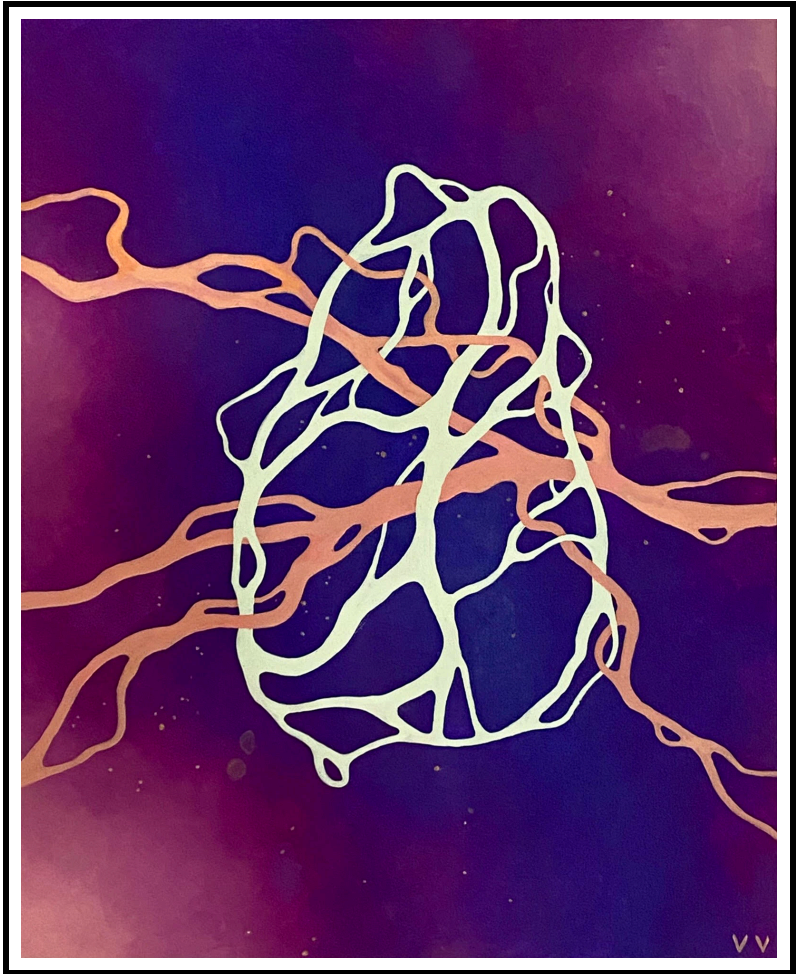


Var Vasilchenko

Lichen

A lichen is a complex life form that can be found growing on trees and rocks all over the world. At first glance it looks like a plant, possibly some kind of moss, but a deeper look reveals that it is actually composed of two separate organisms working in symbiosis. A lichen is usually a fungal network and a species of algae operating together on a cellular level. One body that contains two very different sets of DNA from two different kingdoms of life. Lichens challenge our existing understanding of biology and demonstrate that an accurate taxonomy cannot exist.

People who uphold conservative values will often argue that biology should dictate how humans live their lives, but biology is rarely as simple as it appears. Like lichens, human life cannot be neatly categorized. Some will attempt to stratify it into male and female, man and woman, masculine and feminine. However, there will always be people who have a much more complex network of sex and gender.



Var Vasilchenko
Lichen