

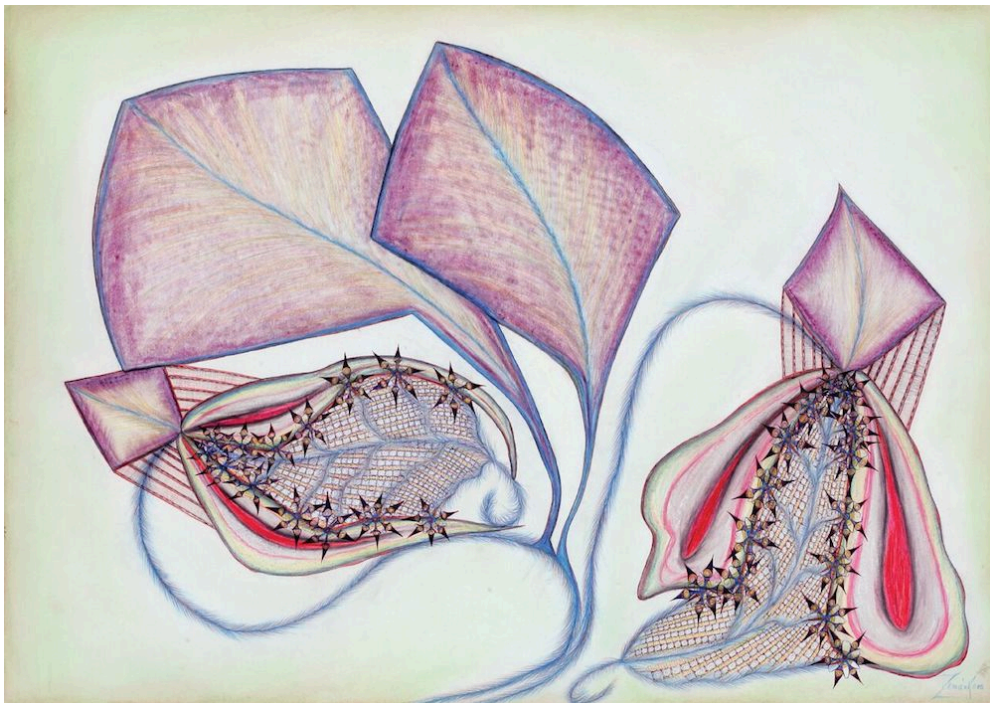
GLADSTONE

"Flowers Not Grown Anywhere Else," *The Paris Review*, April 30, 2018

THE PARIS REVIEW

Flowers Not Grown Anywhere Else

By [The Paris Review](#) April 30, 2018



ANNA ZEMÁNKOVÁ, *UNTITLED*, SECOND HALF OF THE SIXTIES, PASTEL AND BALLPOINT PEN ON PAPER.

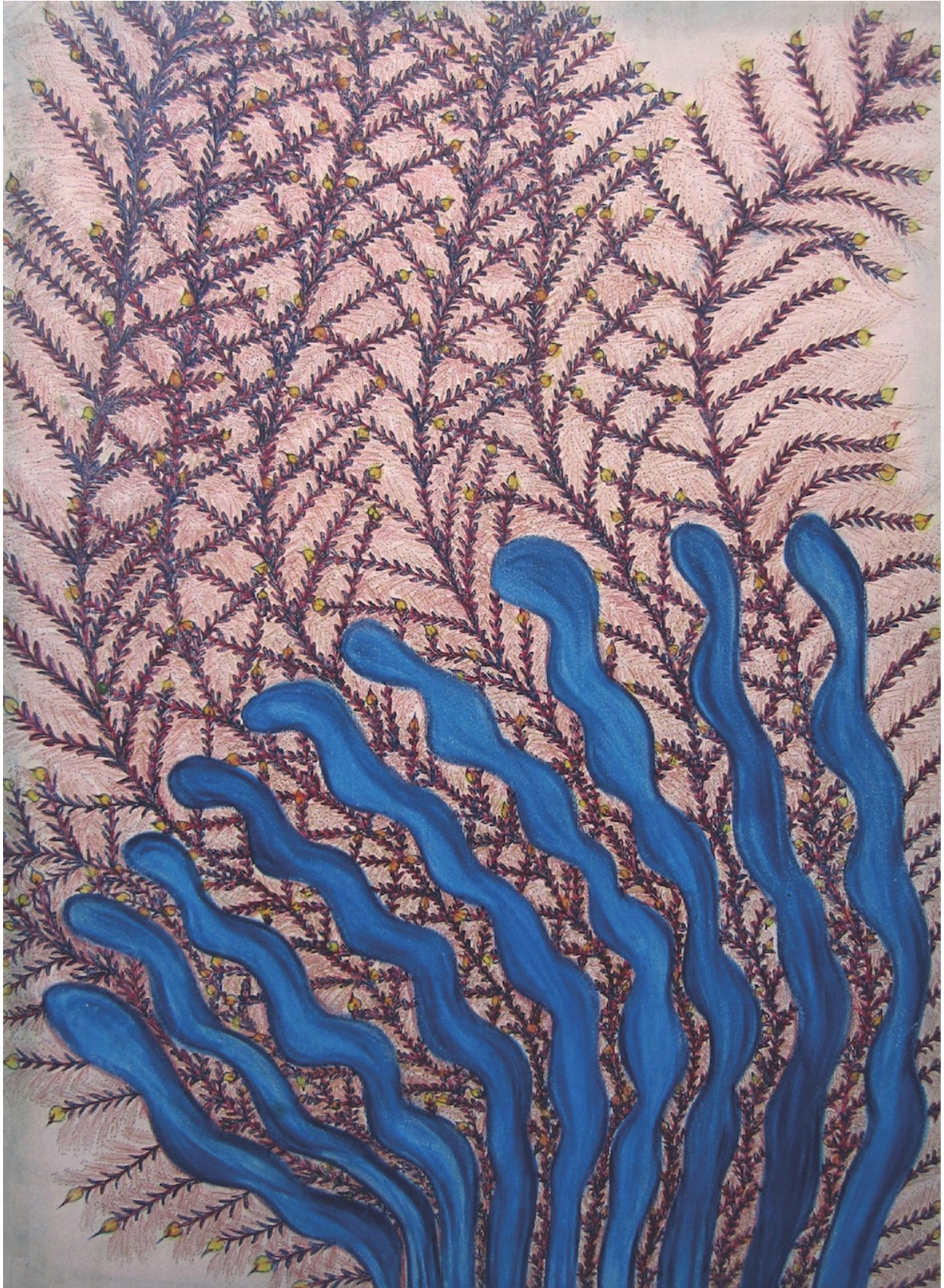
Like most artists, Anna Zemánková was encouraged, from a very young age, to pursue a more lucrative career. From the age of fifteen to eighteen, she studied dentistry and then worked as a dental technician until her marriage, when she forwent paid labor in order to care for her children. In 1948, she and her family moved to Prague, and when she found herself increasingly depressed, her son, a sculptor, implored her to pursue the creative work she had previously disavowed. Early in the morning, before anyone else arose, she'd sketch pastel and ink onto large swaths of paper, creating botanical dreamscapes all her own. As a self-taught artist, Zemánková tends to be described as art brut, but her art brut is of a mysterious and magical strain. She believed her inspiration was derived from a divine source: "I am growing flowers," she said, "that are not grown anywhere else." Following a major retrospective of her work at the Collection de l'Art Brut in Switzerland last summer, [Kant Books](#) has released a stunning three-hundred-page monograph.



ANNA ZEMÁNKOVÁ, *INFINITE FLOWER*, FIRST HALF OF THE SIXTIES, PASTEL, TEMPERA, AND INDIA INK ON PAPER.



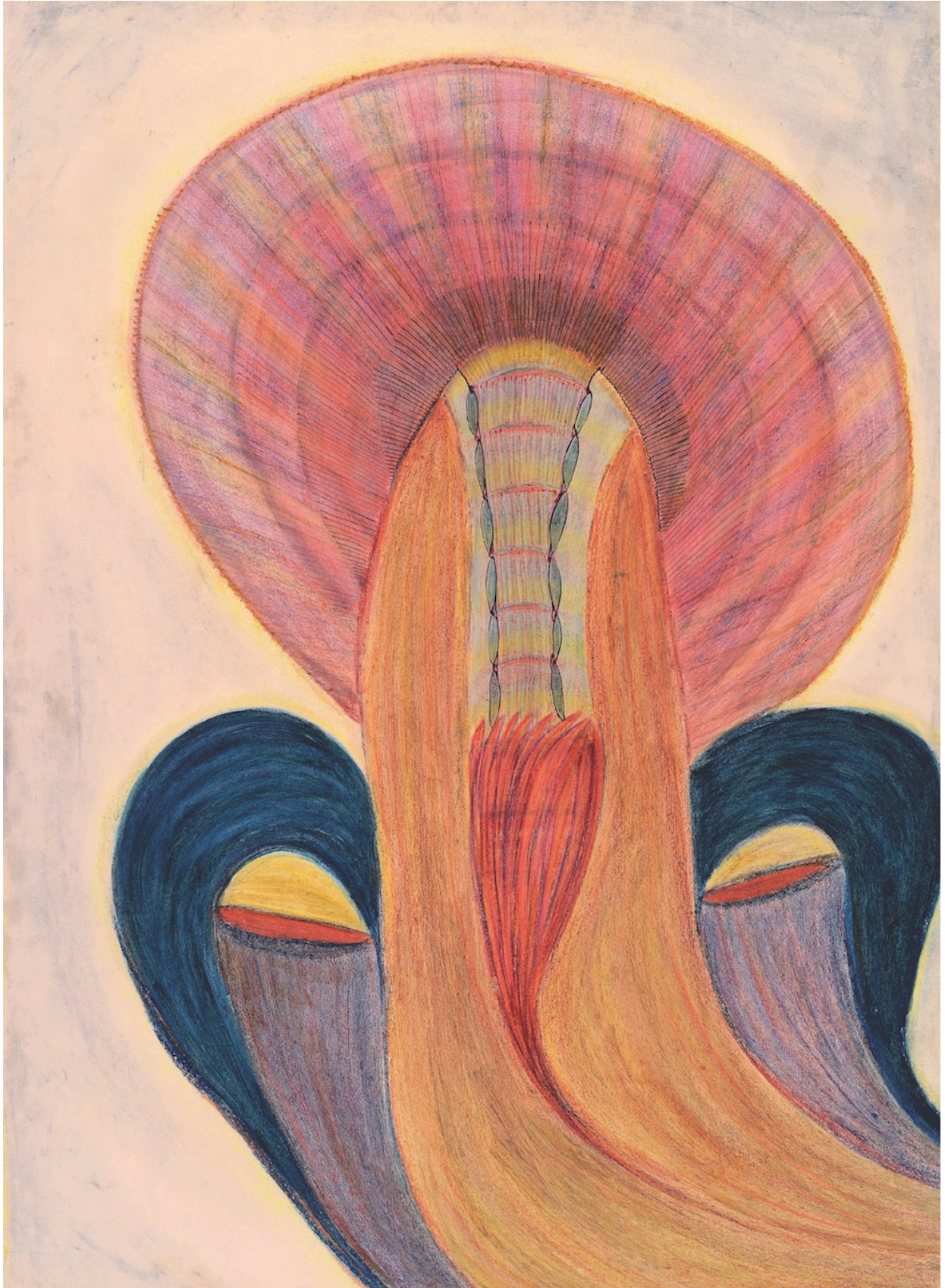
ANNA ZEMÁNKOVÁ, *UNTITLED*, FIRST HALF OF THE SIXTIES, PASTEL ON PAPER.



ANNA ZEMÁNKOVÁ, *UNTITLED*, FIRST HALF OF THE SIXTIES, PASTEL AND INDIA INK ON PAPER.



ANNA ZEMÁNKOVÁ, *UNTITLED*, FIRST HALF OF THE SIXTIES, PASTEL AND INDIA INK ON PAPER.



ANNA ZEMÁNKOVÁ, *UNTITLED*, FIRST HALF OF THE SIXTIES, PASTEL AND INDIA INK ON PAPER.



ANNA ZEMÁNKOVÁ, *UNTITLED*, FIRST HALF OF THE SIXTIES, PASTEL, COOKING OIL, AND INDIA INK ON PAPER.



Excerpted from [Anna Zemánková](#), edited by Anežka Šimková and Terezie Zemánková, released in March 2018. Published by arrangement with Kant Books.