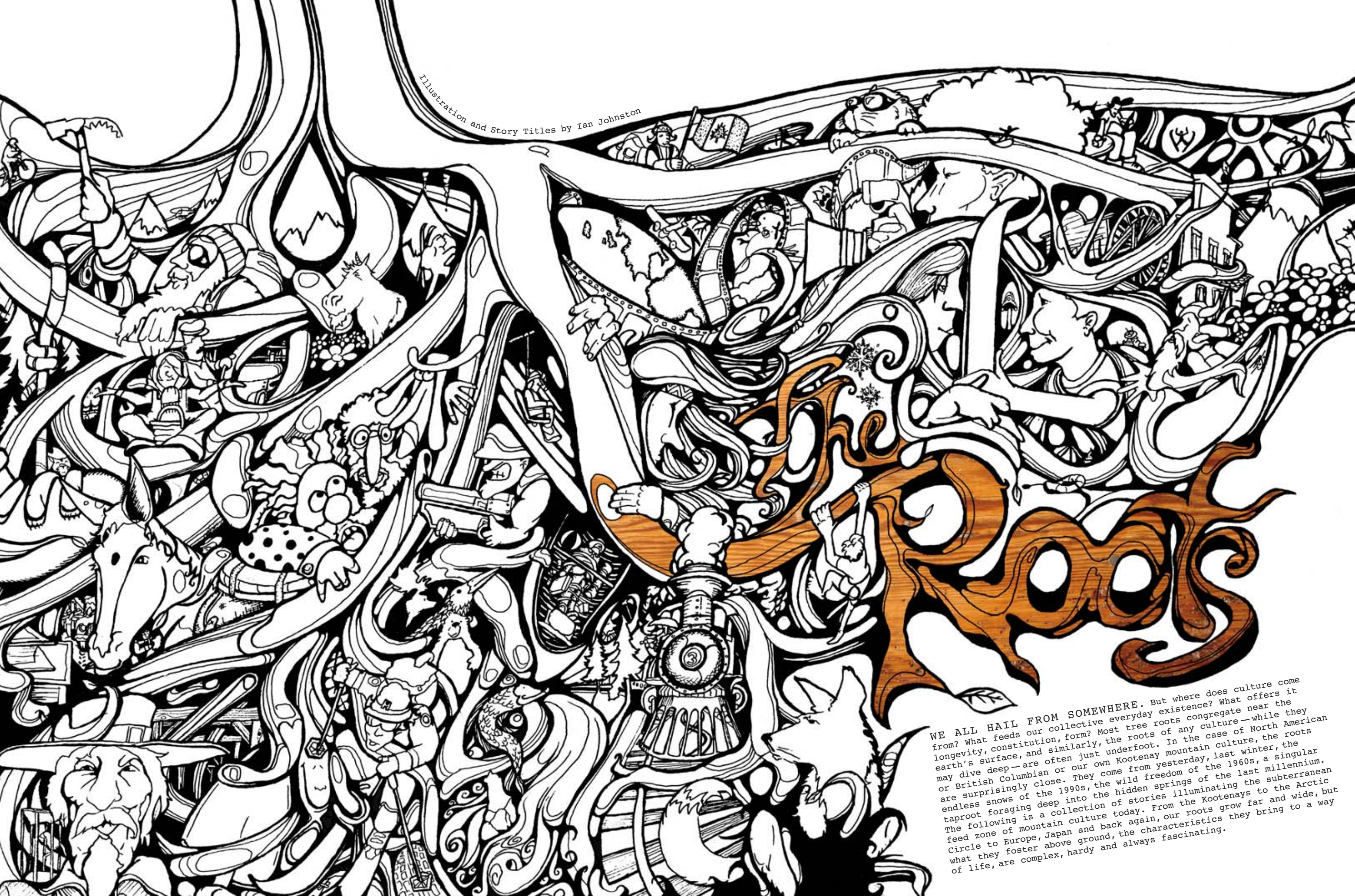


Illustration and Story Titles by Ian Johnston



WE ALL HAIL FROM SOMEWHERE. But where does culture come from? What feeds our collective everyday existence? What offers it longevity, constitution, form? Most tree roots congregate near the earth's surface, and similarly, the roots of any culture—while they may dive deep—are often just underfoot. In the case of North American or British Columbian or our own Kootenay mountain culture, the roots are surprisingly close. They come from yesterday, last winter, the endless snows of the 1990s, the wild freedom of the 1960s, a singular taproot foraging deep into the hidden springs of the last millennium. The following is a collection of stories illuminating the subterranean feed zone of mountain culture today. From the Kootenays to the Arctic Circle to Europe, Japan and back again, our roots grow far and wide, but what they foster above ground, the characteristics they bring to a way of life, are complex, hardy and always fascinating.