

# Seen Too

Curated by Mathew Cerletty

“My paintings are not explicit, but I always try to embed a hint of perversion in my commonplace subjects. I admire these artists for their willingness to let their guard down and share their inner freak. These works playfully reflect some of the many complications of human sexuality: fantasy, twisted obsession, unbridled lust, sweet vulnerability, and of course the simple beauty of a physical connection.”

**Mathew Cerletty**  
(American, b. 1980) is  
an artist who lives and  
works in New York.  
He is represented  
by Office Baroque,  
Brussels, with whom  
he will have a solo  
presentation at FIAC,  
Paris, in October.

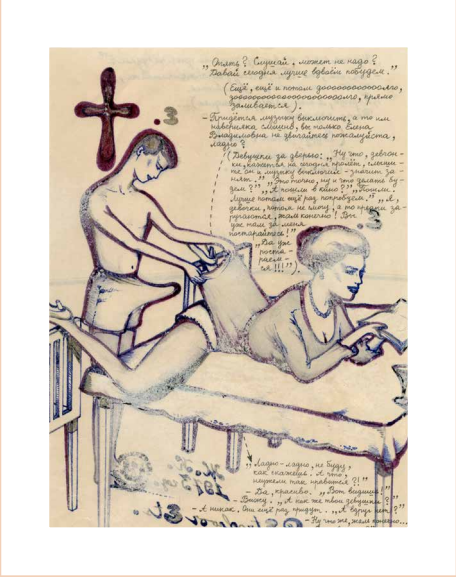


John Wesley, *Woman on Top*, 1996  
Courtesy of the artist and David Kordansky  
Gallery, Los Angeles

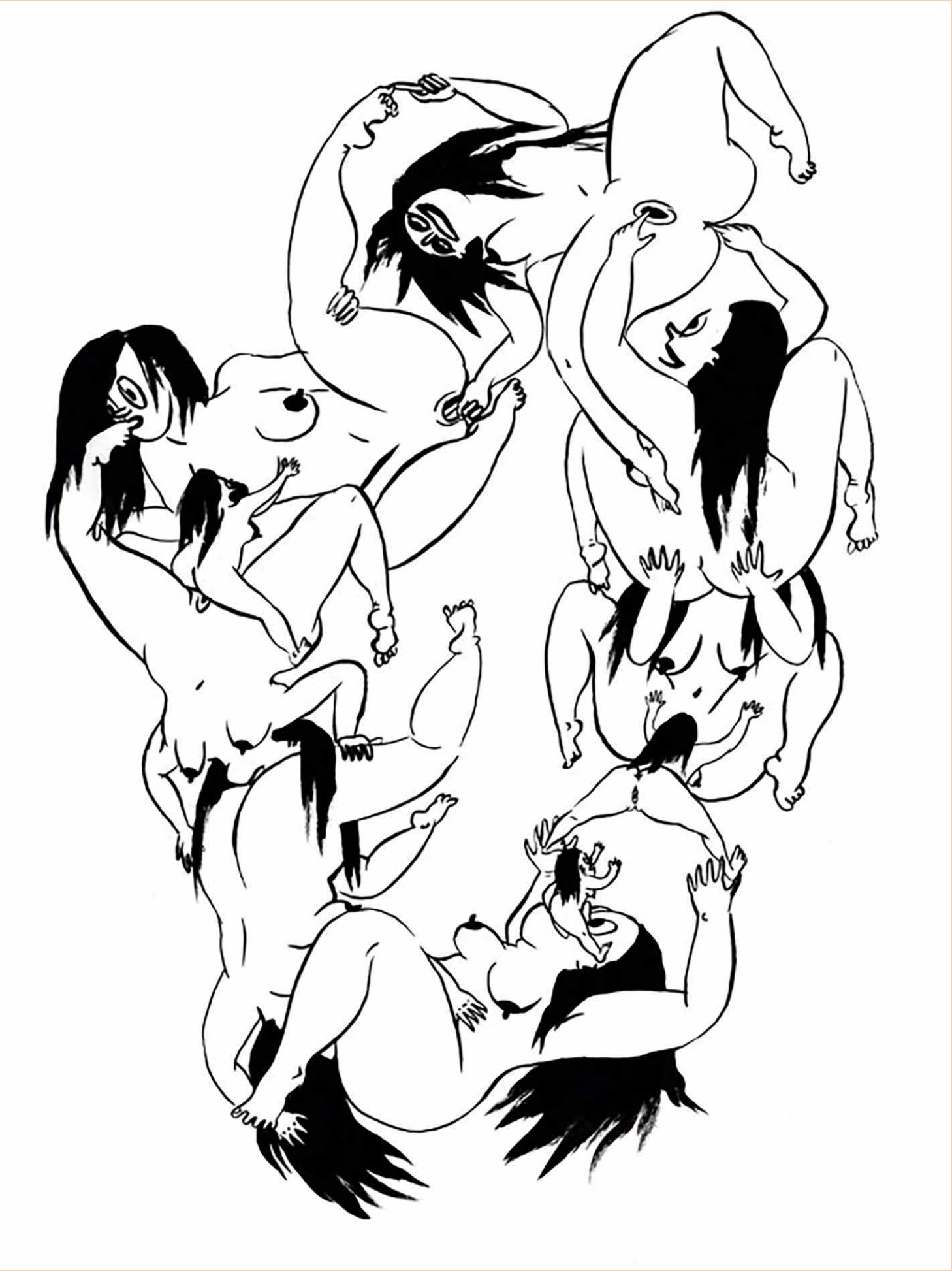
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1 Hans Schärer, *Untitled*, 1974  
Courtesy of Galerie Anton Meier, Geneva  
2 Evgenij Kozlov, *Untitled (The Leningrad Album, No 237B)*, 1973, Collection Kozlov & Fobo, Berlin  
3 Alphachanneling, *Fellow Being Radiated by Babe's Orgasm*, 2015, Courtesy of the artist  
4 Ebecho Muslimova, *Fatebe's First Orgy*, 2012  
Courtesy of the artist and Room East, New York



# ARTFORUM

## EBECHO MUSLIMOVA

by Piper Marshall

### ROOM EAST

41 Orchard Street

June 28, 2015 – August 15, 2015

A particular smell clings to New York City's Chinatown in the summer. The aroma makes its way to Orchard Street. It inflects the eight drawings hanging at Room East. These direct cartoons depict FATEBE. FATEBE is artist Ebecho Muslimova's alter ego. We may not know Muslimova, but FATEBE is a black line on white ground. And Fatebe is doing things (think Garbage Pail Kids). FATEBE is playing with herself; she is playing with her fat body. She stares at her face in a stream of shit. She twists her form into a mess on the potter's wheel. She folds her flab over a wire. She flatulates out into the open. She digs up dirt with her hands. She drapes her flesh over handrails. She offers us a view of her symmetrical vagina.

But seriously, what compels us to gape at FATEBE? Why does our gaze linger so readily, so openly? These drawings thrust in front of us what we will to push aside. FATEBE taps into the drive that lures us downtown. She makes us inhale the foul stench of the moistest nights. She throws at us that which we are required to withstand: our bodies, our selves. FATEBE is a sinister feminist. She wildly grins.



**Ebecho Muslimova, *Fatebe Air Pump*, 2015,**  
ink on paper 12 x 9".

Marshall, Piper. "Ebecho Muslimova," ArtForum, July 2015

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# The New York Times

ART & DESIGN | ART REVIEW

## Ebecho Muslimova Draws a Clumsy, Manic Alter Ego

By KEN JOHNSON JULY 23, 2015

Many people have distorted impressions of their own bodies and consequent feelings of inferiority. It's hard to maintain a positive self-image when unrealistic ideals are thrust before our eyes everywhere we look. So when an artist like the gifted drawer Ebecho Muslimova creates funny, wordless cartoons of a lovably goofy, corpulent alter ego called Fatebe, we know what she's wrestling with. In [this show's](#) eight pieces, selected from more than 100 Fatebe drawings she has made, Ms. Muslimova envisions this avatar as a kind of indomitable, clumsily manic performance artist.

Sinuously outlined with fine brushes in black ink on snowy white pages, Fatebe appears naked, with unkempt hair and expressions of popeyed surprise, in all sorts of awkward and confounding situations. In "Fatebe Floor Piece," she has somehow managed to cut a splintery circle in a gallery's wooden floor, using her head like a jigsaw.

"Fatebe Dirt Hole" could be a homage to Mike Kelley: It shows Fatebe furiously digging mud, flinging clods into the air. The soil can be read as feces, which suggests a vision of the artist delving into her own primal unconscious. In an untitled piece, she re-enacts the myth of Narcissus: At the edge of a black river, she is bent over and using her hands to scoop out a masklike reflection of her own face.

Ms. Muslimova was born in Russia in 1984, graduated from Cooper Union and lives in New York. This is her first solo exhibition. It's a modest but auspicious debut.

*ROOM EAST, 41 Orchard Street, near Hester Street, Lower East Side*

*Through August 15*

Johnson, Ken. "Ebecho Muslimova Draws a Clumsy, Manic Alter Ego," [The New York Times](#), July 2015

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