

This artwork is produced on the occasion of *Apricots from Damascus*
<http://apricotsfromdamascus.net>

Apricots from Damascus is an **apexart** Franchise Exhibition organized by
Atif Akin and Dilek Winchester. For more information, visit us at
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Contact
delicious@apricotsfromdamascus.net

Apricots from Damascus Issue

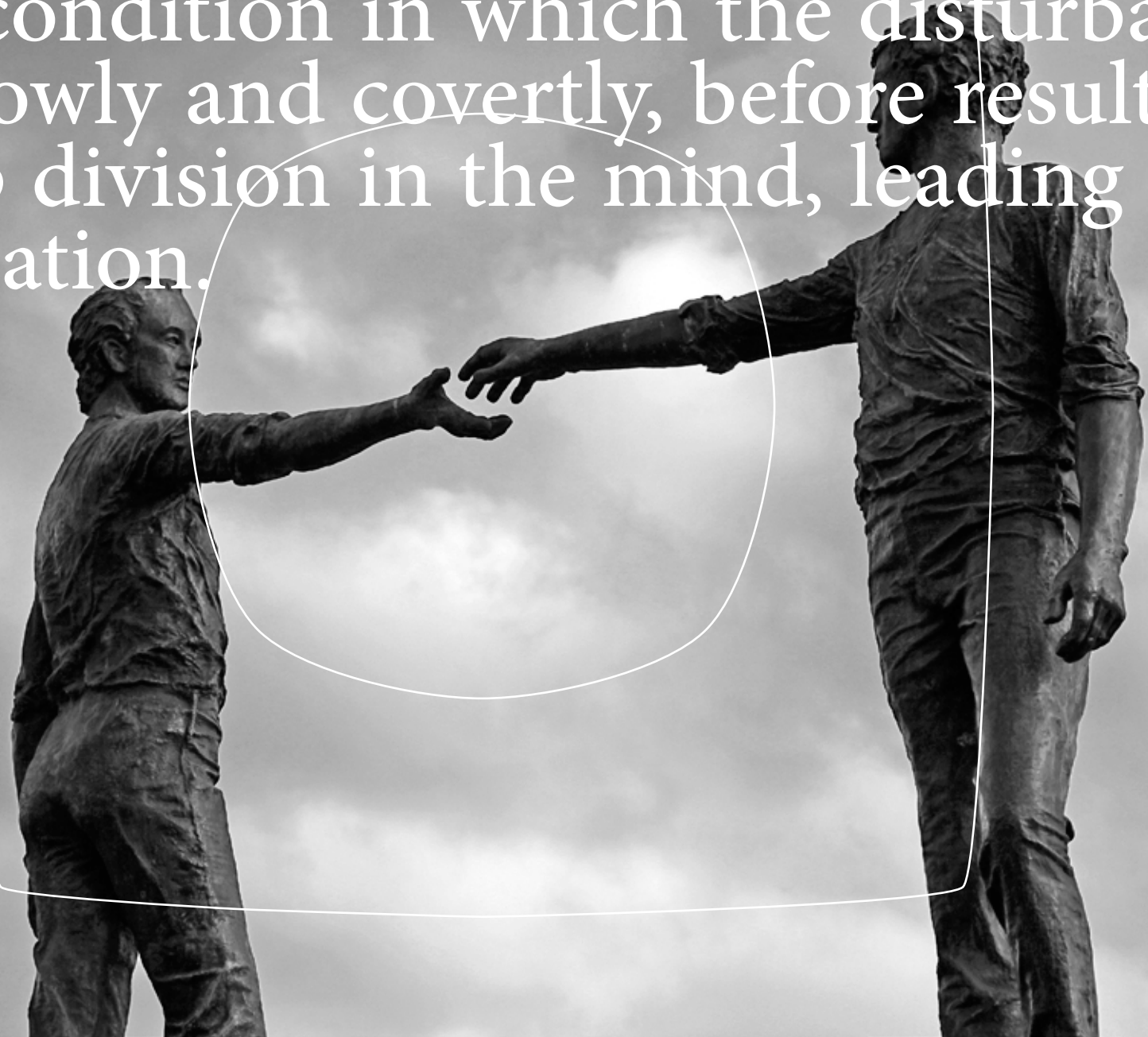
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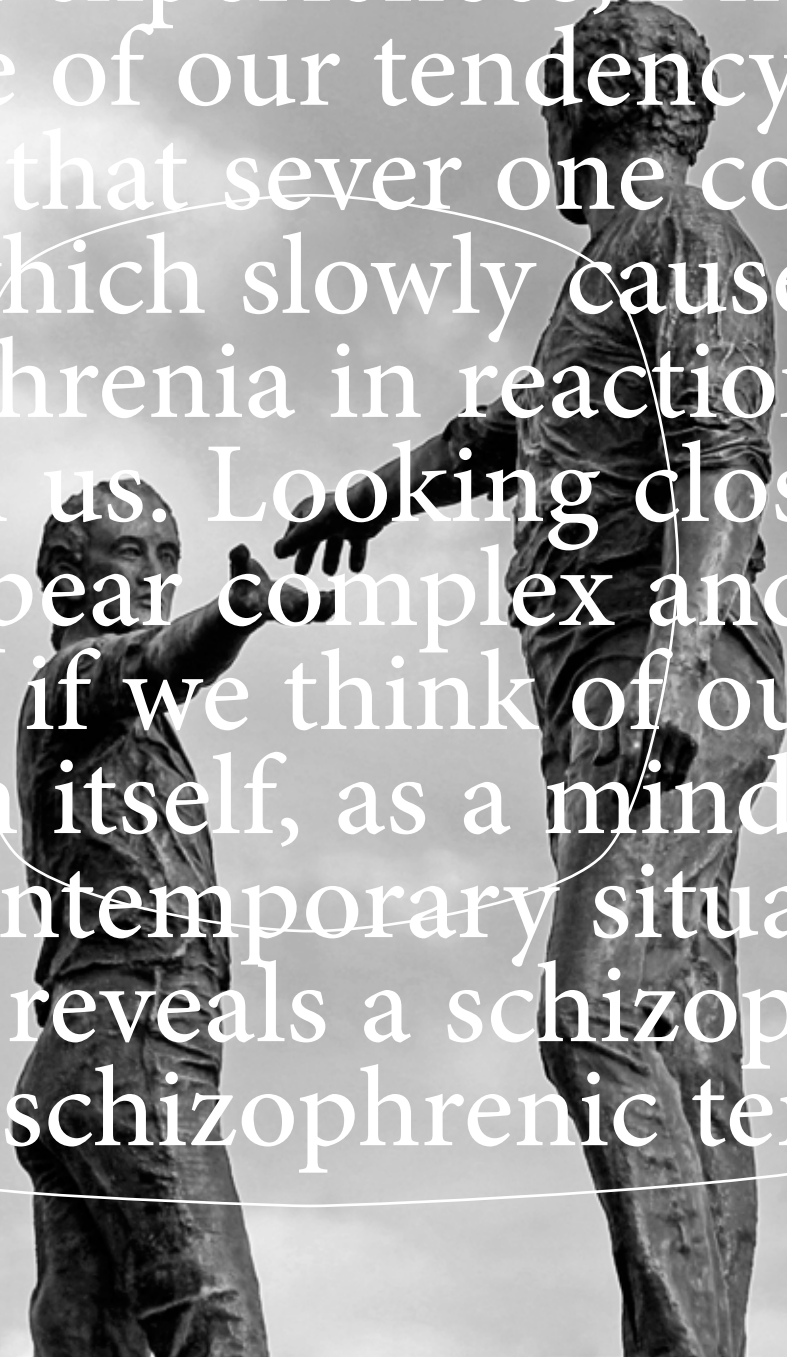
13 by Khaled Barakeh, Berlin



Etymologically in psychology, the term Schizophrenia means failure to distinguish reality, a condition in which the disturbance evolves slowly and covertly, before resulting in a sharp division in the mind, leading to social isolation.



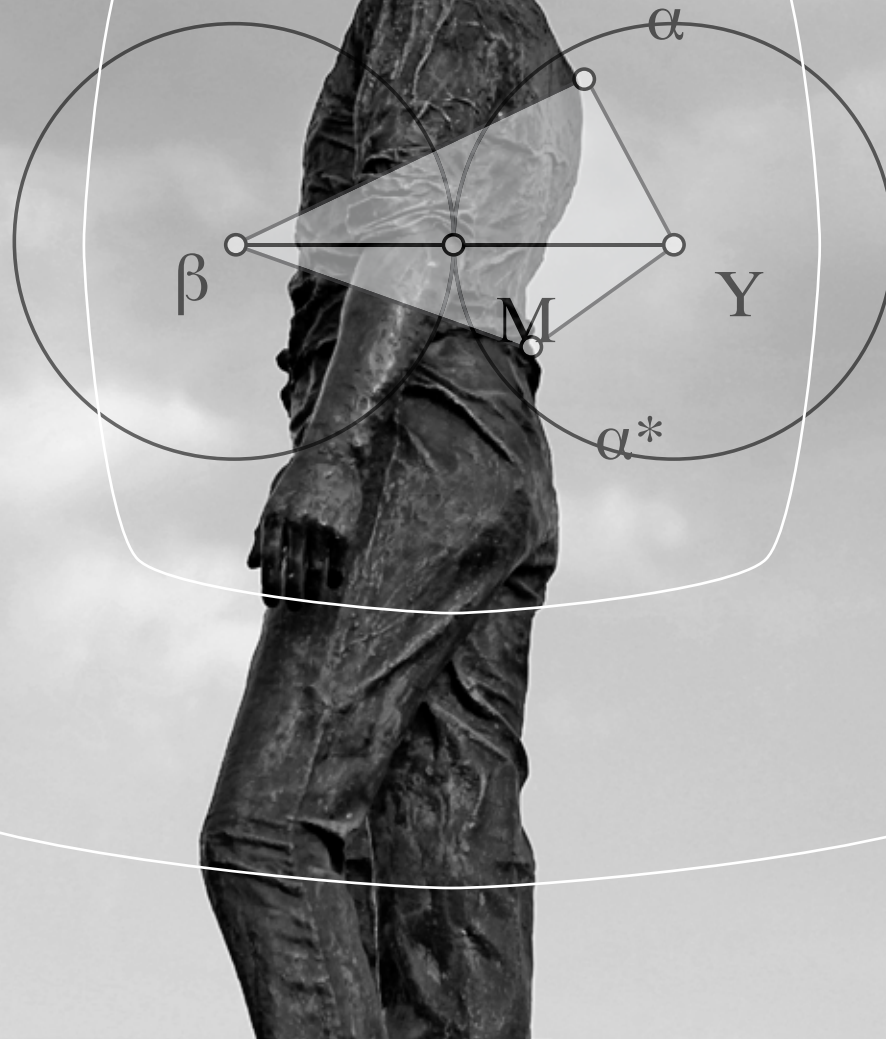
With the passage of time and the accumulation of experiences, I have become ever more aware of our tendency to show internal divides that sever one community from another, which slowly cause us to develop schizophrenia in reaction to all that is different from us. Looking closely at these divides, they appear complex and difficult to grasp. However, if we think of our home as a distinct entity in itself, as a mind, it becomes clear that the contemporary situation in many cities still reveals a schizophrenic or rather, an acute schizophrenic tendency.



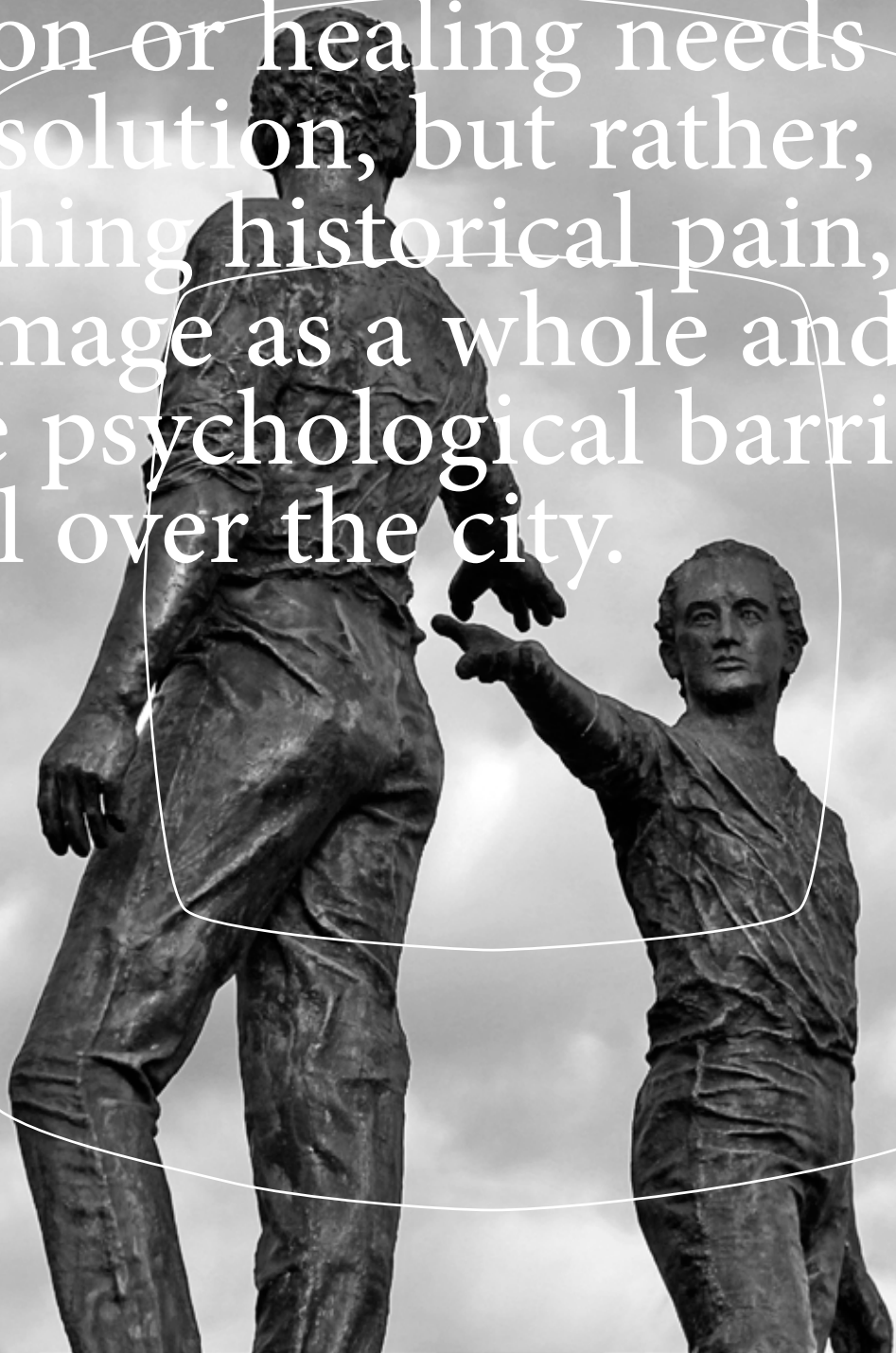
What happens when one finds himself facing
this division more intimately?

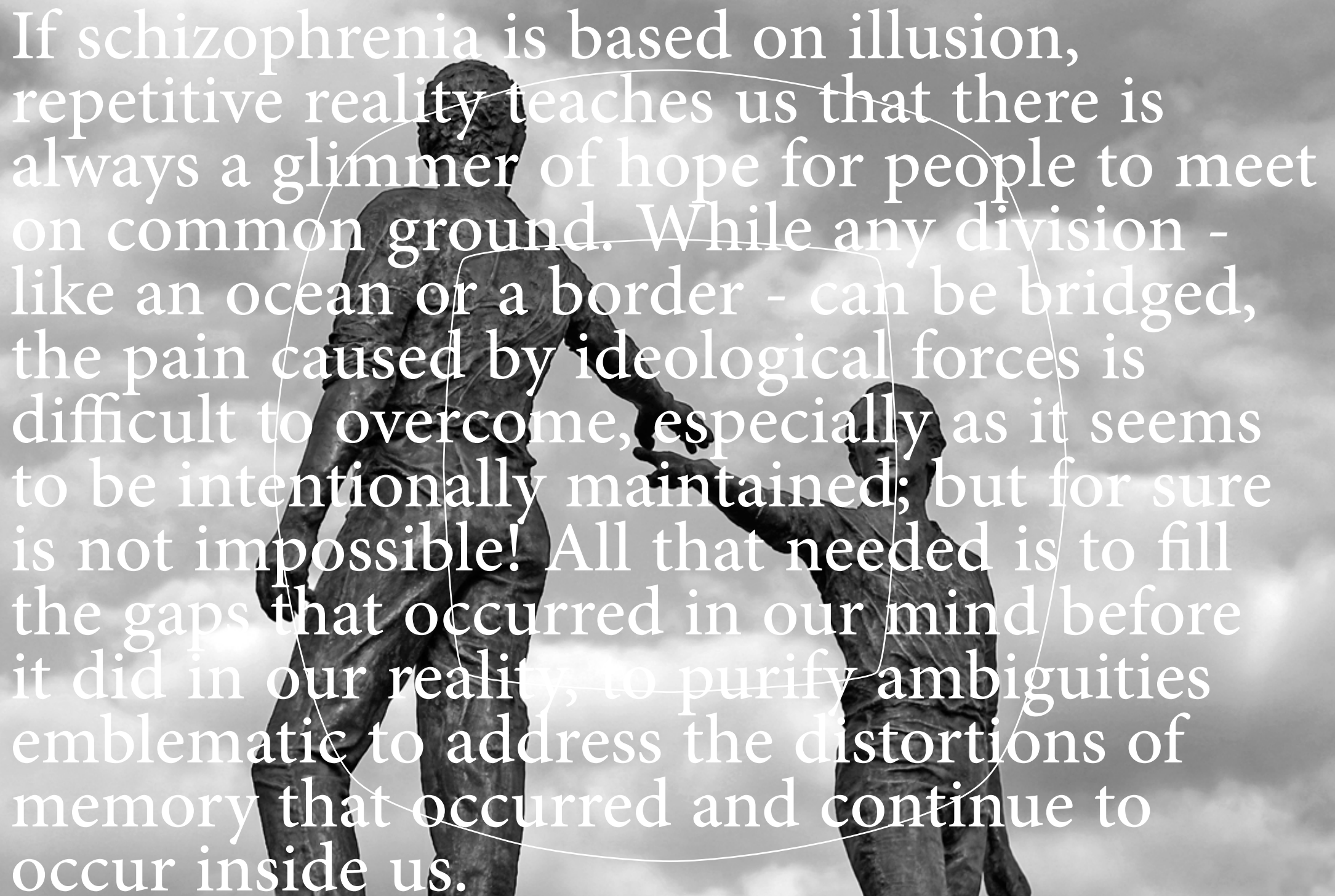


When one is confronted with what was once
so opaque, so consistently overlooked?

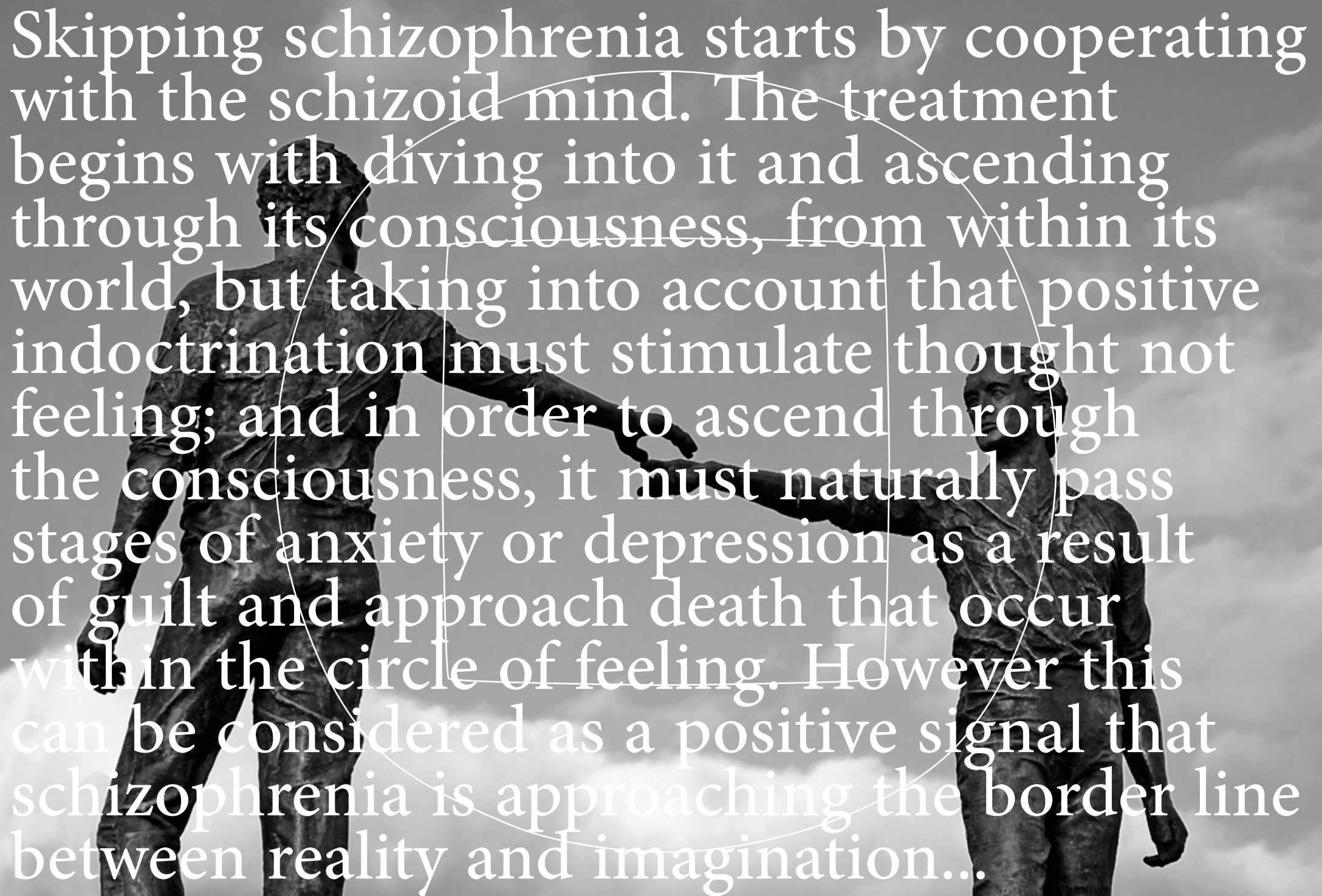


There is no doubt that any sort of reconciliation or healing needs time, not a quick-fix solution, but rather, a process of relinquishing historical pain, realizing their own image as a whole and striving to get over the psychological barrier that is engraved all over the city.





If schizophrenia is based on illusion, repetitive reality teaches us that there is always a glimmer of hope for people to meet on common ground. While any division - like an ocean or a border - can be bridged, the pain caused by ideological forces is difficult to overcome, especially as it seems to be intentionally maintained; but for sure is not impossible! All that needed is to fill the gaps that occurred in our mind before it did in our reality, to purify ambiguities emblematic to address the distortions of memory that occurred and continue to occur inside us.

The background image features two bronze statues of men, likely from the 'The Sower' sculpture by Fritz Koenig. The statue on the left is seen from the back, reaching its right arm forward. The statue on the right is facing forward, reaching its left arm back towards the first statue. A thin white circle is drawn around the two figures, with a white crosshair centered on the point where their hands are nearly touching. The sky is a dramatic, cloudy grey.

Skipping schizophrenia starts by cooperating with the schizoid mind. The treatment begins with diving into it and ascending through its consciousness, from within its world, but taking into account that positive indoctrination must stimulate thought not feeling; and in order to ascend through the consciousness, it must naturally pass stages of anxiety or depression as a result of guilt and approach death that occur within the circle of feeling. However this can be considered as a positive signal that schizophrenia is approaching the border line between reality and imagination...