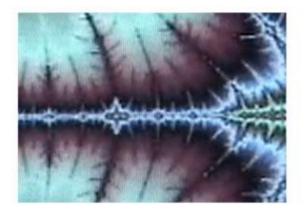
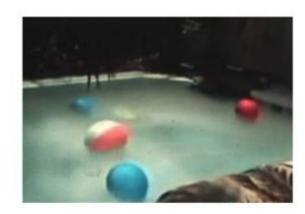
Frowntown

Wallspace Gallery, NY 2012

Documentation



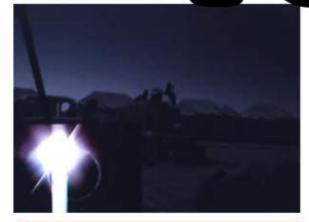










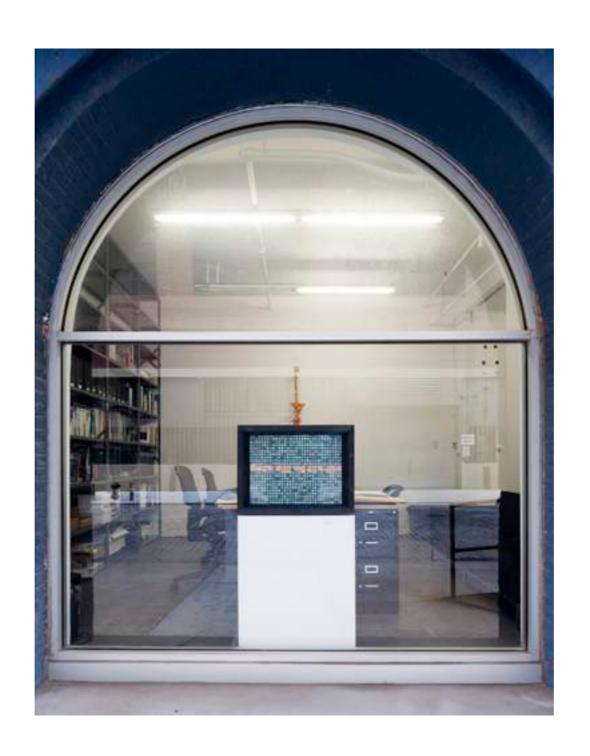


continuum 1.) opposite of the discrete—which posits reality in pieces or atoms. 2.) variation as incomprehensibly gradual; no part can be differentiated from any adjacent part. 3.) reality as a fabric; no breaks.





digital 1.) a signal created by converting an original (continuous) subject into binary code, or discrete bits. 2.) any binary attribute, i.e. on/off, man/woman, dead/alive.









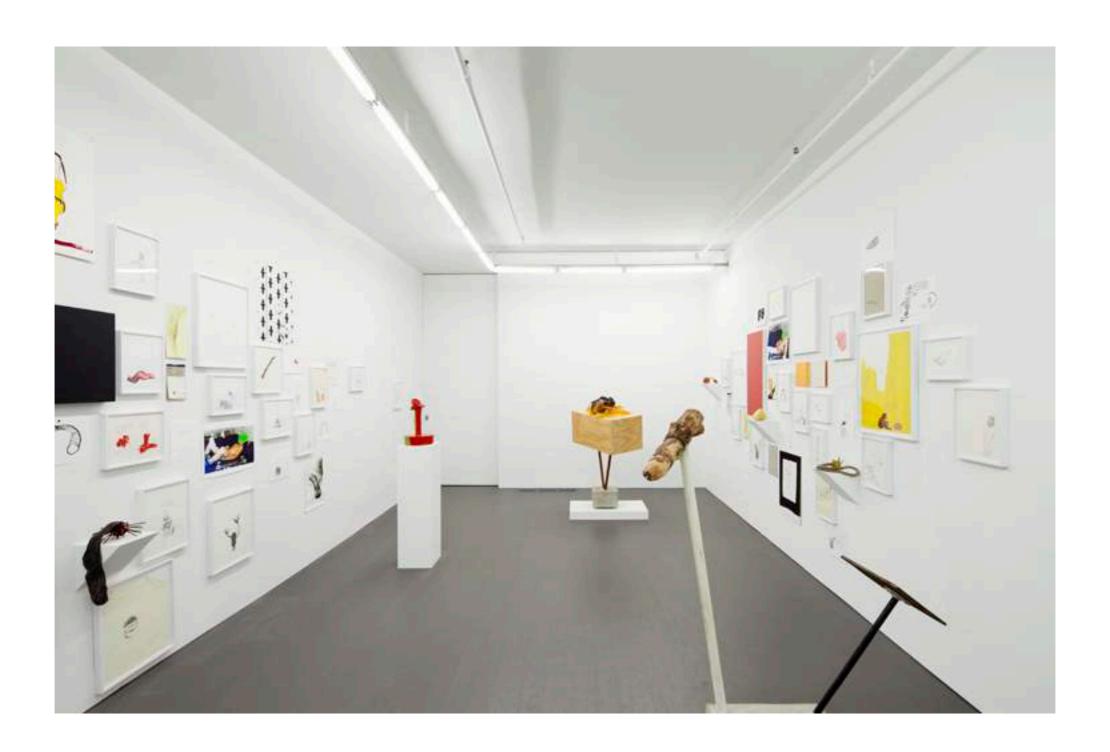




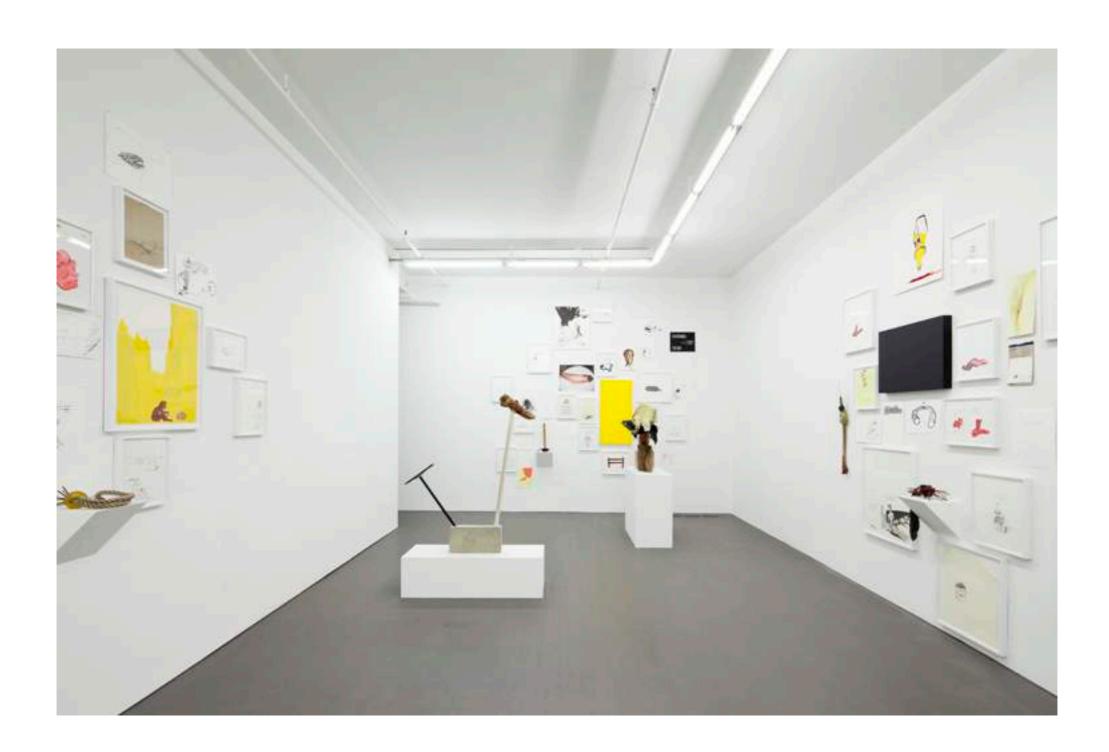








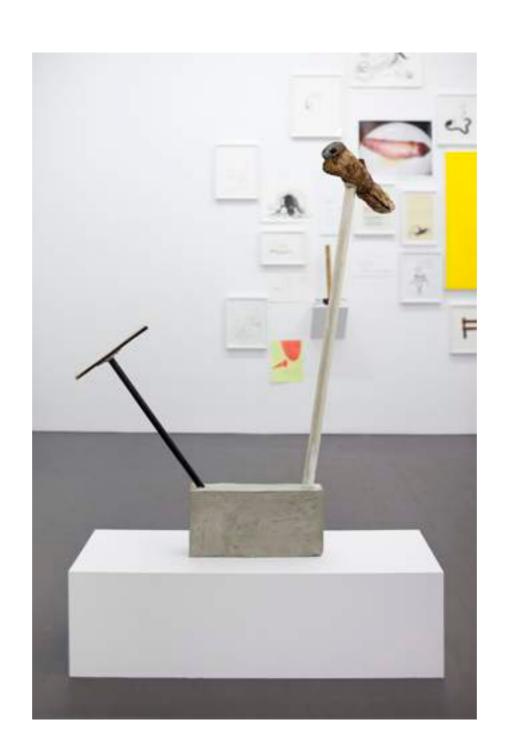


















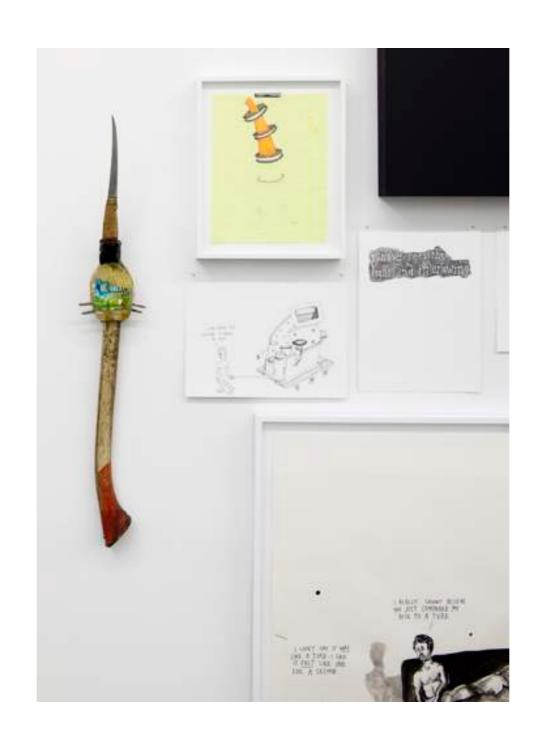




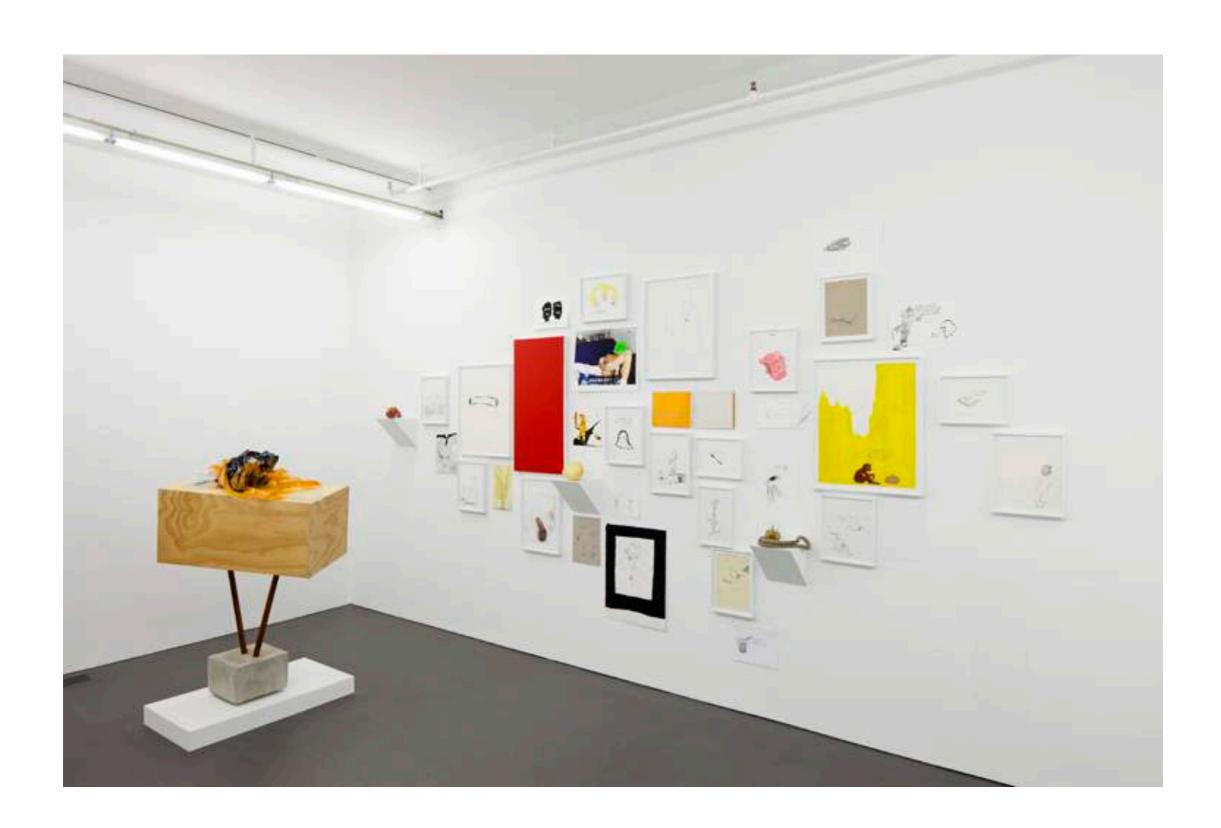




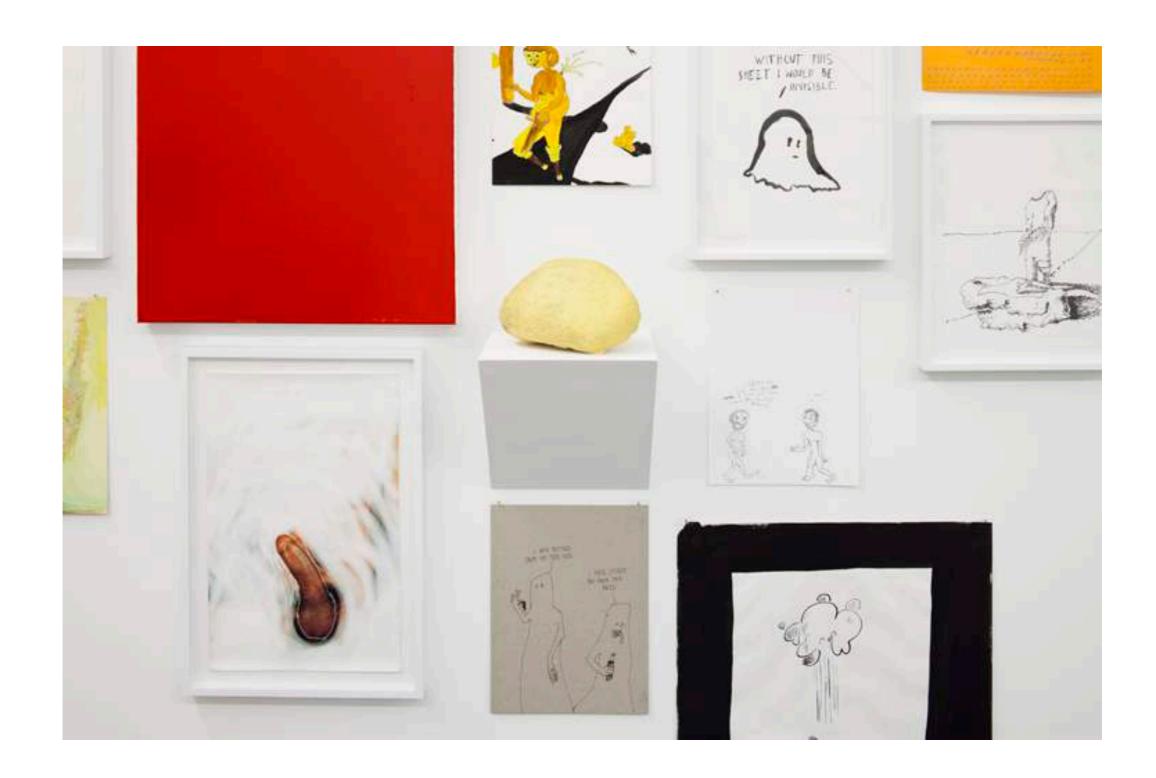




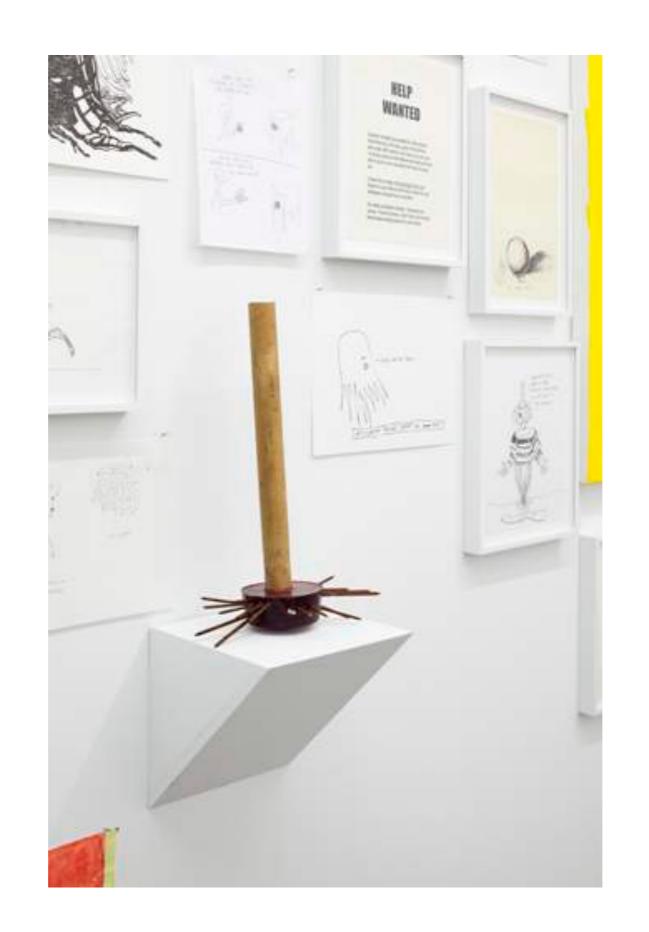


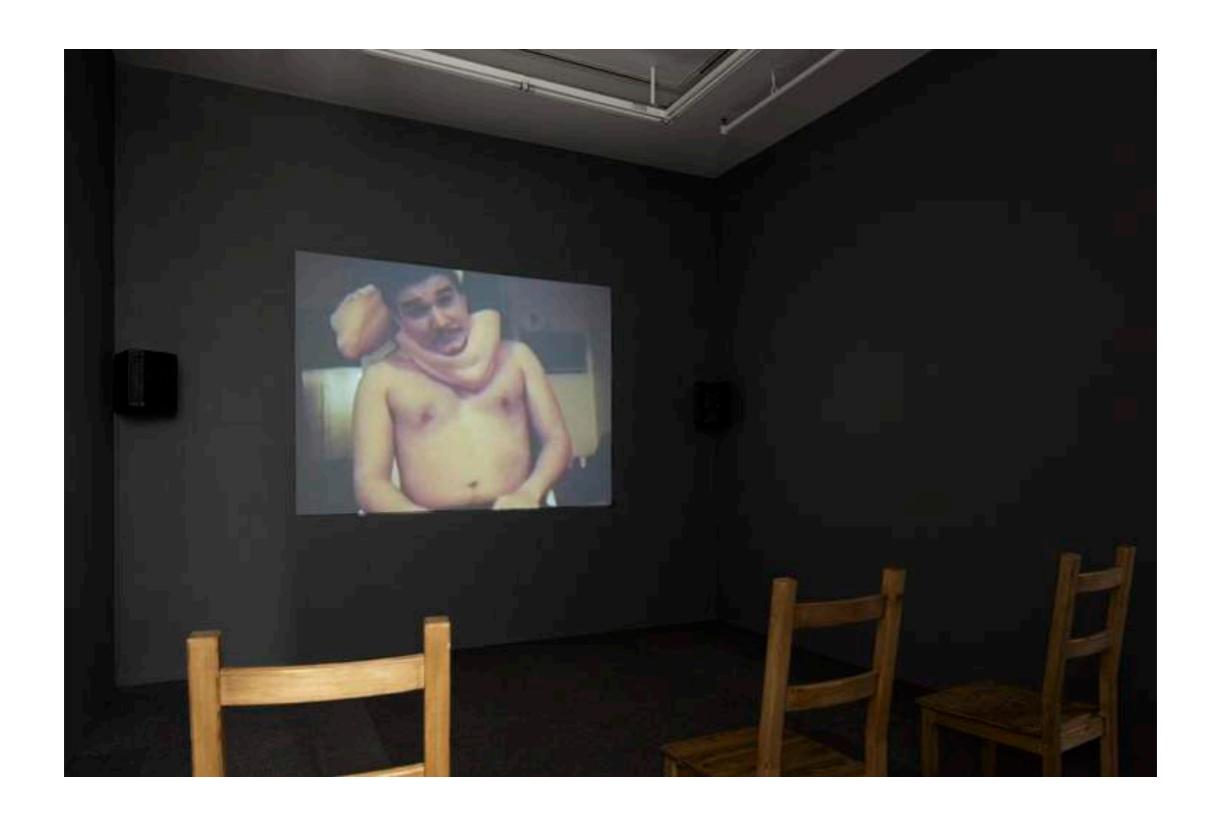














FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Harry Dodge

Frowntown

March 30-May 5, 2012

"Let us call the resting-places the 'substantive parts,' and the places of flight the 'transitive parts,' of the stream of thought." —William James

"Out of what is in itself an undistinguishable, swarming continuum, devoid of distinction or emphasis, our senses make for us, by attending to this motion and ignoring that, a world full of contrasts, of sharp accents, of abrupt changes...to which we therefore give substantive names, and which we exalt to this exclusive status of independence and dignity... It is the reinstatement of the vague and unarticulated to its proper place in our mental life which I am so anxious to press on the attention." —William James

Wallspace is pleased to announce Frowntown, Harry Dodge's first solo exhibition at the gallery and 3rd solo exhibition in New York City.

Frowntown presents a viscerally affective body of work which employs all manner of drawing, performance, video, and sculpture to explore Dodge's longstanding interest in what is transitive, or "in-between," be it between states, stations, technologies, genders, or forms of representation. Using an unruly variety of media and tone, Dodge creates a sort of relentlessly faceted taxonomy of the unnameable, which riffs on (among other things) William James' notion of the often imperceptible, often irretrievable primal stream from which namable items are cleaved.

Made with urgency over the course of a six-month period, the video trilogy of *Ipse Dixit* (2011), *Unkillable* (2011), and *Fred Can Never Be Called Bald* (2011) explores the space in between language and image, as well as the inexorability of narrative progress or momentum itself in different tonal and formal registers. *Ipse Dixit* is a two-minute loop which uses the simplest tools of Final Cut Pro to deliver a short transcription on the end of the world. The black comedy *Unkillable* investigates the potency of images made from language by means of monologic performance: wearing a mask, Dodge performs a "text-story" of a would-be film made up of progressively appalling events. *Fred Can Never Be Called Bald* uses a combination of text cards, computer voiceover, and a distorted collage of YouTube clips to meditate on the translation and compression of material information into the digitized, virtual world. Each piece in the trilogy edges its structural and metaphysical concerns with a measure of comedy and brutality, offering tough, tender witness to the vulnerability of the human animal and its enterprises.

Dodge's drawings treat related issues via play with captioning, non sequitur, and an often lewd sense of humor. Many dramatize the violent enterprise of articulating from the muck by means of obsessive depictions of various tools, prostheses, or accessories (such as saws, knives, wigs, wooden legs, keyboard tray extensions, probes, human limbs, or dipsticks). The sculptures translate this play into three dimensions, transforming and transvaluing everyday objects (buckets, boxing gloves, motorcycle helmets, salad dressing bottles, kitchen knives, and so on) into the realm of the indefinable and the menacing, while pieces such as "Matter-Baby" and "Strawman" give the sense of being souvenirs that have come back, dipped, from other dimensions.

Some of the sculptures meditate on James' notion of transitive space—the space of *orientation*, of "if" or "nearly," of being between substantives—vis a vis their employment of "legs" or other theatrical forms of presentation (see "What is the Difference Between Foreshortening and Amputation?"). Others humourously invoke simultaneous fluid subjectivities, such as "The Dogs Bark at the Tree Contains The Word Bark Near Both Tree and Dogs" whose titular reference is Google's "disambiguation algorithm" a function that—unless thwarted by ambiguous proximate symbols—is able, by context, to decipher a user's interests.

Taken together, the works in "Frowntown" evidence an obsessive, often audacious insistence on the "places of flight," while also offering a raucous, reclamatory vision of human despair, comedy, sexuality, anatomy, and drive.

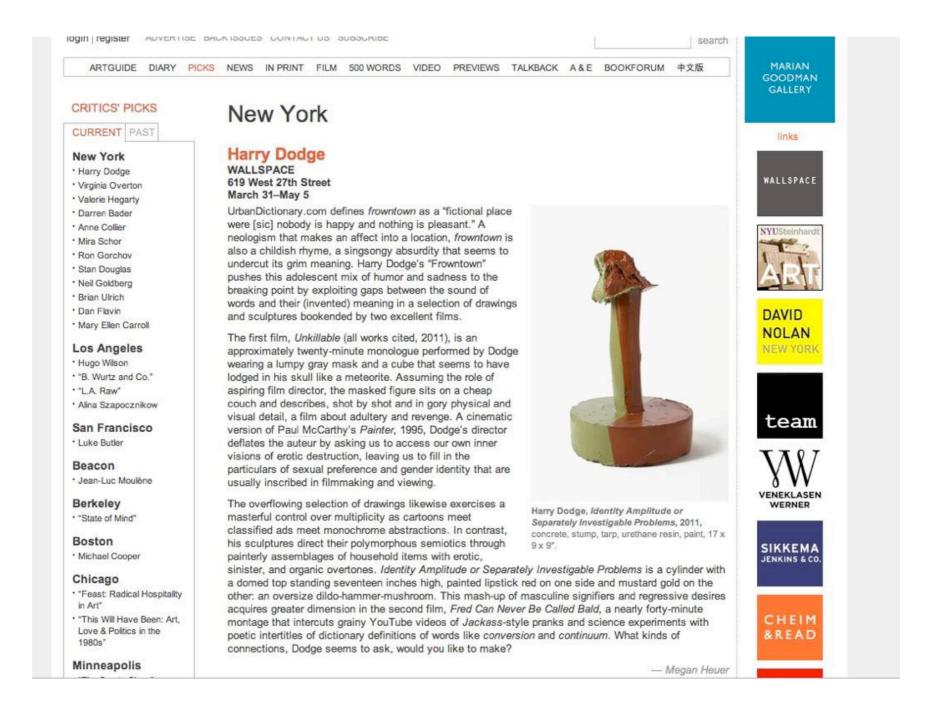
Harry Dodge has exhibited solo and collaborative work at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the Hessel Museum of Art, Pleasure Dome (Toronto), and Curtat Tunnel (Lausanne, Switzerland), the 2008 Whitney Biennial; "Code Share: 5 continents, 10 biennales, 20 artists," CAC Vilnius, Lithuania; the "Videonale 12," Kunstalle Bonn, Bonn, Germany; "Slightly Unbalanced" at the Harnnett Museum, Richmond, Virginia; "Reflections on the Electric Mirror: New Feminist Video" at the Elizabeth A. Sackler Center for Feminist Art, Brooklyn Museum of Art; "Unusual Behavior," Santa Barbara Museum of Contemporary Art, Santa Barbara, "California Video," Getty Museum, Los Angeles; "Laughing in a Foreign Language," The Hayward, London; "Between Two Deaths," ZKM/Center for Art and Media, Karlsruhe, Germany; "Eden's Edge," Hammer Museum,

Harry Dodge, Frowntown

Press Release, March 2012

'Harry Dodge, Frowntown'

Artforum Online, Critic's Pick, March 2012



'Harry Dodge, Frowntown,' by Johanna Burton

Artforum, May 2012

REVIEWS

relationship with her family-above all her five sisters-but also her struggle with MS. (A homeopath prescribed two substances for her treatment, she tells us, which both turned out to be chemicals used in photography.) We see Davey wandering through her apartment—periodically there are shots of the winter cityscape through the windowas she listens with earphones to a recording of the essay and attempts to repeat it as it plays. The result of this self-ventriloquism is a peculiar distance between voice and text. Each word she pronounces is like a snapshot of a word we can't hear. When she says, or rather repeats, the line "my fragmented story came out rather flat and monotone," she seems to be describing not only what we are actually hearing but also an aesthetic of neutrality in which passion is authenticated by the artist's ability to studiously reflect on it by mediating its expression.

At one point, we see her blowing the dust off her books into the air, as if this dispersal of what has accumulated around her library was an essential gesture of her art. Amid citations of authors such as Sigmund Freud, Walter Benjamin, and Isak Dinesen, she ruminates over the photographs she took of her sisters more than thirty years earlier, the ones from which the prints displayed in the next room were chosen. Dressed in white tank tops or striped T-shirts, all very graphic, the astonishingly self-possessed young women look like the perfect feminist post-punk band—the one whose album I might have liked to put on after wearing out the grooves on my Slits and Raincoats records-rather than a family. Their subsequent lives, we gather from the narration, reflect uncertainties and regrets, the incipient signs of which one looks for in vain in the photographs. For Davey, reflecting on life, literature, and the image constitutes a single process, but it's one that opens out as well as reflects inward. "On the subway downtown on the way to the New York Public Library, in search of Mary Shelley's diary," she recites in the video's coda, "I began to notice subway riders absorbed in writing of their own."

-Barry Schwabsky

Harry Dodge WALLSPACE

Intro to Logic, freshman year, college. I recall these sentences on the blackboard: "God is love. Love is blind. Stevie Wonder is blind. Therefore Stevie Wonder is God." The example was given as the epitome of fallacy, illustrating, that is, a breach of reason while appearing to maintain reason's very form. Such sleights of hand, we learned, are identified easily enough yet are surprisingly pervasive (and persuasive). While



Dodge, Fred Can r Be Called Bald, still from a color o. 39 minutes 56 seconds

nonsensical, they can be steeped in such emotional or affective content that their inaccuracy goes unnoticed or, more to the point, feels inherently correct despite obvious evidence to the contrary.

Harry Dodge's nearly forty-minute video Fred Can Never Be Called Bald (all works cited, 2011)—appearing in "Frowntown," his first solo outing at this gallery-would seem to follow the illogic of fallacy. Somewhere near the halfway mark of the work, the following language appears: "Fred isn't bald now. If he loses one hair, that won't make him go from not bald to bald either. If he loses one more hair after that, then this one loss, also doesn't make him go from not bald to bald. Therefore, no matter how much hair he loses he can never be called bald." It's a strangely comic non sequitur, housed within the body of an otherwise darkly cacophonous video, whose content is largely found footage culled from YouTube. To describe its parts is to do a disservice to its whole, since viewers (this viewer at least) are lulled into a kind of eerie trance as the work unfolds. Here are so many Jackass-type shenanigans, enacted mostly by tribes of frenetic young white men: They light themselves on fire, asphyxiate themselves (or others) to the point of passing out, or perform daredevil acrobatics. In almost all cases—and in those clips that provoke anxieties and upset of other kinds, such as one showing a freak hailstorm in which baseball-size globes crash like meteors into a home swimming pool or another depicting an elephant falling to its knees-there is more than a hint of real peril, of the near-death encounter becoming death itself.

Yet these scenes of stupidity and mayhem come to feel incredibly precarious and unexpectedly moving. The brashly mindless participants, nudged into detailing an odd typology of sorts, appear, in their shared terrain, as though they are pursuing something beyond their immediate circumstances and beyond, too, the immediate thrills they seek. One after the next, they are like lemurs throwing themselves off a cliff, slaves not only to their desires but to some relentless pull of biology or spirit or something. Throughout the piece, various wordslatent, sublimation, continuum, transubstantiation, conversion, infinite, transitive, digital, compression, and so on-and their dictionary definitions appear on-screen, all describing changes in states of being or the orientation of things. A computer voice-over coolly delivers some of this information, too, and the metaphoric implications of, say, the difference between a continuum and the discrete are weirdly rendered all the more palpable. Near the end of Fred Can Never Be Called Bald, there is a shot of a total eclipse of the sun, and then a scene of the artist's brother crying at the foot of his mother's deathbed at a hospice. The sequence is clichéd, but clichéd in the sense of that word's earliest etymology: ringing with a known sound, though without reducing its effects.

Dodge's show included, as well, drawings (abject, but also often quite delicate), sculpture (violent collusions that also often approximate embraces between everyday objects), and two additional videos. The first, Ipse Dixit, uses lo-fi effects to deliver an end-of-the-world message; the second, Unkillable, features the artist clad in a pallid clown mask reading out loud the shot list for a film about lives (and life) coming undone. The entire assembly of work in "Frowntown" generated a pathos perhaps better described as a scent-pungent, almost pleasant, yet without question that of decay: a state of being like no other, where internal contradictions constitute rather than undo.

-Johanna Burton

Alex Bag and Patterson Beckwith TEAM GALLERY

Between 1994 and 1997, Alex Bag and Patterson Beckwith produced sixty-odd hours of two public-access cable-TV shows, Cash from

ARTFORUM

Selected Drawings

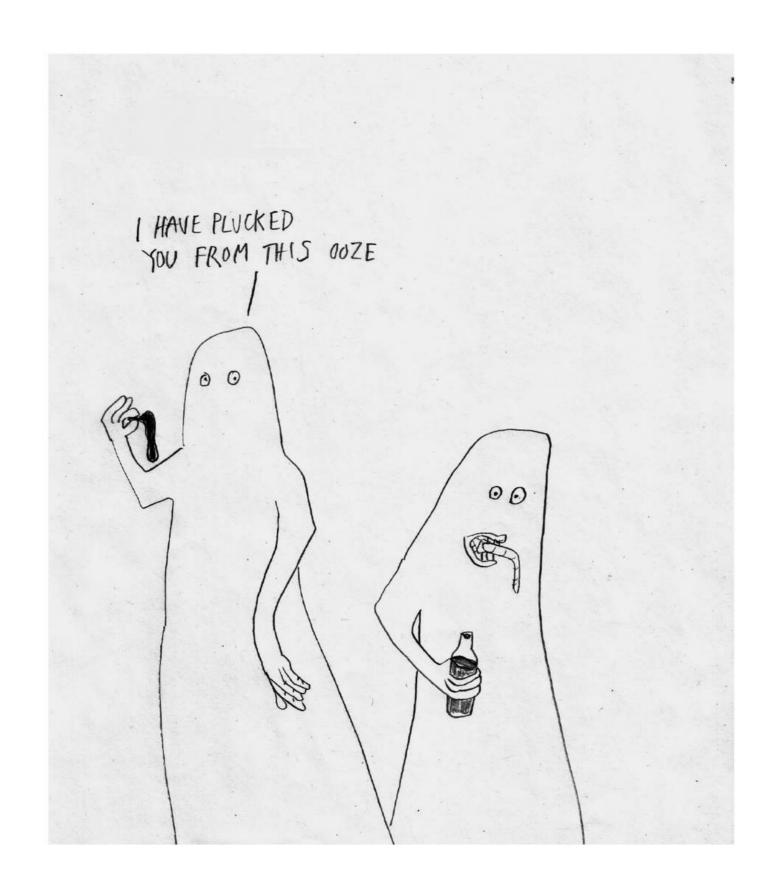






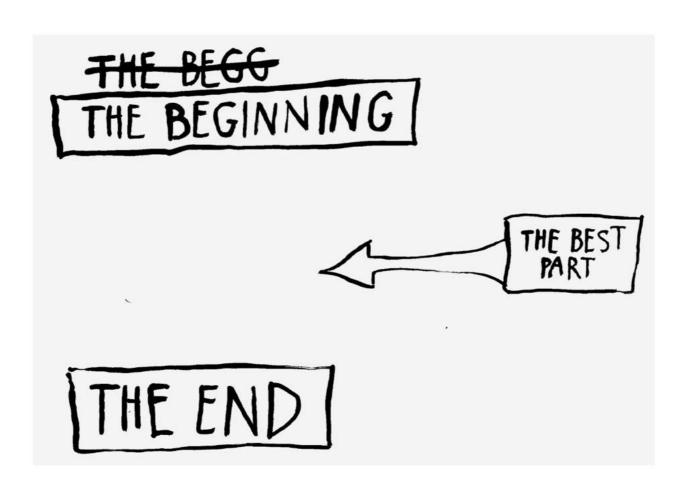
Occult Weiner (On a String)
Acrylic and Ink on Paper, 18 x 24

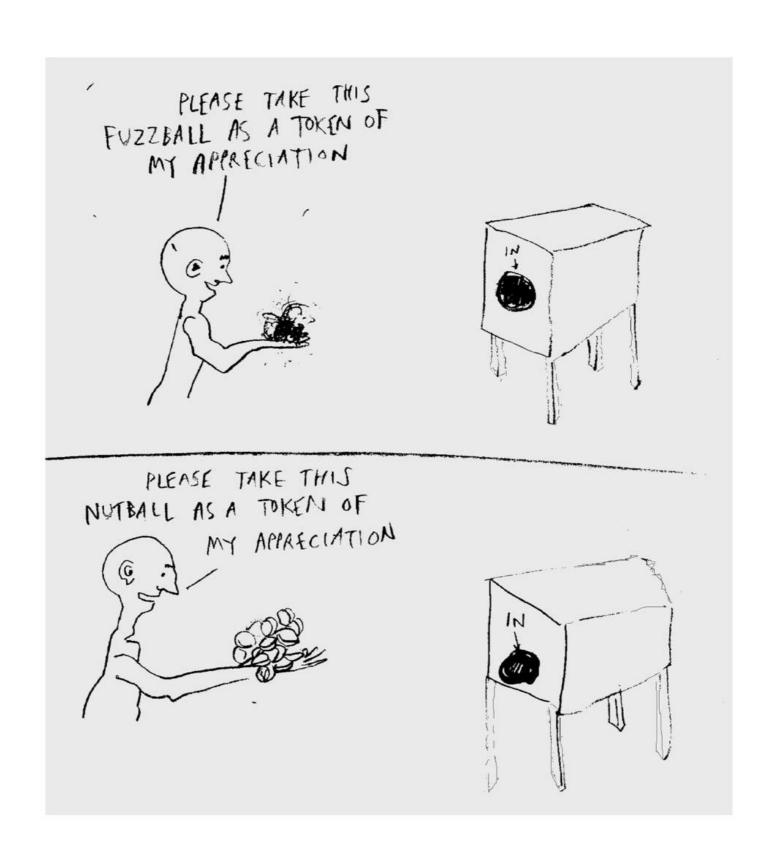
2003



I Have Sucked This From Your Booze

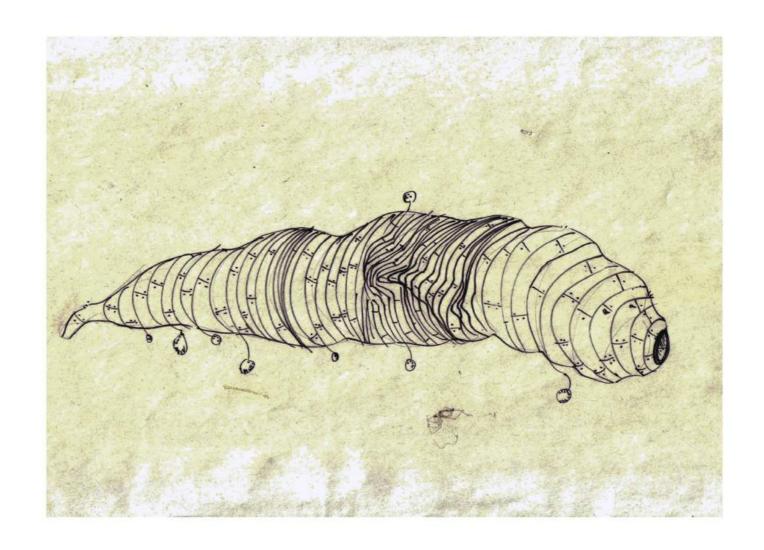








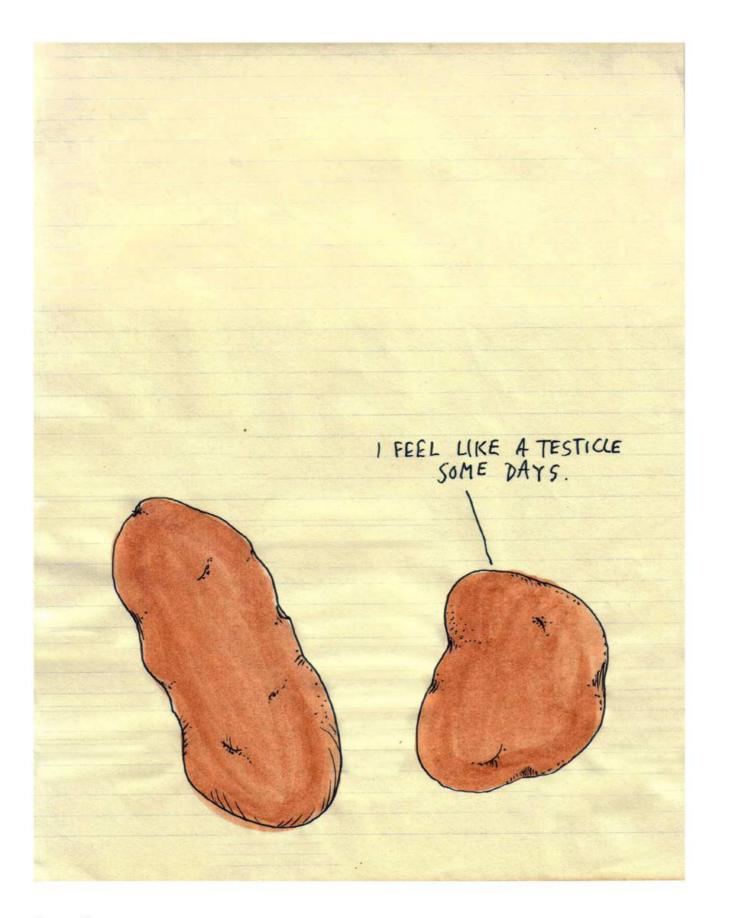
Pen on Paper, 11 x 8.5 2004



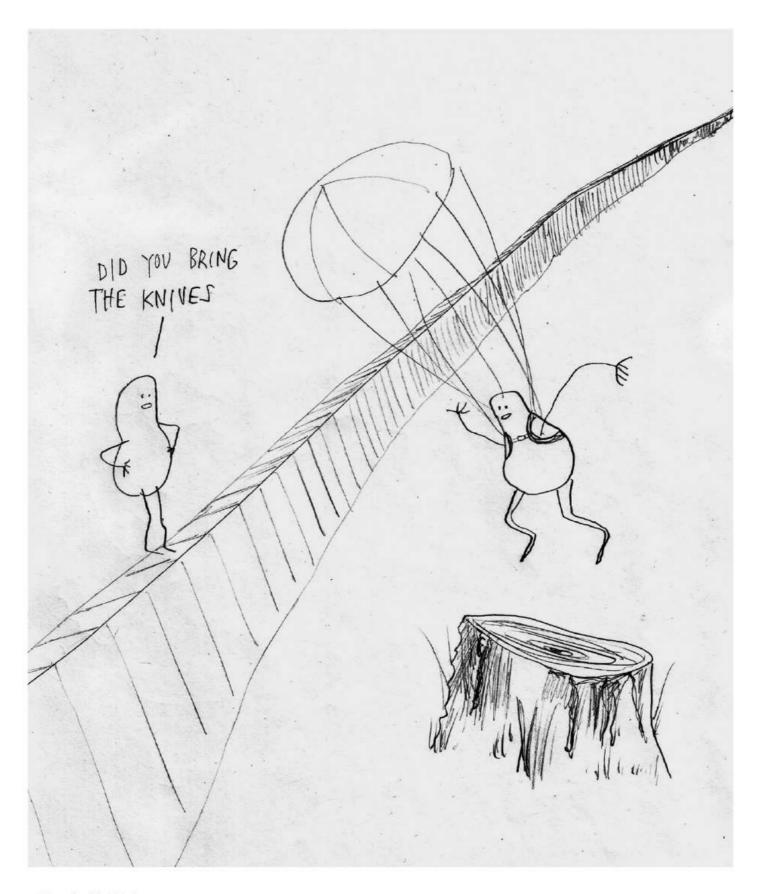


Stiff Wig (Red)

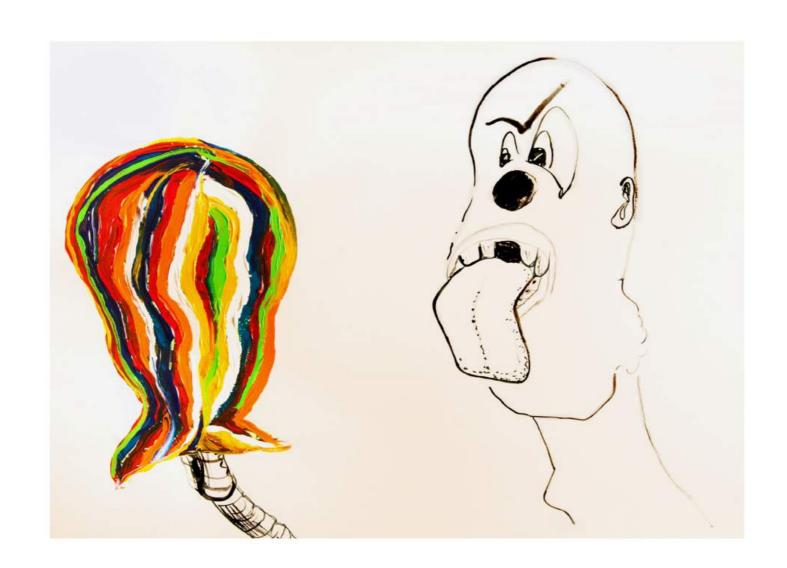
Aquarelle and Pen on Paper, 8.5 x 11 2001

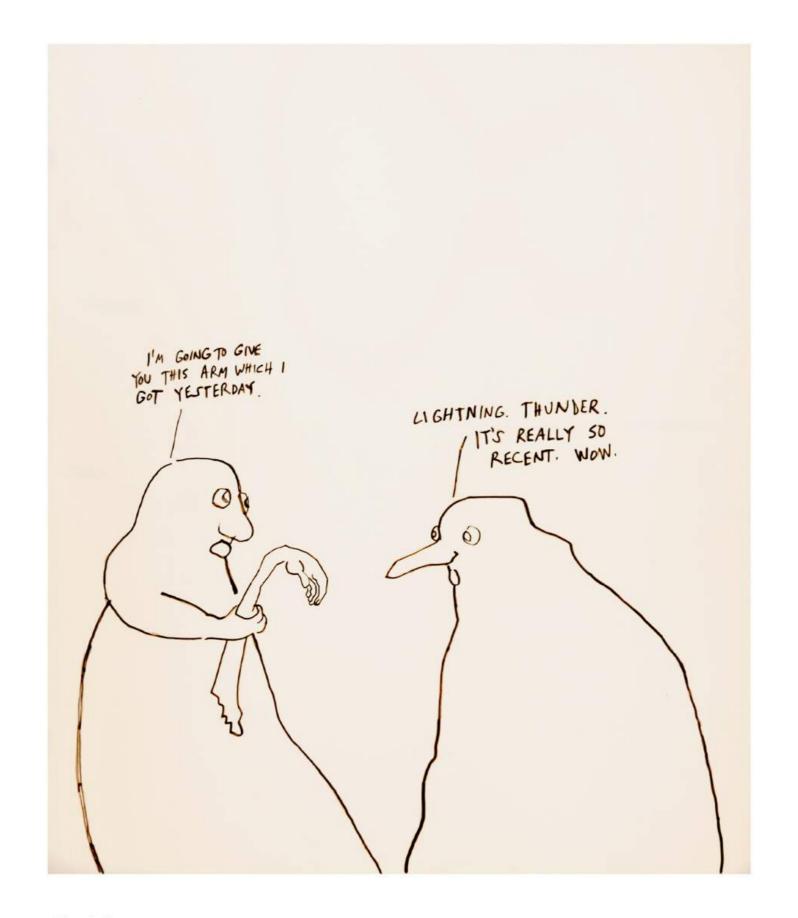


Some Days
Aquarelle and Ink on Paper, 8 x 12
2002

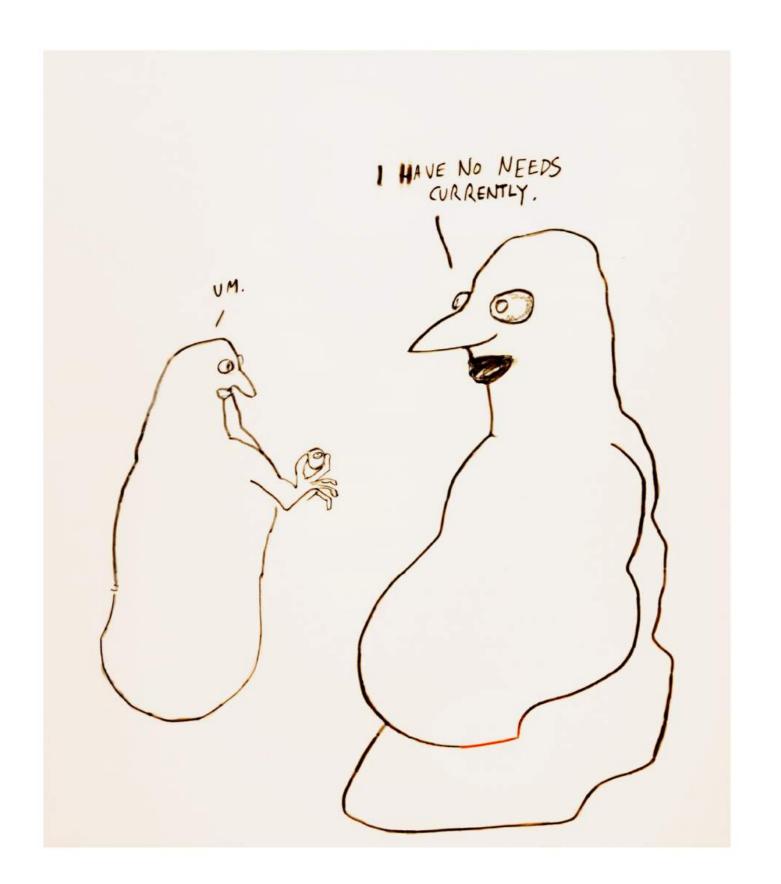


Ready To Cut
Pencil on Paper, 8.5 x 11
2011





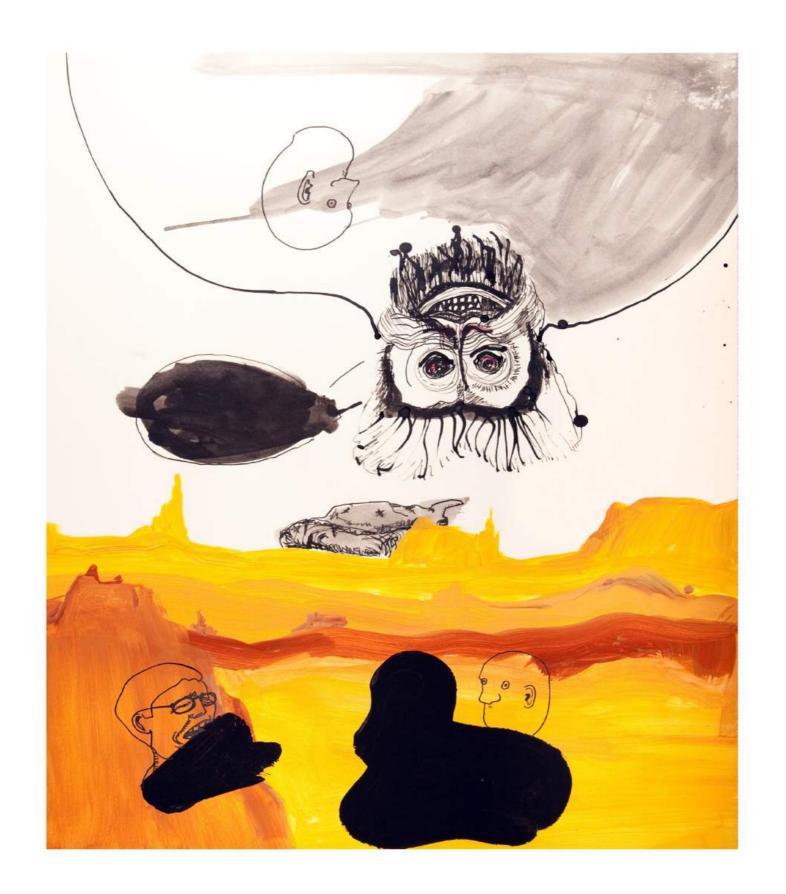
Fresh Arm
Pencil on Paper, 16 x 21
2010



Eyeball Gift (Anorexia)

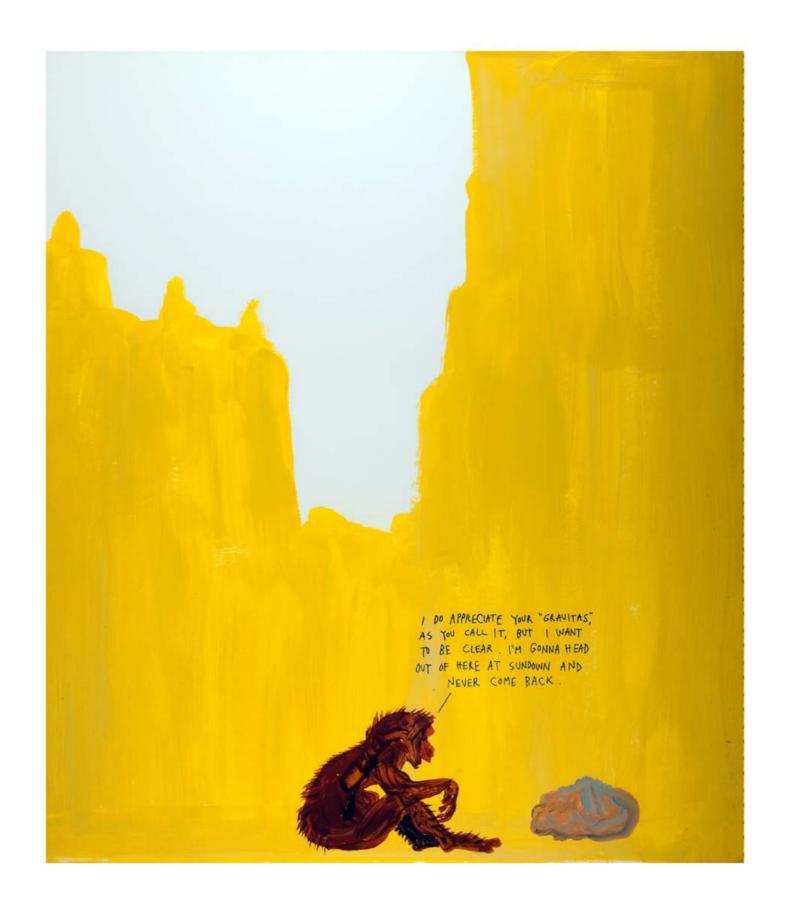


Confronting Other
Pencil on Paper, 16 x 21
2010



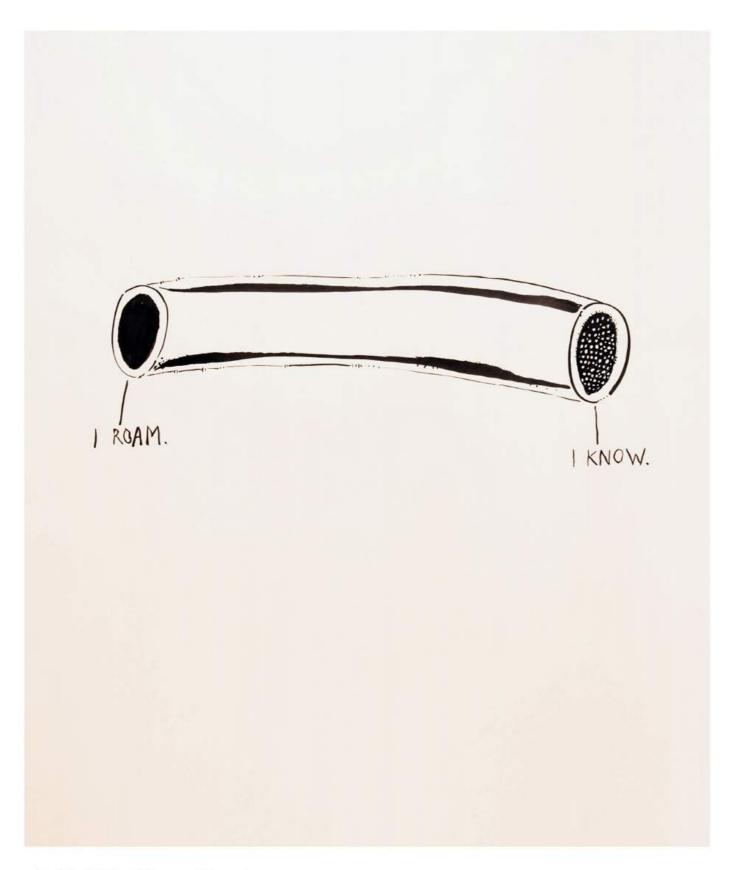
Grey Turd In Brown Desert (Color Theory and Geologic Figuration)

Acrylic and Ink on Paper, 19 x 24 2006



GravitasAcrylic and ink on Paper, 19 x 24
2011





Untitled Tube (I Roam, I Know)

Ink on Paper, 18 x 23.5 2003



The Sometimes Disappointing Reveals of Sudden Associative Leaps



Puff to Indicate Recent Presence and Utterly New Absence (Where a Lightbulb Used to Be) $\,$ Acrylic and Ink on Paper, $\,$ 17.5 x 20.5 $\,$ 2006



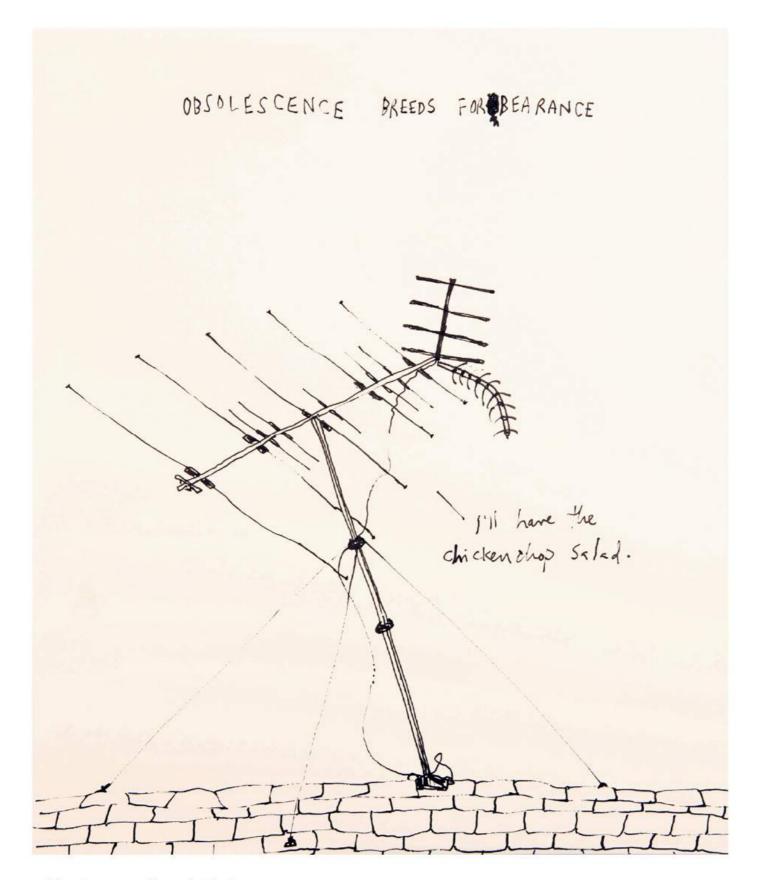
Carmex (Folded Page)

Pen on Paper, 15 x 18 1997



A Bottle of Wesson Oil Falls Toward the Floor





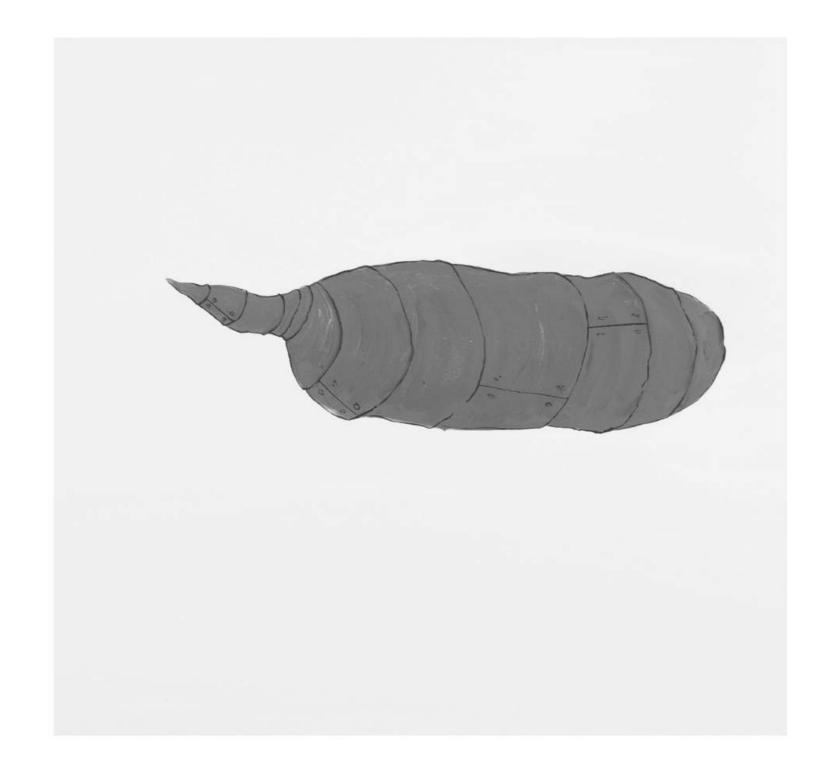
Obsolescence Breeds Forbearance

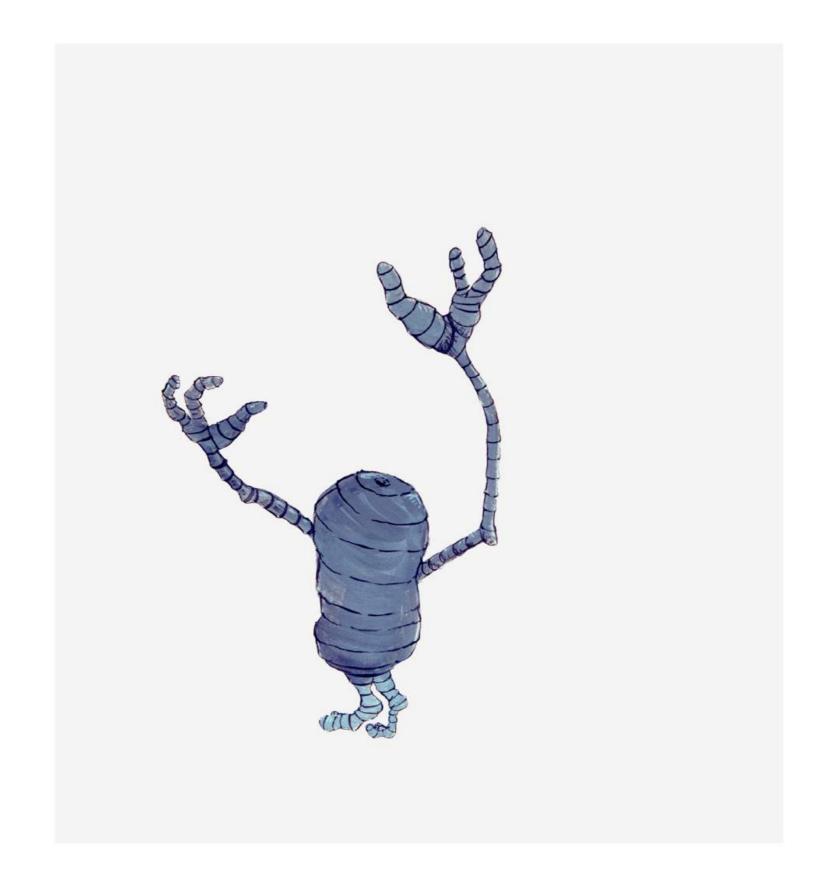


Wrestling Exhaustion

Pencil on Paper, 8.5 x 11 2010





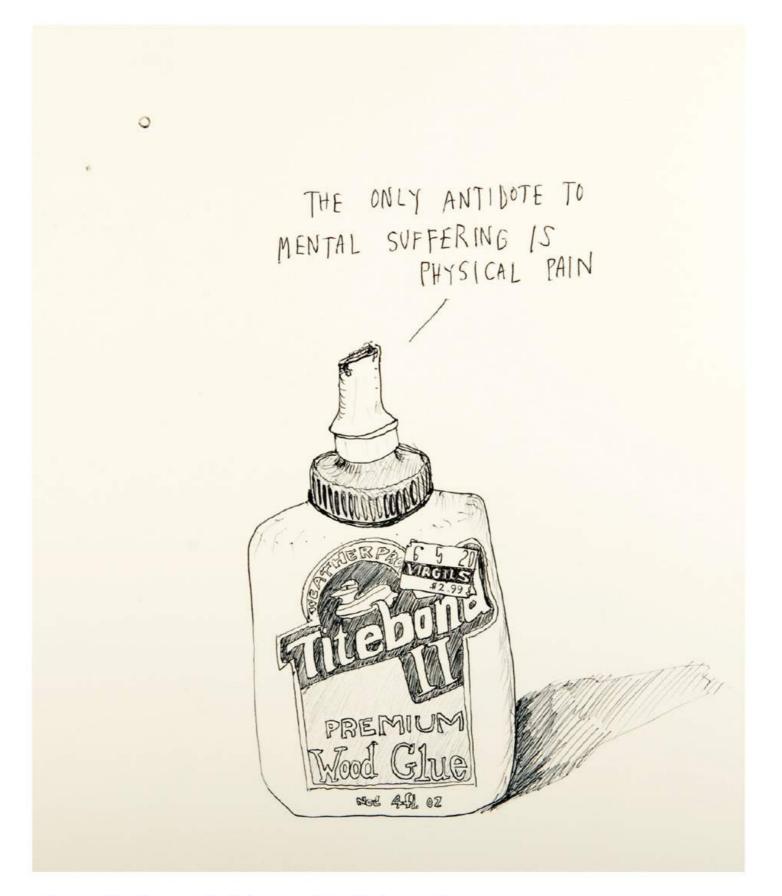








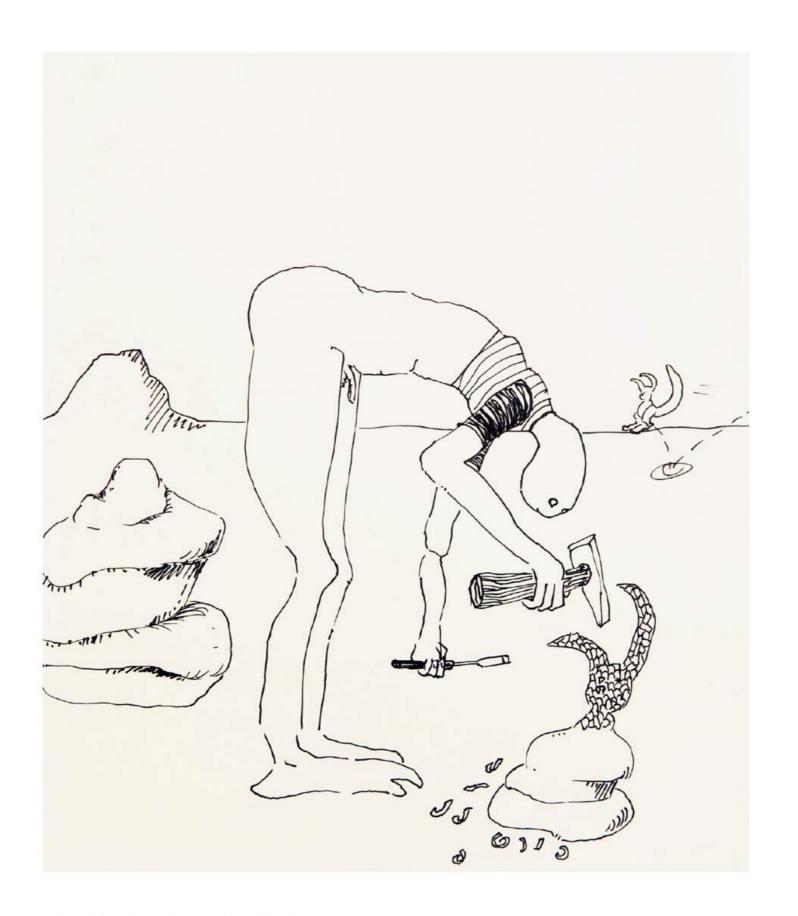
Brown (Stick)
Acrylic on Paper, 11.5 x 14
2002



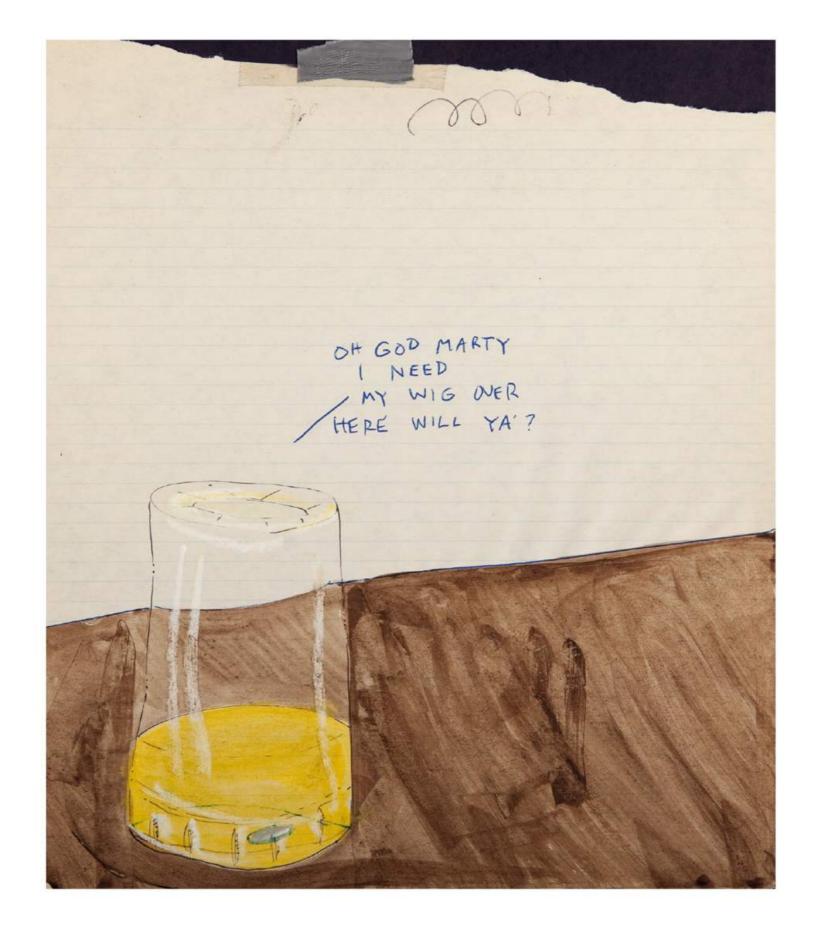




Brown (Stephen Hawking with an Apple)



Arresting Time/ Granularity Study



Tip Prank (Urine)
Aquarelle and Pen on Notebook Paper, 8.5 x 11
2001

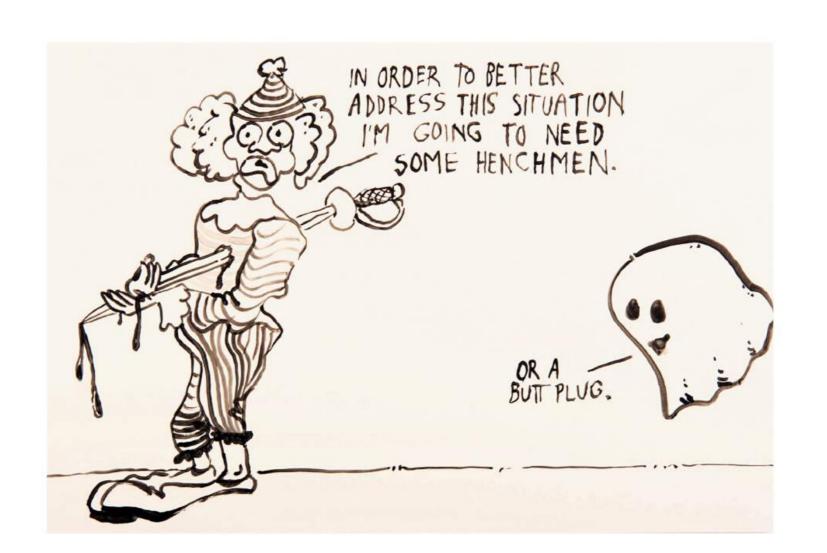


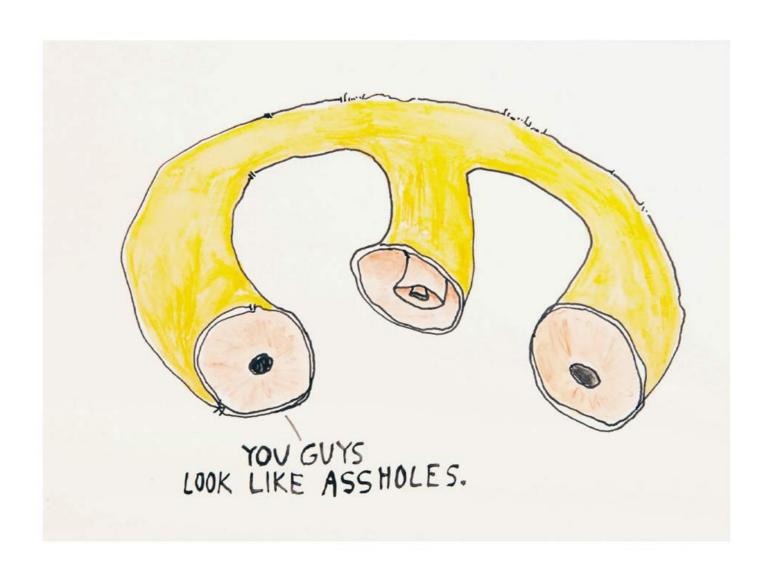
2010



Aquarelle and Ink on Paper, 9 x 12 2012









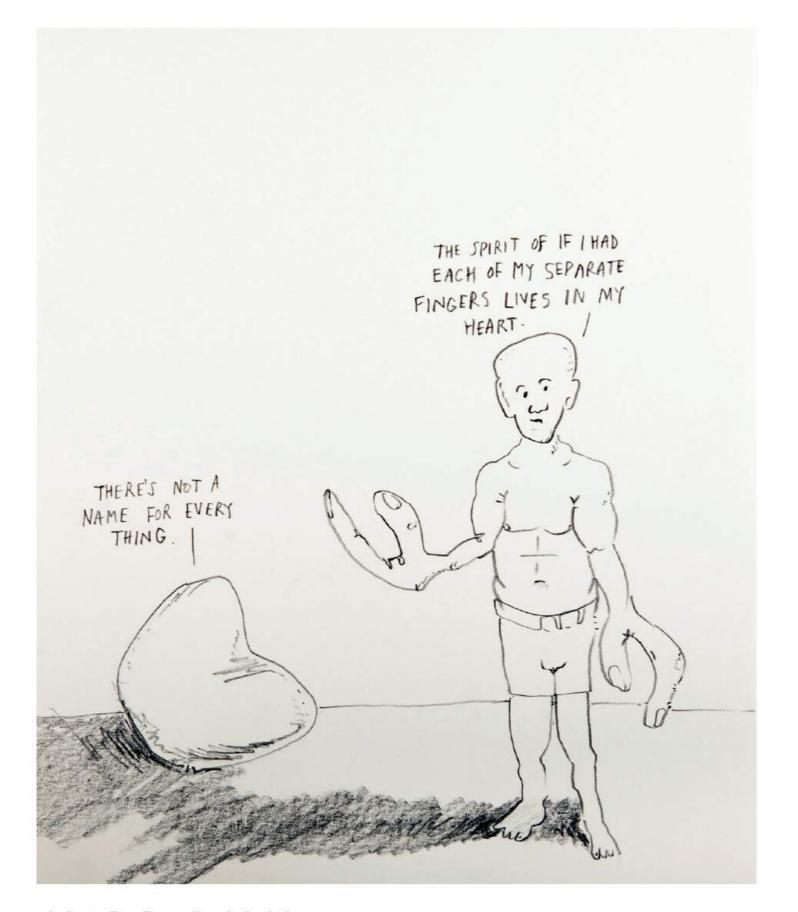




Regarding Your Wing (Which I No Longer Need)

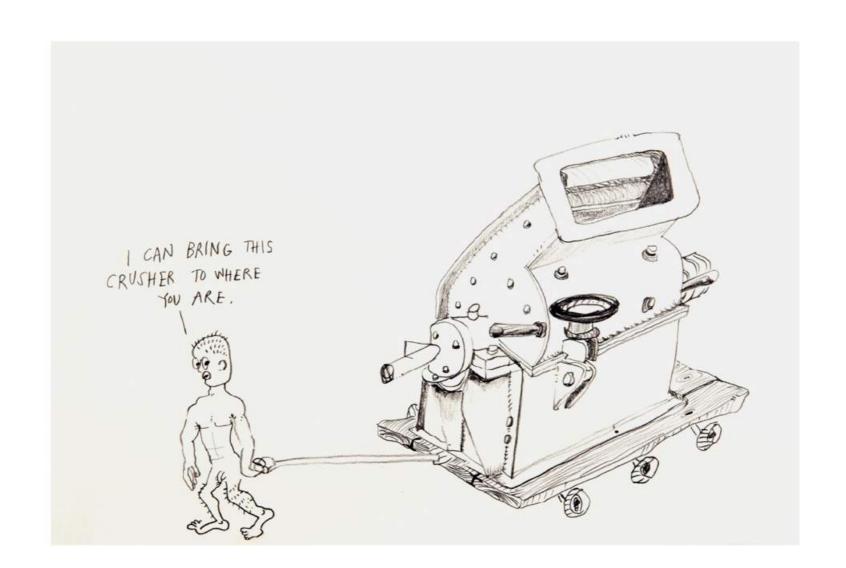


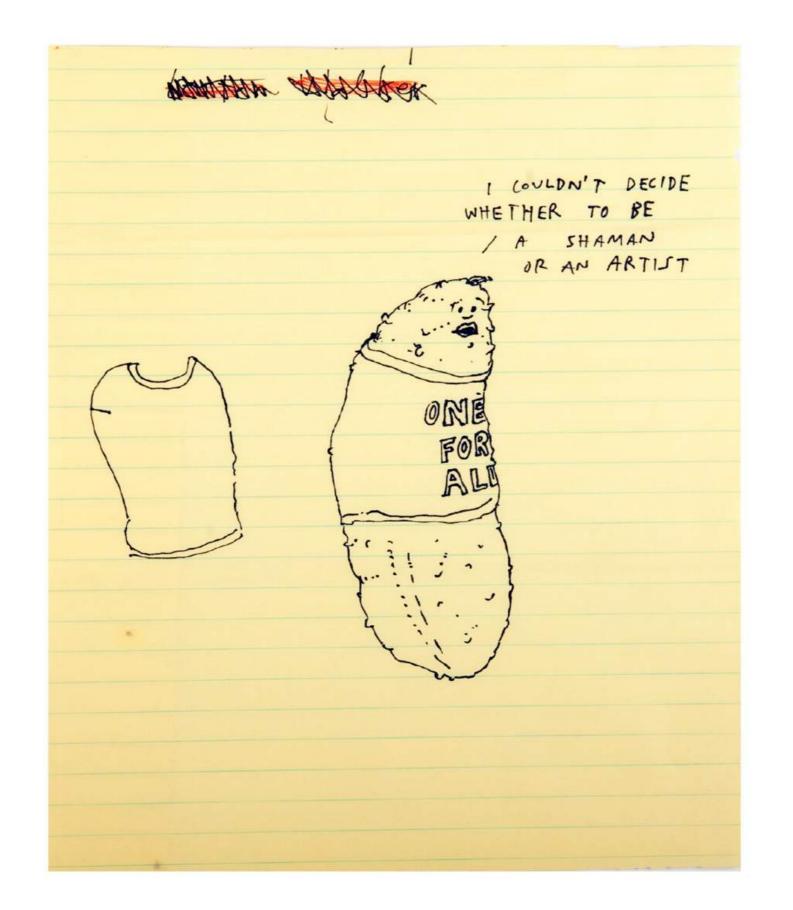


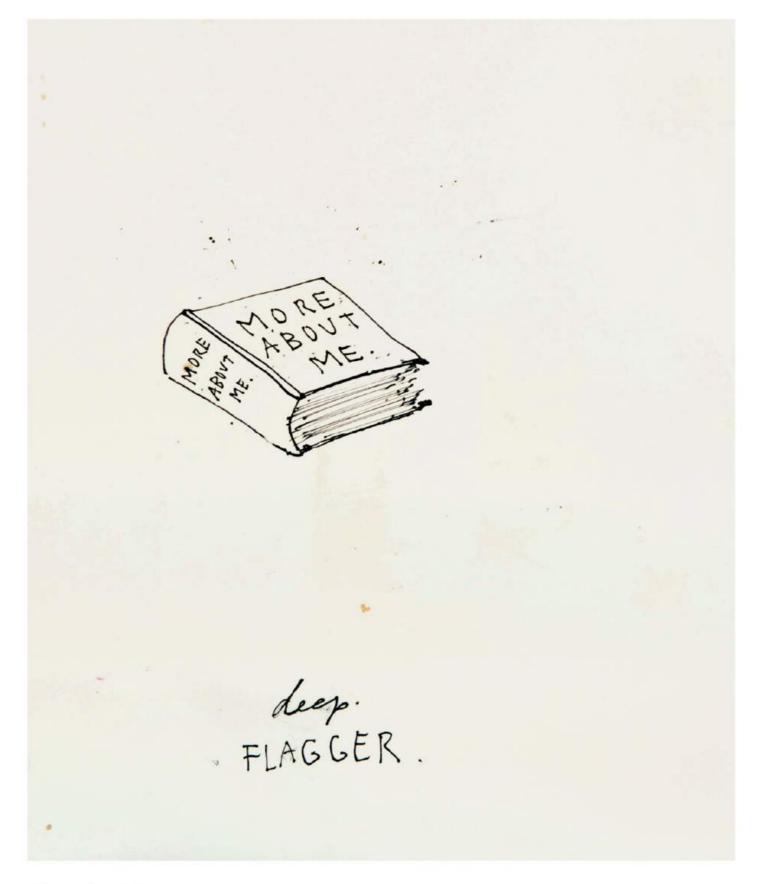


Lobster Boy Regarding Articulation

Pencil on Paper, 9 x 12 2012

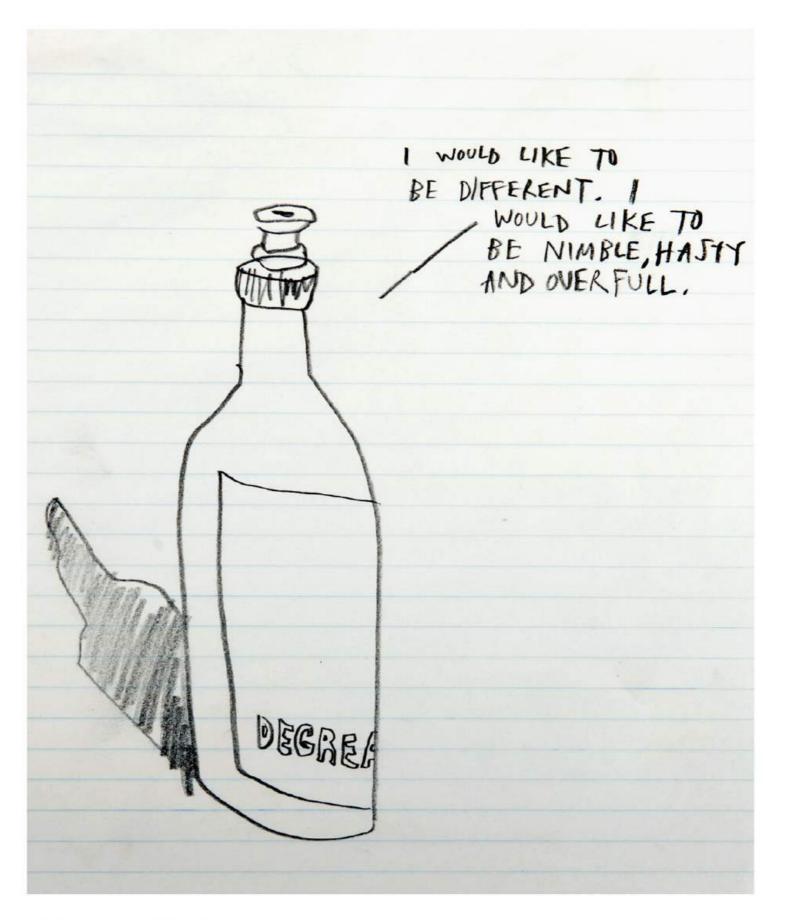


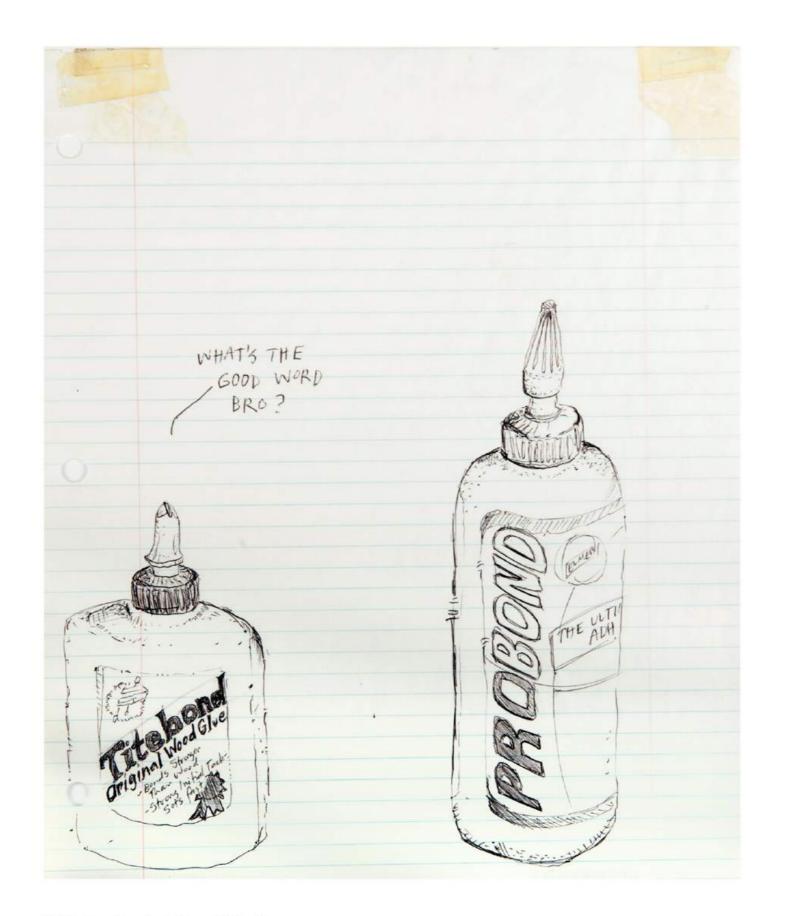






To Join The ClubPencil on Paper, 9 x 12
2012

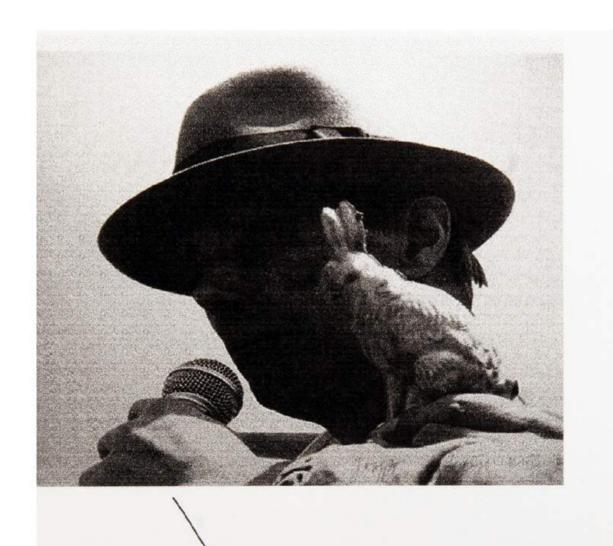




Initiating Contact (Good Word)

Pen on Paper, 8.5 x 11 2002





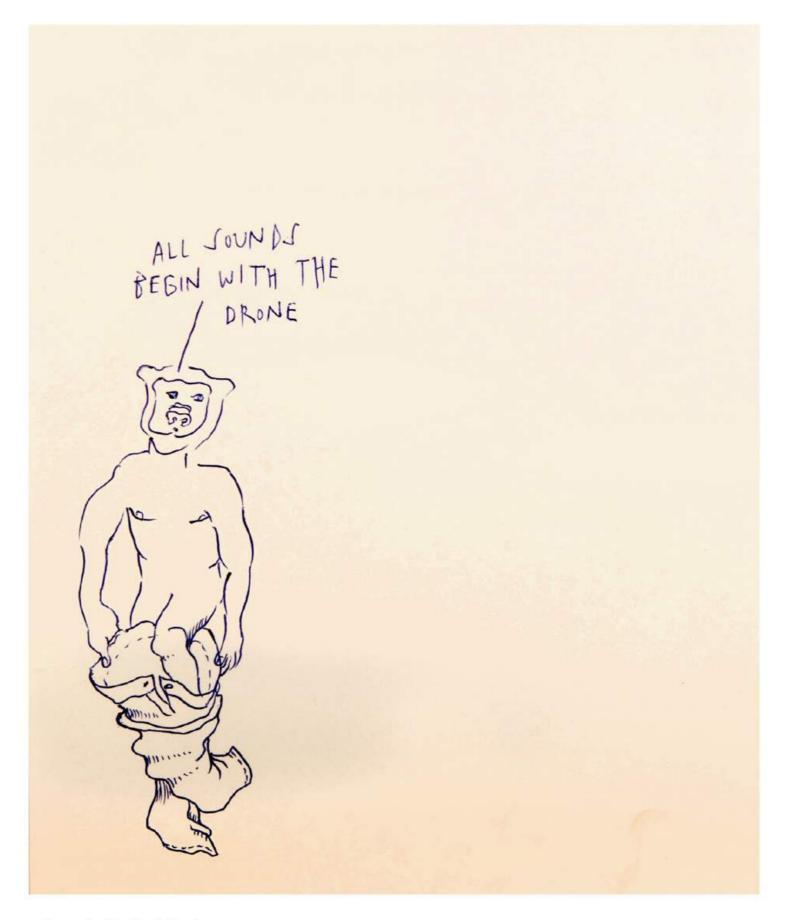
MIC CHECK.

BE A SHAMAN OR JUST LOOK LIKE ONE.









Pen on Paper, 8.5 x 11 2003



Untitled Fence Drawing (Difference)

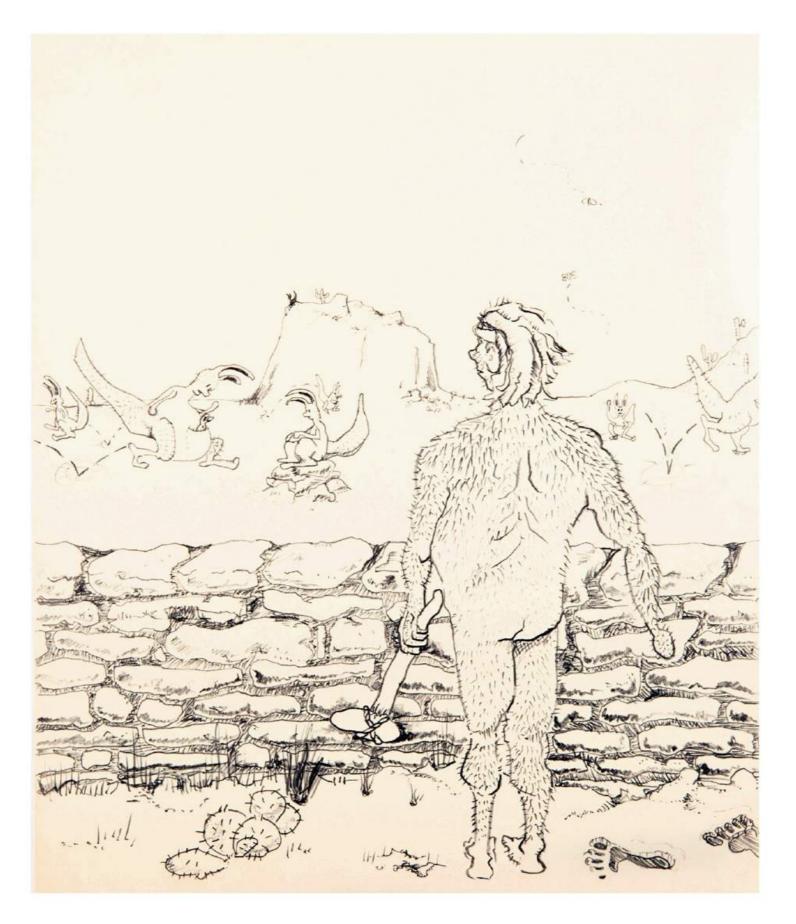
Pen on Paper, 8.5 x 11



Pen on Paper, 8.5 x 11 2002

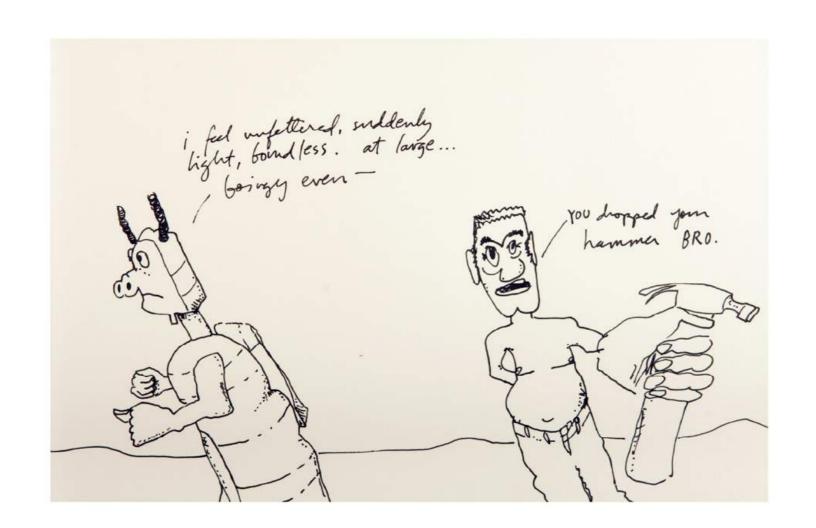


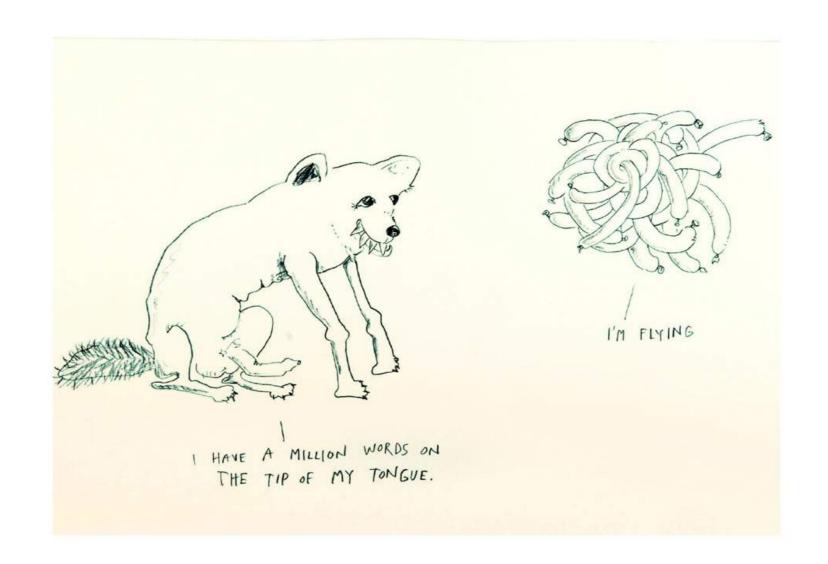
What It Is Ink and Acrylic on Paper, 8.5 x 11 2005



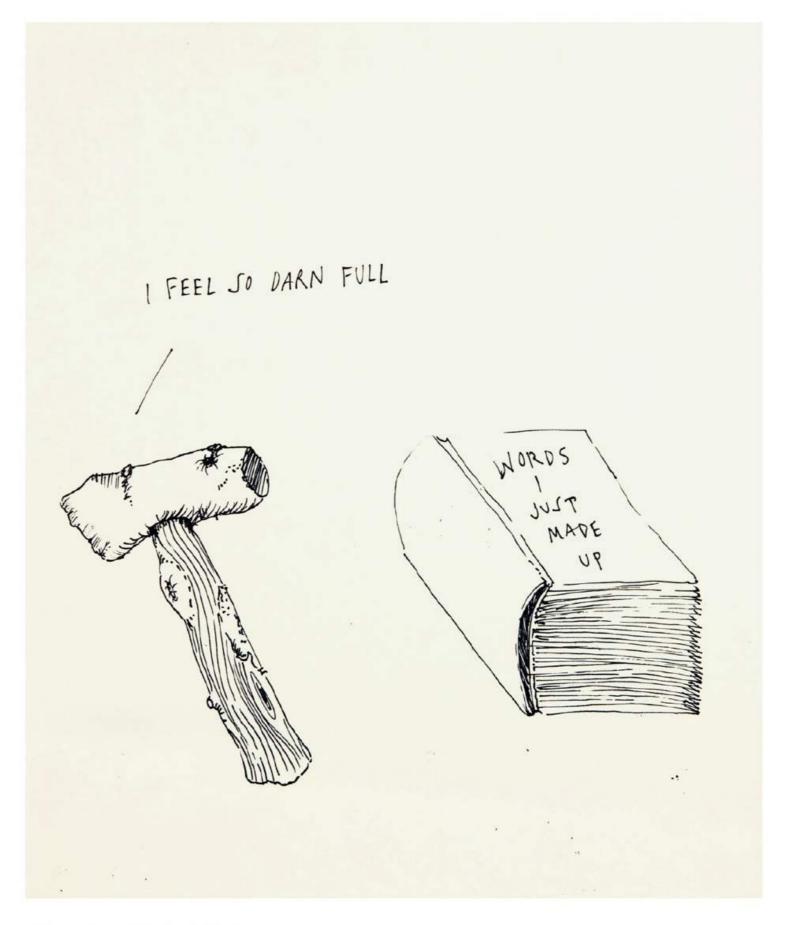
Untitled Fence Drawing (Distinction)

Pencil on Paper, 9 x 12 2003

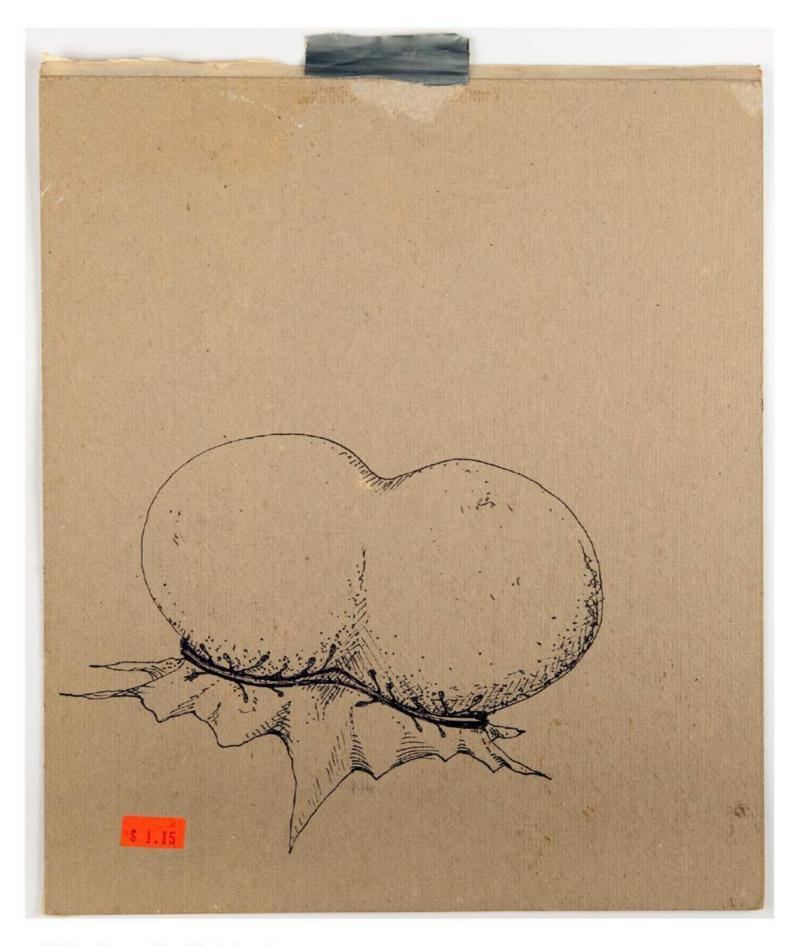








Words I Just Made Up/ Full



Hidden Forms (Double Sphere)

Pen on Cardboard, 8.5 x 11 2002



Oreo-Carrot Hybrid Tower

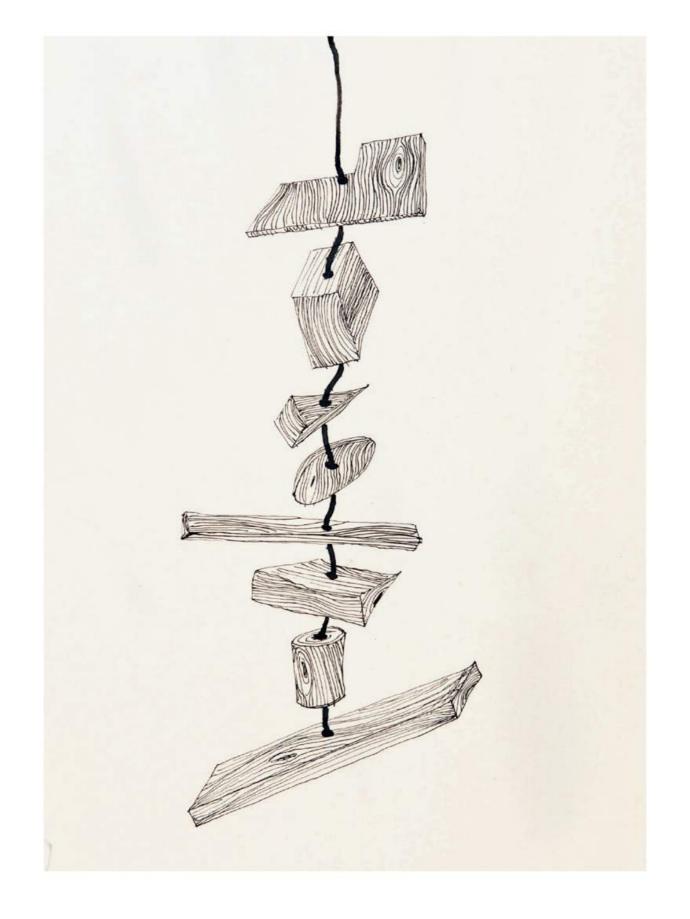
Aquarelle and Pencil on Notebook Paper, 8.5×11 2000



Articulated Cobs in a Primordial Mash

Pencil on Paper, 9 x 12 2003







Strong and Prepared (Self-Portrait as a Sturdy Neanderthal with a Head Like a Cactus) Pencil on Paper, 9×12





Stiff Wig (Short)









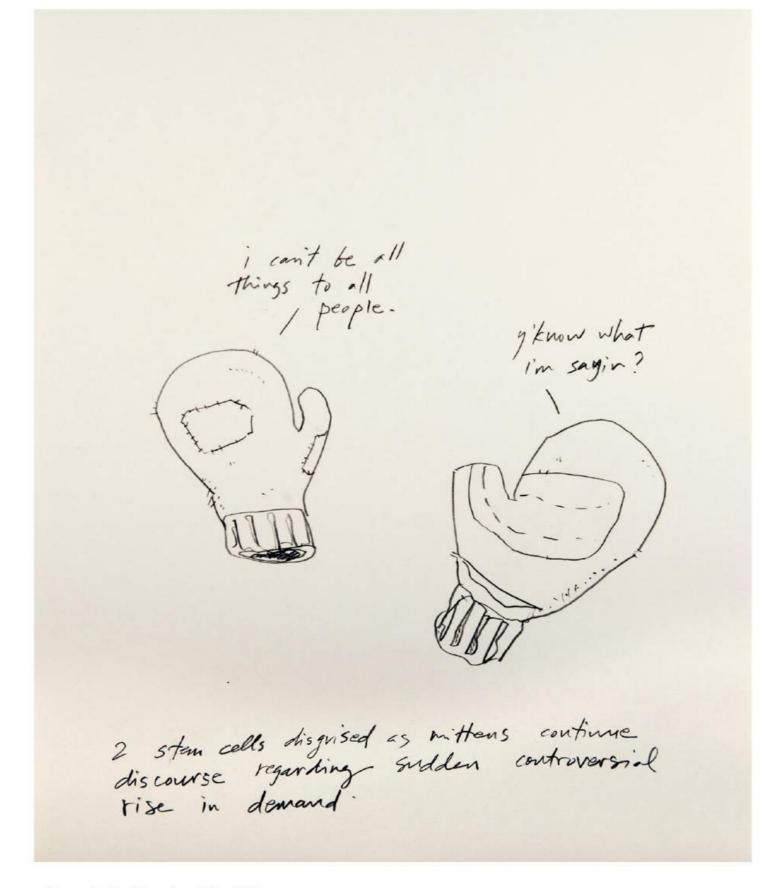


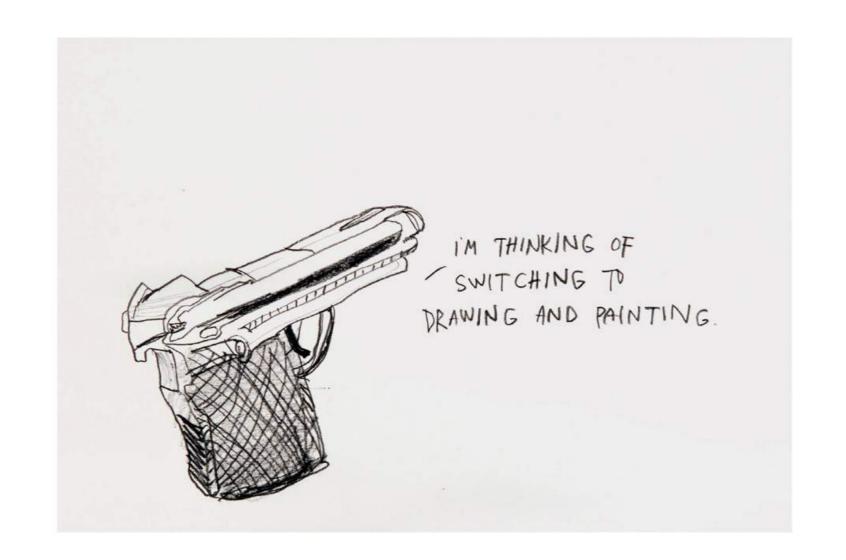


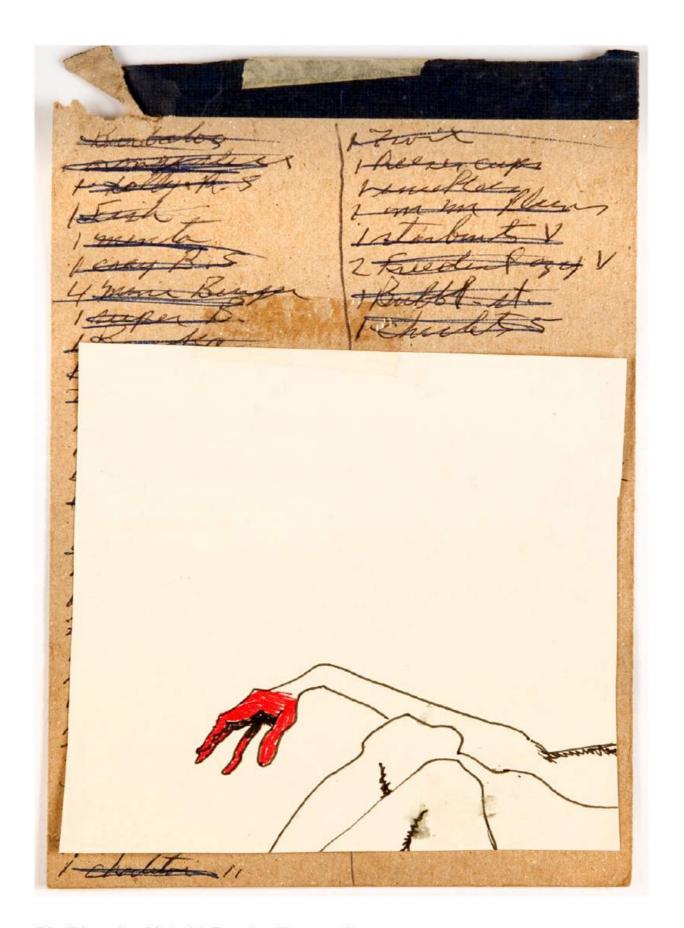


Holy Grail
Pencil on Paper, 9 x 12
2012



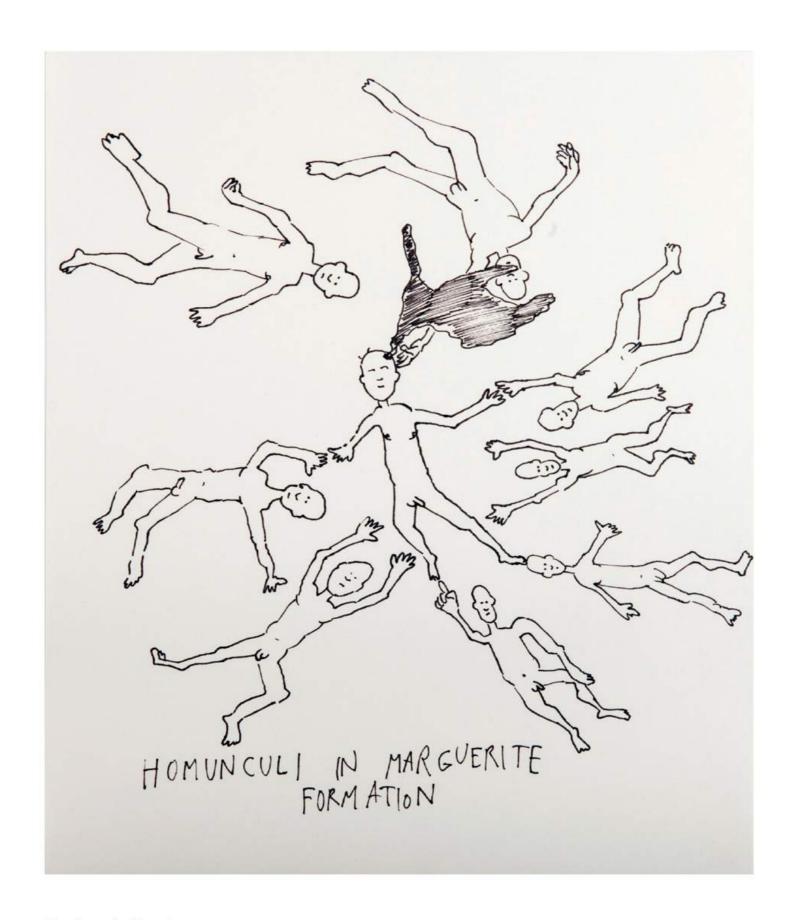




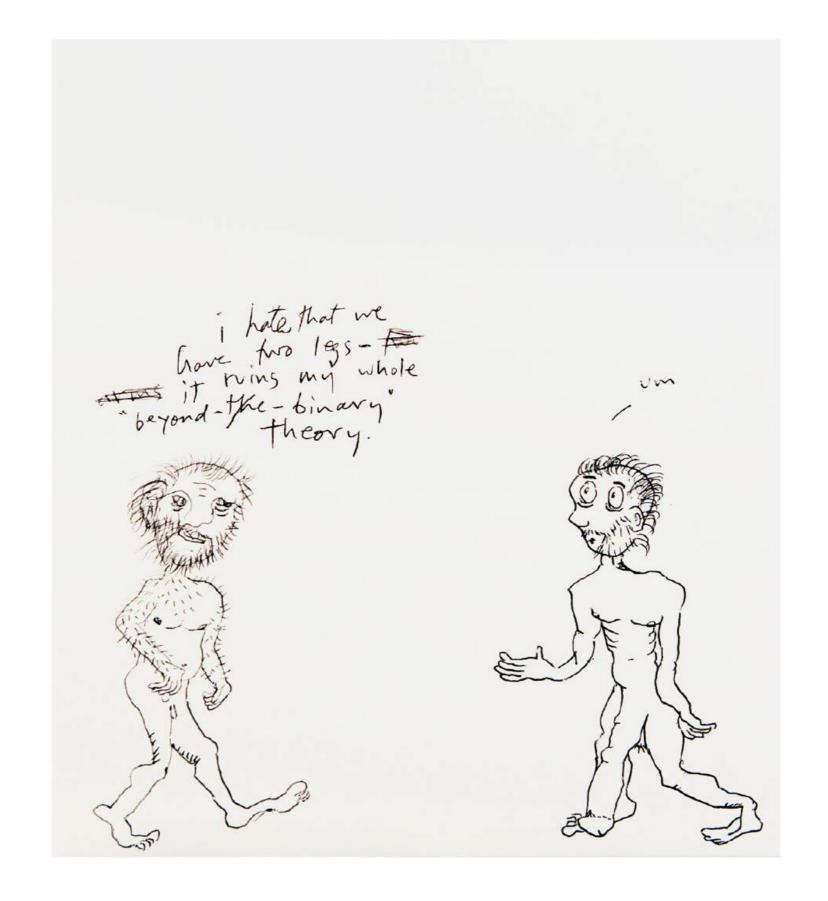


Dip (Shopping List with Drawing Fragment)

Pen on Paper and Cardboard, 5.5×8.5 2000







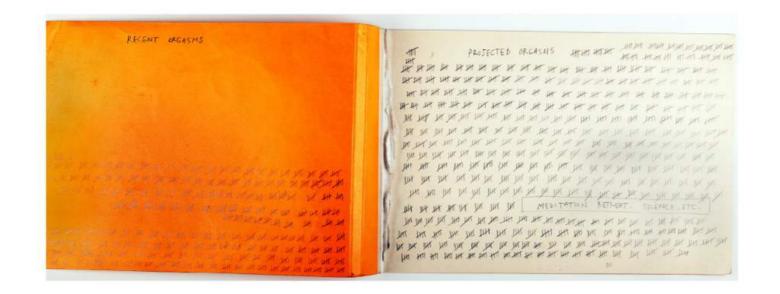
HELP WANTED

Couple of straight guys needed for video project.

Should be sexy, articulate, good critical thinker,
well-read, with a natural, but clean je ne sais quoi.
I'm doing a piece on the midwest and need you to be
able to push a corn cob atleast half-way into your
ass.

Contact harry dodge at harrydodge2@aol.com thanks for your interest and thanks ahead for your willingness and particular avocation.

Discretion available if needed. Extremely nonsexual. Practice at home, I don't have a lot of extra time to blow waiting around for you to relax.





Big Boy Reality
Pen on Paper, 8.5 x 11

2000

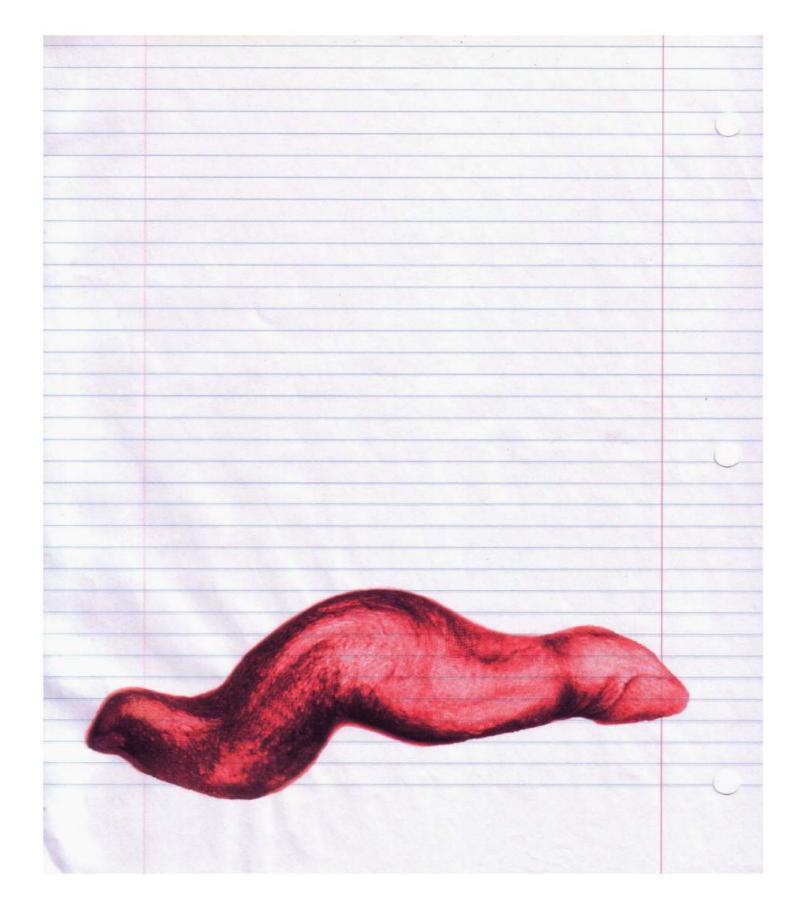


Seeing Orb
Pencil on Paper, 9 x 12
2012

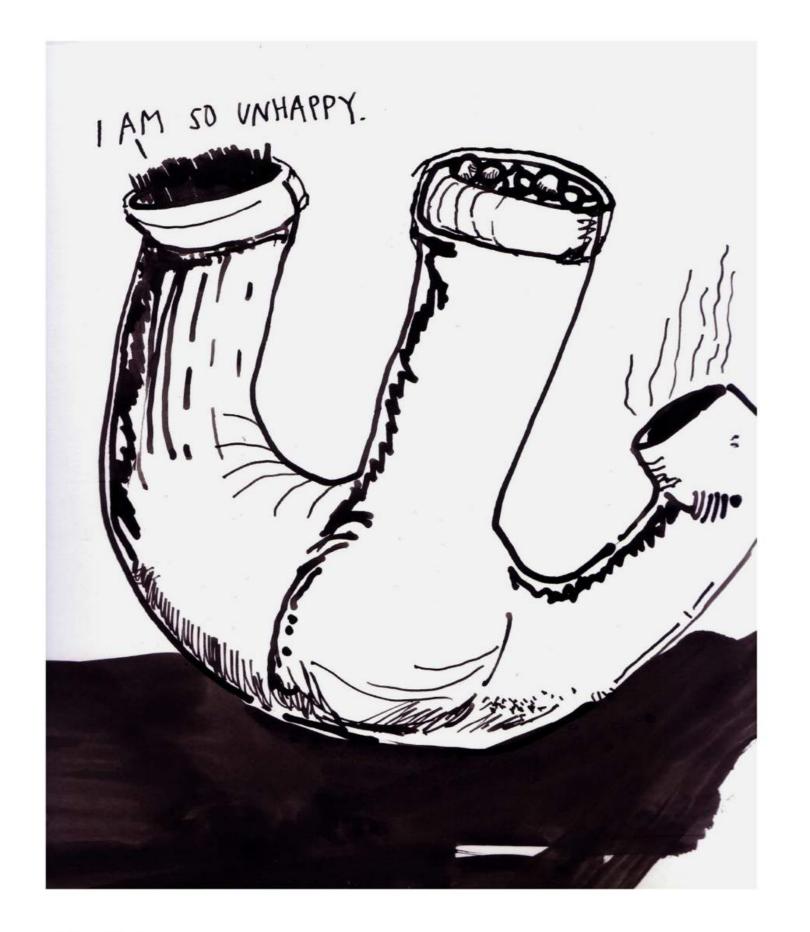


Simultaneity and Froth

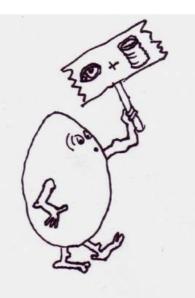
Ink on Paper, 9 x 12 2012

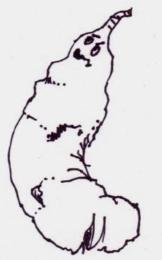


Loin 2
Laserprint on Notebook Paper, 8.5 x 11
2003

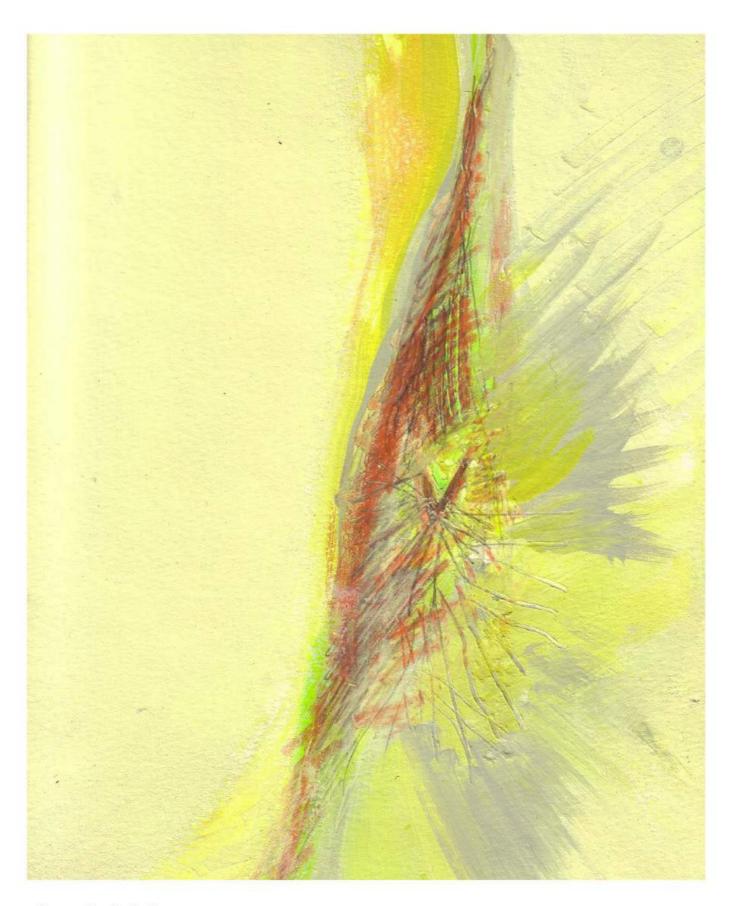


3-Way StinkInk and Acrylic on Paper, 9 x 12
2006

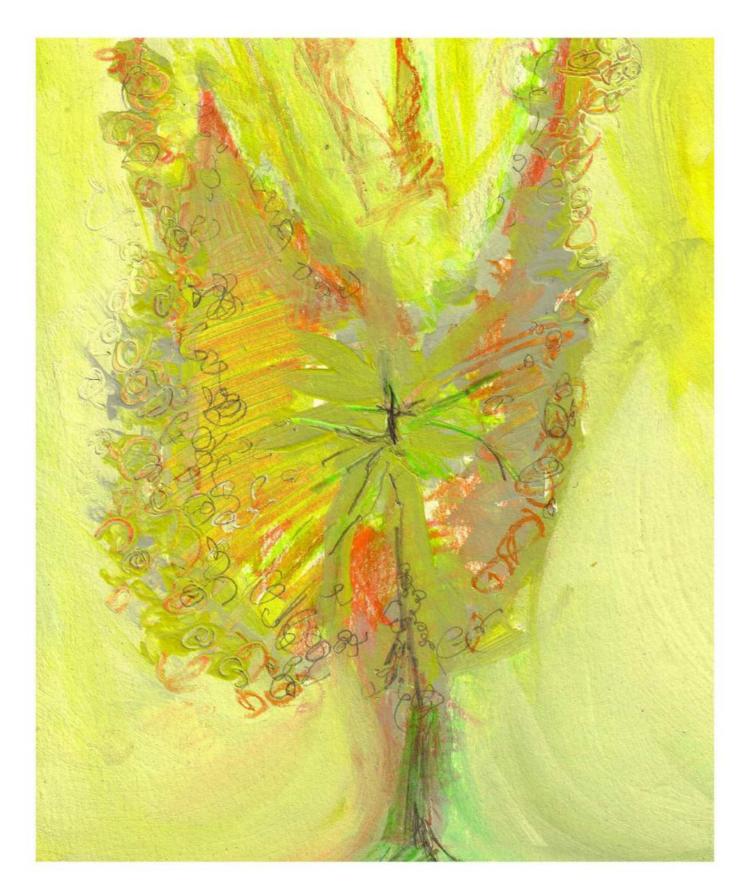




KING POD heaves a sigh of disdain as a tomami of pistograms replace words. (in his new kingdom.)



Green Asshole 1
Acrylic, Colored Pencil and Graphite on Paper, 4 x 8
1995



Green Asshole 2
Acrylic, Colored Pencil and Graphite on Paper, 6 x 10
1995

