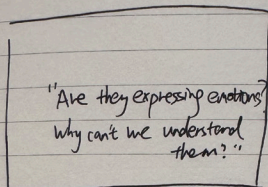


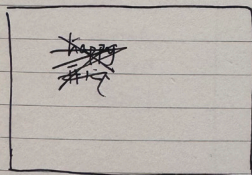
Draft storyboard 1

1.



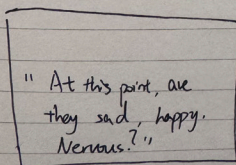
日常生活对比

2.



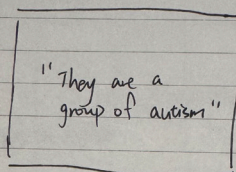
ref.
documentary
Autistic
children manifestations

3.

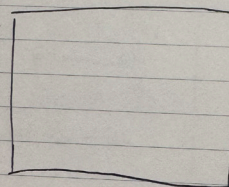


重复

4.

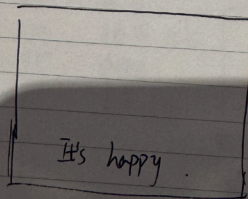


5.



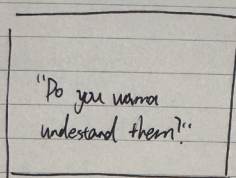
Artistic
misfit
picture.

6.

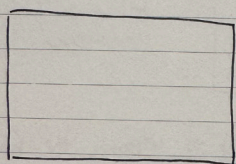


重复

7.

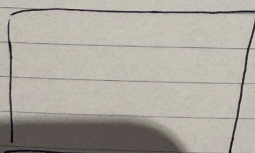


8.



facial expression.
flash card.

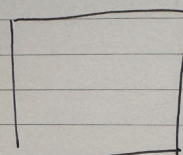
9.



"If a child doesn't smile, does that mean they're not happy?"

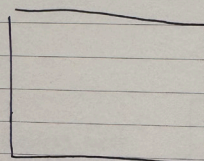
perhaps the answer lies in a turning shoulder, a gentle sway, or an unintentional gesture.

10.



physical expression.
video.

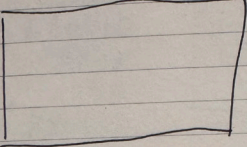
11.

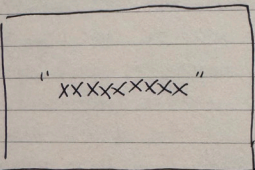


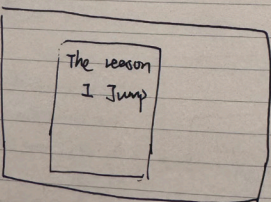
Are we willing to
relearn how to
understand?

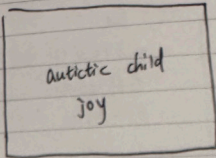
Are we truly willing to relearn the way we understand others?

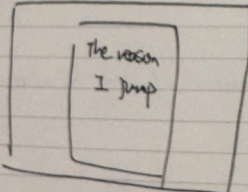
Draft storyboard2

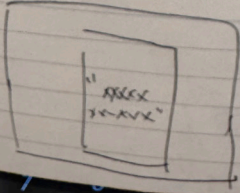
1.  3-54
自闭症表现

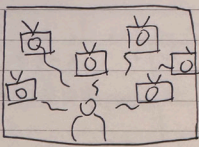
2.  Q: Are they expressing emotion?
why?
Do you understand them?

3.  Ref.
内容: Now imagine that after you lose your ability to communicate.

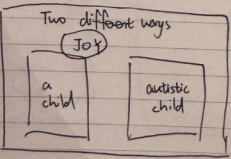
6.  "If a child doesn't smile, does that mean they're not happy? perhaps the answer lies in a turning shoulder, a gentle sway, or an unintentional gesture!"

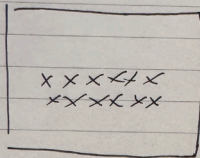
7.  From this book
Instead of asking what their movements mean, I started 去了解他们的理解的方式.
from their own words.
Translate their emotional world into visual form.

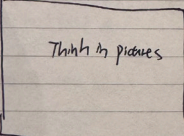
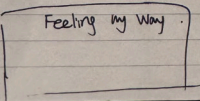
8.  我想将这一段感受用 visual form 呈现.

4.  Sound:
模糊的英语
音乐片段
笑声
日常环境音
心跳

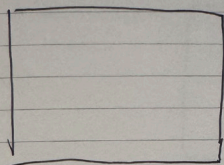
"他们不是通常缺乏与正常人一样的表达方式。They're often just lacking the same ways of expressing it that neurotypical people expect. They may not use words or conventional facial expressions, but that doesn't mean nothing is being said. From their perspective, the world is different."

5.  "If a child doesn't we've just learned to read one kind of joy. But joy is there - in both."

9.  But
我不单纯通过画面去用 standard 方式表现这些情绪,而是
"I wasn't trying to explain why they jump or flap their hands. I wanted to show what it might feel like. Not language, but sensation. Not logic, but flight"
Became the foundation of my line of inquiry.

10.  用视觉思考是自闭症理解世界的方式
 用视觉来理解他们的世界

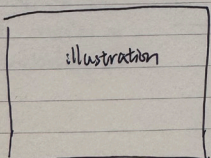
11.



stefy Loret de Mola

childlike style (open and honest)
原因

12.

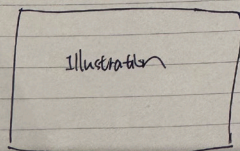


不同的动作
和背景细节.

原因
express 什么情绪.

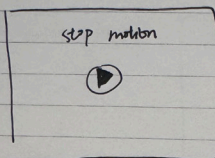
Johanna Drucker: "Visual forms don't just
represent - they produce emotional experience."

13.

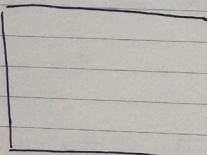


"This isn't just about
drawing what he does.
It's about showing how
it feels when he does it."

14



15.

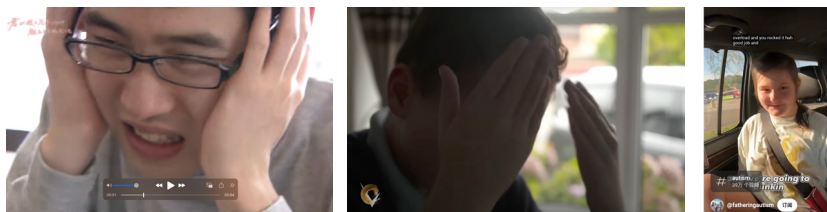


"Are we willing to see
emotion differently?"

"Are we truly willing
to relearn the way
we understand others?"

FRAME 1

(Three autistic manifestations, major action body movements and expression changes)



FRAME 2

Are they expressing emotions?

Why are they doing this?

Do you understand them?

FRAME 3

Now imagine that after you lose your ability to communicate, the editor-in-residence who orders your thoughts walks out without notice... Your mind is now a room where twenty radios, all tuned to different stations, are blaring out voices and music. This is a description from a boy with autism.

(reference)

INTRODUCTION

The thirteen-year-old author of this book invites you, his reader, to imagine a daily life in which your faculty of speech is taken away. Explaining that you're hungry, or tired, or in pain, is now as beyond your powers as a child with a friend. I'd like to push the thought-experiment a little further. Now imagine that after you lose your ability to communicate, the editor-in-residence who orders your thoughts walks out without notice. The changes are that you never knew this mind-editor existed but, now that he or she has gone, you realize too late how they allowed your mind to function for all these years. A dam-burst of ideas, memories, impulses and thoughts is cascading over you, unstopably. Your editor controlled this flow, diverting the vast majority away, and recommending just a tiny number for your conscious consideration, but now you're on your own.

Now your mind is a room where twenty radios, all tuned to different stations, are blaring out voices and music. The radios have no off-switches or volume controls, the room you're in has no door or window, and relief will come only when you're too exhausted to stay awake. To make matters worse, another hitherto unrecognized editor has just quit without notice — your editor of the senses. Suddenly sensory input from your environment is flooding in too, unfiltered in quality and overwhelming in quantity. Colours and patterns swim and clamour for your attention. The fabric conditioner in your sweater smells as strong as air-freshener. Fired up your nostrils. Your comfy jeans are now as scratchy as steel wool.

(The content is an example of what it is like to be autistic from the perspective of someone with autism.)



AI-generated image based on metaphor from Higashida's *The Reason I Jump* (OpenAI, 2025)

FRAME 4

They're often just lacking the same ways of expressing it that most people expect.

They may not use words or conventional facial expressions, but that doesn't mean nothing is been said.

So I started to wonder- how do they express their world? What do their feelings actually feel like?

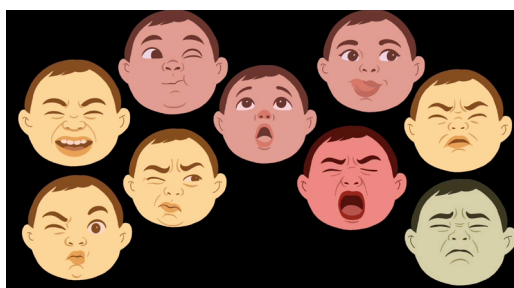
FRAME 5

Before I found this book.

I started by illustrating how autistic children — respond to taste. I wanted to show a range of emotional reactions, through faces.

But it became too broad. Too complex. I couldn't capture the full meaning in a few expressions. I felt lost.

But reading *The Reason I Jump* changed something.

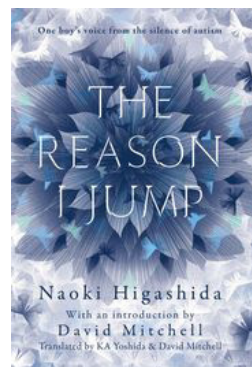


FRAME 5

Naoki writes about how he feels when he jumps or flaps his hands. He's not acting out. he's expressing something real. It's his way of showing joy. But we often don't see it like that.

Not just what they do, but what they feel — and how often those feelings go unseen.
What if I could visualize the emotions that often go unseen?

I'm not explaining what he does I'm showing how it feels.



Q25 WHAT'S THE REASON YOU JUMP?

What do you think I'm feeling when I'm jumping up and down clapping my hands? I bet you think I'm not really feeling anything much beyond the manic glee all over my face.

But when I'm jumping, it's as if my feelings are going upwards to the sky. Really, my urge to be swallowed up by the sky is enough to make my heart quiver. When I'm jumping, I can feel my body parts really well, too — my bounding legs and my clapping hands — and that makes me feel so, so good.

So that's one reason why I jump, and recently I've noticed another reason. People with autism react physically to feelings of happiness and sadness. So when something happens that affects me emotionally, my body seizes up as if struck by lightning.

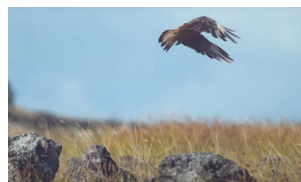
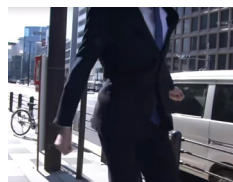
'Seizing up' doesn't mean that my muscles literally get stiff and immobile — rather, it means that I'm not free to move the way I want. So by jumping up and down, it's as if I'm shaking loose the ropes that are tying up my body. When I jump, I feel lighter, and I think the reason my body is drawn skywards is that the motion makes me want to change into a bird and fly off to some faraway place.

But constrained both by ourselves and by the people around us, all we can do is tweet-tweet, flap our wings and hop around in a cage. Ah, if only I could just flap my wings and soar away, into the big blue yonder, over the hills and far away!

FRAME 6

(Read the sentence on the book, the one I'm focusing on translating.)

(There's a video of the author doing this in the documentary, and a video of the bird flying up)

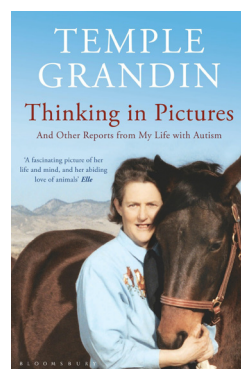


FRAME 7

Temple Grandin's book Thinking in Pictures changed how I thought about emotion and understanding. She explains how many autistic people don't think in words — they think in images.

Maybe visuals can say what words can't. This animation is my way of feeling alongside — not explaining.

It made me think — if we feel emotions through images, maybe that's also the best way to show them. So I decided to translate unseen emotions into illustration



"I think in pictures. Words are like a second language to me"- Temple Grandin

FRAME 8

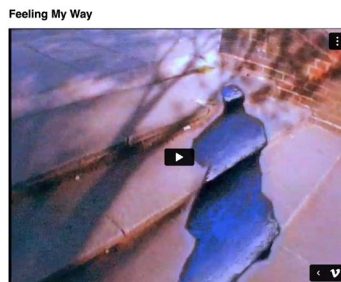
It mixes real footage with drawing to show how emotion feels from the inside.

Its made me realise — illustration and animation aren't just styles.

They're tools to express feelings that can't be spoken.

Maybe illustration and animation could be a good way to show what feelings actually feel like.

(Play vedio)

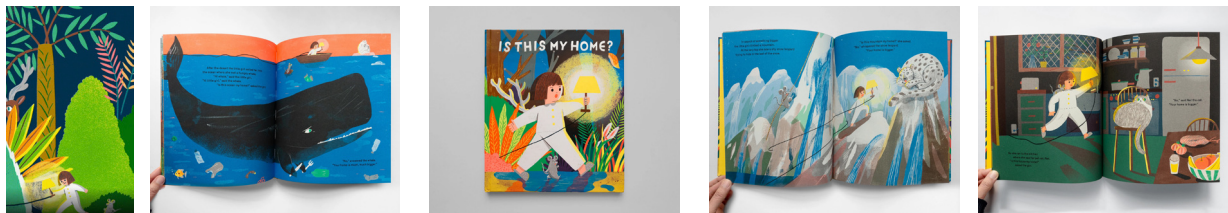


FRAME 9

Then I found this illustration project by Stefy Loret de Mola. Her drawings were simple, almost childlike, but they felt so real. Not perfect, but open, emotional.

I needed something gentle enough to carry feeling.

so I wanted to use a childlike style like hers to gently show how feelings can look.



FRAME 10

I made this short animation based on what the reason I jump

I didn't just draw what he described — the jumping, the clapping — I tried to show what's often left unseen. The emotion behind it.

In real life, his face doesn't actually look this happy when he jumps. But I show the feeling inside. So I added the smile, the wings, the dream-like sky.

I'm not just showing what he does. I'm trying to make the emotion visible.

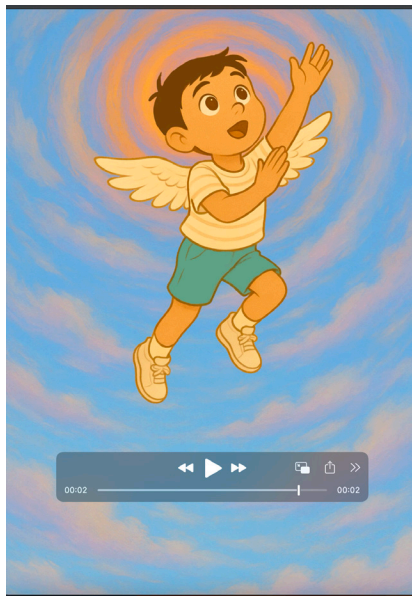
(Jumping, clapping, wings getting bigger, colorful dreamy sky)

FRAME 11

“Johanna Drucker reminds us that images don’t just show things — they shape how we feel and understand. A visual form isn’t neutral. It creates its own emotional rhythm.”

FRAME 12

(Final work)



FRAME 13

This isn't just about showing what he does. It's about showing how it feels when he feels happy.

Maybe it's not about explaining autism.

Maybe it's about asking a better question:

Are we truly willing to relearn how we understand others?

(End my visual essay with an open question. This project was never about providing answers or diagnoses. It was about feeling. About wondering. And about reminding us that understanding others)

Key References:

Higashida, N. (2007). *The Reason I Jump*.

Grandin, T. (1995). *Thinking in Pictures*.

Drucker, J. (2020). *Visualization and Interpretation*.

Hodgson, J. (2000). *Feeling My Way*.

de Mola, S. L. (Illustration Project).