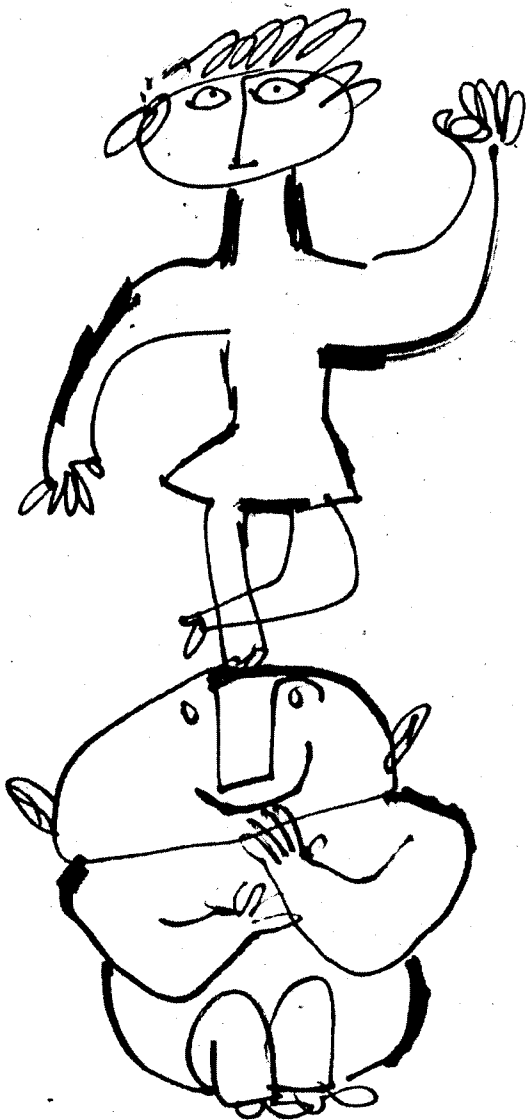


# A VIEW OF THE WORLD

**Drawings by Franciszka Themerson**



# **A VIEW OF THE WORLD**

**This edition is dedicated to Stefan and Nick.**



**Special thanks to Jasia Reichardt and  
Nick Wadley of Themerson Archive for  
generously allowing OP to publish these  
drawings by Franciszka Themerson.**

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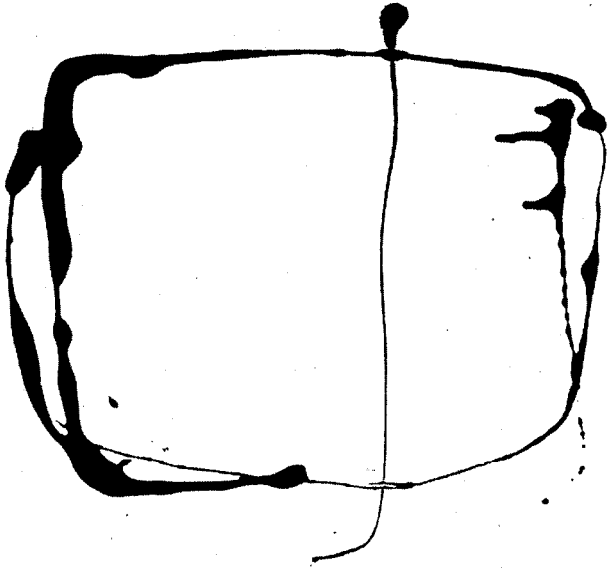
**Cover: In a rather unexpected way, c. 1984  
Title page: Calligramme XIII - omega, 1961**

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**First Edition**

**Obscure Publications  
Paul Rosheim, Series Editor  
307 River Street, Apt. 18  
Black River Falls, WI 54615**

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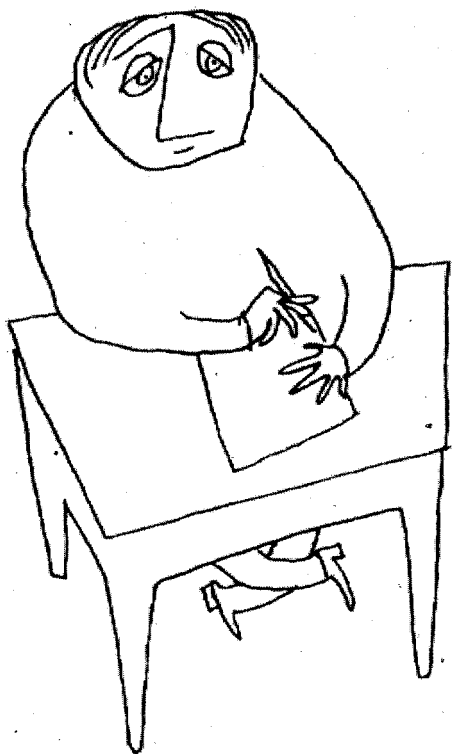
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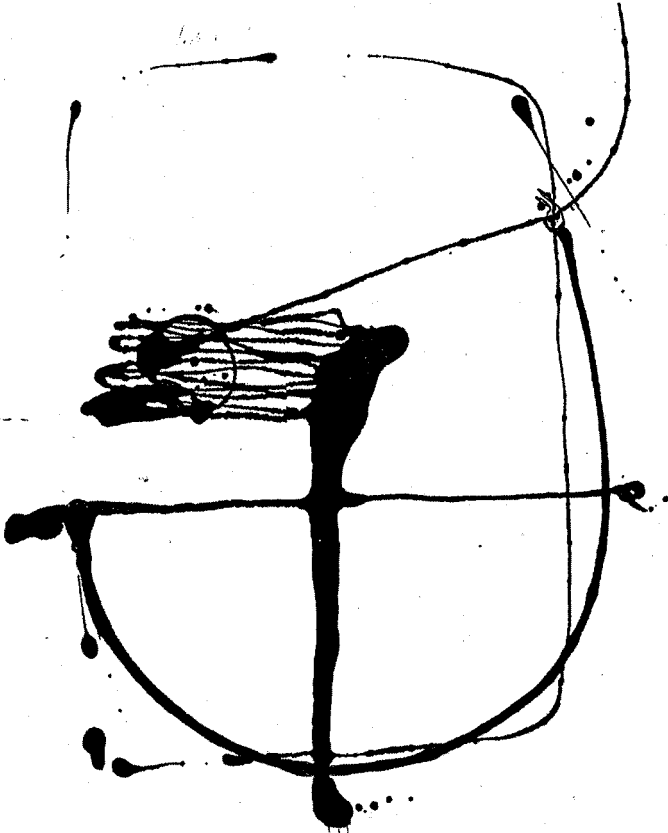
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Read any good books lately?

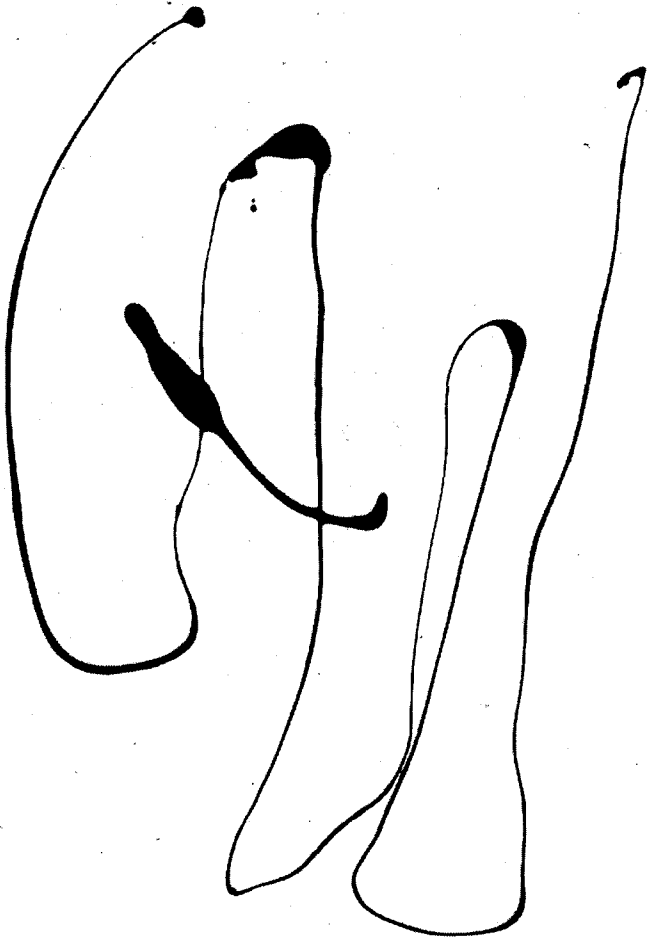
Wrote one.







**Calligramme III - showerhead, 1960**

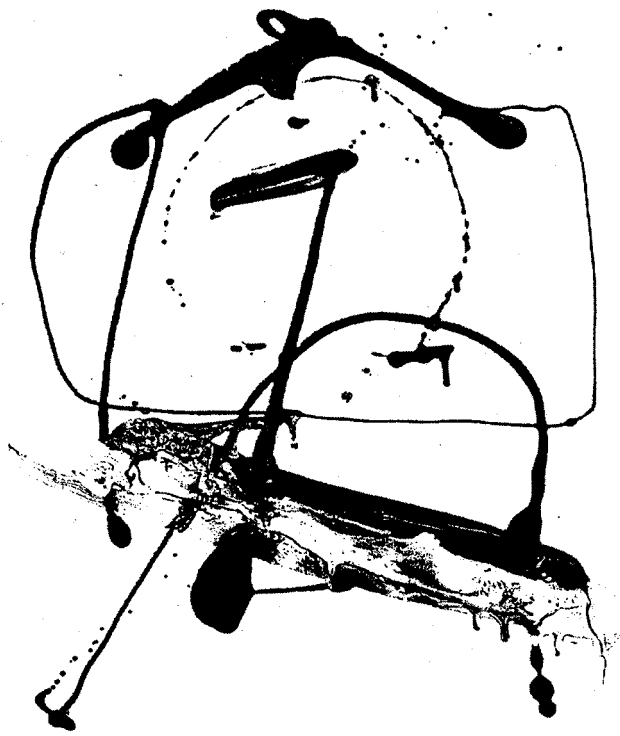


**Calligramme IV - serpentine, 1960**

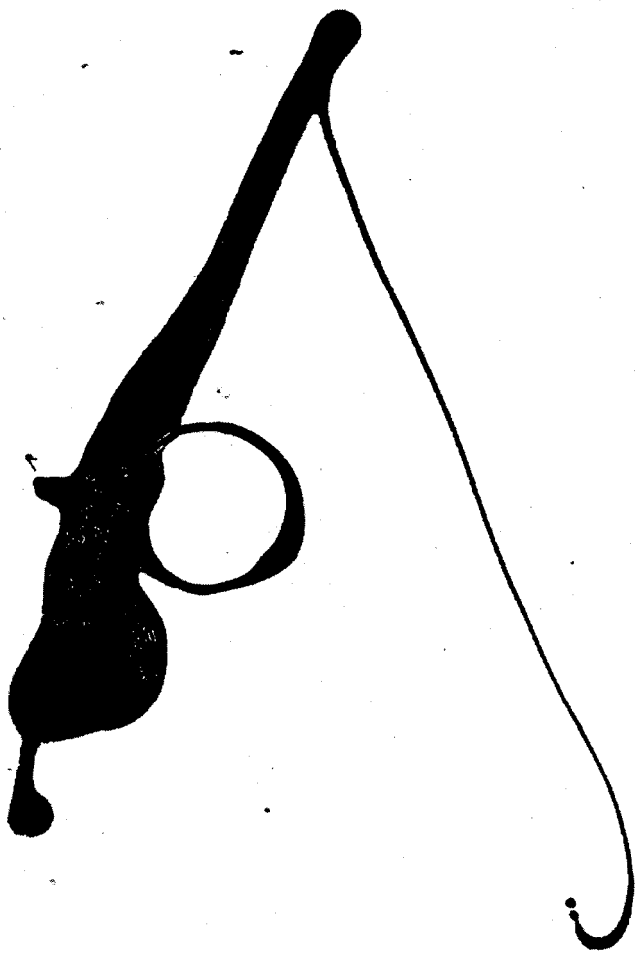


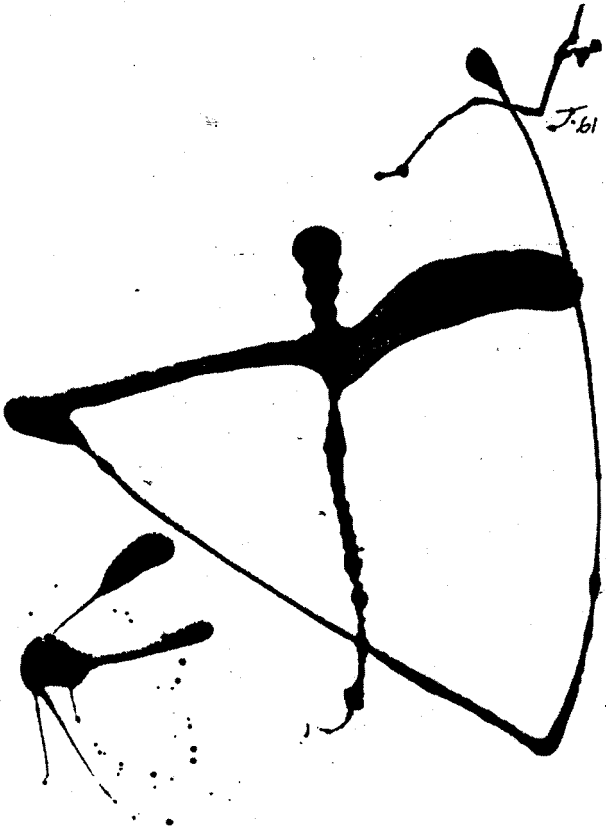


**Calligramme V - bleeding, 1960**

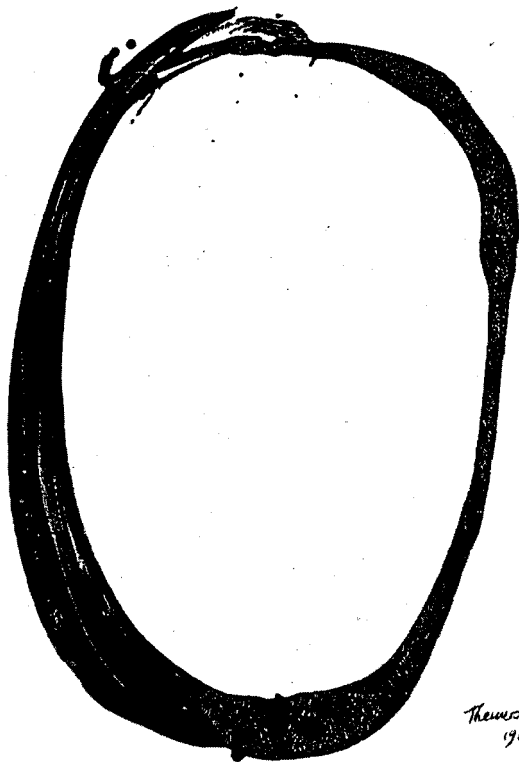


Calligramme VI - h, 1960

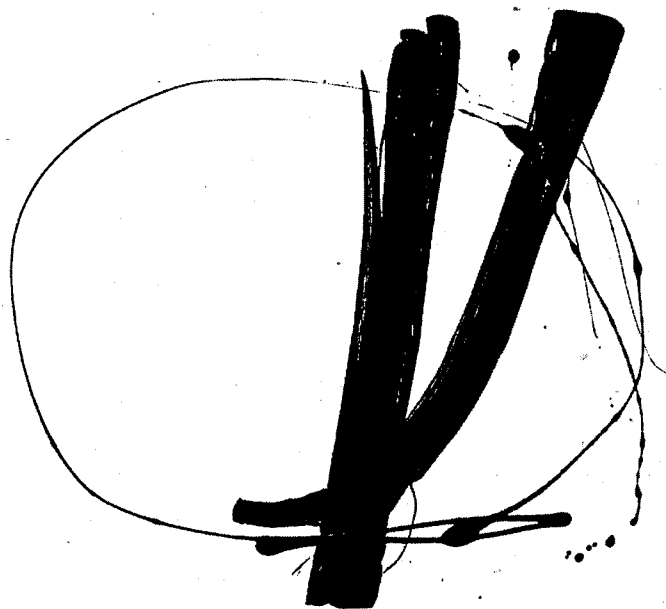




Calligramme XV - the archer, 1961

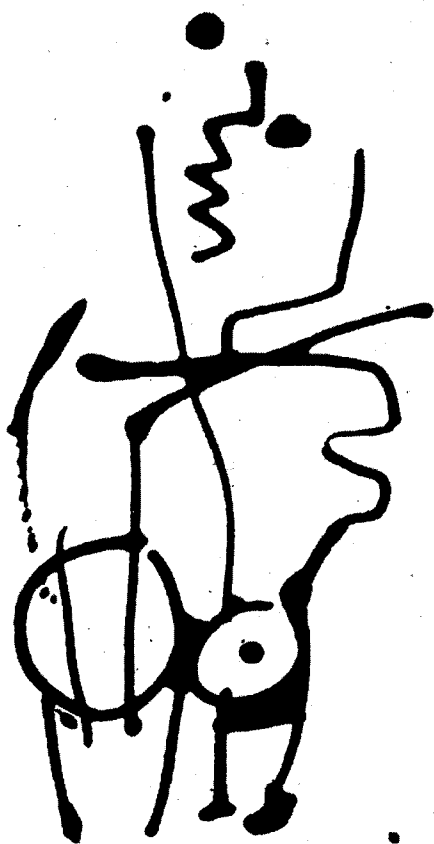


Thompson  
1961





**Calligramme XIX - frenzied head, 1961**



Torso, c. 1964





**Regret, c. 1964 (from Traces of Living)**







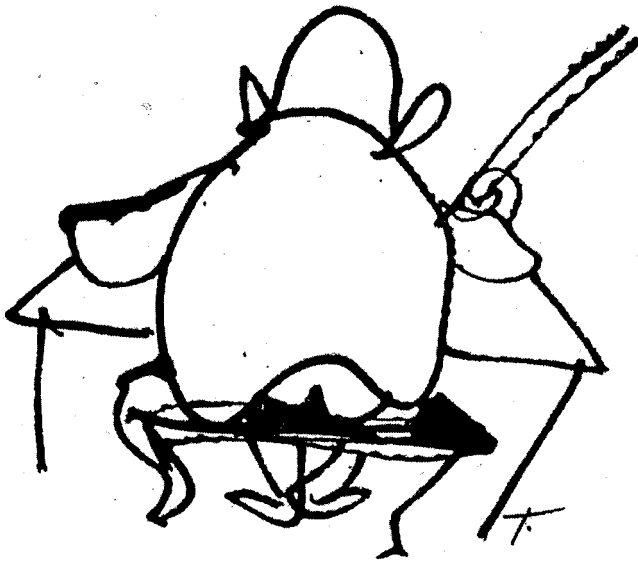
**Mère Ubu, insatiable, c. 1969**  
(study for *Ubu* comic)



**Père Ubu, looking left, c. 1969**  
(study for *Ubu* comic)



**The pen is mightier than the sword, 1981**  
**(from PN Review series)**



**Writer at his desk (what shall I say?), 1981  
(from PN Review series)**

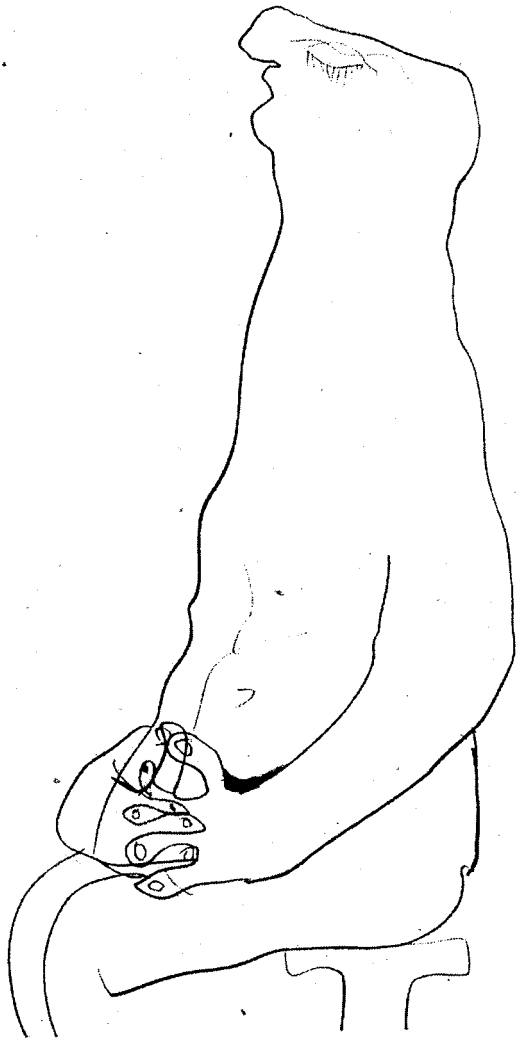


**Poet reading, c. 1981  
(from PN Review series)**





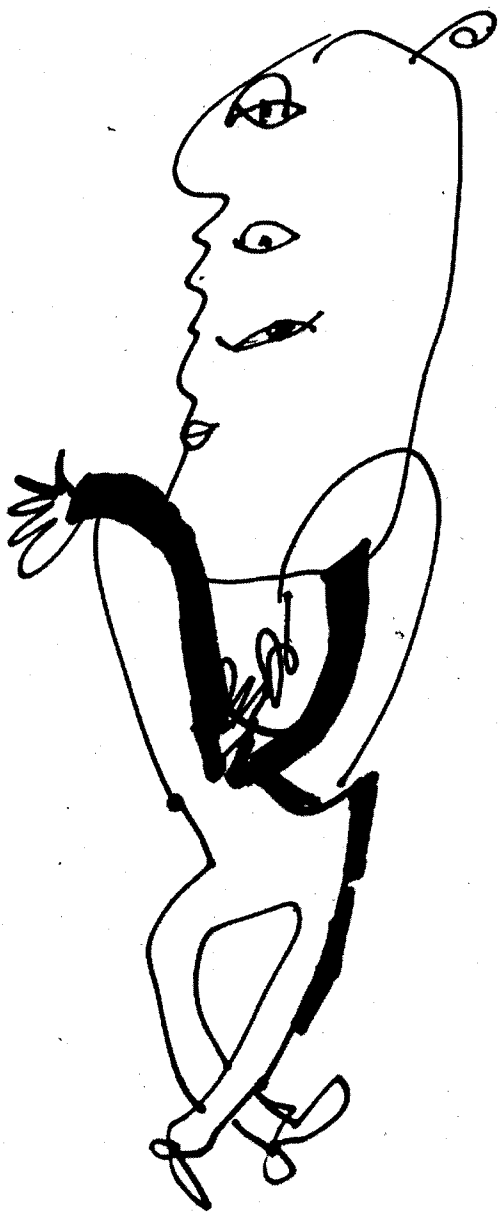
Writer brandishing pen, c. 1981  
(from PN Review series)



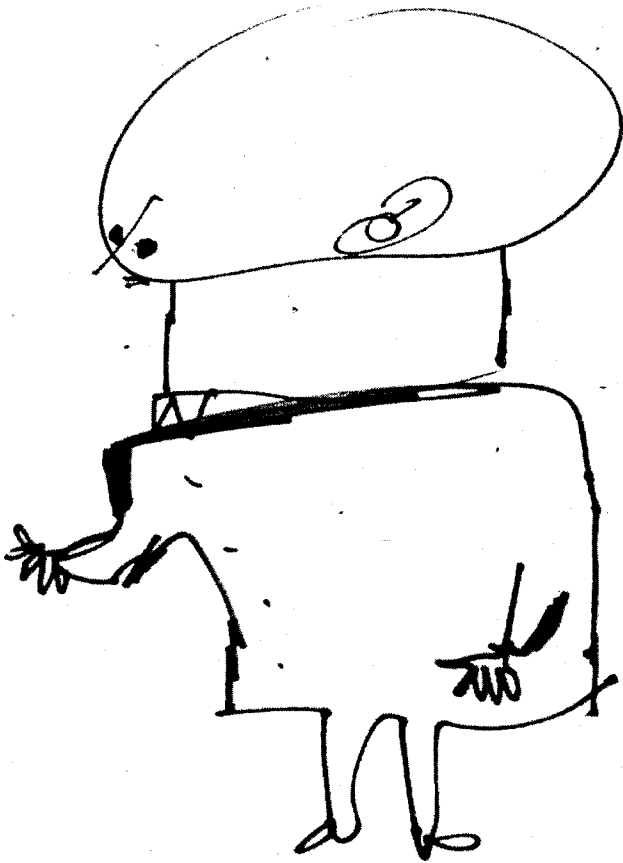
Seated figure, 1982

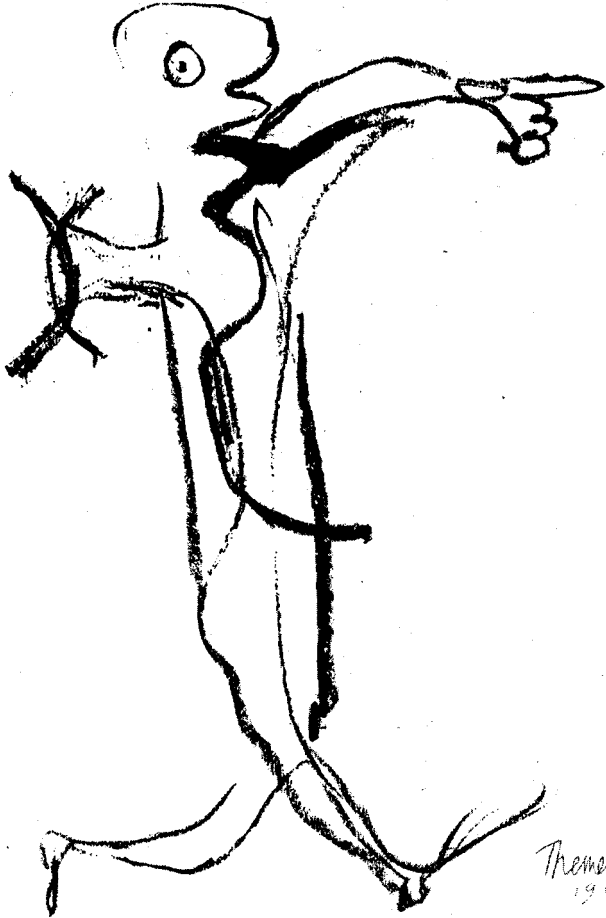
Thompson  
1984





Posturing figure (a), c. 1984

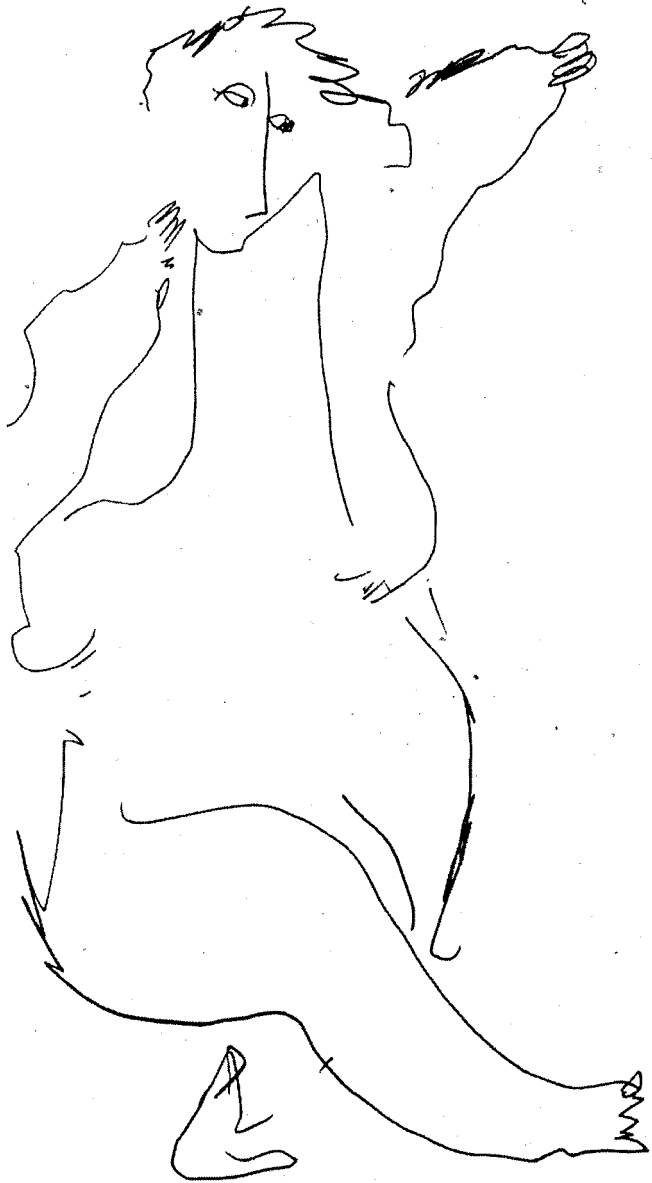




Pointing figure, 1984



Thomson  
25









Self Portrait III, 1987

FRANCISZKA THEMERSON was born in Warsaw in 1907, lived in Paris 1937-40, and then, from 1940, lived in London until her death in 1988. She was principally a painter, although, throughout her life, she worked in several other fields of the visual arts.

She collaborated with her husband, the writer Stefan Themerson, on experimental films, illustrated books for children which he wrote, and in 1948 she founded with him the adventurous publishing company Gaberbocchus Press, of which she was the art director.

Apart from appearing in many journals world-wide, several collections of her drawings have been published as books: *The Way It Walks*, 1954; *Traces of Living*, 1969; *Franciszka Themerson, London 1941-42*, 1987; and *The Drawings of Franciszka Themerson*, 1991.

Her theatre designs included productions of *Ubu Roi*, *Ubu Enchainé* and *Threepenny Opera*. Many of these were exhibited at the National Theatre in 1993.

Her major solo exhibitions include those at Gallery One in 1957 and 1959; a retrospective show at Drian Galleries, 1963; Zachęta, Warsaw, 1964; New Gallery, Belfast, 1966; Demarco, Edinburgh, 1968; a retrospective show at Whitechapel Art Gallery, 1975; Gruenebaum, New York, 1978; Łódź, Warsaw, Wrocław, 1981-82; a retrospective exhibition of drawings at Nordjyllands Kunstmuseum, Aalborg, 1991; Gardner Centre, University of Sussex, 1992; Gdańsk, 1993; Redfern Gallery, 1993; National Theatre, 1993; Festival Hall, London, 1993; Imperial War Museum, 1994; Galeria Kordegarda, Warsaw, 1998; and Art First, London, 1999.

Her paintings were made slowly, over long periods of time; they are complex, solemn and meditative. The drawings, by contrast, were made rapidly. They expose the gestures of her pen or brush, allowing us to relive the sleight of hand with which she practised the magic of drawing. She drew throughout her life in pen and ink, gouache, crayon and pencil. The act of drawing was like participating in a conversation. To human words and grimaces she responded with lines. Even though the lines sometimes sounded their own abstract melodies, the finished drawing was always her own considered reply.

(Jasia Reichardt)

**This edition is limited to 60 copies.**

**This is number 38.**



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