

JULY 2024

A STAIRCASE IN OSKEMEN

an exploration of that space
between home and "out there"

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inspired by the LKHO podcast episode
“The Beautiful Simplicity of Nearby
Nature” with Alastair Humphreys, by my
geography professor Serin Houston, and
by the GEOZONe collection

almost immediately
after I completed
my bachelor's
degree, I moved
across the world to
a city I had never
been to, a city
where I knew no one



I was preoccupied
with a question I'd
never had to face
before



Where is my home now?



I found some solace in maintaining a routine I'd had for the past 4 years: morning runs. I choose to take the stairs on my way down for extra warm-up.



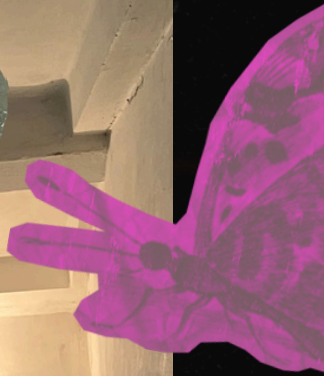
GREETED BY THIS VIEW



Hello, sun in
my face!

(thinking of
Mary Oliver)

MUNDANE
EVIDENCE OF
(NON)MUNDANE
LIVES

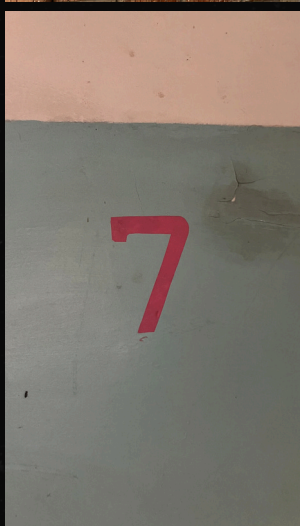


american cigarettes with
kazakh and russian labeling



danish beer, redbull, some
sort of vitamin drink





the big 9 tells me I
can stop climbing on
my way back up

I wonder, what lies beyond my floor?





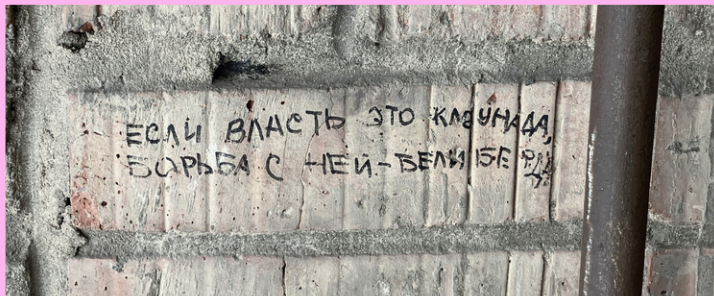
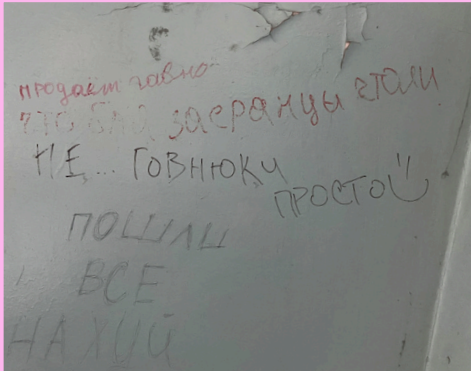
nature finds its way into even the most tucked-away corners of this world



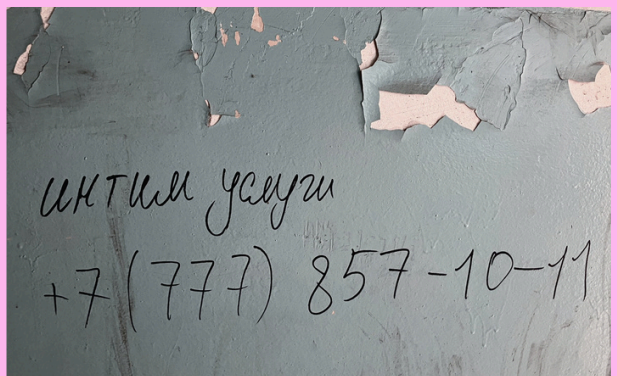
so many different types of bricks in the wall!



would a staircase
be complete without
curse words,
pessimism about
politics, and
offers for sex?



humans live here,
after all



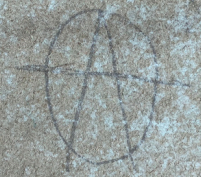
humans live here,
after all!



May 3, 2001- a birthday? a relationship anniversary? only Шайба knows

Шайба
Шайба
03.05.01
не

anarchism
symbol



Super Star

my first thought when I saw "bad balance" was, same, bro

Bad Balance
Шeff

Eminem.
Universally cool.

it wasn't until I looked up who Шeff is that I realized it is a reference to a late-Soviet rap group. Шeff, the group's founder, is considered the OG creator of Russian hip-hop culture (according to wikipedia)

Eminem

I've met people who have lived here for their whole lives, like their parents and grandparents before them. They - both ethnic and non-ethnic Kazakhs - have seen the country's demographics transition from Kazakhs being a minority in their titular Soviet republic to being a majority in their country 30 years later.

I've met people who came from Russia 2 years ago and have been living here in a state of dislocation ever since.

I've met those who are pained by the still-present labeling of Kazakh as a "useless" language, and those who feel excluded from certain jobs because they are not ethnically Kazakh.

And after all of these conversations, I think this quote from *The Boy, the Mole, the Fox, and the Horse* by Charlie Mackasey sums it up quite nicely.

I LOVE

"I think everyone is just trying to get home"

