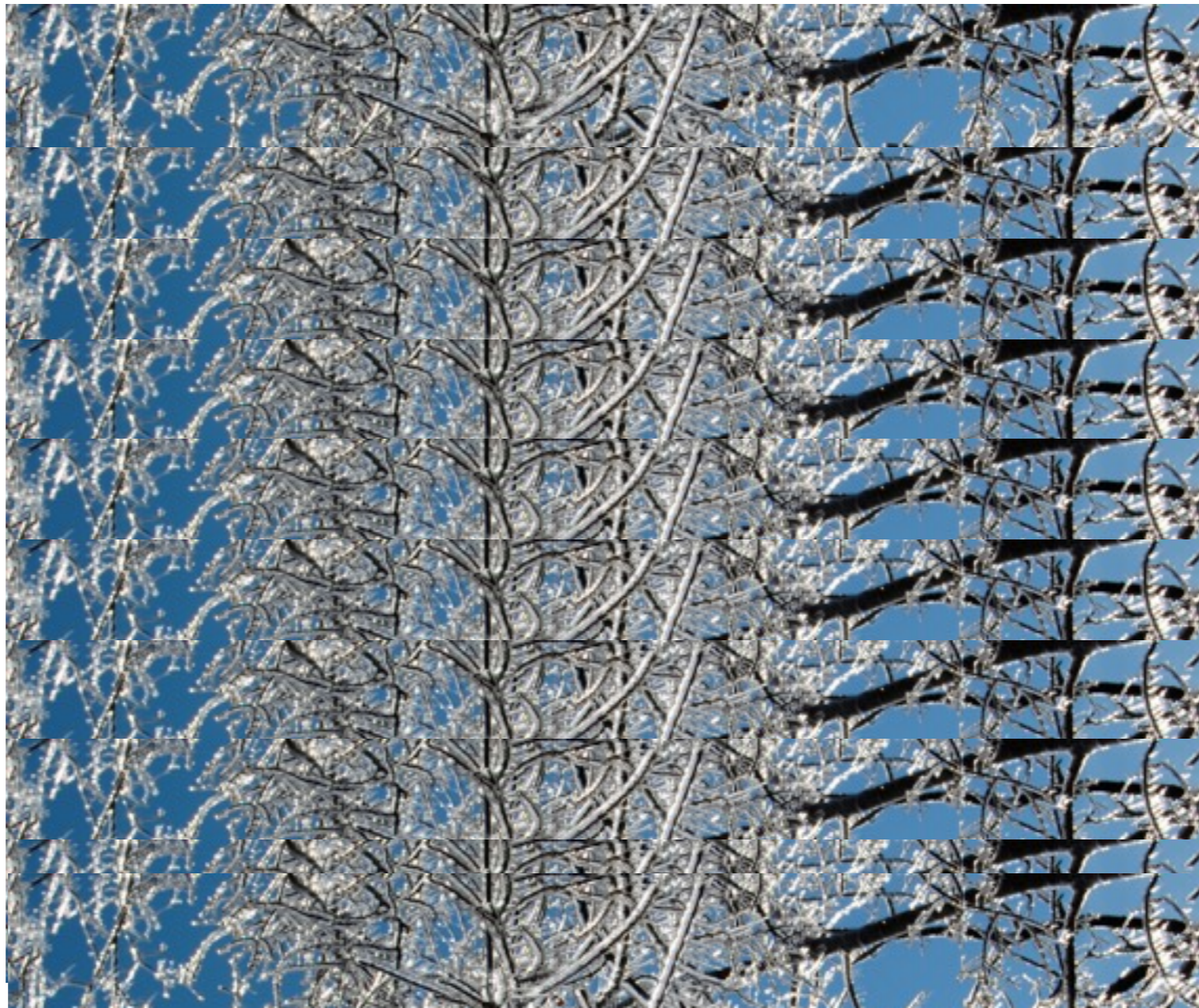


Reflections In a Cracked Glass



If I couldn't stumble

If I couldn't stumble, I couldn't move at all.

I'm am sure of only one thing: Very little is certain.

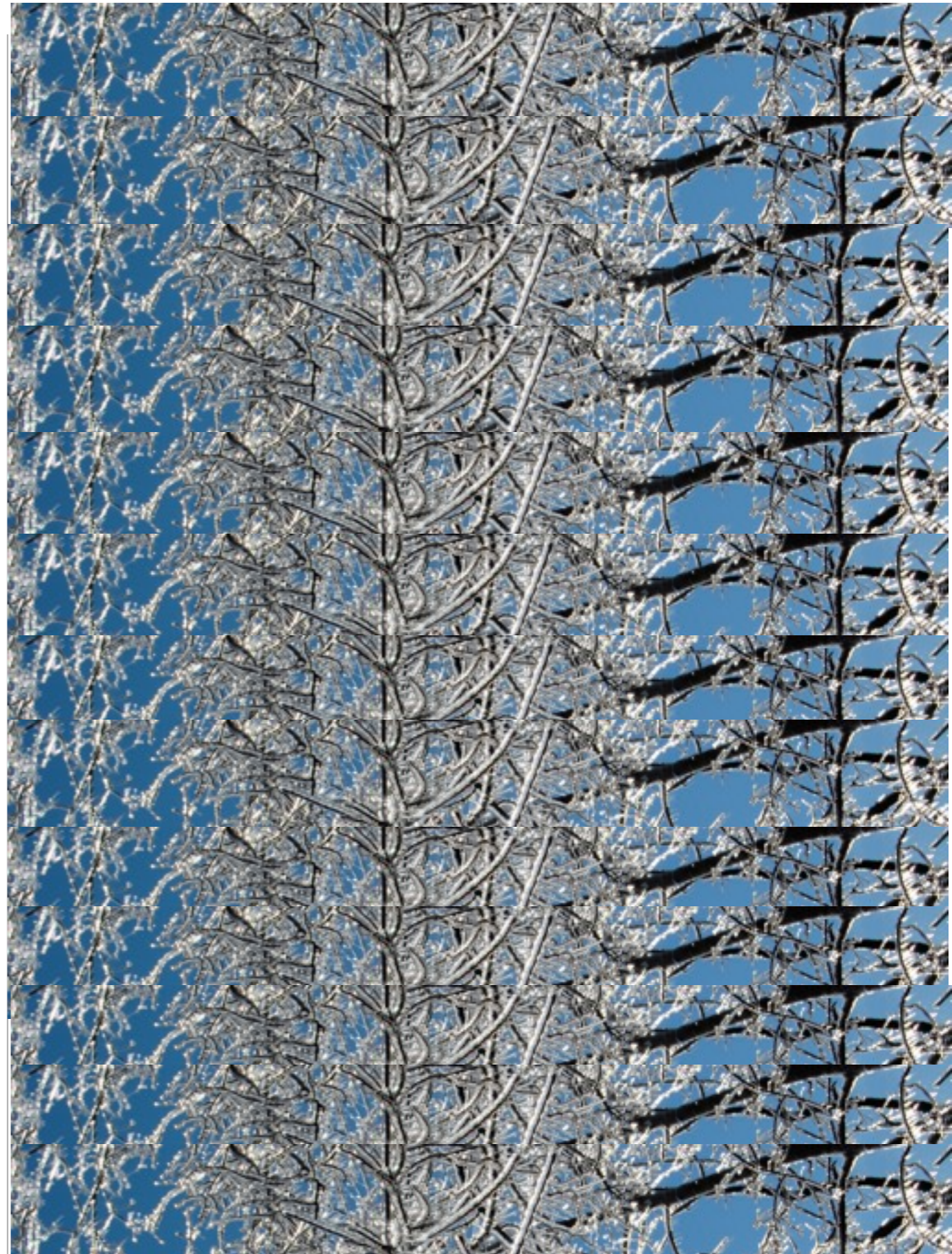
Descartes built a philosophy on doubt. He could doubt everything except his own existence. *Cogito ergo sum*. The converse is also true: *I am, therefore I doubt*.

I like crossword puzzles. The clue/answer that's always tickled me the most was "Words heard too rarely." The answer: "I don't know."

Faith, belief, conviction mean nothing without doubt. Faith in anything, in God or Marxist revolution or the redeeming value of love, is meaningful only to the extent that one opens oneself to doubt, to wonder, to question.

It's not only in the area of religion where doubt has value. Creative artists struggle constantly with the question of whether their work is a vibrant new direction, a mere re-working of previous work, or a dead end. Belief without doubt is dogmatism. Creative endeavor without doubt is empty proficiency.

Will you stumble onward with me?



Creativity

The essays in this section focus on the creativity of “ordinary” people, as opposed to the handful of individuals who have achieved broad public acknowledgment of their contributions.

This is a neglected topic. Rather than seeing creativity solely from the perspective of a few acknowledged “geniuses,” as a psychologist I have long contended that creative expression is not something for the few, but a deeply engrained human need of virtually all of us, a need that tends to be undervalued in our culture.

These essays delve into the nature of the need for artistic creativity and examine challenges and opportunities in teaching adult amateurs.

