

## Explanation of “Managing The Bashan Institute of Science on a daily basis”

### What do you see?

An office scene and many old fashioned colorful cartoon characters scattered around and many unclear details that only a close look will reveal as the meaning of this artwork is in the detail.

### What is the meaning of all of this?

This is an allegory of running an active scientific research institute. This is the real setting of the office of Prof. Luz de-Bashan, the chief scientist and the CEO of the Bashan Institute of Science. All the cartoon characters illustrate all sorts of management issues that she is deals with daily. They are painted freehand from common TV cartoon characters, modified and freely painted, not as their original source.

The focal point of the entire painting is the managing hand of Luz. The management of an institute depicted as a different type of strings connecting to the clutching hand and, because it is an allegory, they are visible to the naked eye. The bills to pay are handled tightly with a very short chain connecting them to the central alarm system (small black box with red blinking light) on Luz’ desk and from there, the alarm is transmitted to the managing hand (red dots in the chain). Even if the “bills” try to hide, the short chain does not allow them any freedom.

The funding agencies, the life blood of any scientific institute, all functioning in 2018 (National Science foundation-NSF; US Department of Agriculture, USDA in the USA; The national council of science and technology of Mexico-CONACYT; and the Icelandic Research fund-RANNIS) are depicting as escaping characters constantly on the run. She allows them some free roaming, but still they are chained to heavy iron weights attached to her desk that is also connected to the central alarm sensor on her desk. For good measure, she inserts additional precautions. Two of the agencies are dressed in easy to detect convict’s attire. If they wish to escape through her window, the latter is permanently locked (C) with alarm sensor (red dot). If they wish to hide inside her printer, the entrance is dotted with step-on sensors (in white), volume sensors (in red), and a mouse trap with sharp teeth if they somehow manage to deceive the sensors.

The academic collaborators of BIS are depicted as several resting cartoon characters, some showing apathy. They do very little on their own until Luz shackle them for action. They are connected to the managing hand by loose threads of blue beads.

The graduate students are depicted as fledgling birds treated with strings of flowers. All their needs are responded to with ease, and a hand in a form of a flower is permanently supporting them to avoid crashing before they learn to fly.

The postdocs are depicted as a flying Mickey Mouse dressed in a superman outfit. They already know how to fly and are treated more as collaborators than as students; thus, the mix of blue beads and flowers.

The year that all of this happens is marked on the calendar. The location at The Bashan Institute of Science is identified by its logo. The eye on the top represents the gaze of Yoav Bashan, the president of the institute, who admires how chaos is transformed into scientific productivity.

This explanation was written as a public service.