



**PART TWO**

Combining the narrative conventions of comic book origin stories and allegorical maps, this large-scale graphic work charts the birth of a troubled anti-hero riven with grief, frustration and loss. In an absurdist adaptation of Puritan preacher John Bunyan's 1648 parable 'The Pilgrim's Progress', Dr. Bruce Banner /The Incredible Hulk from the 70s TV series iteration are cast as the artist's father/ the monstrous Giant Despair. The drawing chronicles the young Terry Brimfield's journey from adventure on the high seas as a carefree sailor to the dull suburban grind of life ashore as a reluctant father and police constable. Driven to the brink of sanity by the insatiable demands of his family, he transforms by degrees to a mindless destructive force embodied as the colossal purple-skinned, rage-filled Giant Despair. The flattened narrative arc of the piece recalls the simplification of complex religious tracts to Sunday school bible stories for children, and casts The Giant in a suitably heroic light.

Brimfield and her brother grew up in Bedford, where Bunyan wrote 'The Pilgrim's Progress' whilst incarcerated for 12 years in the town's gaol for preaching as a non-conformist evangelist. The comically misshapen waxwork of Bunyan with quill in a rickety cell stage set at Bedford Museum was a fixture of the artist's youth, and the text a cornerstone of local history.

**THE GIANT DESPAIR**

Print detail