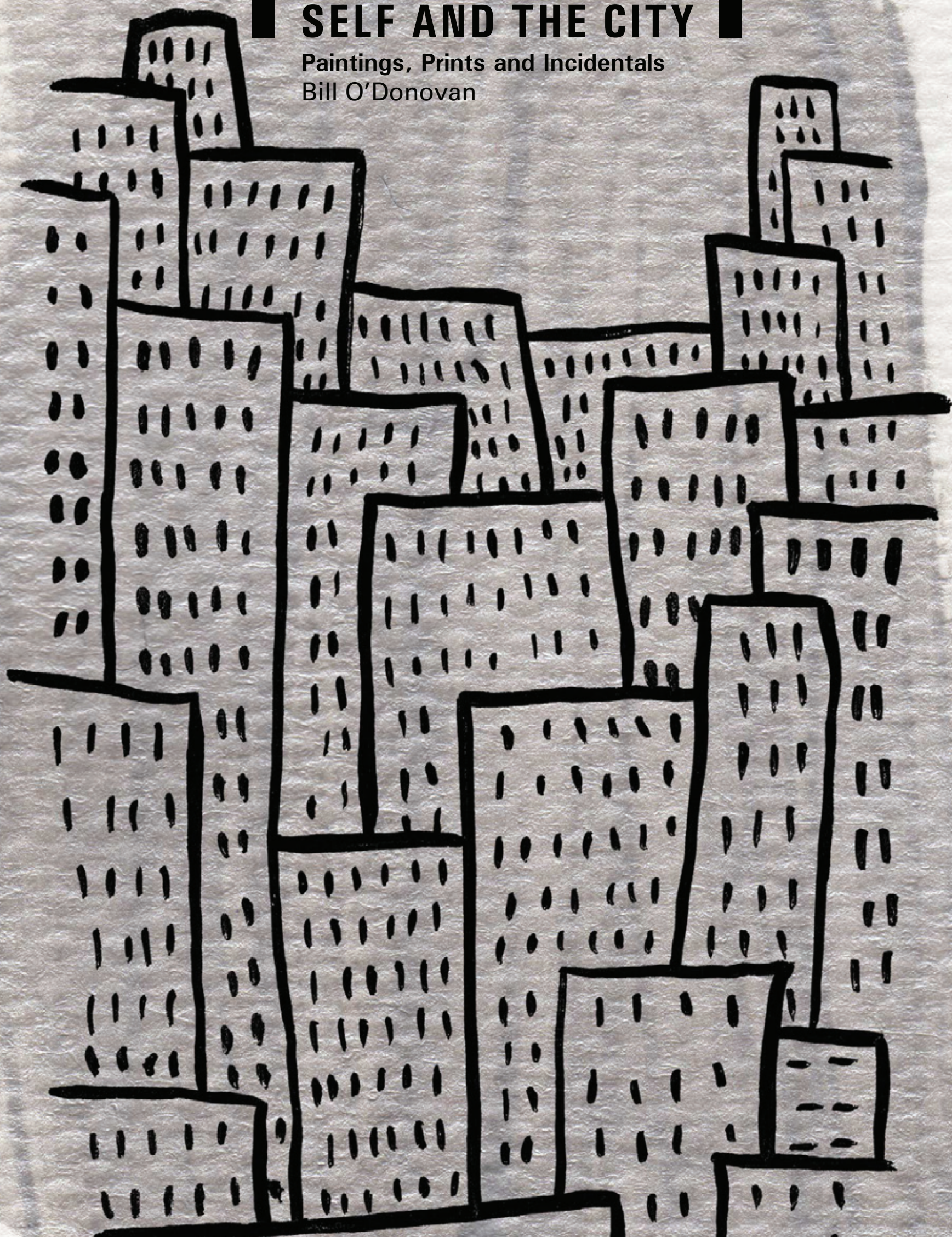


Go-Go

SELF AND THE CITY

Paintings, Prints and Incidentals
Bill O'Donovan



[Go-Go]

SELF AND THE CITY

Paintings, Prints and Incidentals
Bill O'Donovan

EXHIBITING MAY 13 - JULY 23, 2017

WOLLONGONG
ART GALLERY

[Go-Go]

SELF AND THE CITY

Paintings, Prints and Incidentals
Bill O'Donovan

A Digital Catalogue

For Joy and John and Sadie and Maurie and Ivy and Hector and everybody else.

With a debt of gratitude to Mrs Deland, Thirroul Primary School, who turned my reading and writing around. From upside down and back-to-front to right-way-up and straight-ahead.

In memory of Nekkochan (1998-2017).

Professional services:

Darren King
Kingprint Creations Screenprinting

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David Corbett
The Photo Fixer

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WOLLONGONG
ART GALLERY



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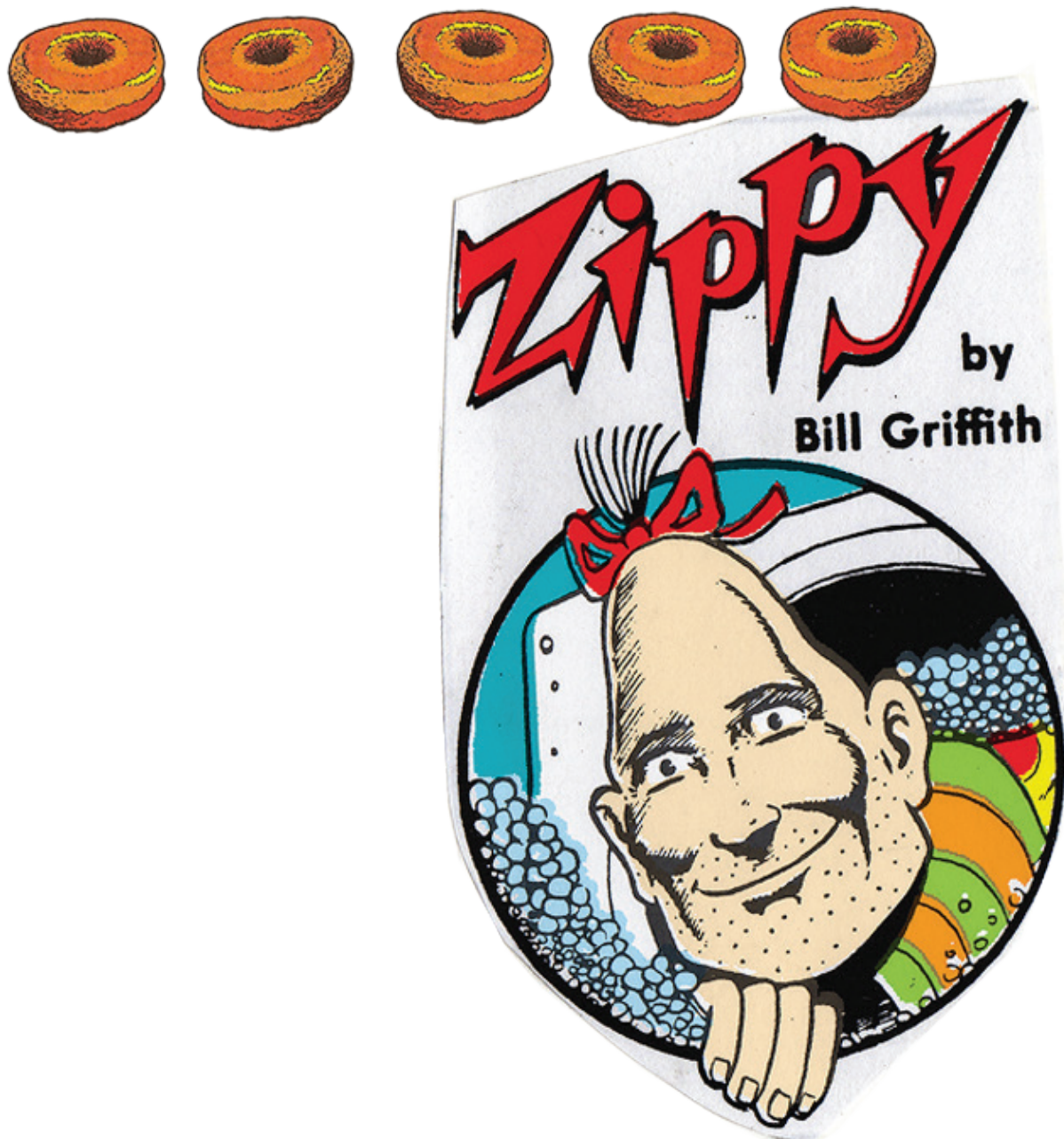
International Comics Praise for the Go-Go Show

Take a break from media overload and get a load of Bill O'Donovan's art.
This guy knows things about stuff.
And his show gets the Zippy the Pinhead seal of approval---

5 glazed donuts!

Bill Griffith

Underground comics legend and creator of
Zippy the Pinhead



Zippy the Pinhead ©2017 Bill Griffith. World rights reserved. Used by arrangement.

Visit Zippy today at www.zippythepinhead.com

Foreword

Cities are a constant theme in Bill O'Donovan's art. Whether as the backdrop for Johnny Ice Pl's hardboiled adventures, or more directly as delicately rendered gouache and ink paintings, the city is alive and an ever tangible presence in the artist's work.

The city as motif is a gestalt, a complex beast at once alluring and foreboding, full of promise yet harsh and merciless, alive with people yet a distant, aloof and sometimes lonely place. It is perhaps a city's very contradictory and often surprising nature that gives it its irresistible buzz and is such an attraction for the artist.

For Bill a life of bucolic quiet was never to be. Even as a young man in the first cohort of students at the UOW Creative Arts School, his creative and restless mind was searching for new experiences. After a stint as a founding member of SWAMP ART a contemporary performance group he left Australia to become an economic refugee in Tokyo, a gaijin in Japan. It was a mind expanding experience that continues to resonate in his work today.

Bill is most at home among the urban sprawl and often conflicting energetic vibe of the city. Whether in Sydney, Tokyo or now once again Wollongong Bill delves into the creative undercurrents that give a city its personality and taps that energy to spark his own innovative thinking and ways of seeing the world.

Go Go: Self and the City Bill O'Donovan's exhibition currently on show at Wollongong Art Gallery is as much accidental autobiography as art exhibition and gives us an insight into the quirky, original, humorous and playful character of the artist.

We would like to thank Bill for sharing aspects of his life and passions with us.

We hope you enjoy the exhibition.

John Monteleone
Program Director
Wollongong Art Gallery
May, 2017.

Introduction

The *Go-Go* show has grown from opportunities that arose out of Warren Wheeler's magnificent *Steel City Sounds* exhibition that was held at the Wollongong Art Gallery in 2014/15. Delving into the archives for material for *Steel City* revealed a terrific wealth of bits and pieces, curiosities and curtailed ambitions. There also appeared to be consistent motifs that ran through much of the work over many years. These were essentially an ever-present city and occasional re-imaginings/recordings of myself over this time, not as candid shots but generally as a considered undertaking reflecting the concerns of the day.

The term *Go-Go* of the title is not a mere exhortation to action, although that is a major and important part of its function. Go is Japanese for five and this year I reach the delightful temporal signpost of fifty-five years of age. *Go-Go* = 55.

The works making up the *Self* portion of the show are a hopefully amusing bunch of pictures that record a misbegotten preparedness to insert myself into my works and those of others. They seem to have served a purpose of helping to process the trials and tribulations that are forever in close pursuit.

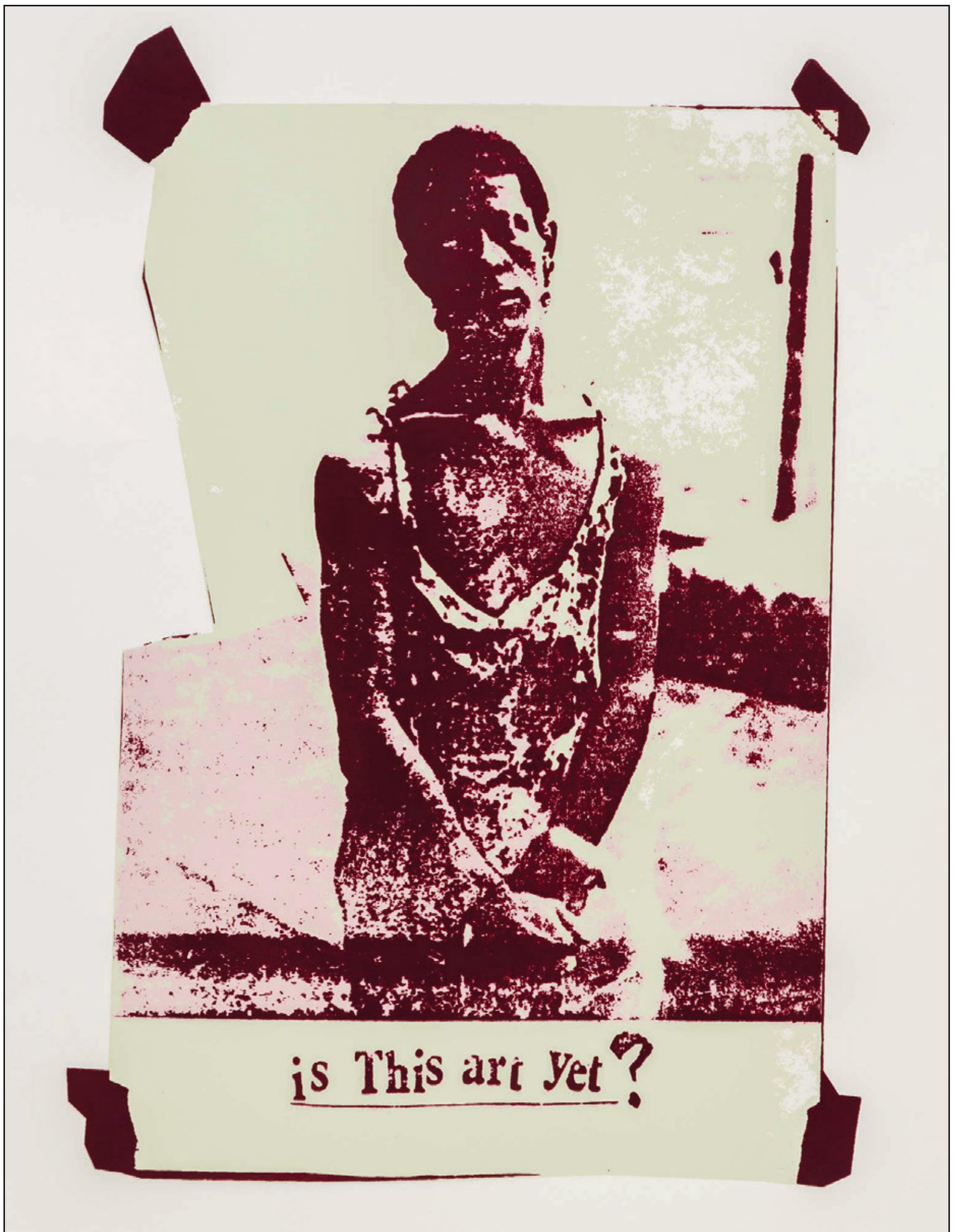
The *City* is a motif that has appeared almost constantly in the work for many years. It's presence and development can be traced over many years. As a theme I suspect it speaks to the sense of the city is the most likely source of dynamic opportunity and attraction. Certainly I find cities enthralling and I suspect it comes from the urban locale of so many of my cultural influences in literature, film, television and comics.

The *Incidentals* serve as an opportunity to further explore the archive and hopefully offer some context to the work and processes being presented. The bulk of the *Incidental* work has never been displayed or published.

Thanks for having a look.

Bill O'Donovan
May, 2017.

[*SELF*]



How about now?
Screenprint. 2015



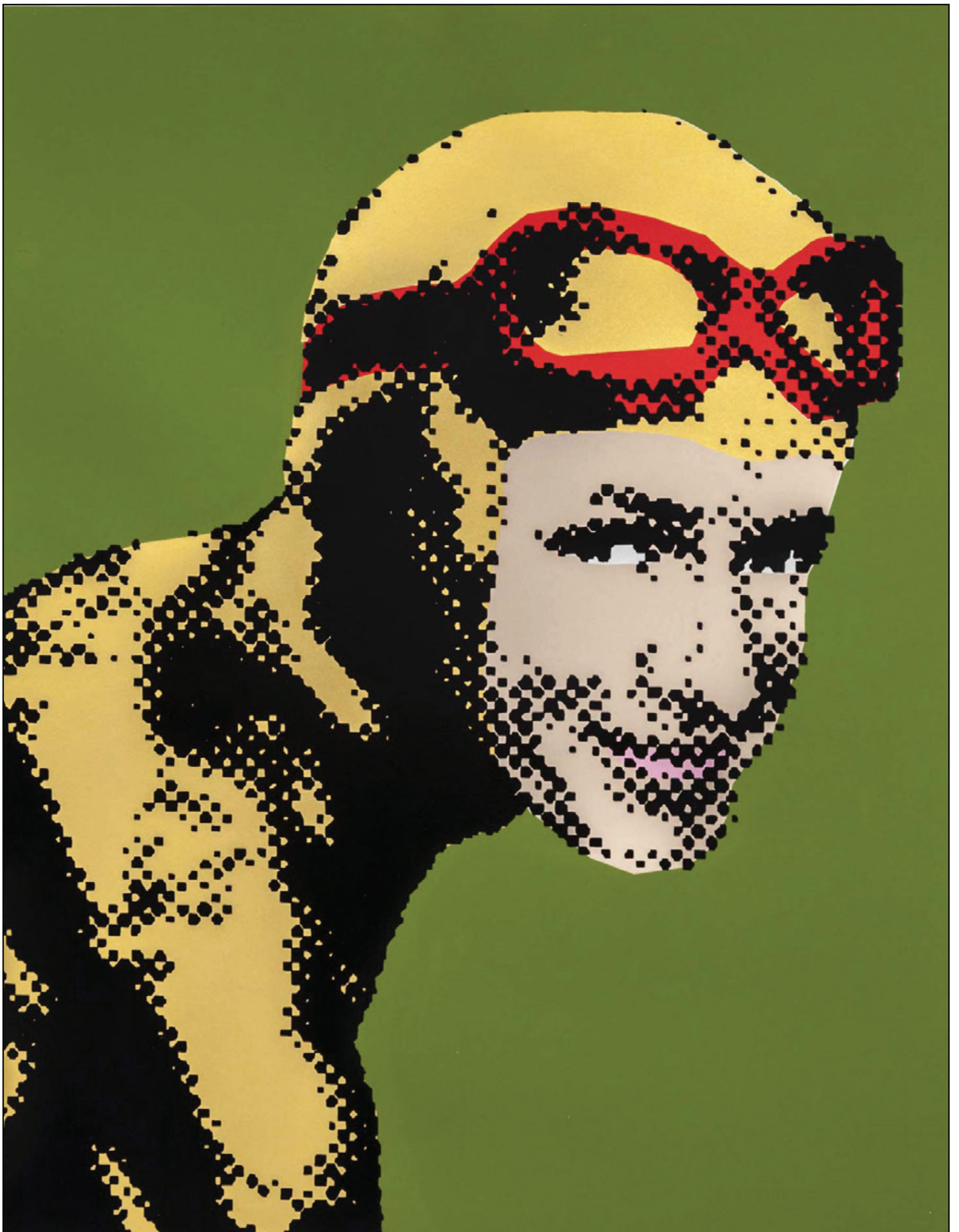
Aqualad
Screenprint. 2015



Johnny Time
Screenprint. 2015

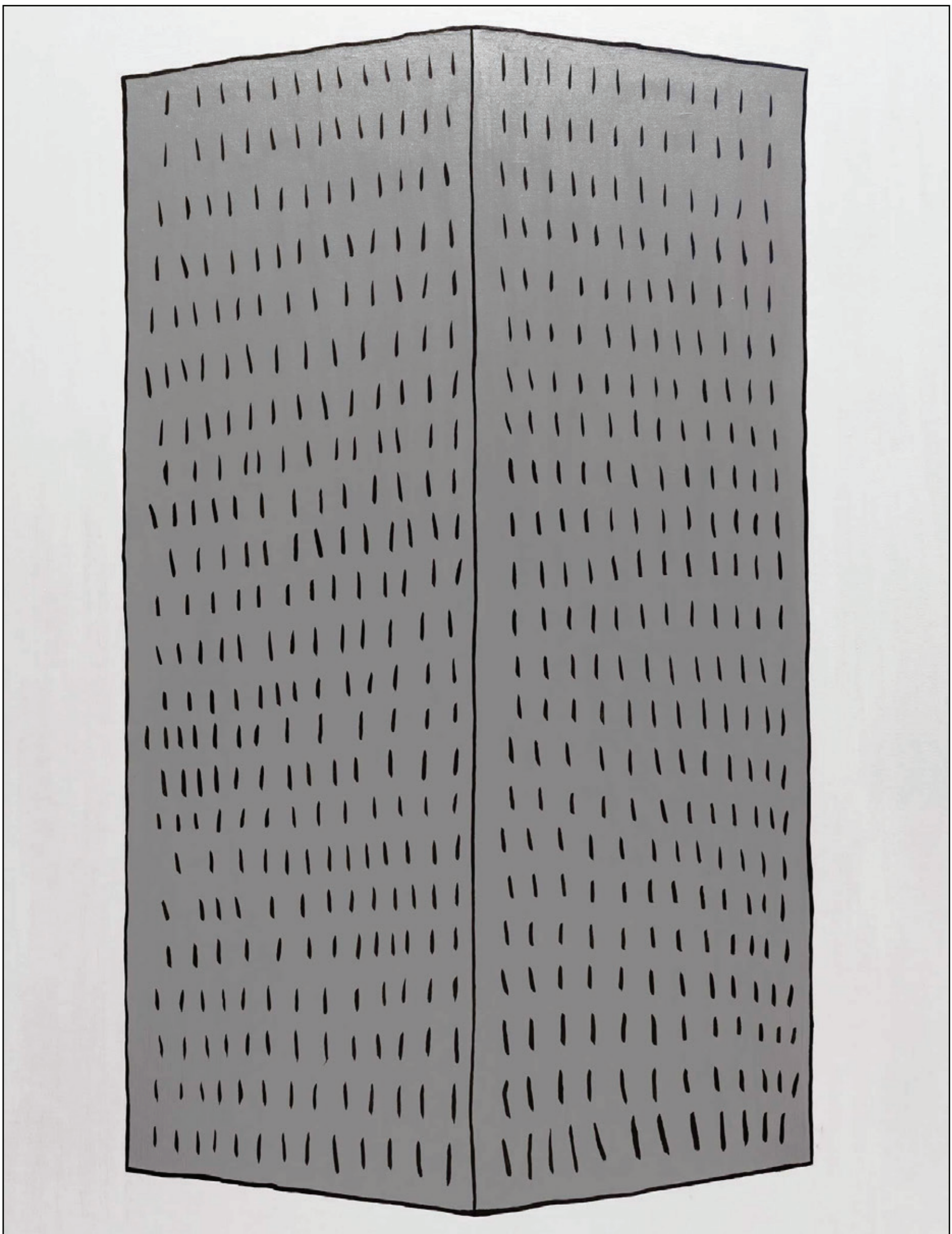


Silver Age
Screenprint. 2016

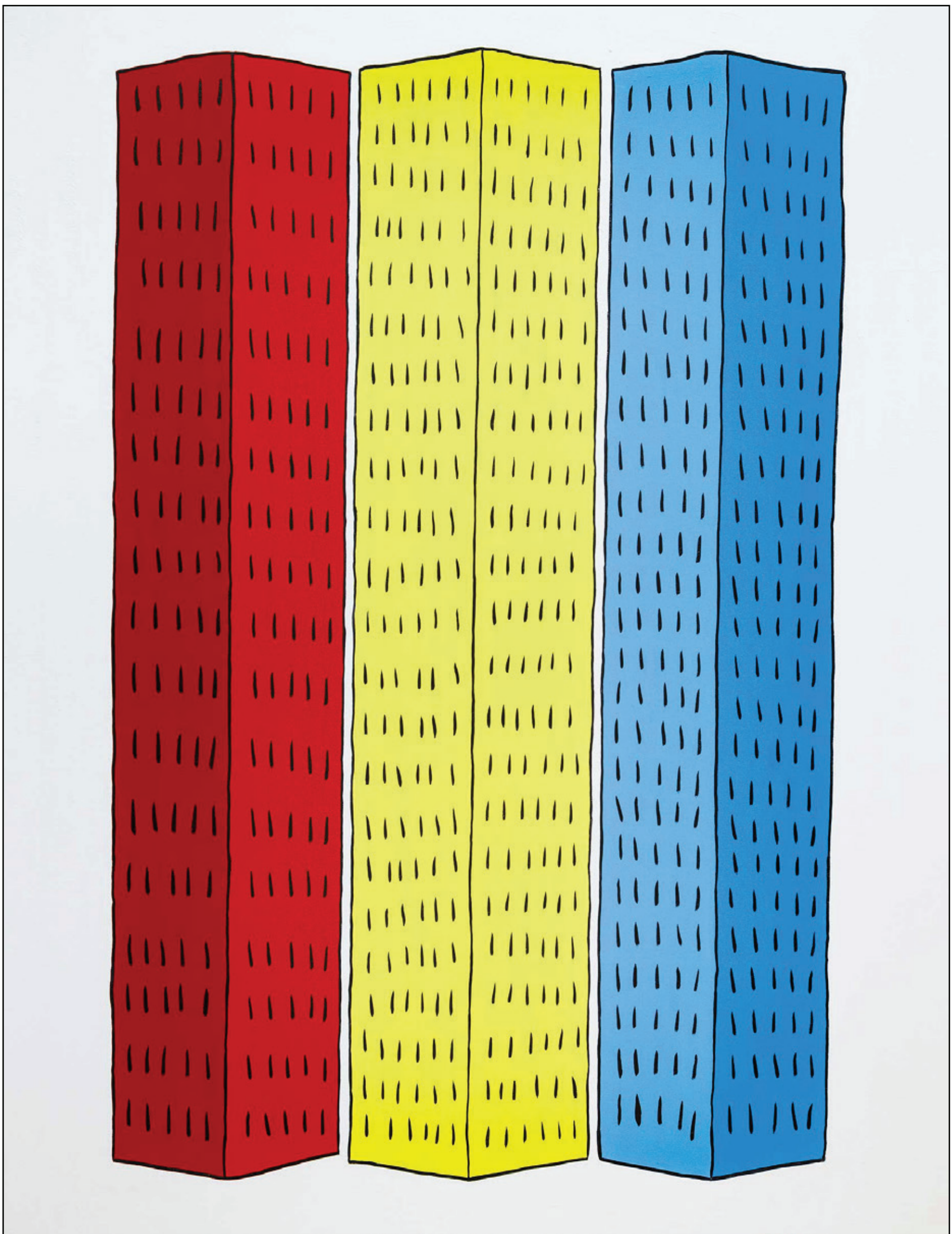


Golden Age
Screenprint. 2016

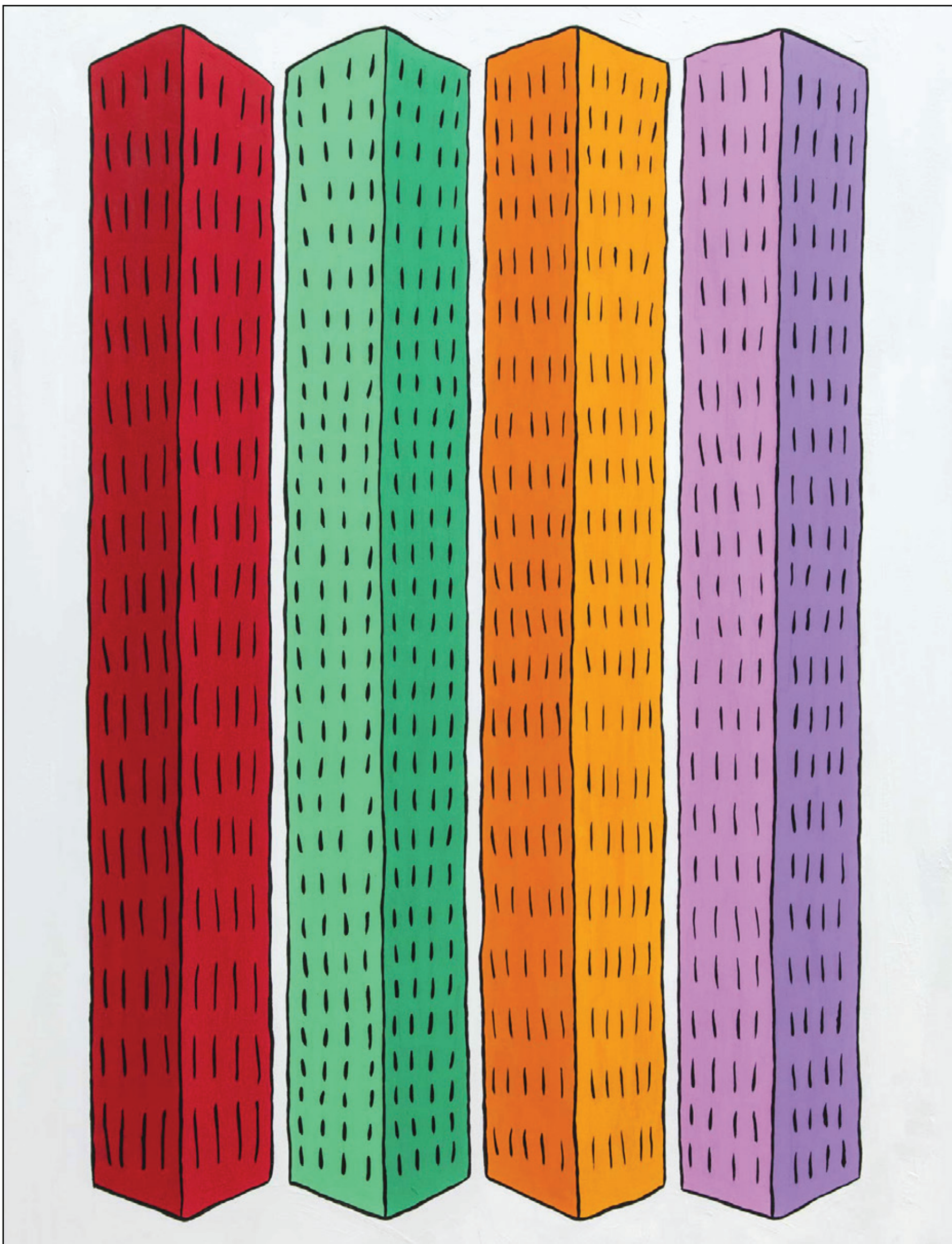
[*CITY*]



One City
Gouache and ink on canvas. 2016

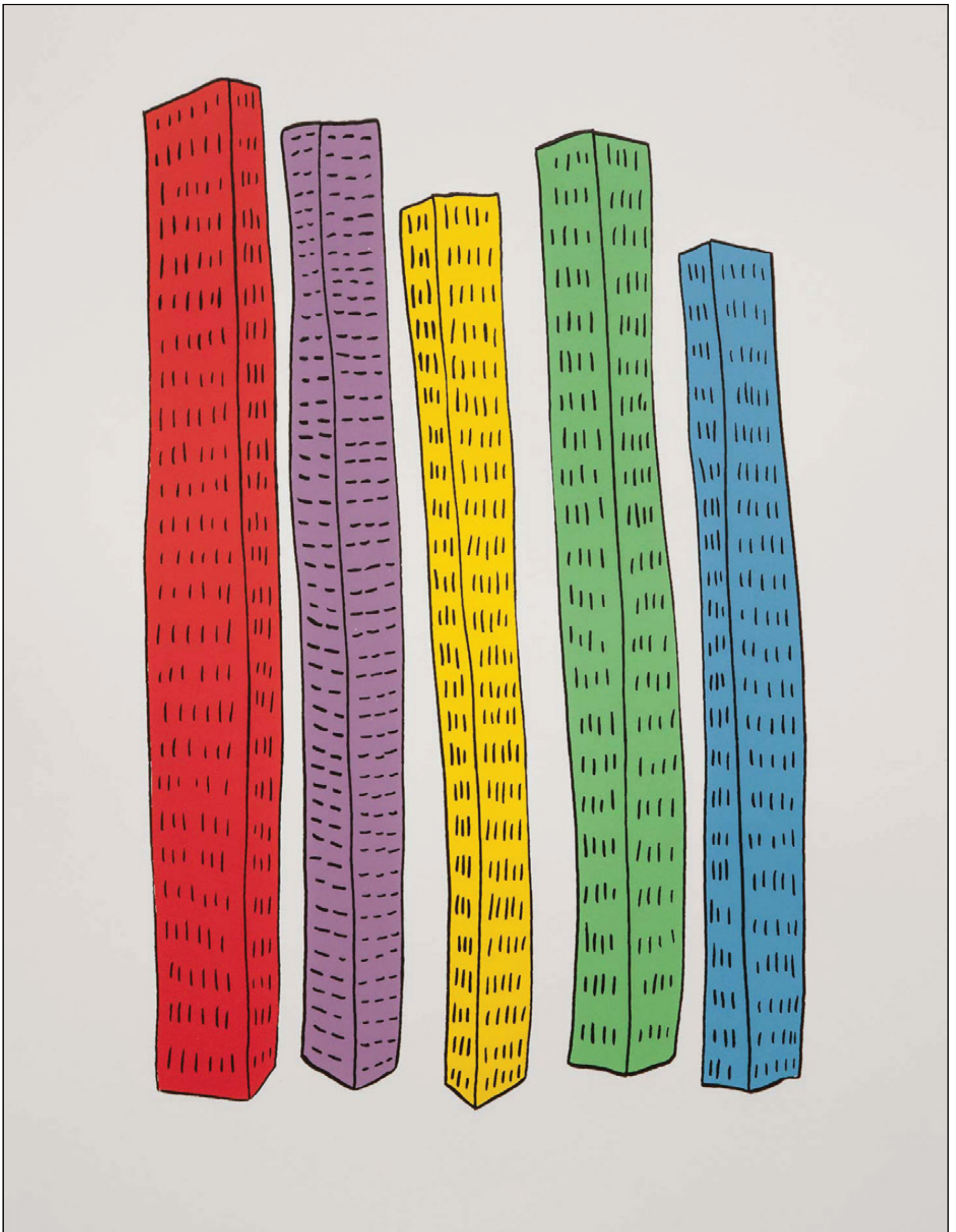


Three Cities
Gouache and ink on canvas. 2016

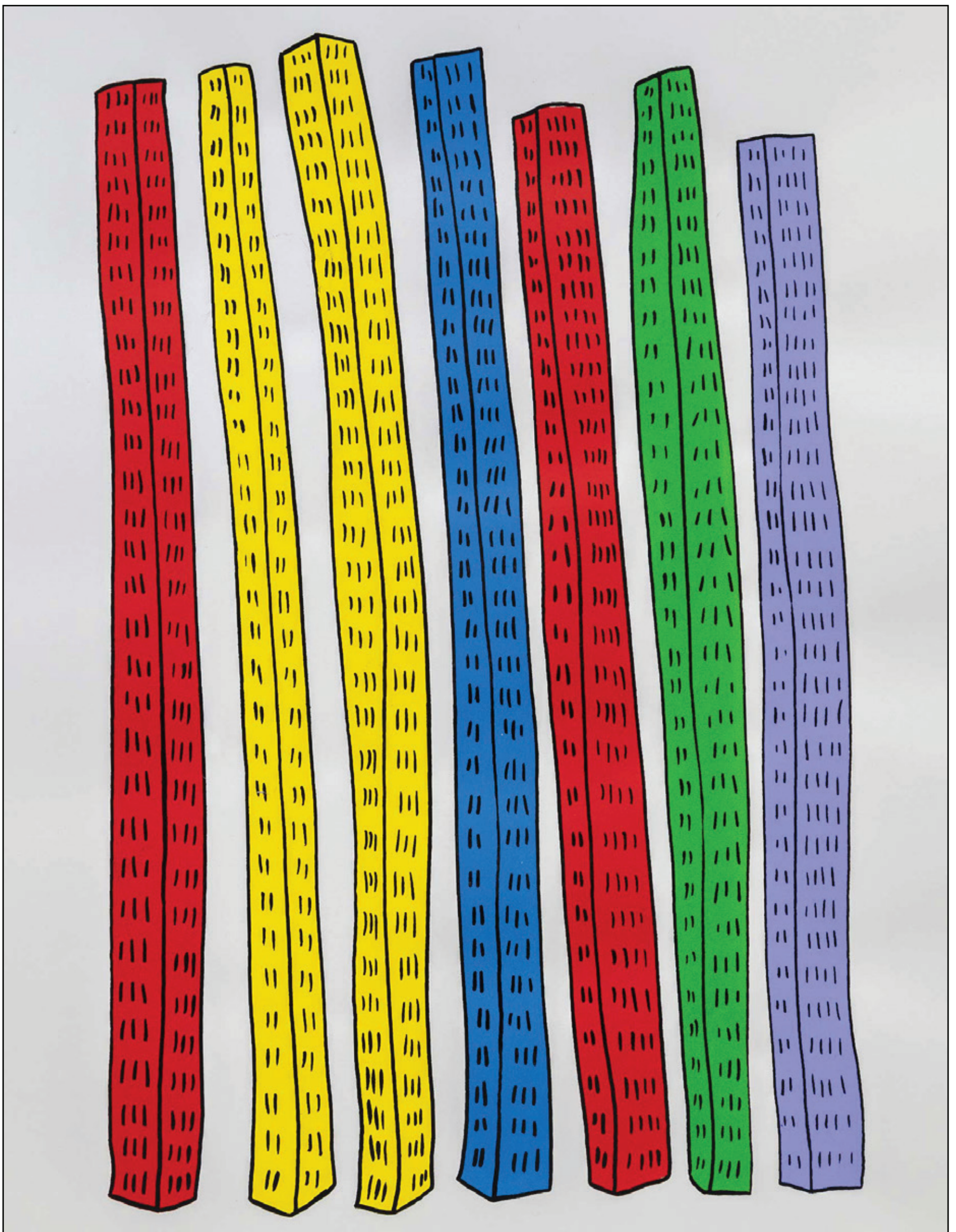


Four Cities

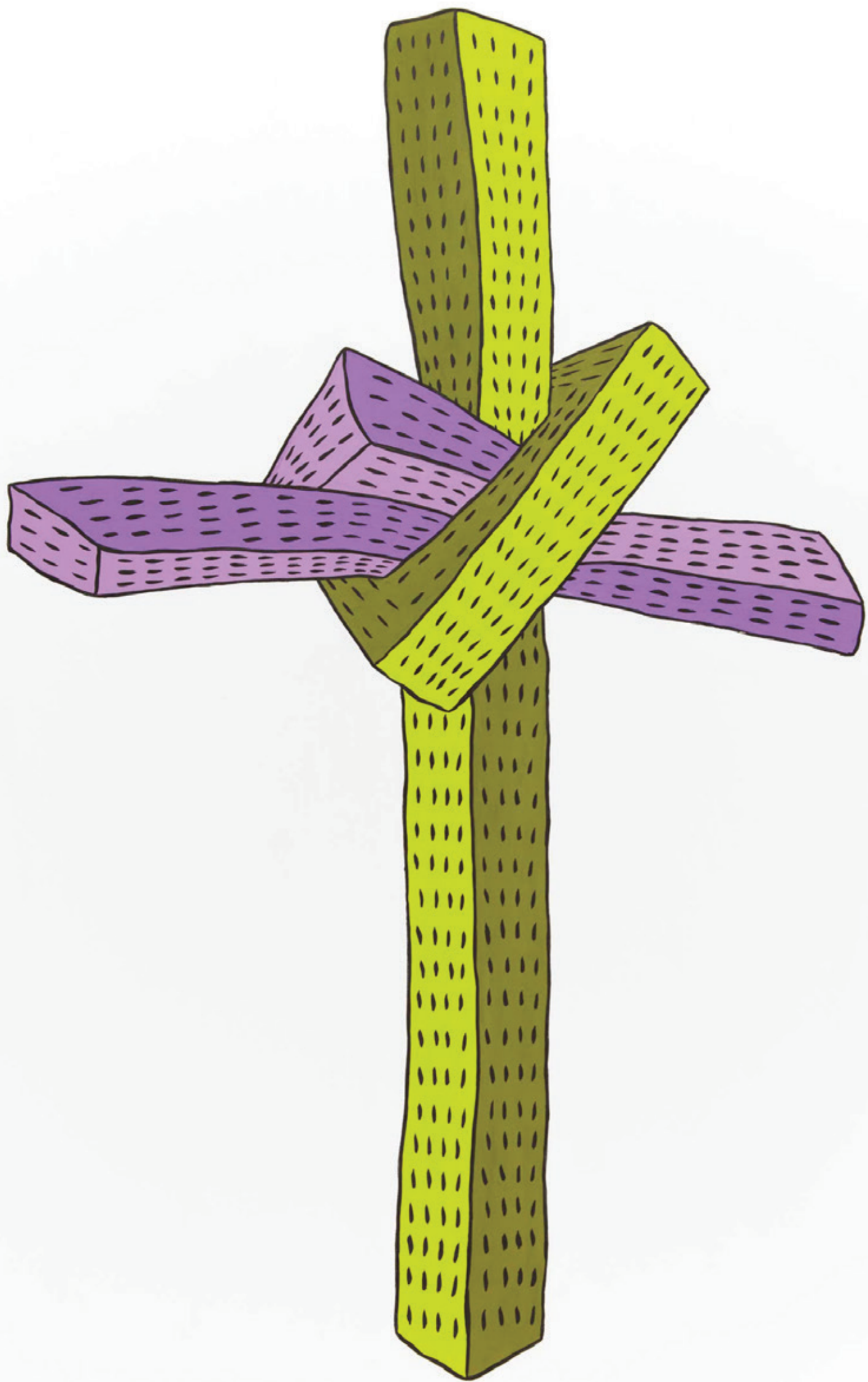
Gouache and ink on canvas. 2015



Five Cities
Screenprint. 2015



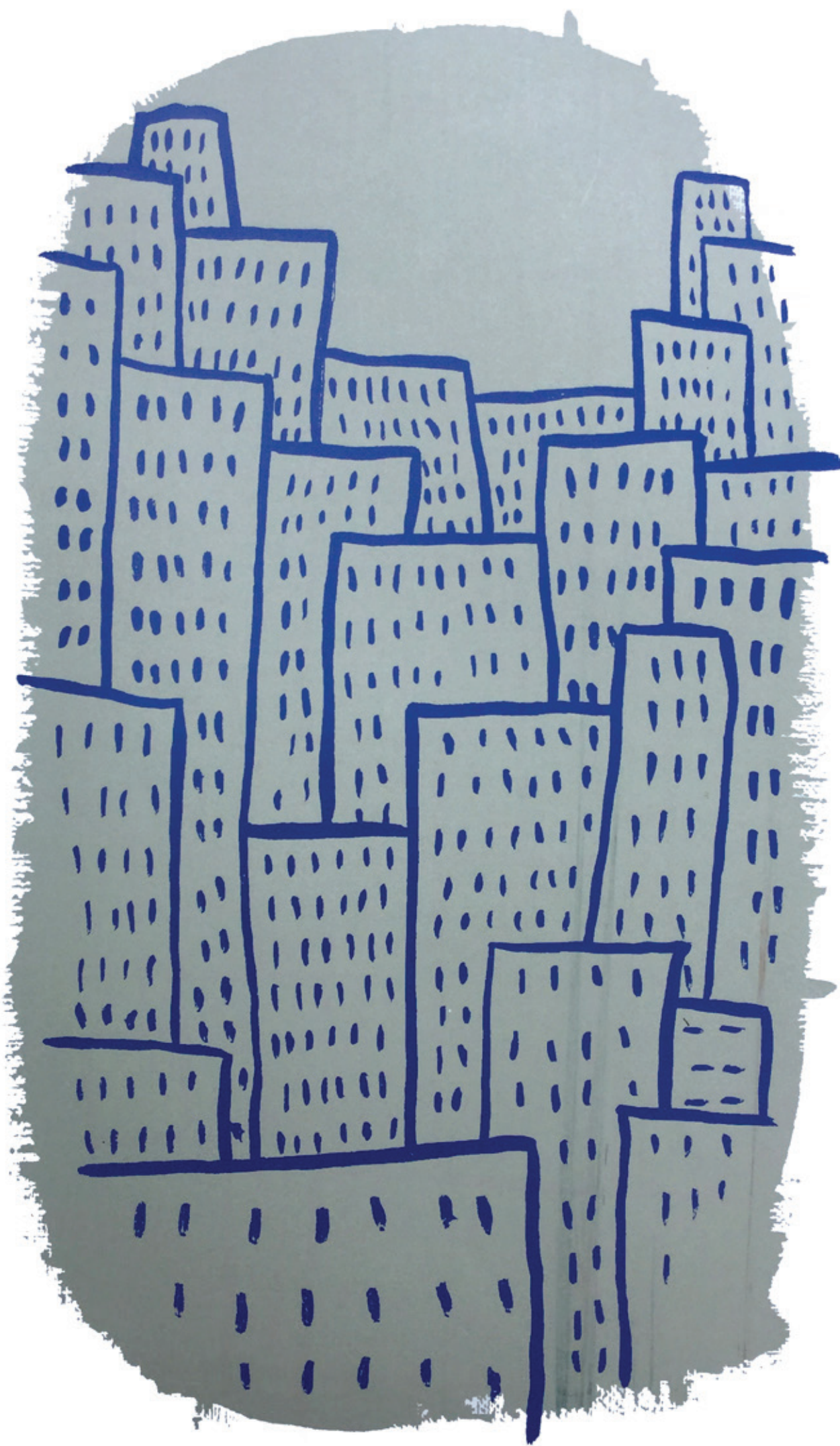
Seven Cities
Screenprint. 2015



Cross Town
Gouache and ink on canvas. 2016

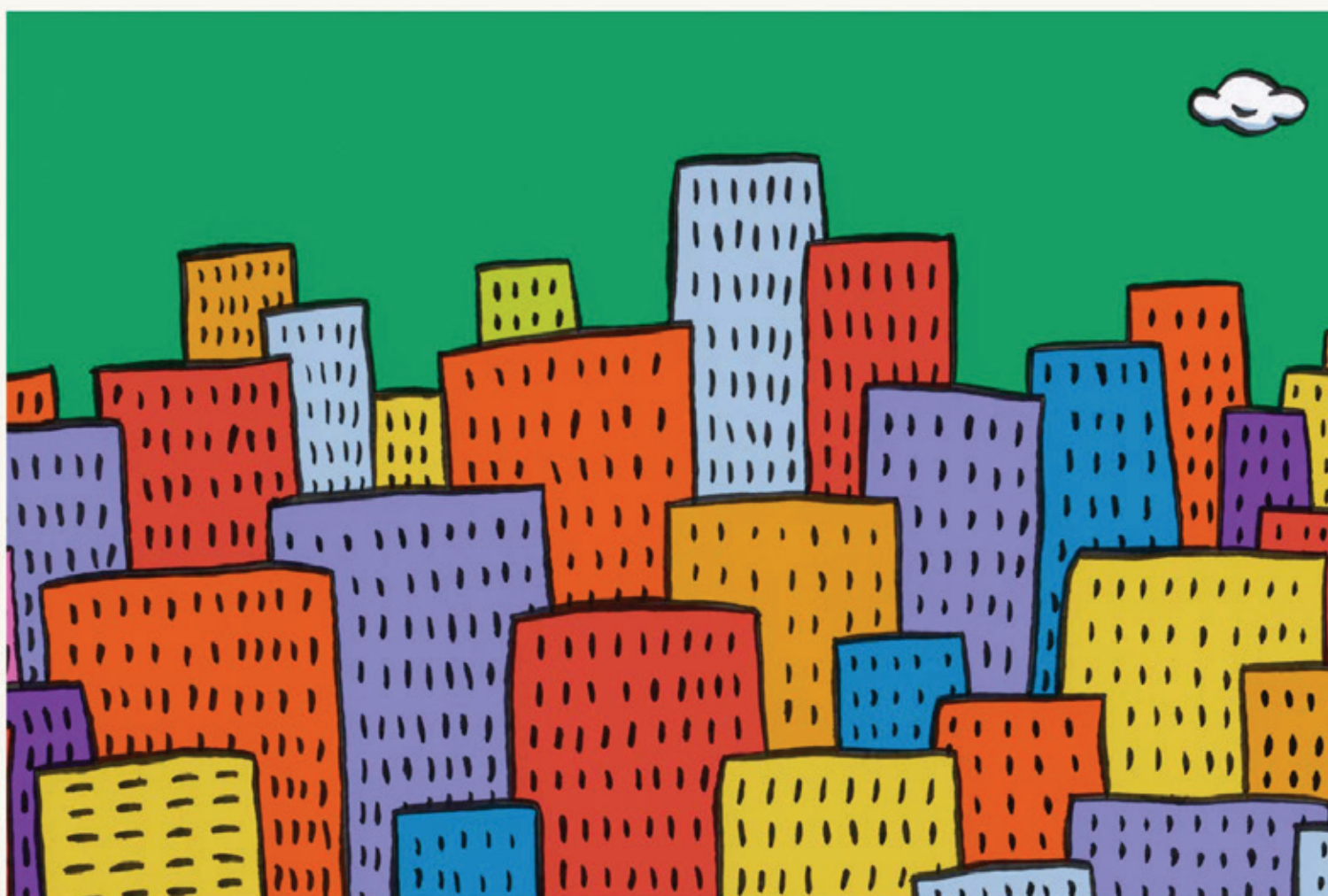


Gold City
Screenprint. 2016

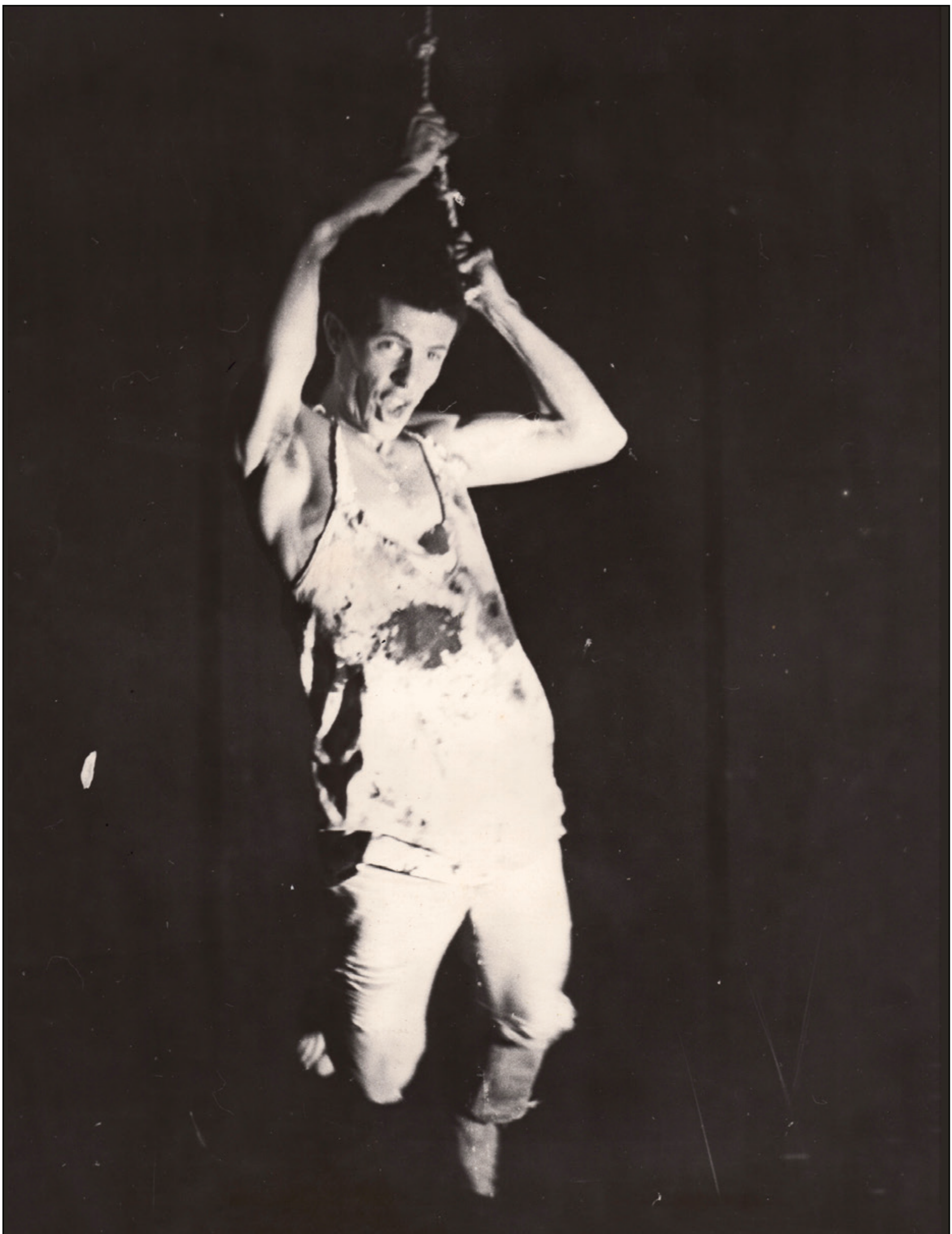


Silver City
Screenprint. 2017





***INCIDENTAL
MATERIAL***



Boo!
Inkjet print. 2017



MAN BITES DOG

MAN BITES DOG HAS ONLY ONE AIM -
to live in a society where
the Beagle Boys have as much
influence on our lives as Vegemite
sandwiches and the platypus
is the standard unit of currency.
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A Scene From Tomorrow
Inkjet print. 2017

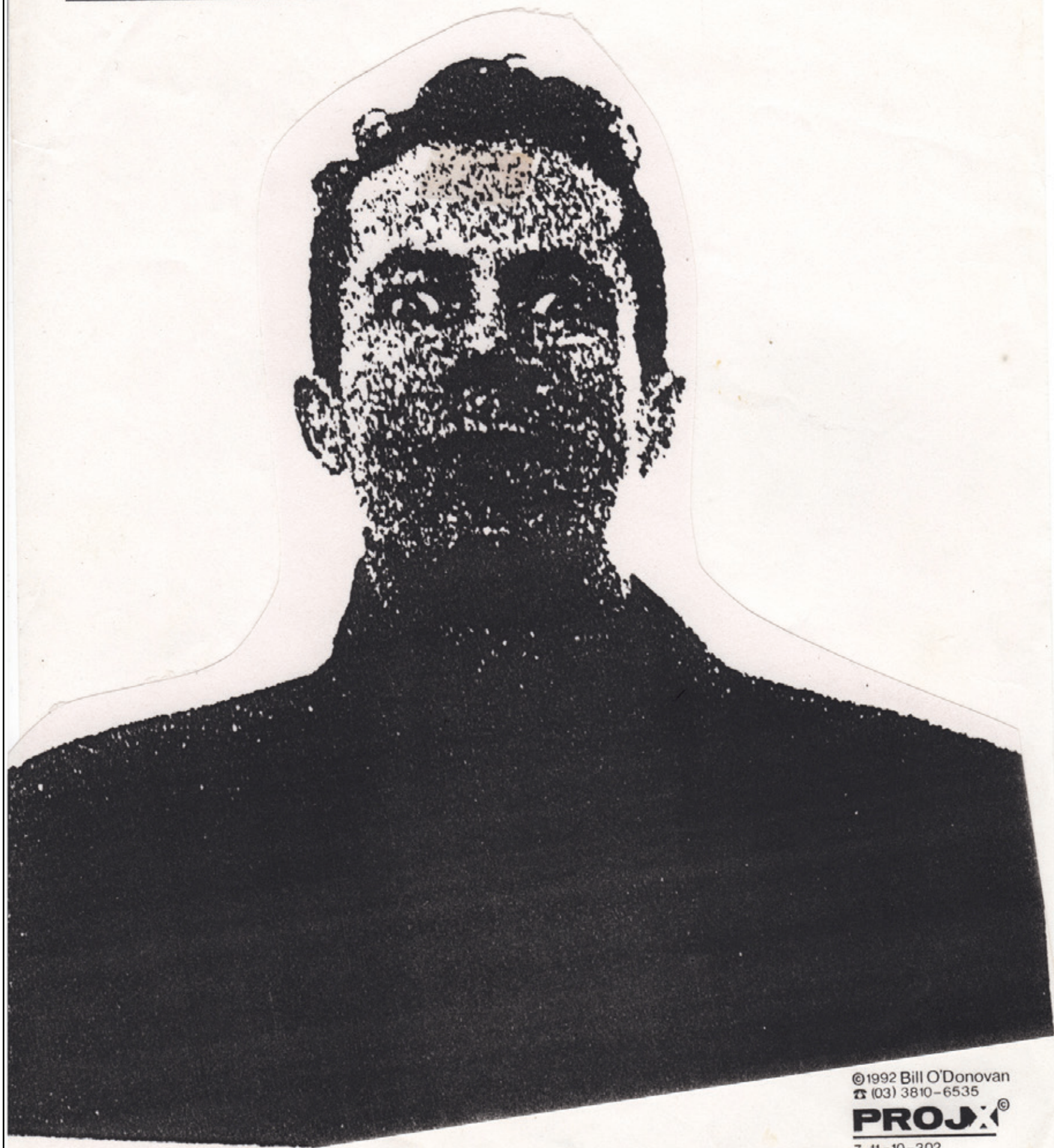
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BEFORE IT GETS YOU!

Get Politics
Inkjet print. 2017

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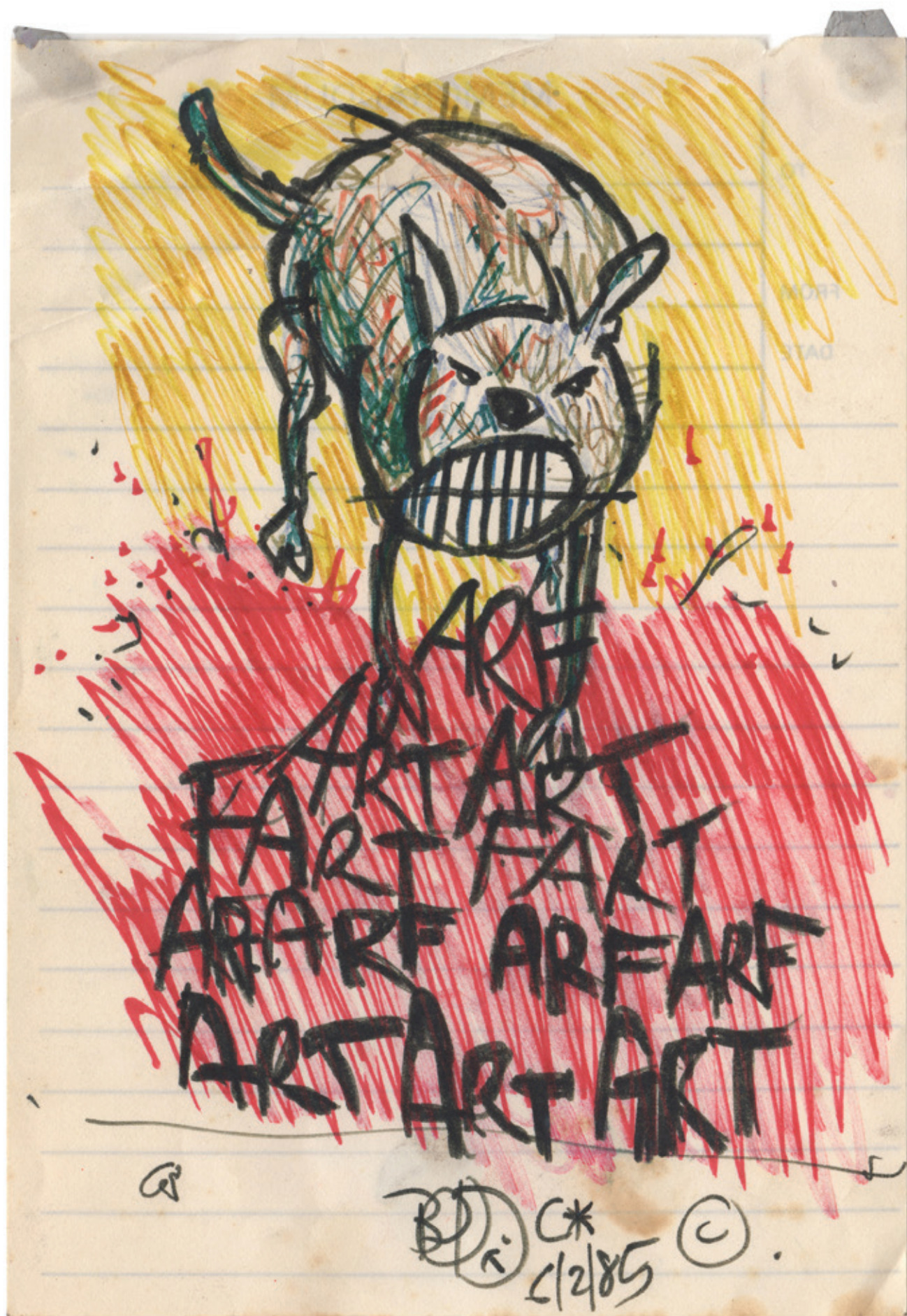
© secret city documentia
1996 AUSTRALIA

Produced in Association
with the Australian
Film Commission





Party 380
Inkjet print. 2017



Arf, Fart, Art
Markers and ink. 1985

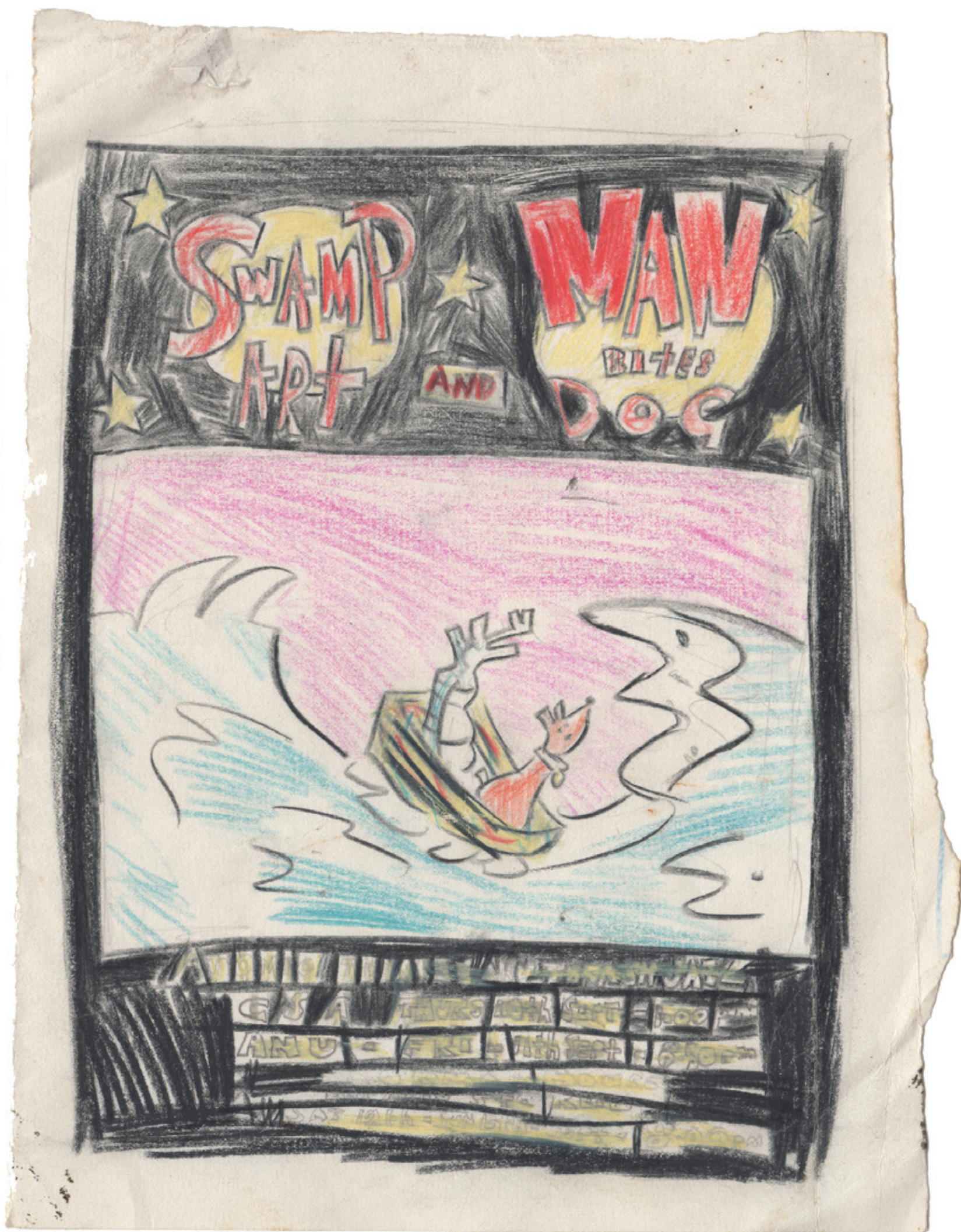


Svegies Vegies Line Art
Ink on film. 1985

PROJECT DEMOCRACY



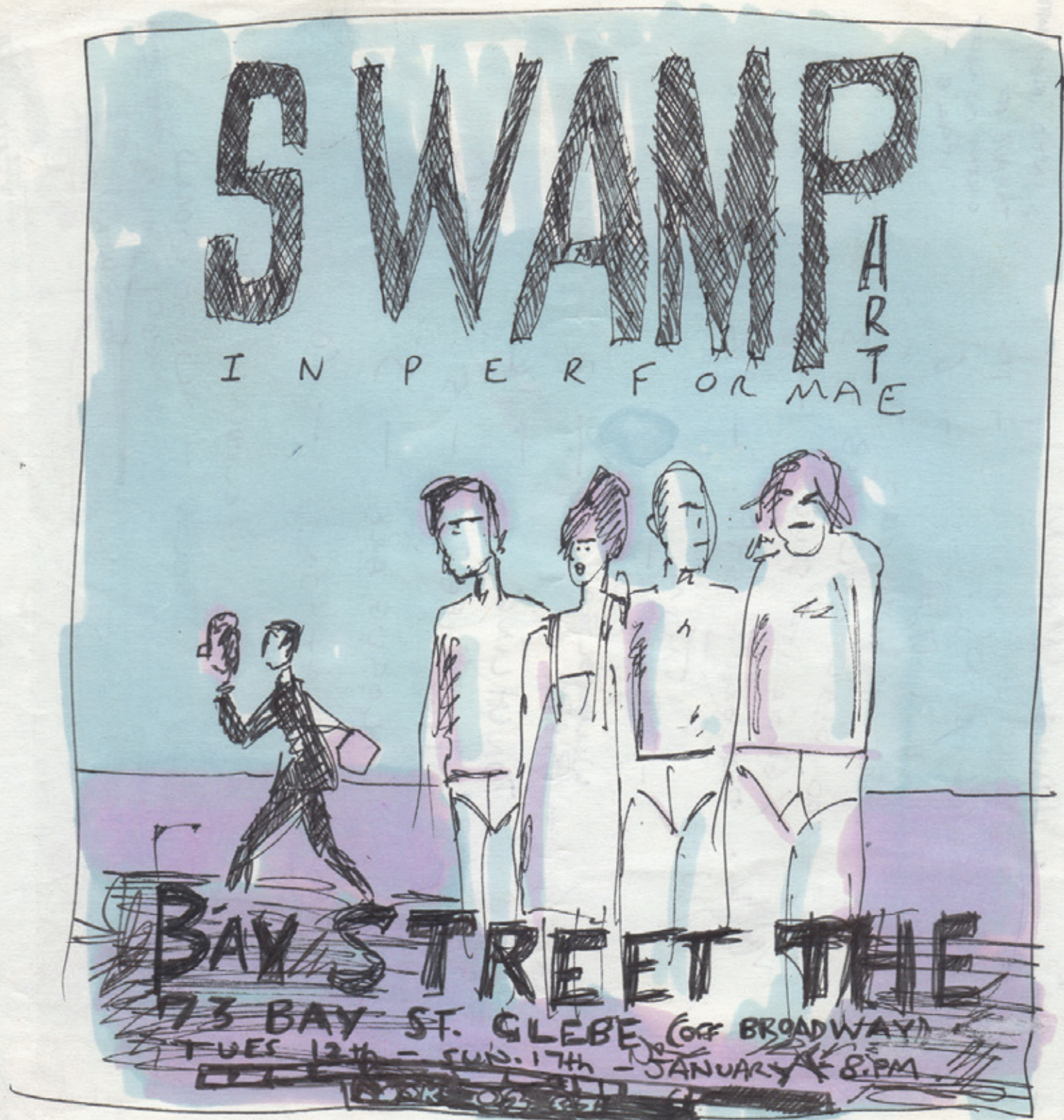
Project Democracy
Colour Pencils. c.1984



Swamp MBD Sketch
Coloured pencils. c.1989



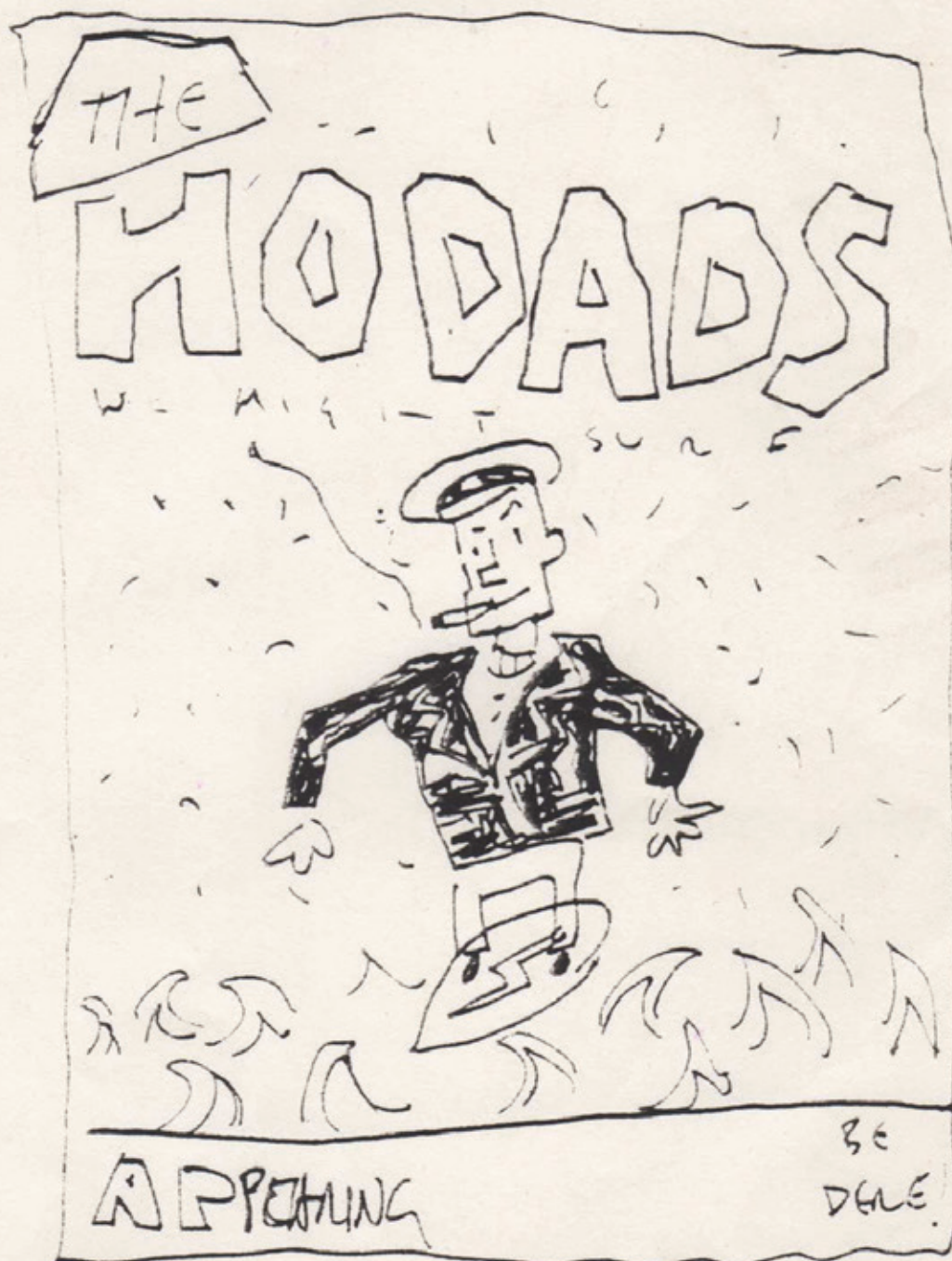
Man Bites Dog - Life Concept Sketch
Coloured Pencils, ink and gouache. c.1989



Swamp Art Poster Sketch
Markers and ink. 1988



Swamp Art Poster - Mechanical
Copyproof and type film. 1988



60

25

300

1200

15

Hodads Poster Sketch
Ink. 1990



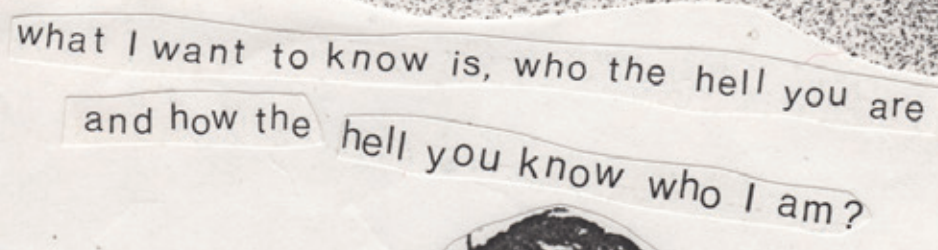
Thin Sensei
Gouache and ink. 1991



feb. '92



Tokyo Meishi
Gouache, ink and photocopy. 1992

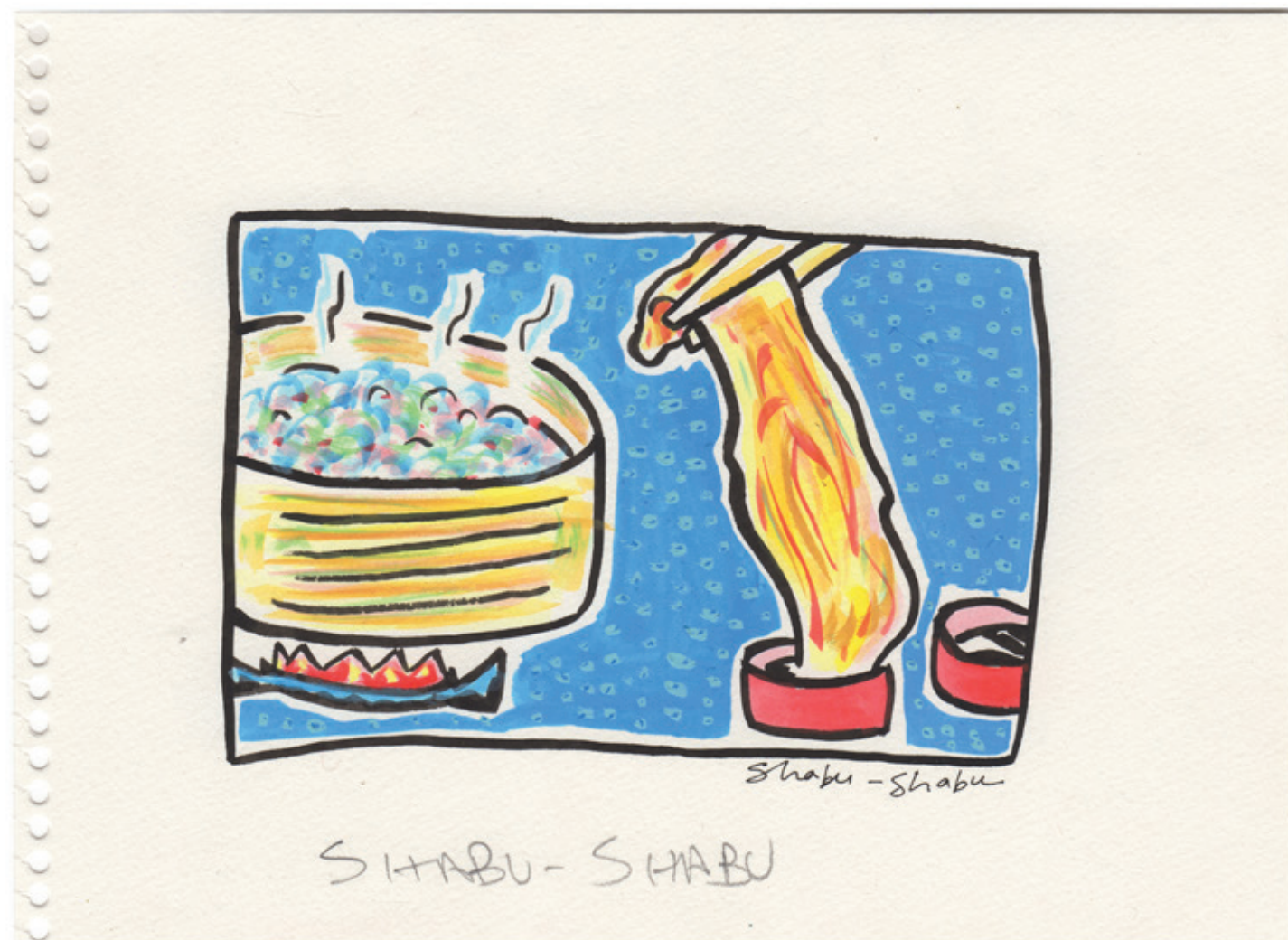
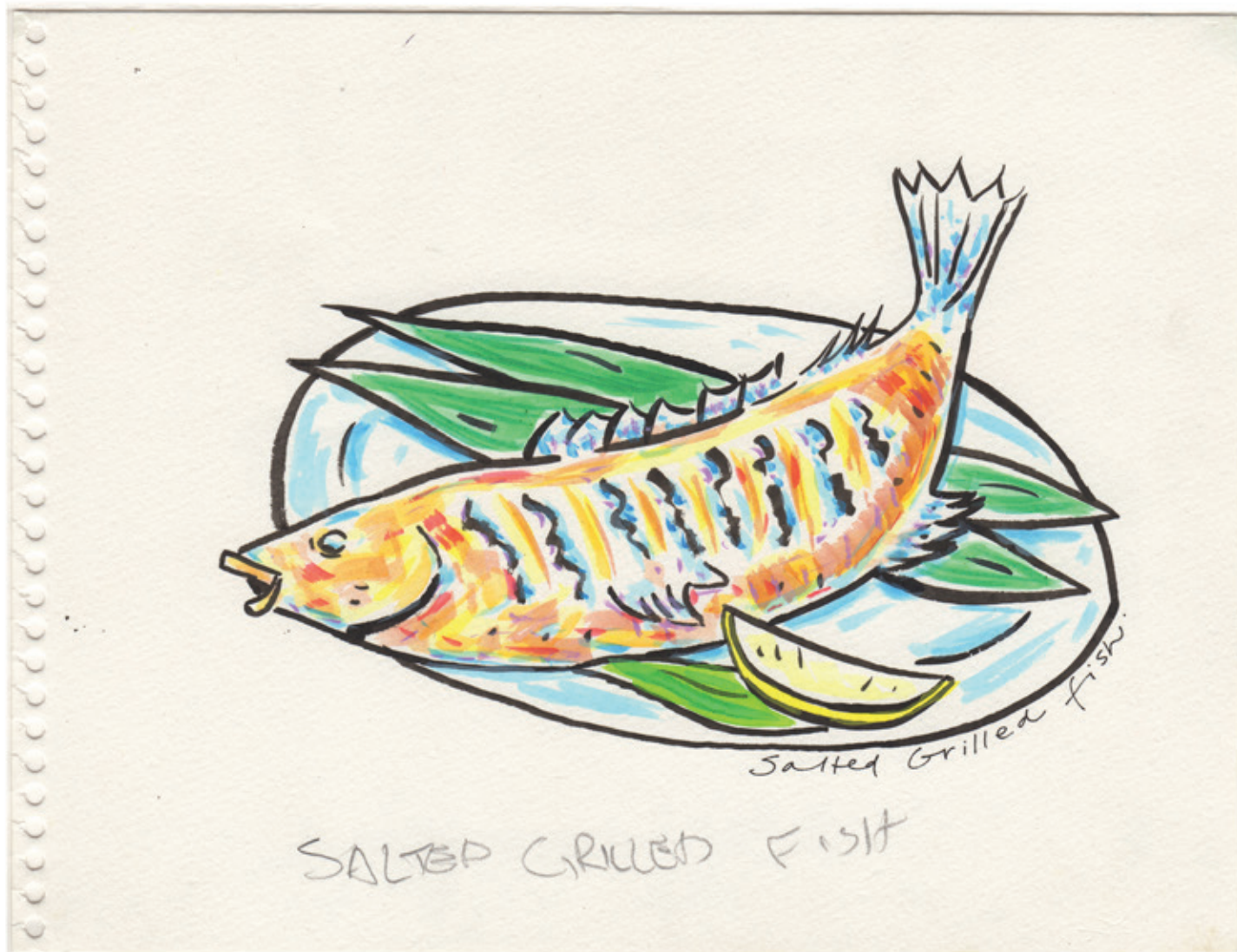


SAT. 30 - 1-93
9.00 P.M.

SEIWA TENANT HOUSE 2F
KAJI-CHO 448
IMADEGAWA-SAGARU
KAWARA-MACHI
KYOTO.

RELAX

本シートは転写に最適なインクを使用していますので定着の必要なときはマクソンコートをお使用下さい。



Food Illustration (JIJ)
Gouache and ink. 1992

Attn: KATIA MOLINO #703

TRUTH FROM THE
THEATRE.

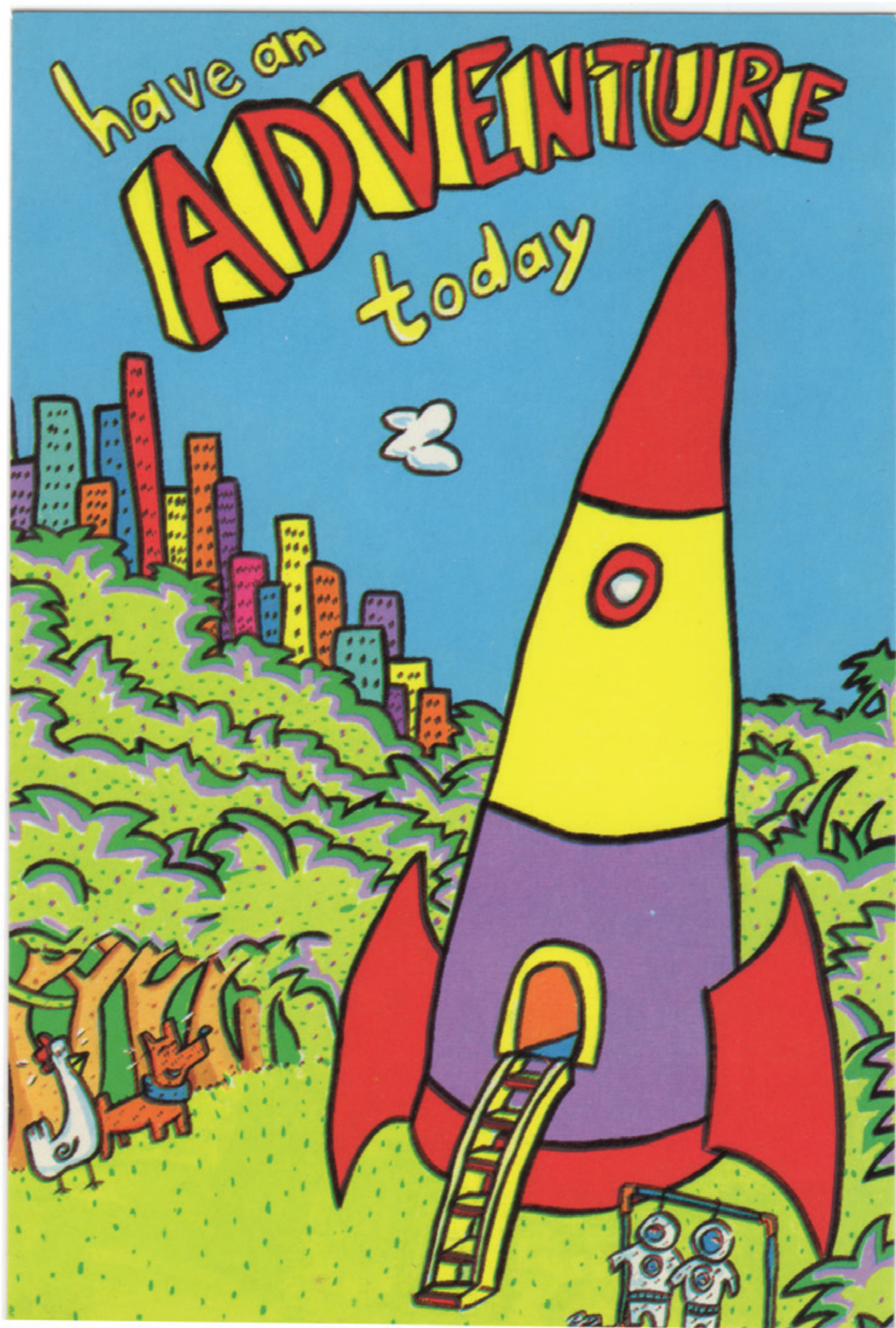


AFTER EACH SHOW, CELESTE WOULD TAKE POT-SHOTS
AT THE STAGE CREW AND THEN SEND OUT FOR
CHAMPAGNE AND MALBOROS.

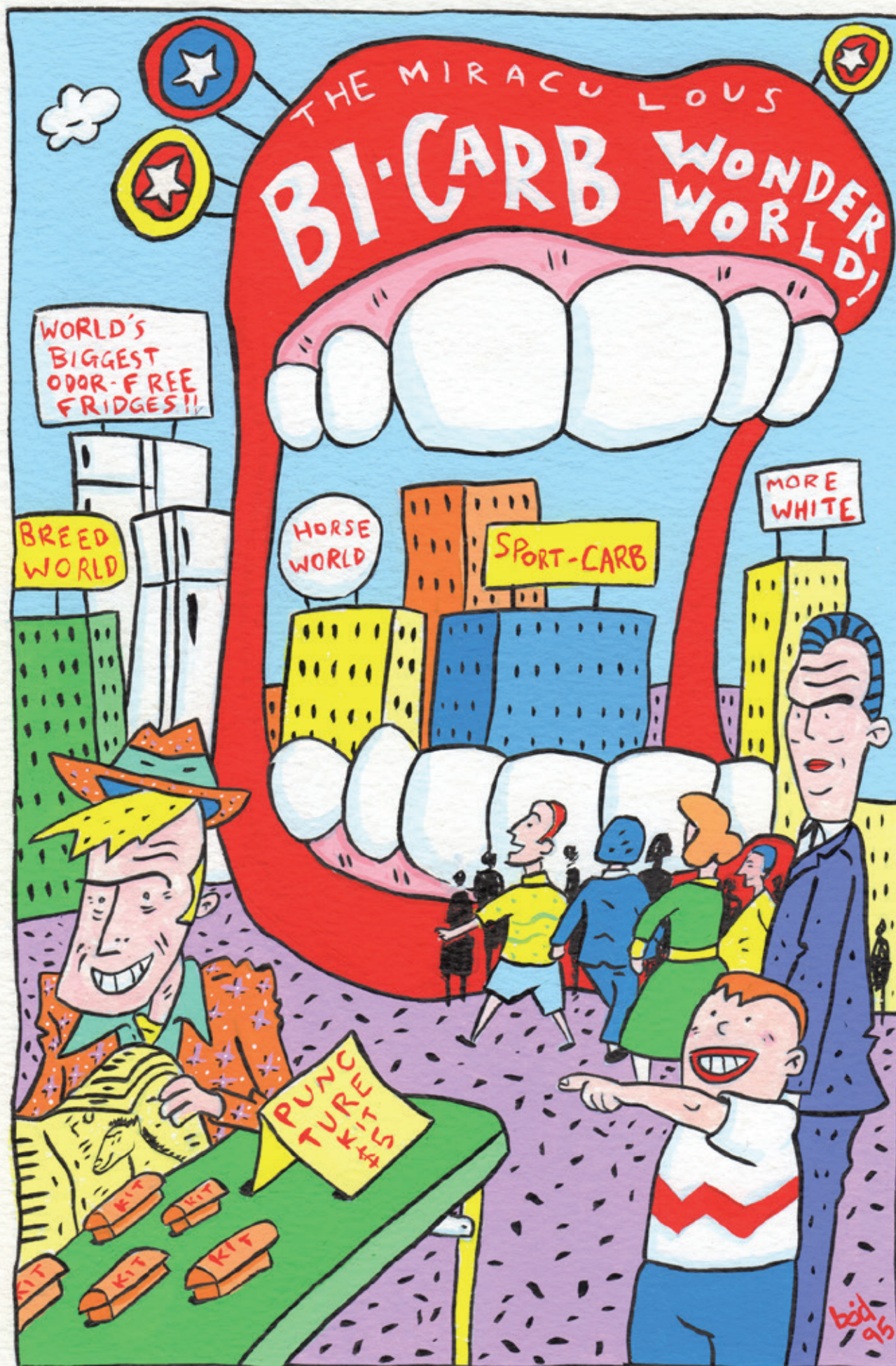
Celeste
Ink. c.1993



Johnny Web Sketch
Ink on tracing paper. 1995-6



Have an Adventure
Postcard. c.1995

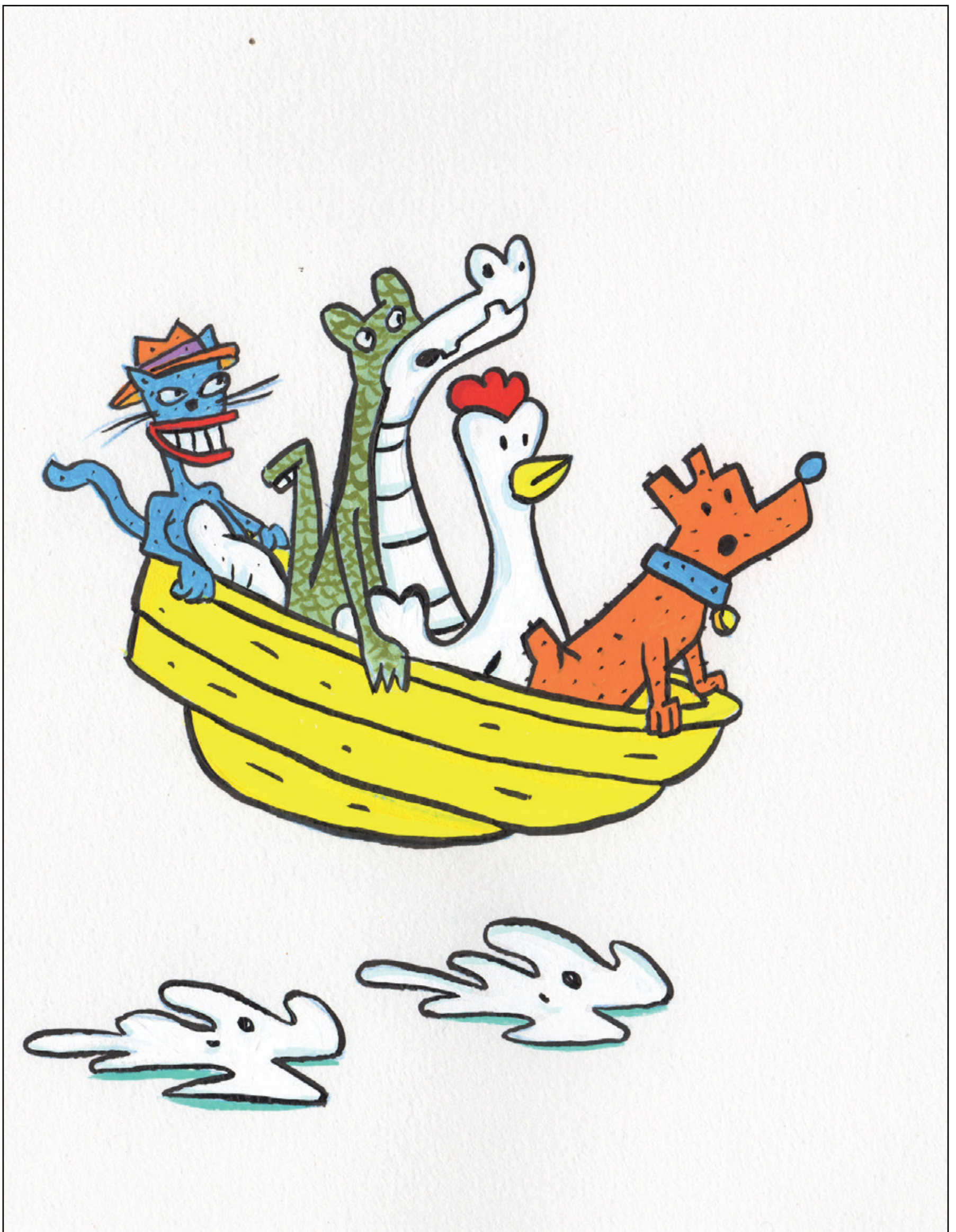


P.11-①
56%

Illustration
Gouache and ink. c.1996



The Sometimes Edition
Pencil and ink. 2010



All at Sea (Version)
Gouache and ink. 2017

WOLLONGONG ART GALLERY

THANKS

Thanks to everyone at Wollongong Art Gallery for the opportunity and support to put this show together.

Special mention goes to:

John (Mighty) Monteleone

Vivian (Astro) Vidulich

Louise (Quality) Brand

Kikki (Boots) Gillam

Rob (The Wrangler) Pulie

Milly (Magic) Hyde

Editor-In-Chief

Promos and Events

Production

Operations

Hanging and Department

Instant Innovation



ARCHIVE UNIT #01



O'PONY, MY PONY, NO PONY.

Repeat

Go-Go

SELF AND THE CITY

THANKS FOR HAVING A LOOK

SEE YOU NEXT TIME



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