





I was peopewatching for hours here, sitting at my window overseeing the main train station of my city.

When Covid-19 hit Switzerland, the people crossing the station got fewer and fewer. First, the guy who sells chestnuts and oranges closed his stand. The music that was played every day by different musicians on the plaza stopped. There was no longer a place where you meet, talk and wait, the station became a passage where human contact was mostly avoided.

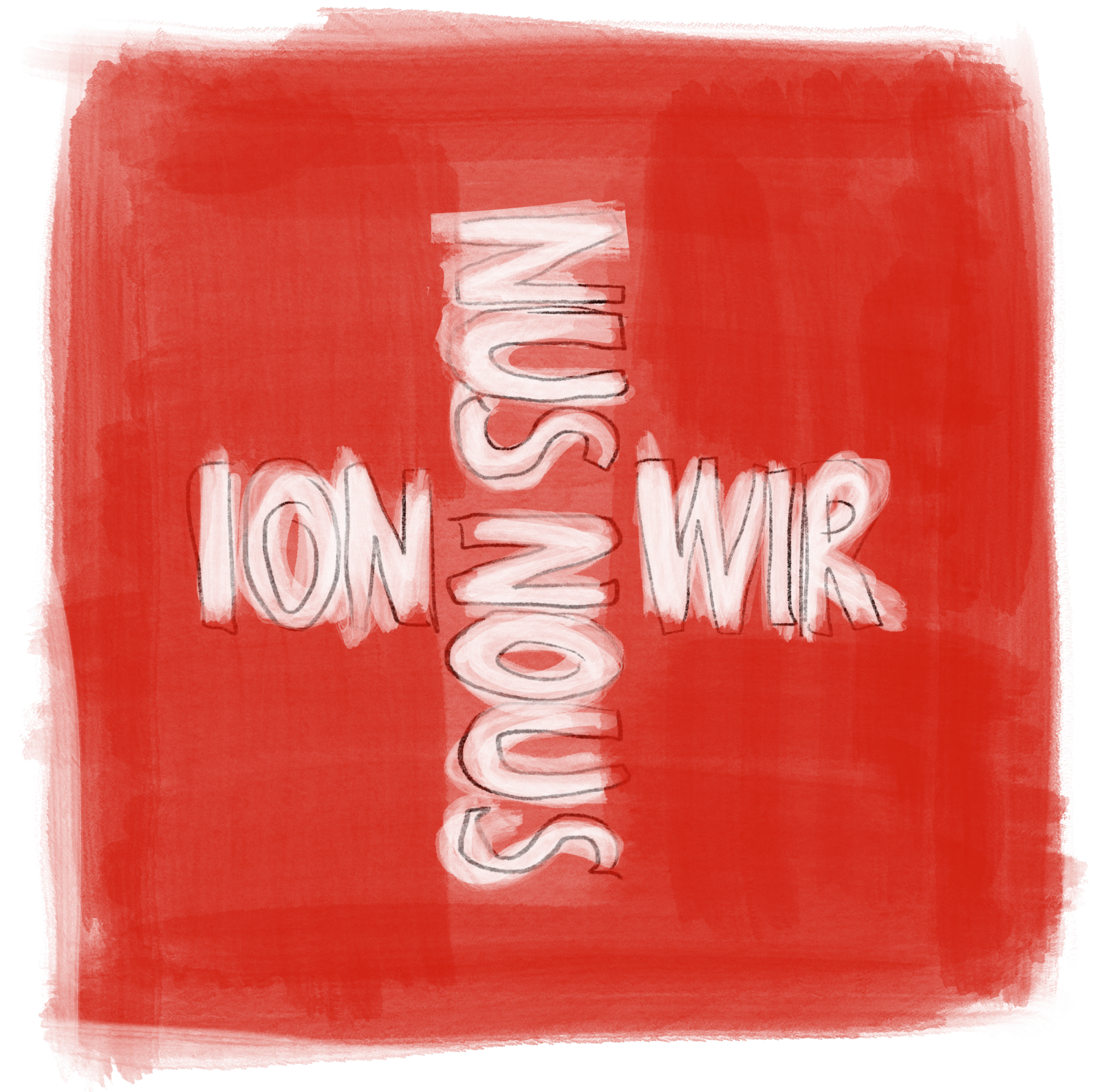
People started to realize that they had to stand together, as the pandemic started to affect all of us



“we’re all in this together” and several hashtags in the media and on social media quickly created a feeling of community with the ones we love and care, but probably didn’t show enough affection to before.

We went grocery shopping for grandparents and elderly neighbours, staed at home even before we had to due to lockdown and most importantly showed off and praised ourself for the solidarity that was all around us.

But solidarity has its limits and as the “us” and the “we” grew stronger, we started to compare our countries leader tho those of other states and we were about to forget about the ones not being inside our own limitations.



those who
can not stay home



back at my window, there was one group that came back every single day. Those marginalized people seem to rely on their place at the station. And when everyone was asked to stay home, they looked like as they went to the place that was the most familiar to them.

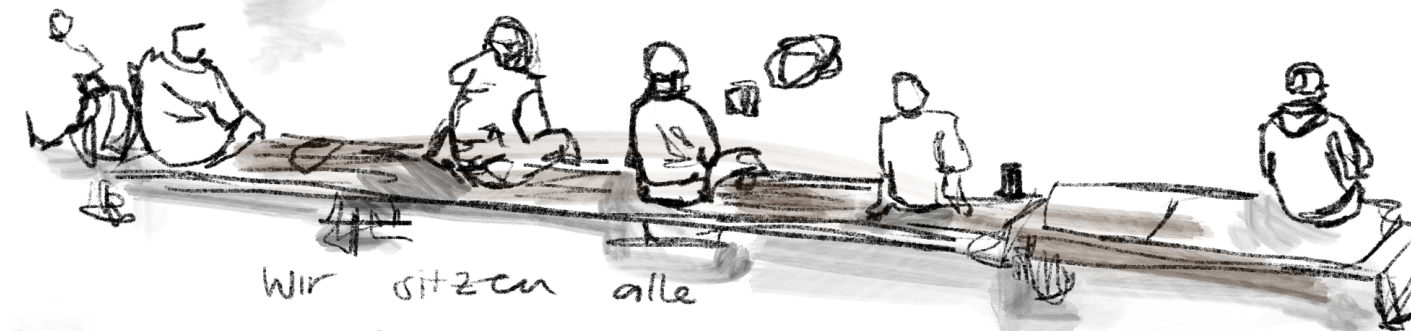
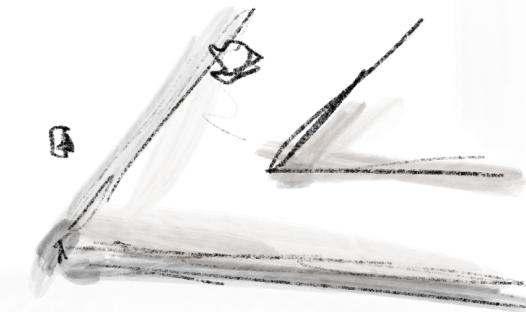
Because I asked myself why they didn't go anywhere else, I researched and found that all the places where humans at the verge of our society would get help were closed down pretty early on when Corona made it's way through Europe



they exist here,
too



you better run



Wir sitzen alle
auf dem gleichen
Banken

and with the marginal people came the police.

In my city – compared to other cities in switzerland, the police is around pretty frequently. But at the moment it is even more.

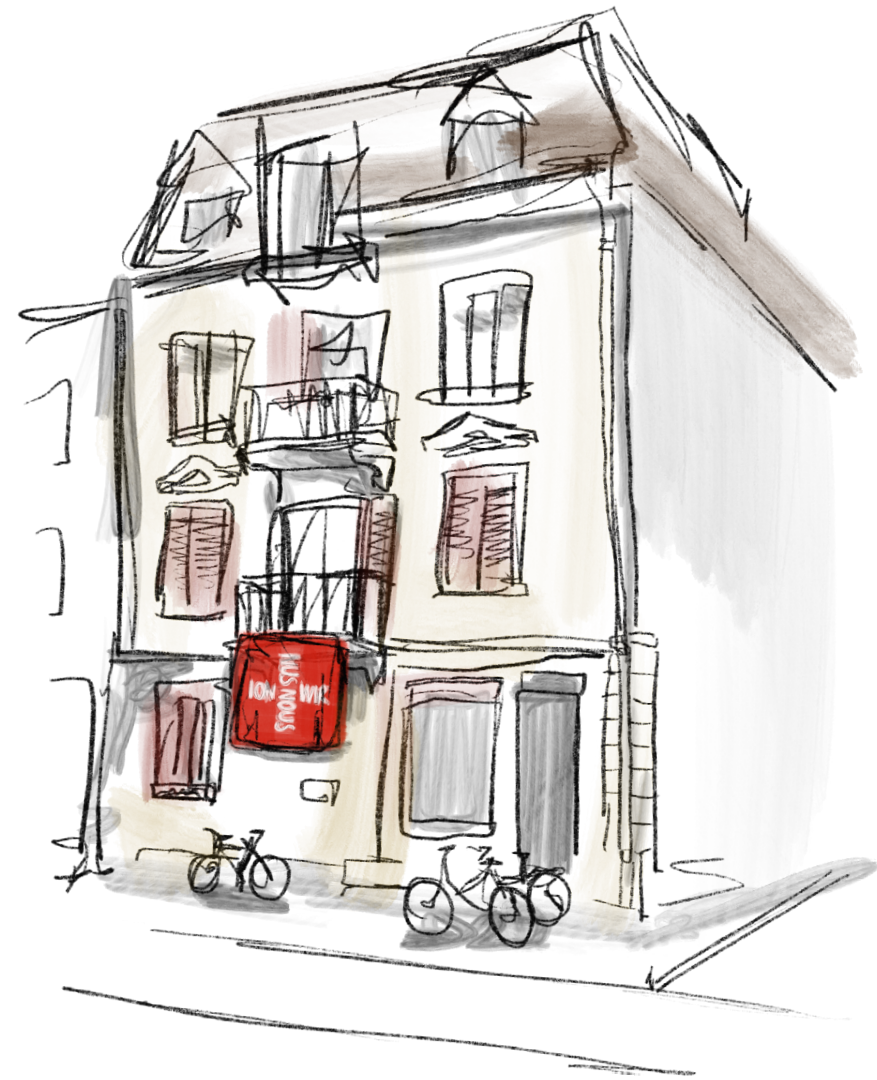
There goes no two hours without a police car driving by the station and officers patrolling.

The fact, that the people who obviously had no better place to go were controlled several times a day and talked to by police officers, even handcuffed because of thm not having enough distance.

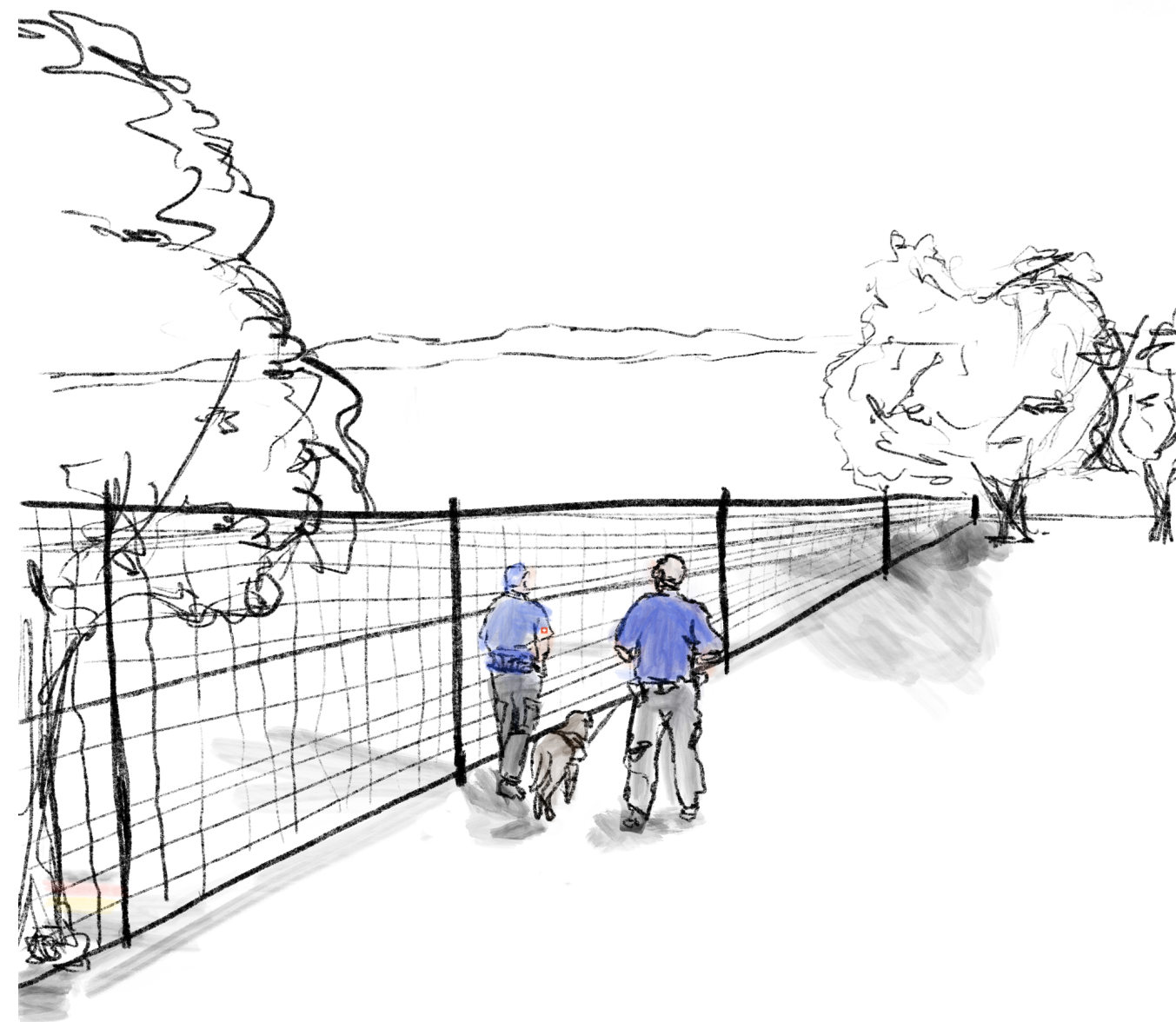
These situations got me a feeling of separation and class and really made me think about the concept of being "in tis together".



with physical distancing
came the social distance



when there is “we” there also is “them”.



**Much more than creating borders,
the pandemic made our borders visible.**

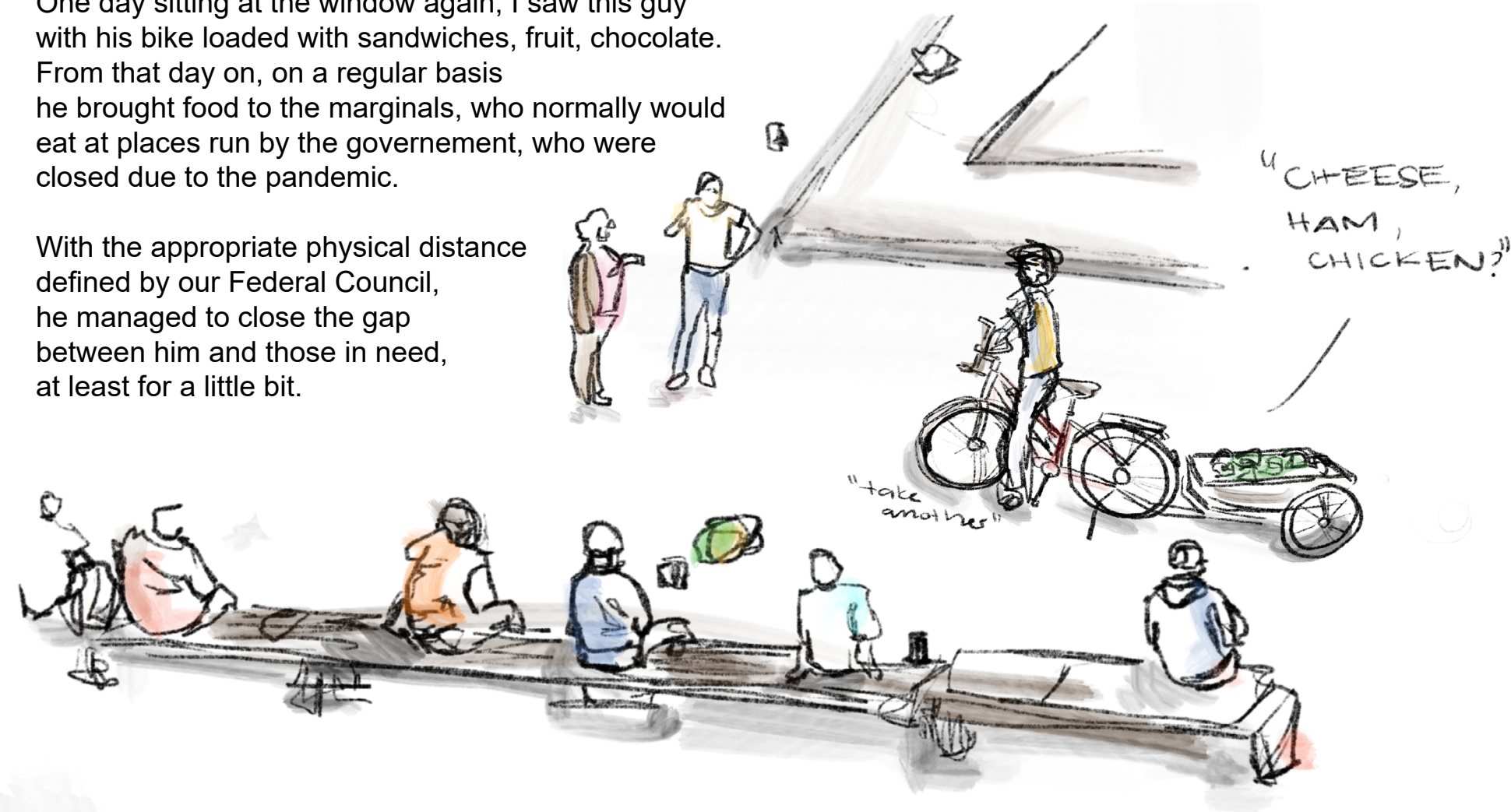
It seemed to show which part of the system we lived in for a long time didn't work out in times of crisis. We learned about how human beings act when they are scared and what irrational fears can be produced under collective stress.

When people had to stay in, they got uncomfortable, sat with themselves and got the information they believed to need. We set limits and limits were set for us.

And we accepted the borders gladly to have guidance, to rely on when we felt that there was no common sense and to not need to think about what lies behind. Behind the fences that were built between countries, behind the limits that were set for us as a community. We could stay inside and clap on our balconies for those doing the jobs to keep the system going.

One day sitting at the window again, I saw this guy with his bike loaded with sandwiches, fruit, chocolate. From that day on, on a regular basis he brought food to the marginals, who normally would eat at places run by the government, who were closed due to the pandemic.

With the appropriate physical distance defined by our Federal Council, he managed to close the gap between him and those in need, at least for a little bit.



While I got angry, he acted

As we go back to normal, to a “new normal”, let’s not forget about the solidarity we practiced. Let’s go further and build up on it, let’s face the limitations we learned about and change them, so that we can include everyone.

Let us no longer need to print WE on a flag and leave out people who don’t identify or are not identified with the image we pursue. Let’s build bridges and come together so that we can fight worldwide problems as humanity, not as groups of people. Let’s not hide behind our limitations.

We were and are not all in this together. But we can notice and come out of it closer than we were before. Let us leave no one behind.