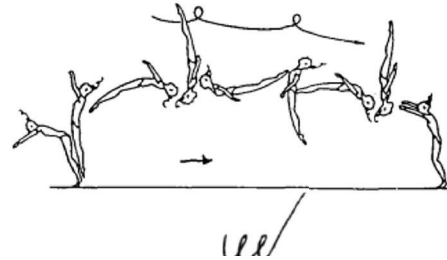
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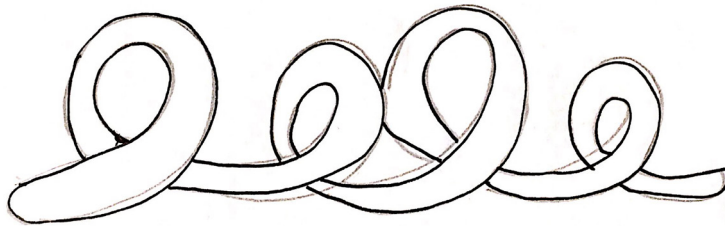
Double salto bwd stretched



THE LEGS

A representation of humans. It is a variation of the Dash: a stylized, purposely exaggerated and humorous depiction of the female leg in dancers' poses. Based on instructional gymnastics diagrams of the perfectly pointed toe, and the ideal form for compulsory routines and tricks. Dance and acrobatic routines require the rhythm, ritual and repetition that is associated with accessing the Infinite. Gymnastics as a sport is a paradox of gender roles and expectations, encouraging a traditionally feminine appearance and behavior from its athletes, yet requiring the strength more frequently associated with masculine.

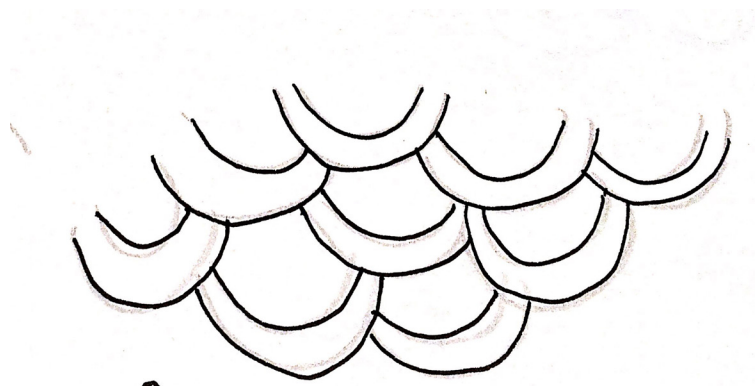
In the Infinite the legs are most often depicted with a bent knee to symbolize action movements like kicking or lunging. It is simultaneously a celebration of the hyper feminine stylized form in action and a critique of its depiction.



THE LOOP

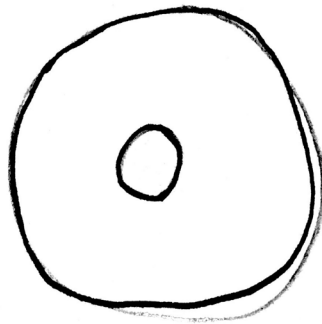
A repetitive movement, very similar to the lowercase letter “e” in cursive, often found in scribbles, doodles, a sign of casualness or frivolity, but when etched in or sculpted with clay creates a permanent homage to the quick gesture.

The Loop expresses the same hermaphroditic movement as the Chain and the Infinity. This symbol is a letter with sound and meaning, part of the english alphabet in certain contexts, but in different contexts it is a decorative shape, an example of function defined by context.



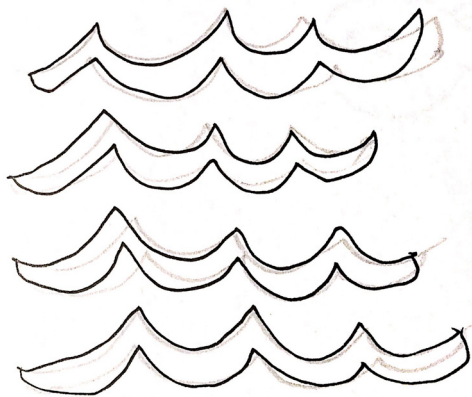
THE SCALES

Repeated scalloped forms that overlap, referencing fish or snake scales, feathers on a bird or sound and water waves. Fish and snakes tend to resemble the Dash form, yet sound and water waves have a likeness to the Torus, thus placing the scales in the in-between of the Infinite. They are fragments of chains and infinities: phallic dash forms creating openings, or Torus-like openings creating phallic forms on their borders.



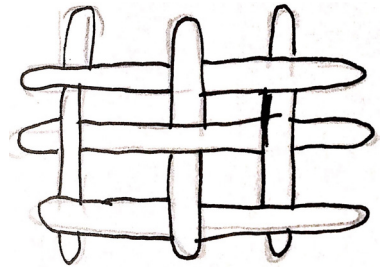
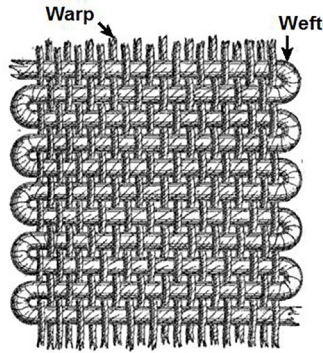
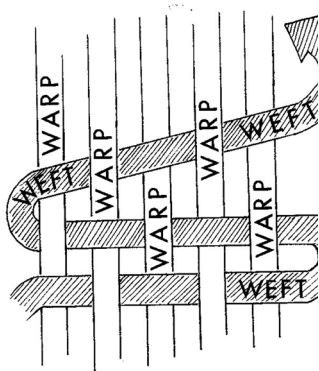
THE TORUS

The ring or donut shape, associated with female. Along with the Dash, one of the two main shapes that make up all forms in the Infinite. While perhaps seen as oppositional to the Dash in the linear world, in the Infinite the two must coexist. The Torus is the dash once it completes a circle. The Torus cut apart becomes the Dash. A Dash intersecting the torus and reconnecting with itself is a Chain. When reading and editing, we circle and underline important sections, another manifestation of the Dash and Torus. In anatomy, the Torus refers to all orifices, organs like the stomach and heart, and the interiors of all limbs, veins and arteries. It is also the interior or cross-section of the Dash.



THE WATER

A representation of and homage to one portal to the Infinite, and a variation on the dash. While the representation of water is made from the dash, its association metaphorically tends to be with emotion, and thus traditionally feminine. Water in mythology and astrology symbolizes feeling, emotion, intuition and sensitivity, aspects that are associated with the feminine and often considered illogical and not important in the linear world, yet are essential to the Infinite.



THE WEAVE

A visual representation of the basis of everything in the Infinite, the Warp and the Weft, the Dash and the Torus. A careful and specific pattern that embodies dichotomies: taking turns, over and under, top and bottom, up and down. In weaving, both the warp and the weft are necessary to create fabric, which then serves utilitarian and decorative functions. The action of weaving also embodies the rhythm, repetition and ritual associated with accessing the Infinite. It is an activity generally associated with femininity, but it is the Dash that makes up most of the structure, creating grids that form fabric, with the space in between fibers representing the Torus.



THE WEIGHT

It is not careful, it is not sculpted. It does not thrust, it lands and flops. It is an action, a clump, a slam, a chunk. It is the counterpart to the Infinity, and thus these two opposing forces rely on each other for information and context. The residual bits of clay unused in the Infinities create the Weights. The name refers to their physicality (they are heavy), the rhythmic, repetitive, often ritualistic action of lifting weights, and the earthly gravitational pull creating 'weight.' A variation on the Dash, yet some Weights widen and become Torus.

Julia Haft-Candell: the infinite
July 8 - September 2, 2017
Parrasch Heijnen Gallery
Los Angeles, California

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