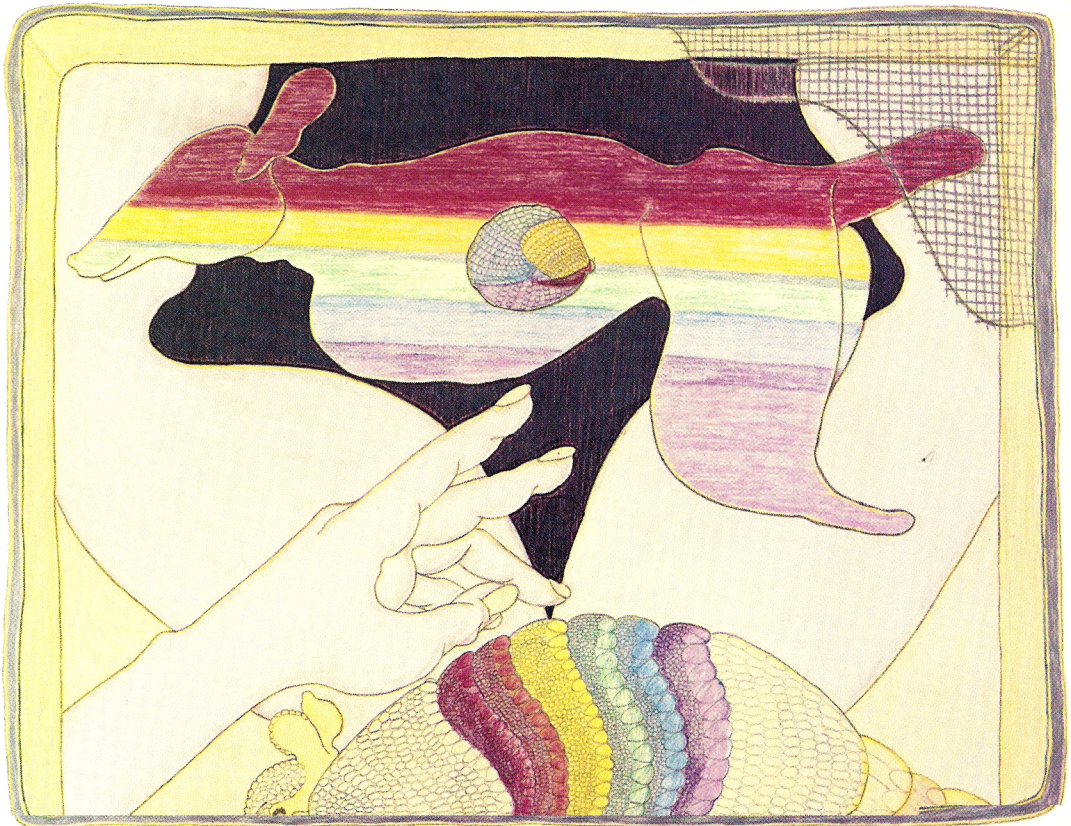


INSTEAD OF AN ANIMAL

a poem by Leslie Scalapino



drawings by Diane Sophia

drawings by Diane Sophia

INSTEAD OF

a poem by Leslie Scalapino

AN ANIMAL

cloud marauder press • 1978

Copyright © 1978 Leslie Scalapino.

The author wishes to express thanks to the National Endowment for the Arts for a writer's grant which made this work possible.

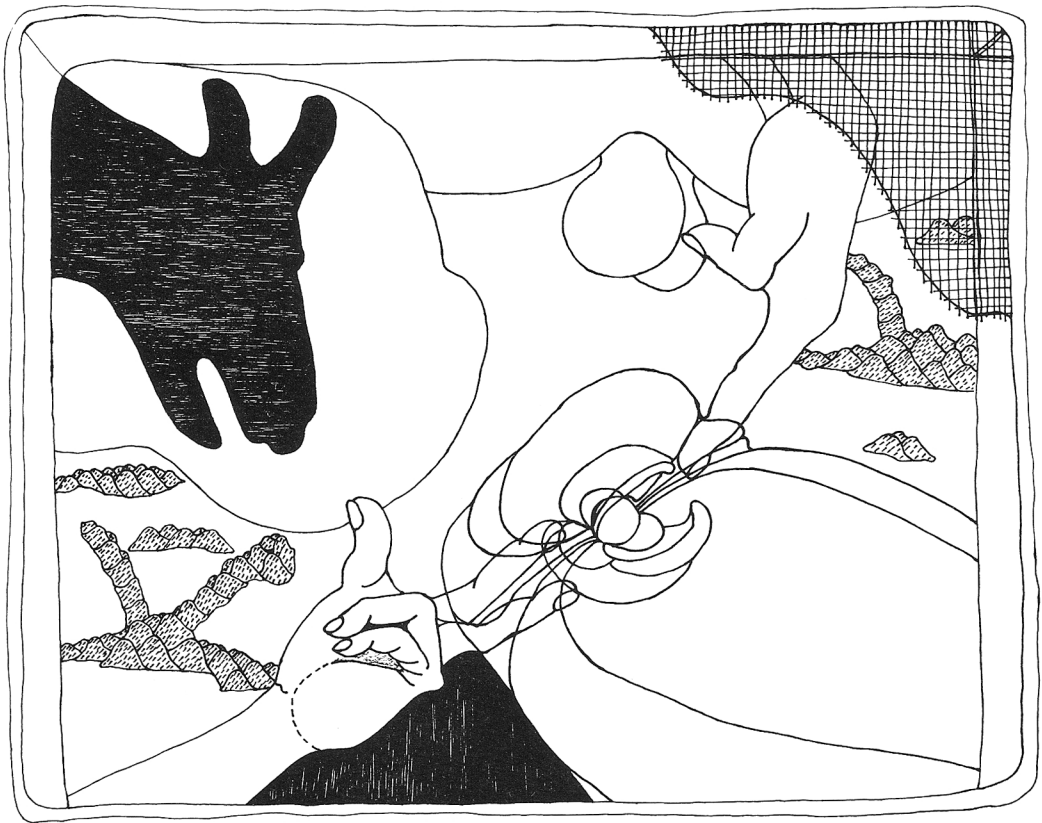
A CLOUD MARAUDER BOOK

Distributed by:
SBD: Small Press Distribution
1636 Ocean View Avenue
Kensington, Ca. 94707

instead of an animal

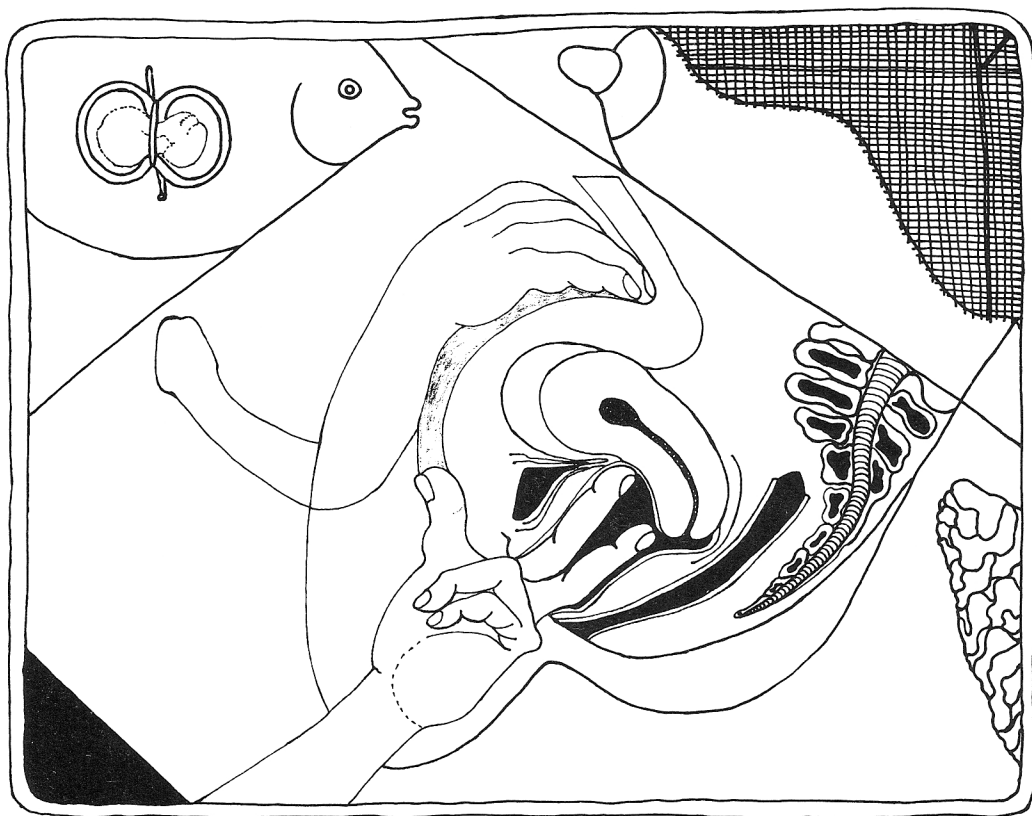
Seeing as I was willing to give up my seat—

Seeing as I was willing to give up my seat for the person who said he had reserved it, first wetting out of my excitement or my worry or perhaps heat, not only the seat but obviously my own clothes, it is no wonder that the person was willing to sit wallowing in it; in that perfumes are made to come from the anal glands of animals.



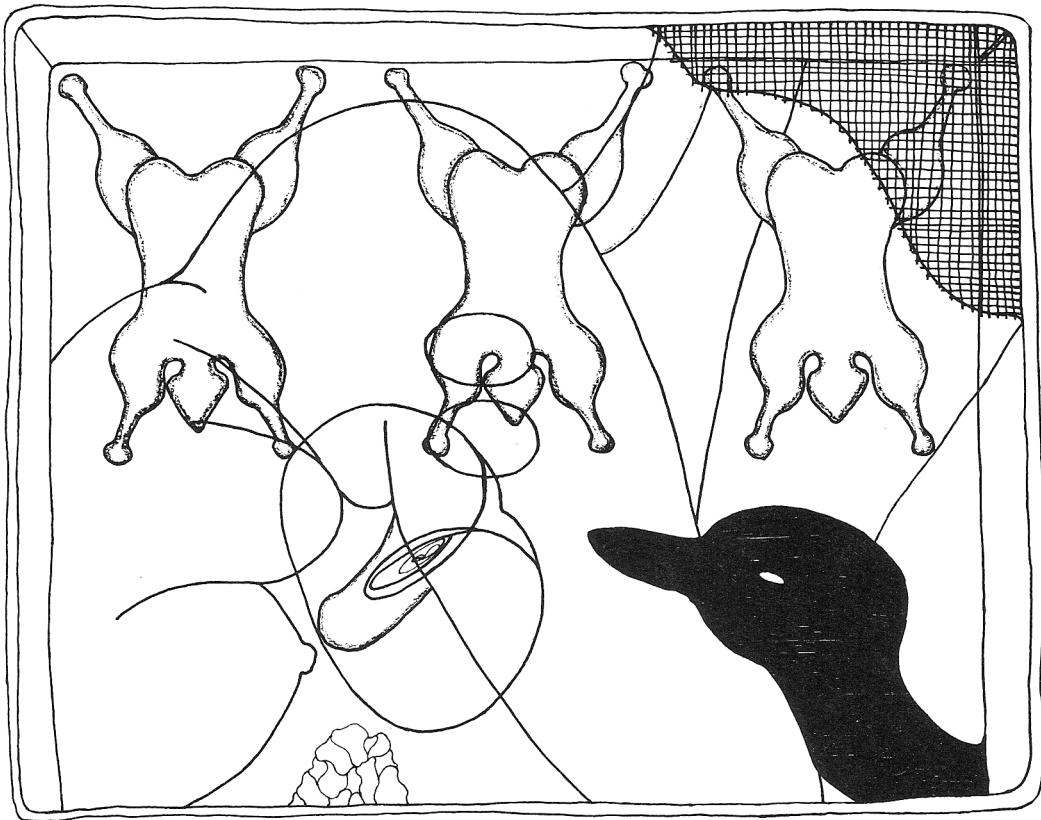
Except for seeing women suckling in public

Except for seeing women suckling in public—one time, two women were suckling at the teats of the nursing mother; the infant being left to whine while the mother endured these females feeding off of her. With what concern to her infant when the adult women had finished with her—otherwise I don't mind.



Some adolescents visiting us, having

Some adolescents visiting us, having been weaned, wouldn't guess that adolescents were being allowed to suckle at their mother's breasts and expected her to open up her dress in public letting the as yet unweaned 12 or 15 year old be seen nursing.

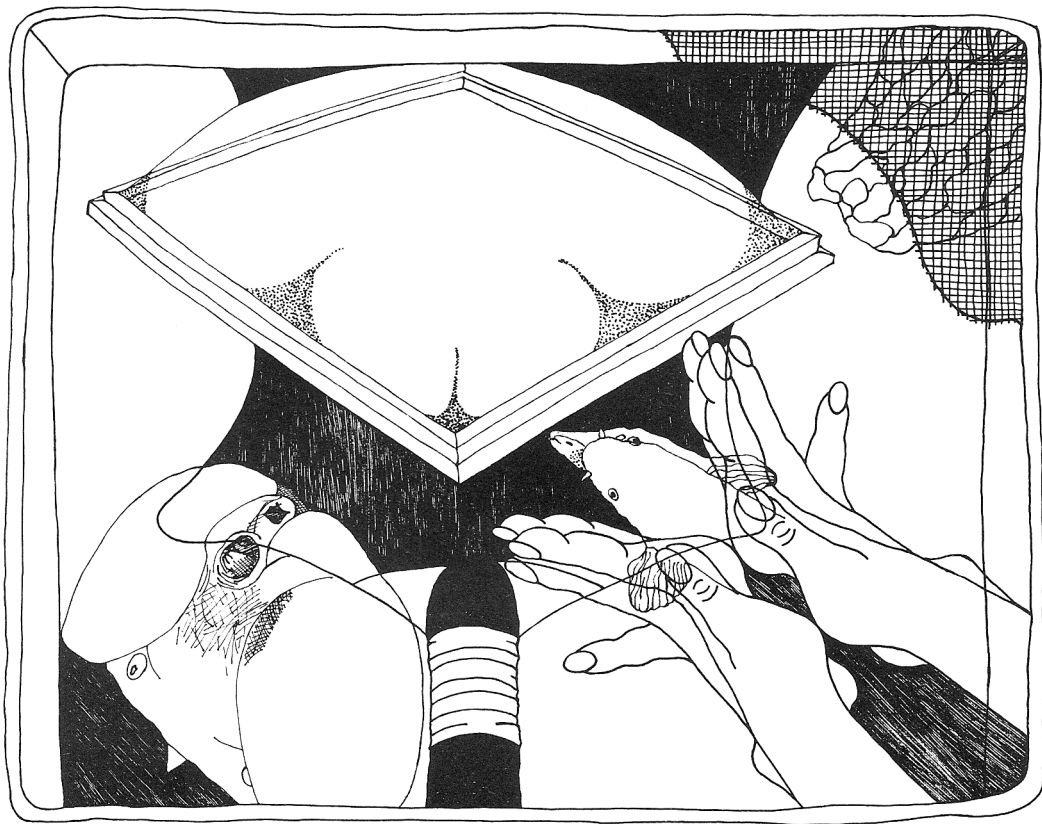


Stranger when it is the male opening

Stranger when it is the male opening his shirt in public,
and applying an infant to his chest as if he had breasts.

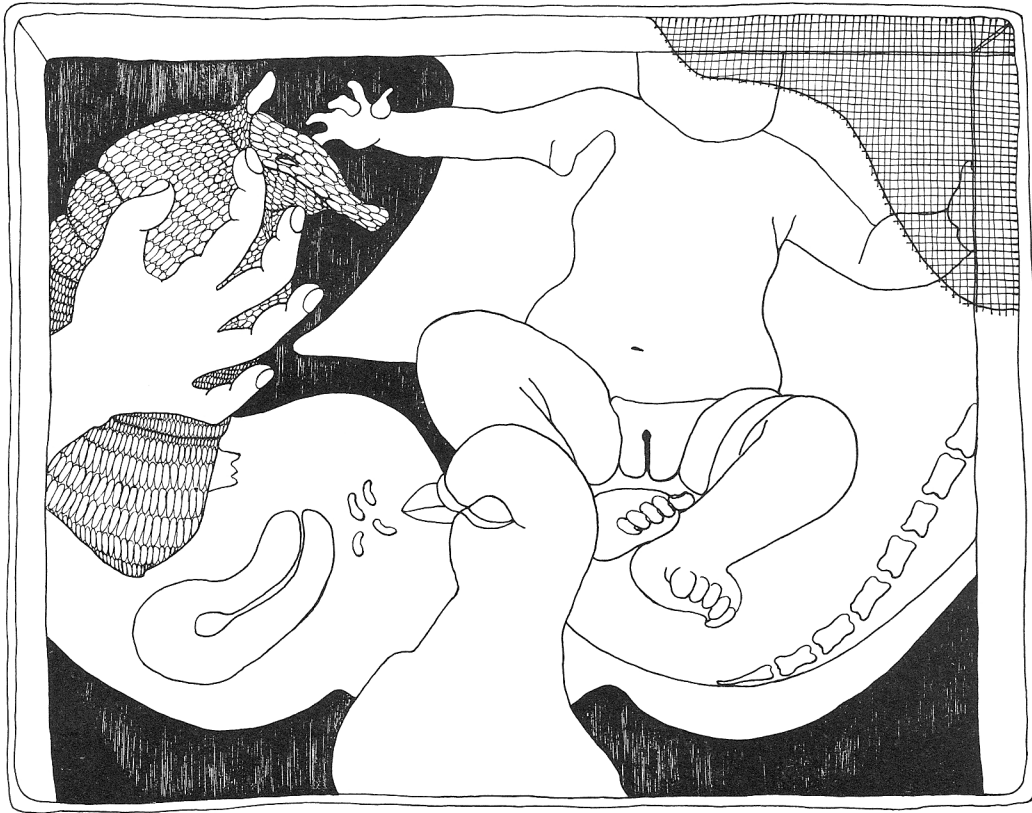
Not even necessary for the infant to have the nipple.

The children let out a few cries, the man puts them up to let
them suck. Or as easily applies them to his back or his thighs.



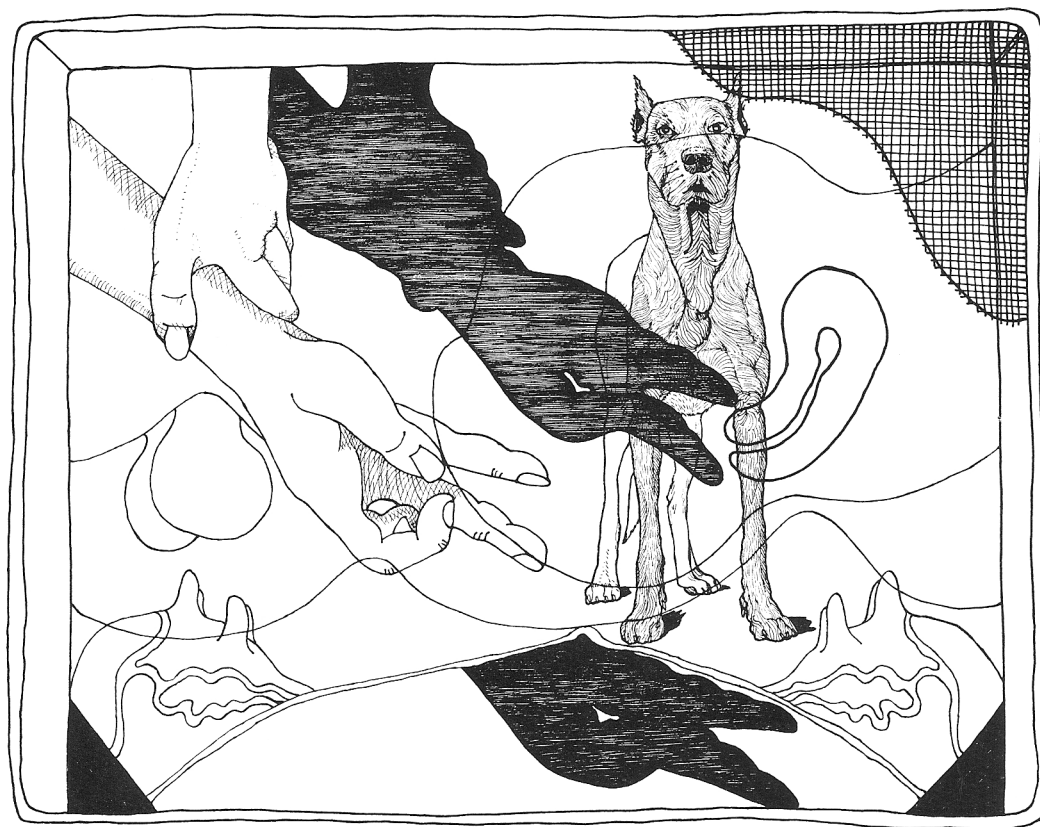
Some children of seven to ten years

Some children of seven to ten years of age or so
were letting each other open their shirts and dresses
and suck on each others' nipples.
No matter that they had flat chests, the rest of the children
clamoring to be put on the older childrens' breasts .



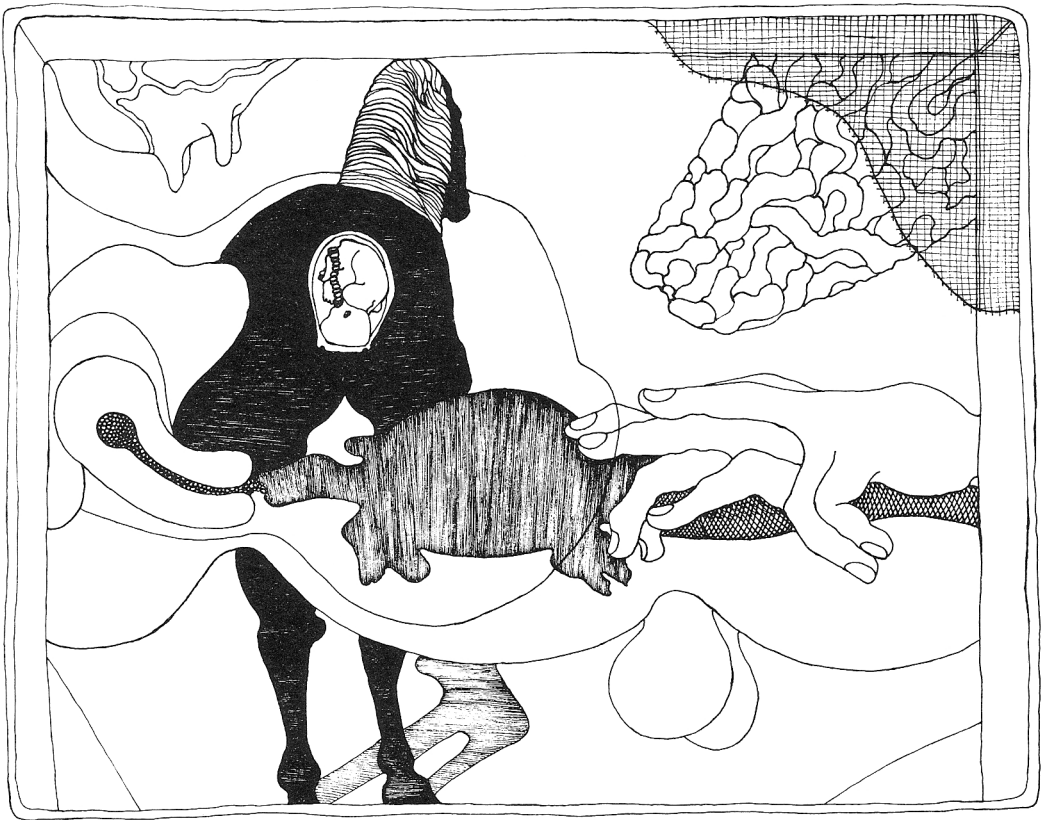
In that the infants, as yet too helpless

In that the infants, as yet too helpless to make the animal
yield to a demand to nurse them,
and, owing to the mothers' anxiety on this matter,
the infants were overseen though they were allowed to eat
at a wet nurse's teat.



Asked why these children of 7 or 8 or so

Asked why these children of 7 or 8 or so had swollen bellies
so that a child's belly
would resemble the hard belly of a cow or of a mare,
they said
that it was because these children had the habit of swallowing air.



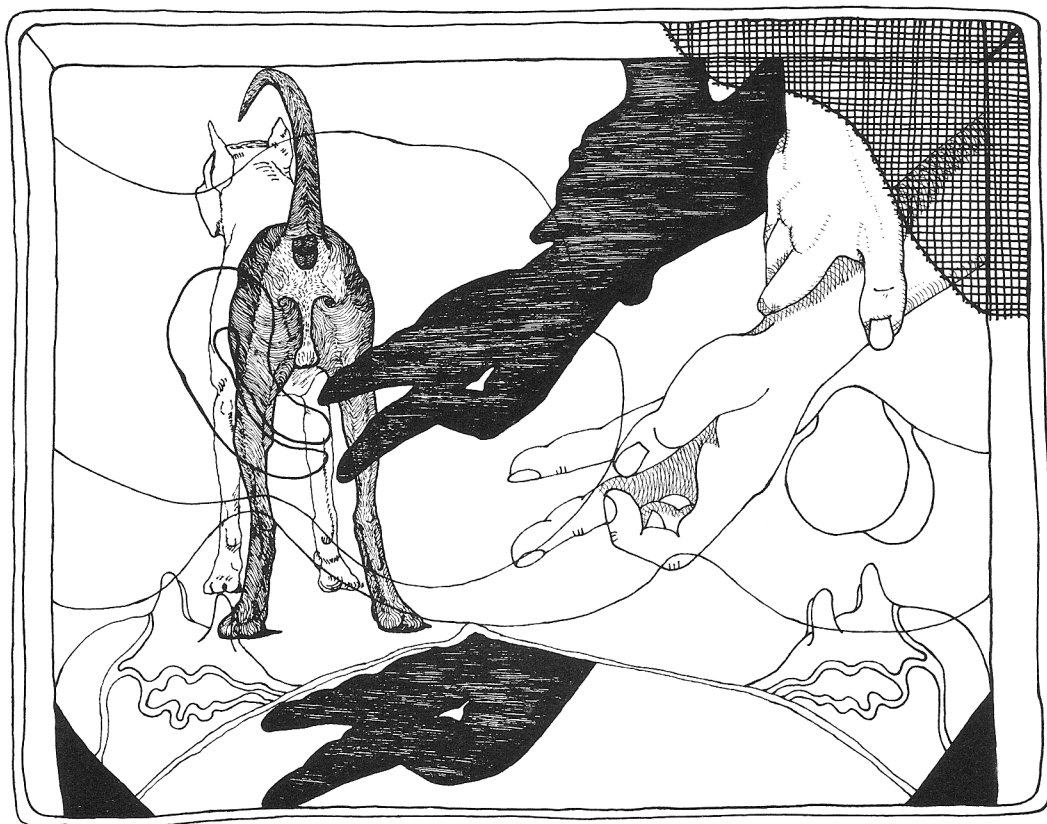
Instead of an animal, we got an old rag

Instead of an animal, we got an old rag that was rancid-smelling as if it were an animal.

You know how one can want to roll on it.

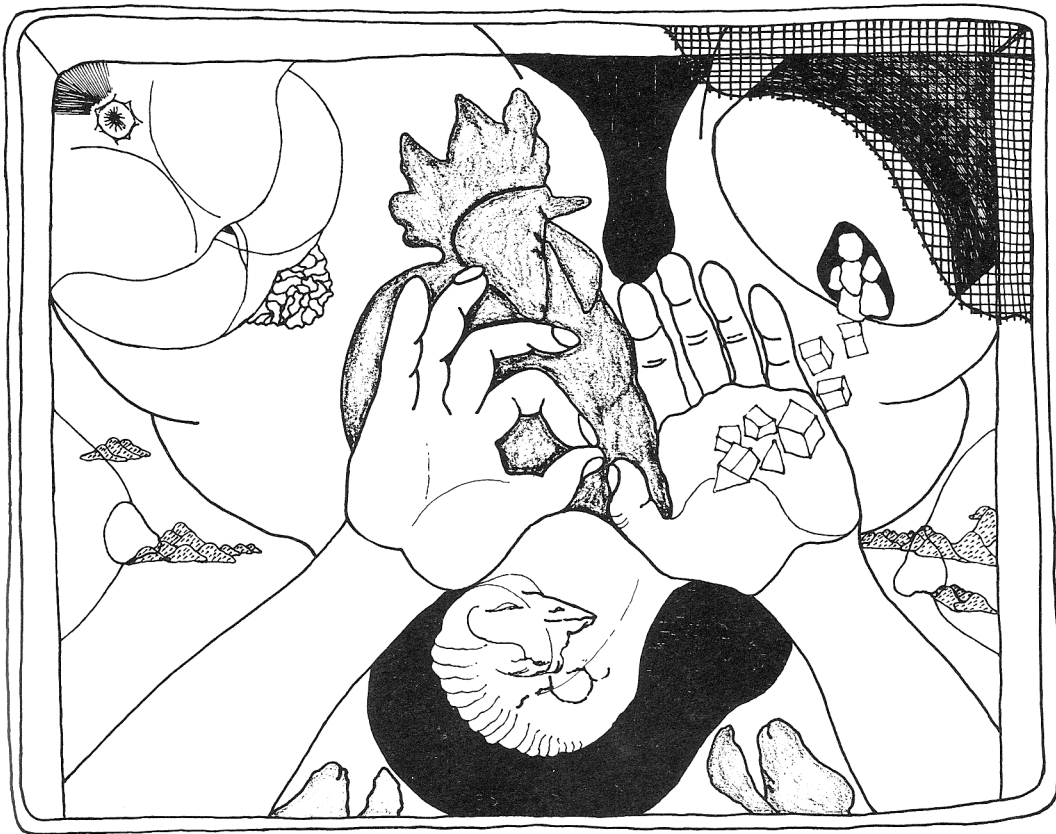
You know how one can want to roll on it.

You know how one can want to roll on it.



Many young females - either unable to find

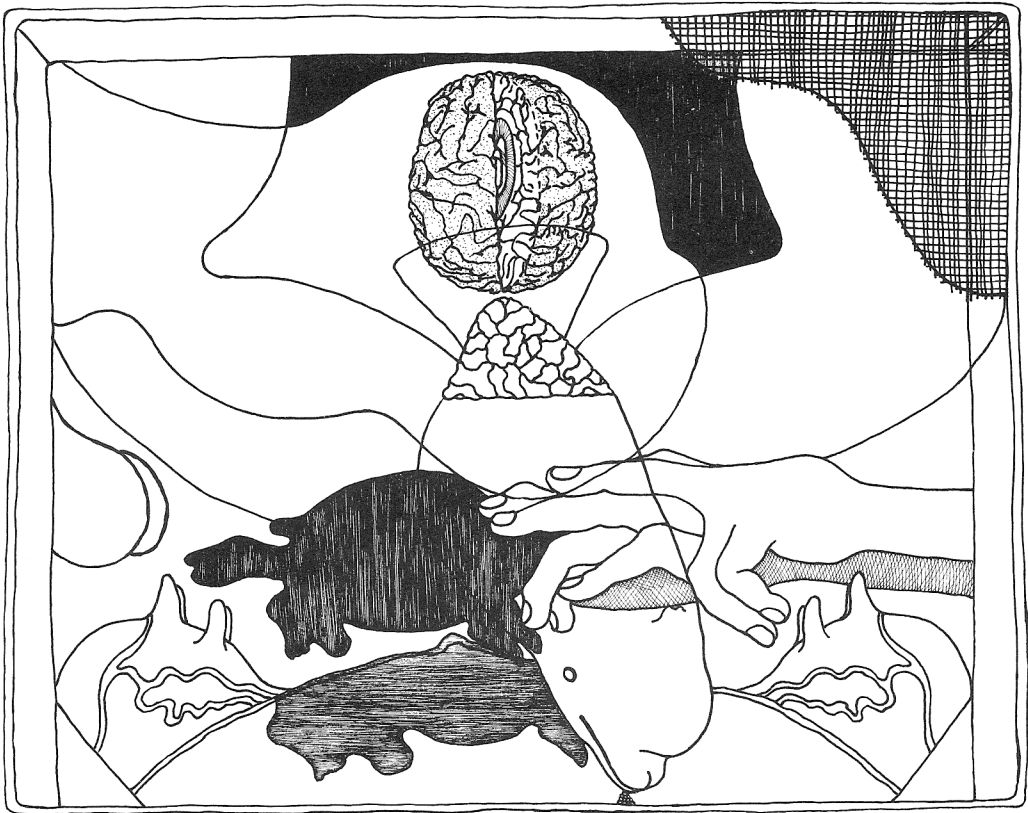
Many young females—either unable to find any other outlet,
or , genuinely interested in the immature males
whom they regard merely as toys—
will do their first fondling and caressing
after carefully undressing some seven or eight year old boys.



Some of the children were aware

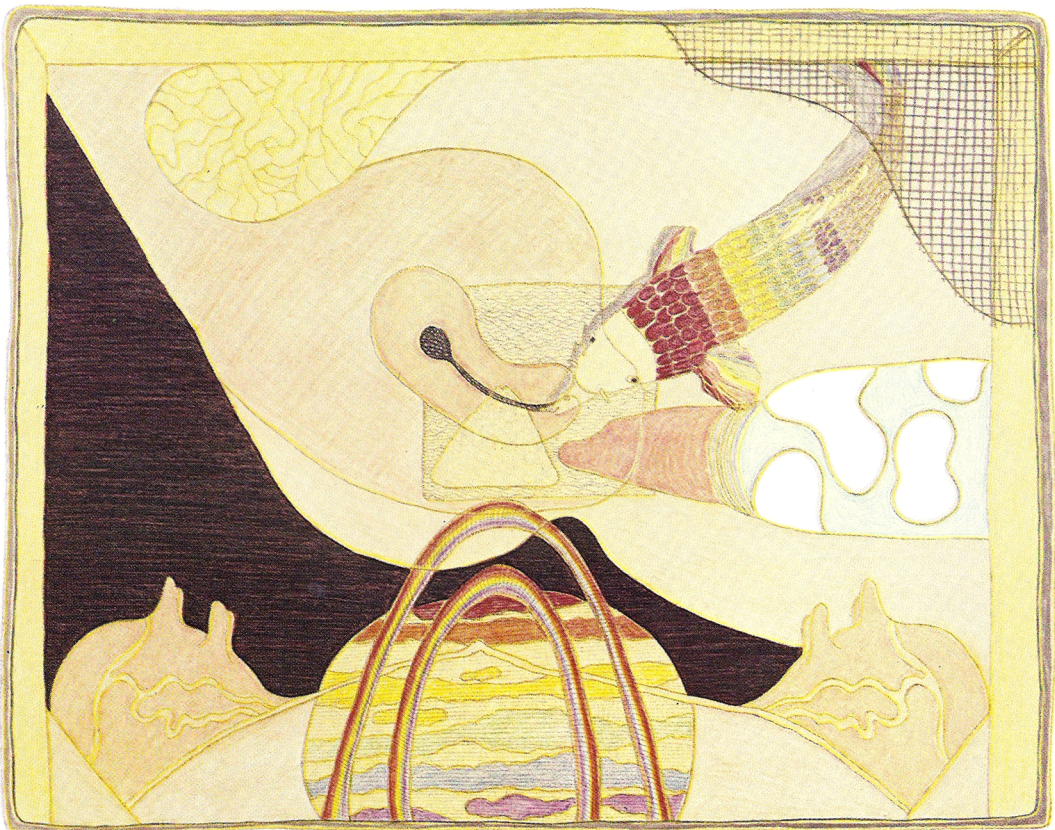
Some of the children were aware that the source of this sense
of happiness was in there.

They had only to touch themselves —
pushing their fingers in
there at the opening.



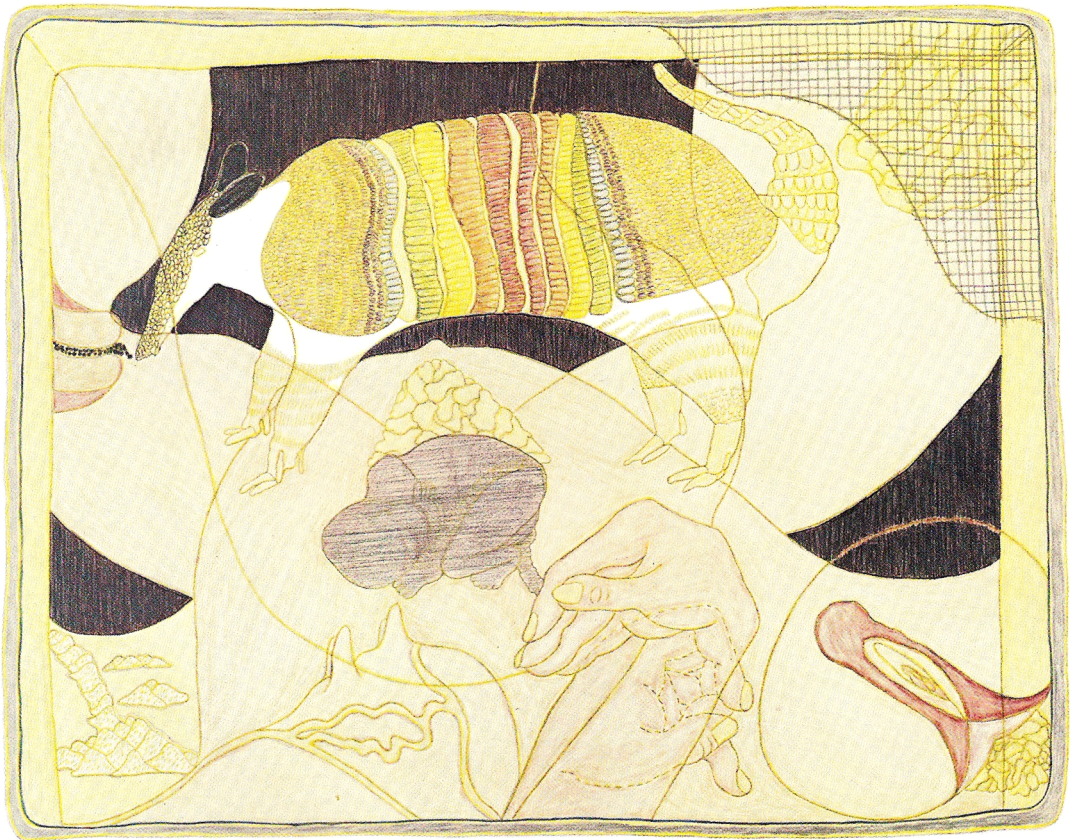
Young females will often compose

Young females will often compare
their surprise
to the time
when they first became aware
that they were able to suck the fluid out of the male's organ.



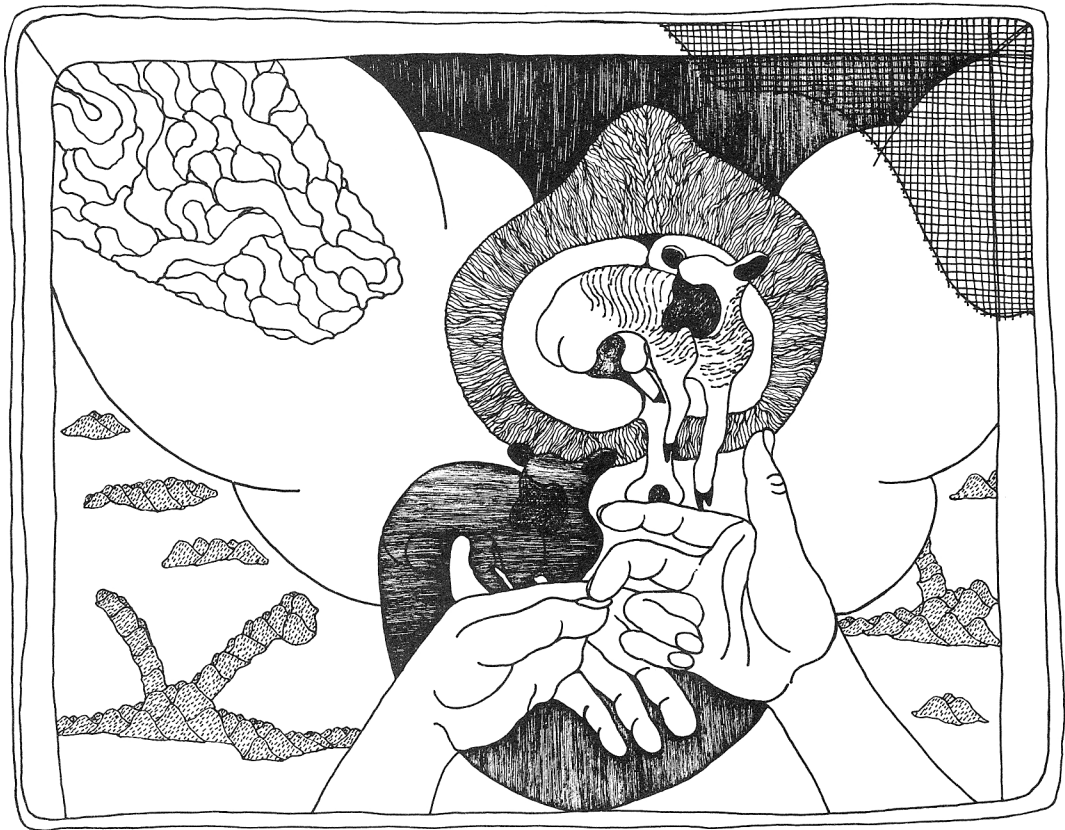
Even when the mating couple is seen

Even when the mating couple is seen,
the male is curled like a foetus
his mouth is on the female's breast as if he were eating
while the female is hugging him as if she were holding a rabbit
and feeling its heart beating.



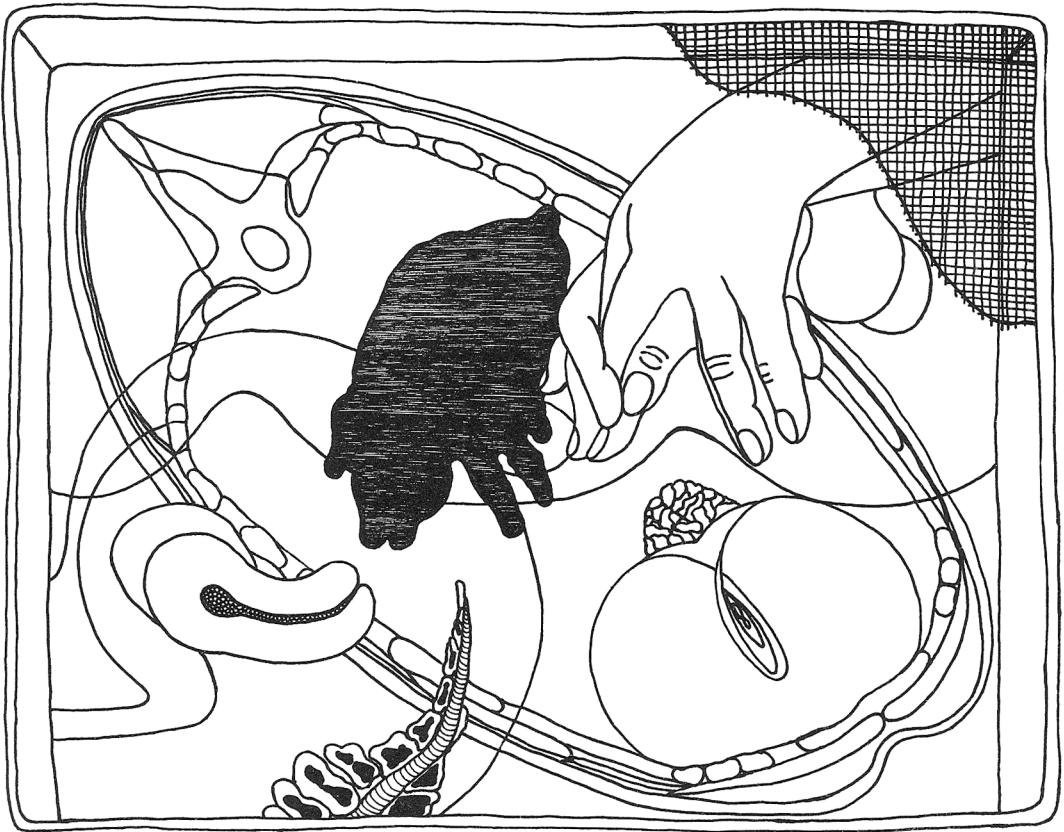
I was surprised that infants produced

I was surprised that infants produced by these wives
never resembled their mothers;
rather, as soon as they were brought to the mothers' bedsides,
they were seen to have the sweetbread
and the hair that curled as if it were on a ram's head.



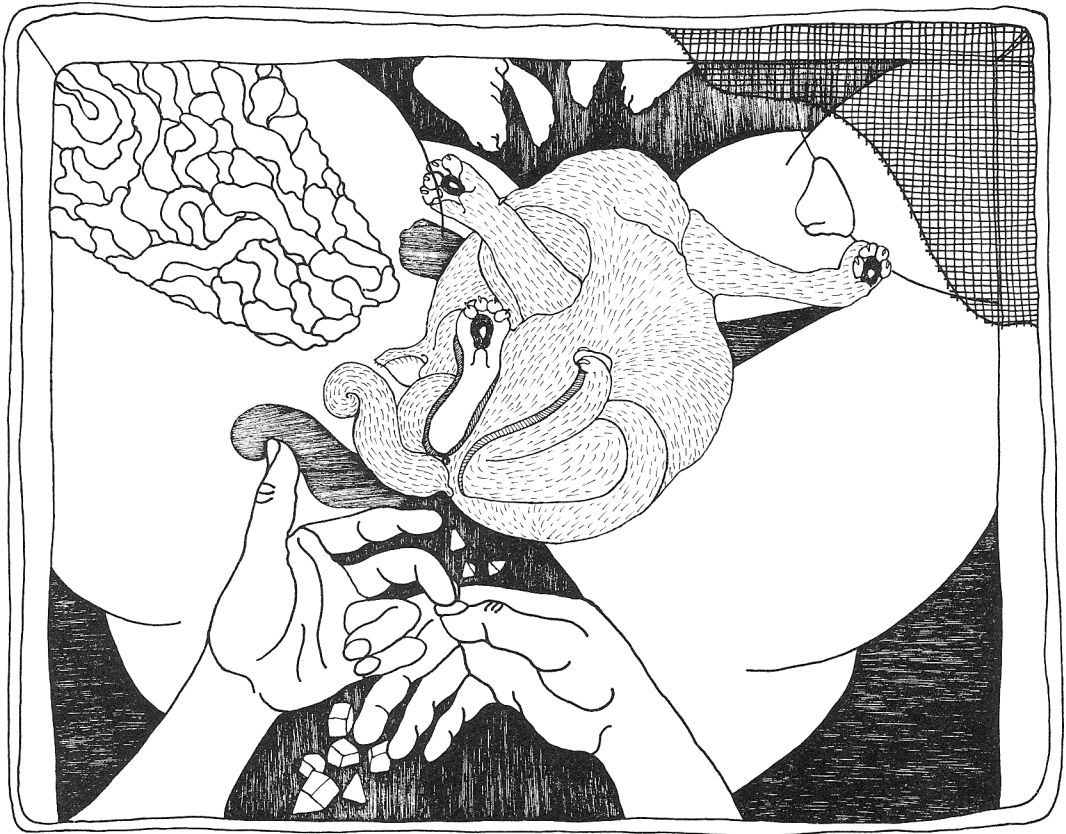
After all it is the adult male who makes

Afterall it is the adult male who makes the infantile whining sound
in the five and dime store
while the others are seen outside
one waiting in line
some females make noises to imitate swine.



The adult male who is eating

The adult male who is eating at the dinner table with some people,
for instance, sets his napkin on fire
and lets it blaze as one would light a cat on fire with kerosene
so that
people will imagine a cat flaring up like that under their noses.



Five hundred fifty copies, fifty clothbound, printed
at the West Coast Print Center. Set in 14 pt.
Monotype Bulmer by Mackenzie-Harris. Funded in
part by a grant from the National Endowment for
the Arts.
