Transgressive Learning requires making the familiar strange.

If we are to challenge and disrupt the customs and habits that keep us stuck in our old ways that no longer serve us, we need to find ways of learning that help us transform and transgress these oppressive norms.

Suitably strange speaks to the need to make strange the very familiar and normative paradigms that are holding us back from real and meaningful transformation and change.

This work needs to push us beyond the norm, but we can't push beyond this norm without care, without a suitable level of disruption, or what Wals calls “optimal disruption”. We are to push just far enough that it does not alienate or cause fear. Instead we disrupt enough to carefully shake us awake and inspire new possibilities, new ways of thinking, and for evolving the imagination to dream beyond that which we think are our boundaries.

The spade with two handles [inspired by Joseph Beuys] speaks to solidarity and co-defining ‘matters of concern’ together as fundamental to transgressive learning processes.

The three eyed double spectacles represent careful active attentiveness and focus we must maintain in our empathy. To look and feel into what is not there, and what still needs to come.

The ‘i-got-you-when-you-fall’ bank note show the trust and conviviality needing for this kind of learning, and that wealth is not material but social.

The bow and the arrow tied with string, speak to equality and shared responsibility and reward. That we rely on each other to progress; as Dr. Martin Luther King put it: “...none of us are free until all of us are free”.

The inner compass speaks to intuition and the value of other ways of knowing - of becoming apprentice to one's own inner moral compass.

A spade needs a shovel, a dolph is dorsal fin.
This is as vital as logical and rational thinking and requires a constant reflexive rigour to steer us forward, like the dolphin's dorsal fin.

The double-sided axe inspired by Ben Okri, reminds us that while we analyse and dissect the world, we must not be blind to the reality that we also dissect and analyze ourselves.

These are just some examples of familiar objects made strange to disrupt and open up new ways of thinking and expressing knowledge. Suitably strange practice is a useful instrument in the orchestral improvisation of transgressive learning. Perfecting the art of suitably strange practice is essentially perfecting the art of creating space for invisible or unrecognized knowledge(s) to enter into the realm of learning, and learning as activism.

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TWIN SPECTACLES JOINED BY A THIRD LENS, TO EMPATHETICALLY DEVELOP A COMMON SENSE.

The double-sided axe shrugs into logical parts,

The masculin, the feminin, become two wings, a bow and arrow held together with string.

can also cut backwards and injuries your heart,