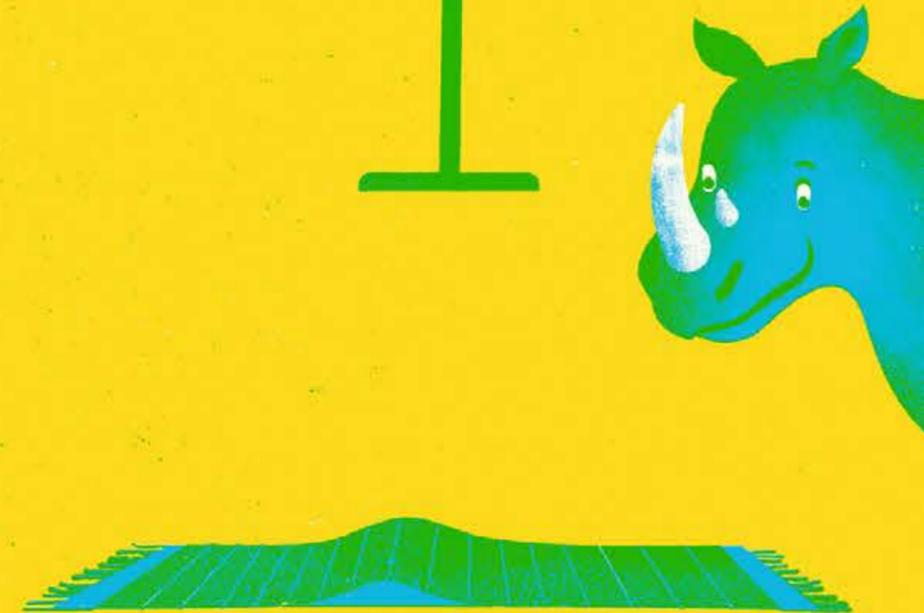
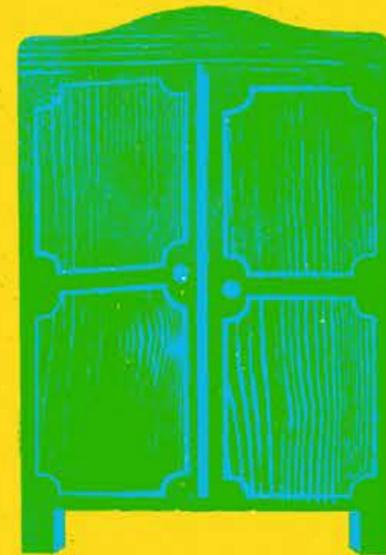
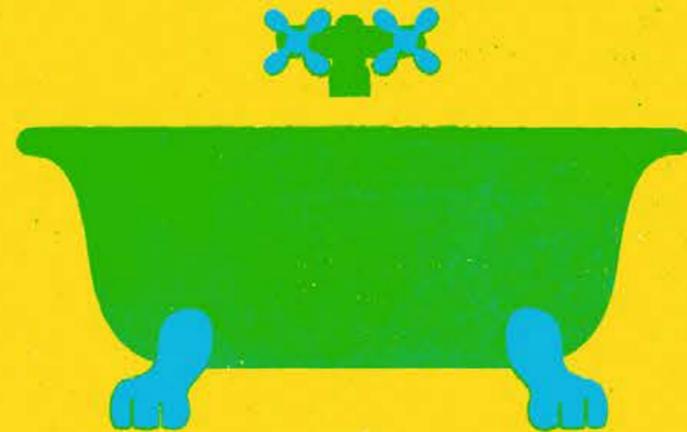
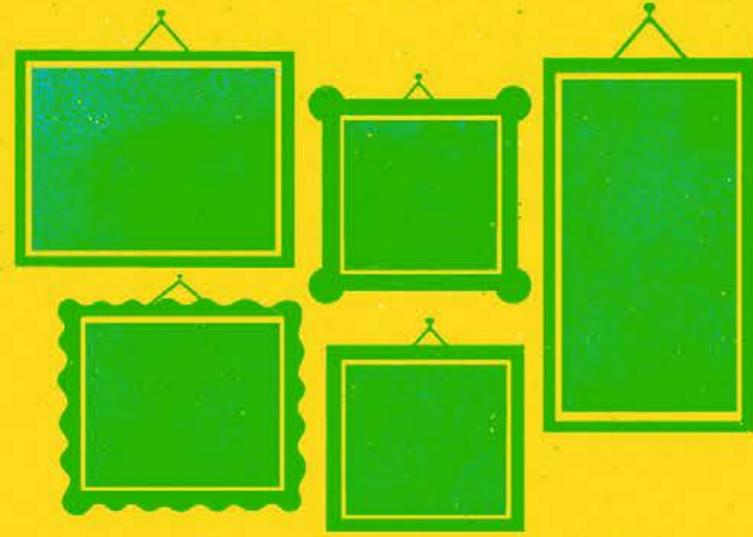
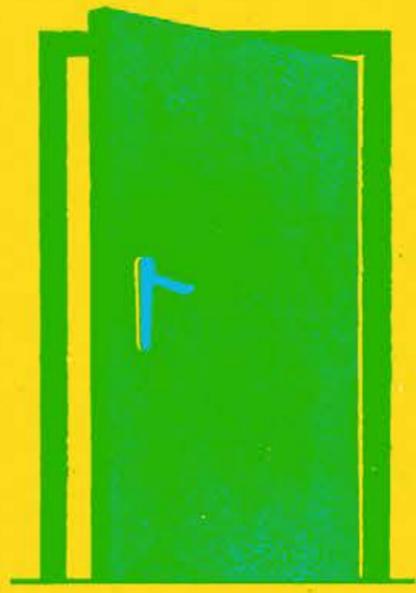


LUDWIG AND THE RHINOCEROS

Golden Cosmos

Noemi Schneider

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LUDWIG AND THE RHINOCEROS

To M. and F.

– GOLDEN COSMOS

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title *Ludwig und das Nashorn*.
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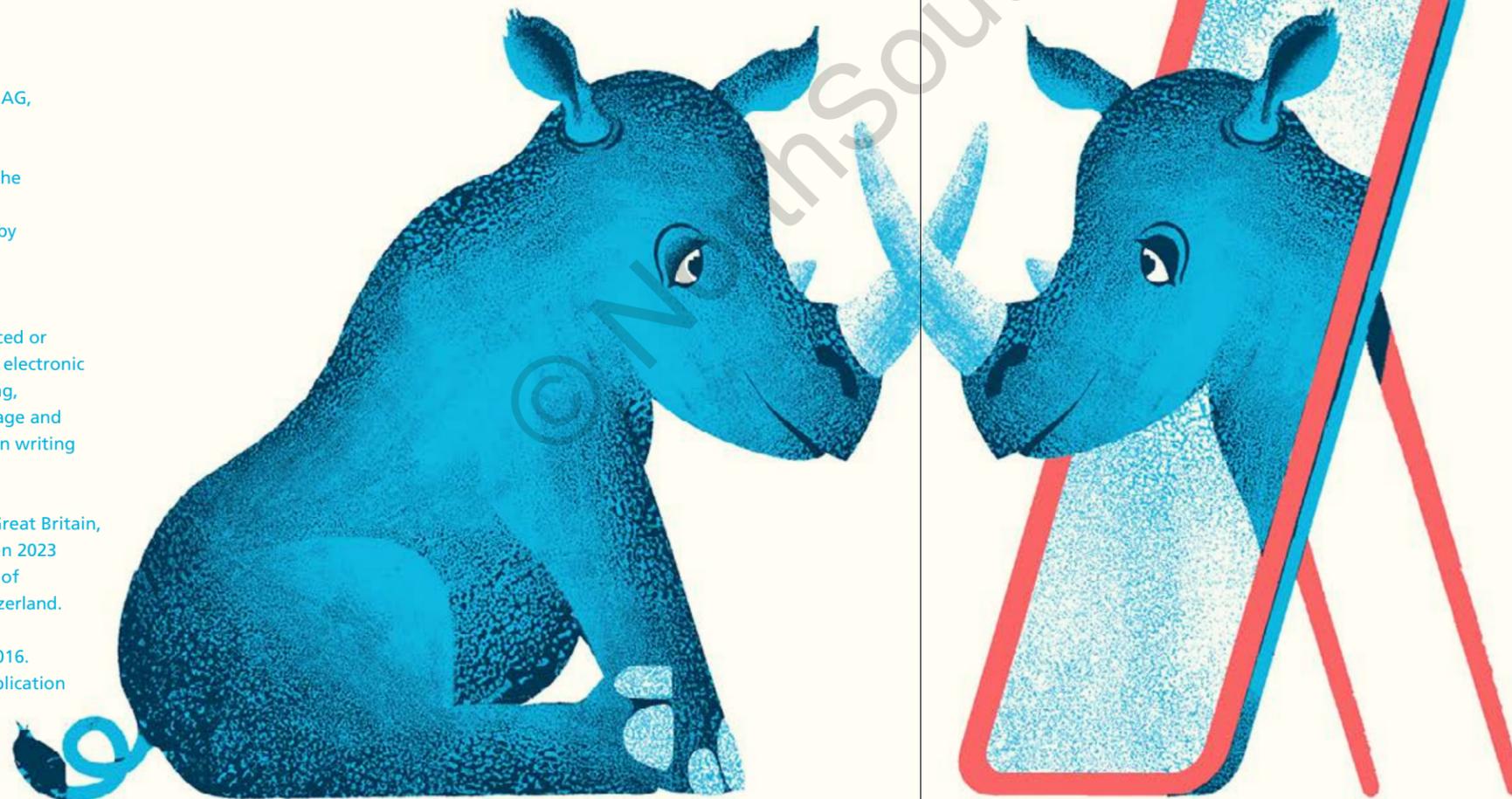
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First published in the United States, Great Britain,
Canada, Australia, and New Zealand in 2023
by NorthSouth Books, Inc., an imprint of
NordSüd Verlag AG, 8050 Zürich, Switzerland.
Distributed in the United States by
NorthSouth Books, Inc., New York 10016.
Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication
Data is available.

ISBN: 978-0-7358-4527-5

Printed in XXX

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A Philosophical Bedtime Story

*Written by Noemi Schneider
Illustrated by Golden Cosmos*

*Translated from German
by Marshall Yarbrough*

North
South



What are you up to in here, Ludwig?
Who are you talking to?

A rhinoceros.

A rhinoceros? There's no rhinoceros in here.
That's just your imagination.

Right behind you.



I don't see any rhinoceroses!

In the dresser.



There's no rhinoceros in here!



Under the bed.





There's no rhinoceros in here, Ludwig.

Quit pulling my leg!

Now it's sitting under the desk.



Ludwig, this room is much too small for a rhinoceros.
Rhinoceroses are at least six feet long.

There are little rhinoceroses, too.



There is neither a big rhinoceros
nor a little rhinoceros in this room.
I've checked everywhere.
Only the zoo has rhinoceroses.

Then prove it!





I don't see a rhinoceros.
That means there is no rhinoceros here!



Do you see the moon?



I can't see it from here.
The moon is still on the other side.

Is the moon there?



*Of course the moon is there.
What kind of question is that, Ludwig?*

But you can't see it.



That's right. I can't see it from here.



So how do you know it's there, then?

I've seen the moon a thousand times before,
and so I know that it's there today, too.



AMMY
WORLD

*Can you prove that the moon
is there today?*

I can't prove it, but I know it.
And that's how I also know
that there's no rhinoceros here,
because I've never seen a rhinoceros
here before. There's never been
a rhinoceros here and there never
will be a rhinoceros here!

But you can't prove it.

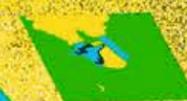
I can't prove it.

You see, I'm not lying.



Oh Ludwig, what are we going to do with you?

*I know what I'm going to do.
I'm going to be a philosopher.*





Good night, Ludwig.



Good night, rhinoceros!

**GOOD NIGHT,
LUDWIG!**



I SPY WITH MY LITTLE EYE

Ludwig wants to be a philosopher. Now, I'm sure you're asking yourself: What is a philosopher, and what does a philosopher do?

A philosopher is a curious person like Ludwig, who wants to get to the bottom of everything and likes to ask one question after another. Philosophers want to understand why our world is the way it is and not some other way, why we humans are the way we are, what the meaning of our lives is, and much more. For a philosopher, thinking is an adventure — you start thinking about, for example, a rhinoceros, and you end up thinking about the moon.



It just so happens that there really was a Ludwig once, who did become a world-famous philosopher. His full name was Ludwig Wittgenstein. He grew up in Austria and went to study in England, and in his philosophy he thought a lot about language — how we use it, how exact and inexact it is, and what makes a true statement different from a false statement.

One day, Ludwig Wittgenstein and his professor, Bertrand Russell, got into an argument about a rhinoceros. Ludwig claimed that you couldn't prove that there was NOT a rhinoceros in the room. His teacher couldn't believe it. He looked all over the room and couldn't find any rhinoceros anywhere. But that wasn't enough proof for Ludwig. You can't say with absolute certainty that there is NO rhinoceros in the room, even if you've searched every nook and cranny, that was his argument. Because even if you don't see something, it can still be there. Just like the moon — it likes to play hide-and-seek sometimes, too.

Now of course, only I know if I was really in the room or not. And I'm not telling. But if you feel like doing a little philosophizing, then go ahead and give it a try. Because of course the argument between Ludwig Wittgenstein and Bertrand Russell wasn't really about me, it was about the question of whether you can prove that something ISN'T there, and if so, how? It turns out that's a lot harder than proving that something IS there.

Is it even possible to prove that something ISN'T there? What do you think?

NOEMI SCHNEIDER

was born in Munich, Germany. She studied journalism and directing at the University for Television and Film in Munich. She writes for adults and children and works as a freelance cultural journalist for film, radio, and print. Her short stories and essays have received multiple awards. In 2017, she was nominated for the Ingeborg Bachmann Prize. She likes rhinoceroses and philosophical games.

GOLDEN COSMOS

is the working name for Doris Freigofas and Daniel Dolz. The freelance artist and illustrator duo lives in Berlin, Germany. They were born in Dresden and Erfurt, respectively. Doris studied at the Kunsthochschule Berlin Weißensee and Daniel studied at the HTW in Berlin and earned a Master of Arts from the Kunsthochschule Berlin Weißensee. GOLDEN COSMOS illustrate weekly for *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Die Zeit* and other media worldwide.

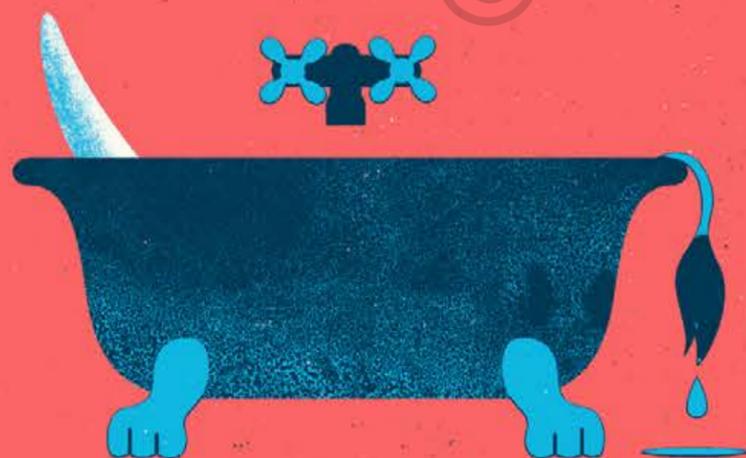
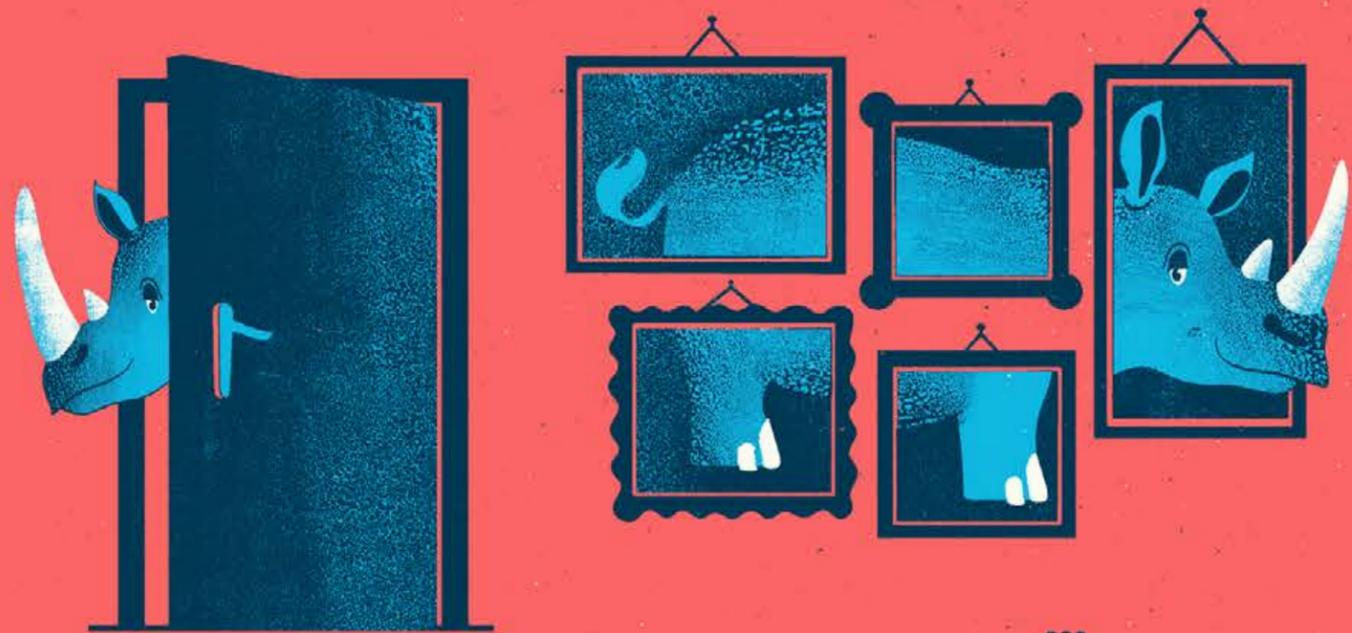
Can you guess how many colors were used to print this book?
The answer is three! Three luminous special colors, which mix when printed on top of each other. In this way, three colors become seven colors. The illustrations are also a mixture of three different techniques. We combined analogue drawings on paper, digital drawings on the computer, and printed graphics throughout.

LUDWIG WITTGENSTEIN

was born in Vienna, Austria in 1889. He went to Berlin, Germany and then Manchester, England to study to be an engineer, focusing mainly on aeronautics. After that he moved to Cambridge where he studied philosophy under Bertrand Russell, among other teachers. After finishing his studies he started focusing on the philosophy of language and on logic. Some of his most well-known works are the *Tractatus logico-philosophicus* (1921) and his *Philosophical Investigations* (1953). Ludwig Wittgenstein died in 1951 in Cambridge, England.



“It simply cannot be proven that there is NOT a rhinoceros in the room.”





*“There’s a rhinoceros in my room!”
claims Ludwig. His father doesn’t
think so. There CANNOT be a
rhinoceros in Ludwig’s room, it’s
much too small for a rhinoceros.
But Ludwig shows his father that
something can be there even if you
can’t see it.*

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US \$19.95 • CAN \$26.95

ISBN 978-0-7358-4527-5



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