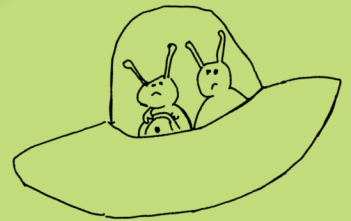
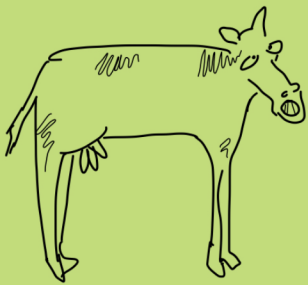




GET USED TO IT



Words, Thoughts, and Drawings
By Muriel Schneps

GET USED TO IT

A poet once called a poem, “the brain braining”. The same might be said of Muriel’s ‘cartoons’, as so many of them tap into that unmapped territory of consciousness that has suddenly awoken from a deep sleep, only to be thrust into human wakefulness, able to x-ray the fantastically strange funny-bones of each.

Is Muriel a comic? I think so, having seen these pieces now many times and laughing again every time I see them. A social critic? Definitely. An artist? Yes, only an artist could render her subject matter with such deadly humorous precision. ‘Get Used to It’ is not only the personal record of highs and lows of recovery from life threatening circumstances, it’s the comi-tragic tale of our times.

-Brooks Roddan, IFSF Publishing

→ **Follow Muriel** as she hones her stand-up comedy, and continues to get her communication skills and memories back. Also be part of the Get Used To It help page, where people share failures, successes and tips on things they are trying to get used to. Visit murielschneps.com.





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On Previous Page: I made this self portrait early in my hospital stay, when I didn't know who I was or much of anything else. I don't remember doing it. I guess art has a life of its own.

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The Backstory

A few years ago, I returned to San Francisco from a trip to Kansas and found Muriel lying on our apartment floor, unconscious and unresponsive.

She was taken to the hospital, and when she finally regained consciousness a few days later, she couldn't speak, had no idea who she was, or who anybody else was, had no memories, and had even forgotten how to eat.

The doctors had no idea why this happened to Muriel. After all, she ate only healthy foods, exercised a lot, and wasn't overweight. She didn't smoke, had never done any drugs, legal or illegal, and didn't imbibe in alcohol, caffeine, sugar or junk food. (I know what you're thinking--she must have passed out from boredom.)

(6) My theory is that Muriel, having lived through the sixties and watched all of her friends, relatives and a huge mass of society have mind-altering trips of one form or another, while she herself restrained from such things, finally decided to have a 60's-style trip of her own.

And what a trip it was. You could almost smell the incense and hear the sounds from the Summer of Love all around her. She sat up in her hospital bed looking peaceful and content like a Buddhist monk. And why not? She was having a vacation from her brain. She no longer had to face any unpleasant memories of the past or any false expectations of the future. She was no longer haunted by the things she had failed at, or by the people who had let her down.

A few weeks into Muriel's hospital stay, a nurse, hearing that Muriel was an artist, gave her a pencil and paper. Muriel just stared at them blankly and then laid them on the bed tray. Then her brother brought up a photo of himself on his phone and placed it on the tray. Muriel looked at it, picked up the pen and made a drawing of the photo. Imagine that! Before she had recovered any memories or could speak a word, she could draw again.

It would seem that art is a basic part of her makeup. And so is humor, the second piece of mental luggage to show up after her arrival in the Haight Ashbury of her mind. She would laugh at almost anything, and constantly joked around in a wordless Charlie Chaplin style.

Eventually, her brain began a slow return from its trip and came back to reality. Reality? Yow! That meant Muriel would have to face what had happened to her and begin the long road to recovery. She would have to, as the title of this book states, get used to it.

Of course, there are a lot of things we all have to get used to. Whether it's the battle in our own minds or the the things we suffer through collectively, as illustrated in Muriel's cartoon of a woman, her kids and a newsman on TV all crying in unison.

When it comes to getting used to it, a light-hearted, bizarre, or flat-out funny drawing can do wonders. Maybe that's why most people who pick of a copy of *The New Yorker*, read all the cartoons first. It's a quick way to distance yourself from the problems of day by laughing it all off.

(7)

Drawing cartoons has not only helped Muriel in the struggle to get back what she lost, but also is helping her get used to the things she can't change. Well, or at least laugh at them. I think you'll laugh, too. And you might find that you'll never look at life quite the same after taking a mind-altering trip into the remote, curious corridors of Muriel's brain.

Kirk Mustard
Sterling, Kansas
2020



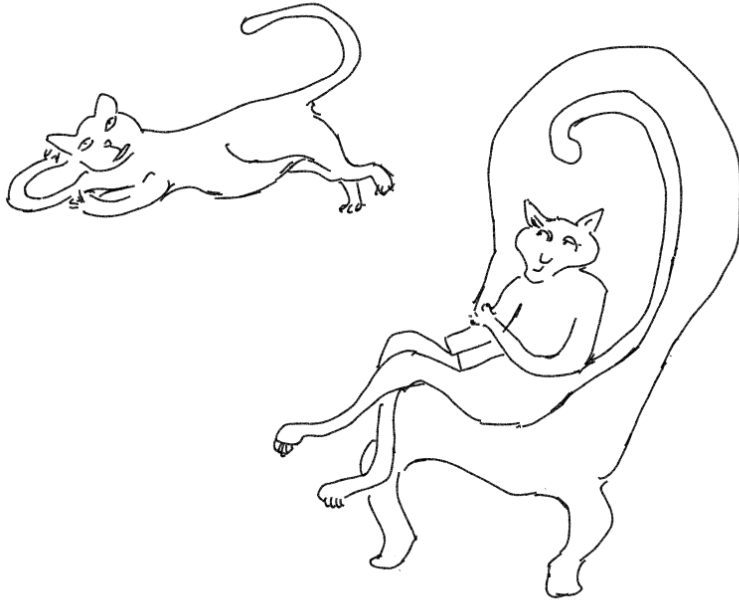
CARE-FULL

MURIEL WILL EAT SOAP FROM BATHROOM
NAPKINS OR BOTTLE CAPS FROM FOOD TRAY
PLEASE BE CAREFUL!

This is a note someone put up at the hospital in my room a few weeks after I was there. Clearly I had overcome being a picky eater.

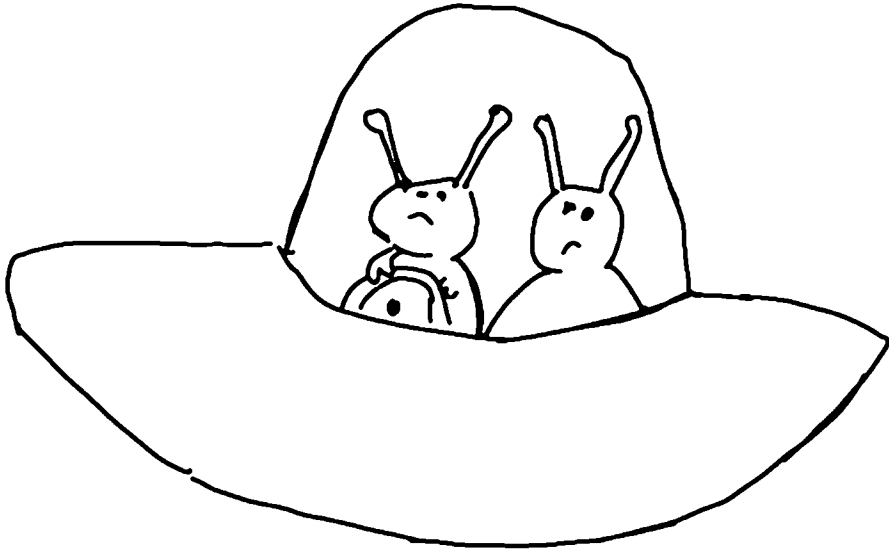
ANIMALS & ALIENS





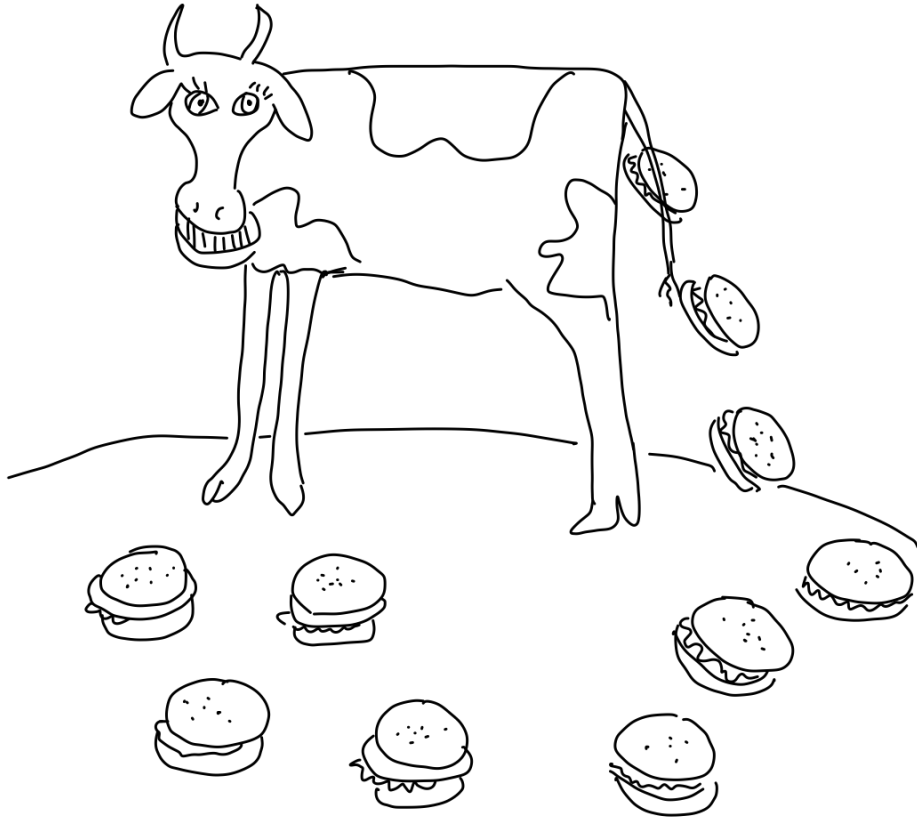
(16)

“I try to think of others, but it’s hard because I find them so annoying and idiotic.”



(31)

“Now that earth’s gone, what do I use as a landmark?”

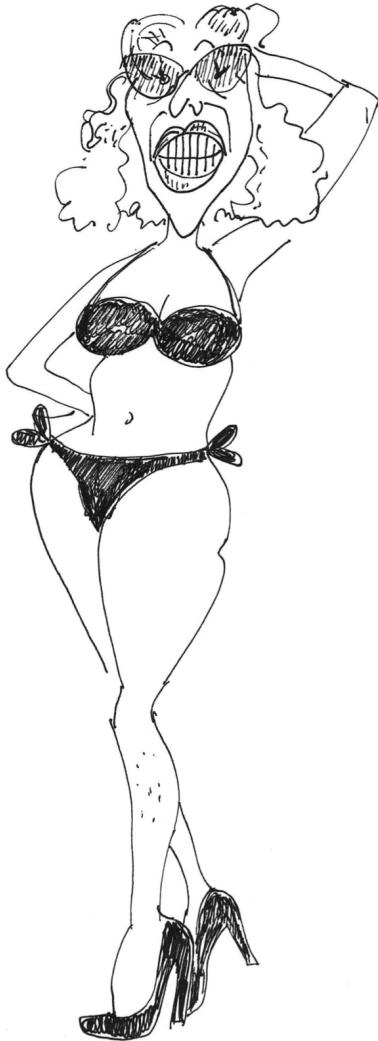


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Domestic Artist



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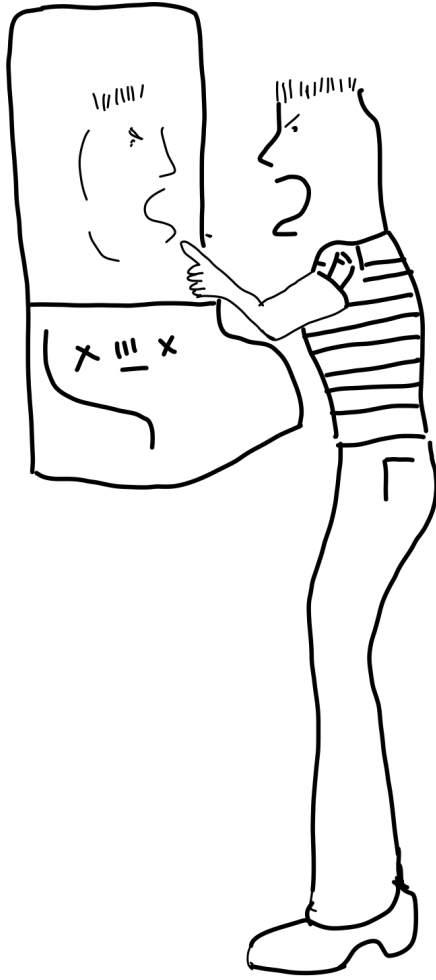
Ready for Summer

GET USED TO IT



(69)

“Pleasure to meet you, swami Kloba. I've been a follower of yours my whole life. I just want to know if you have any ideas how a fly like me can relax when people are trying to kill me all the time.”

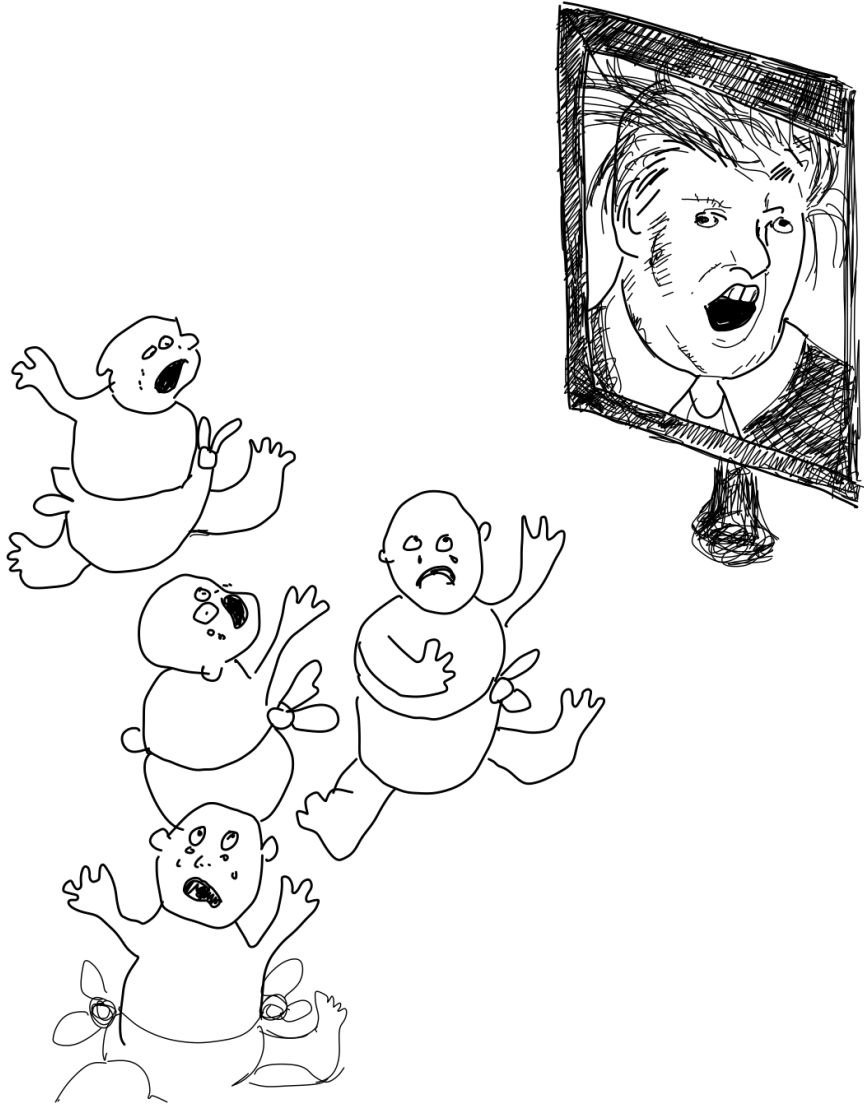


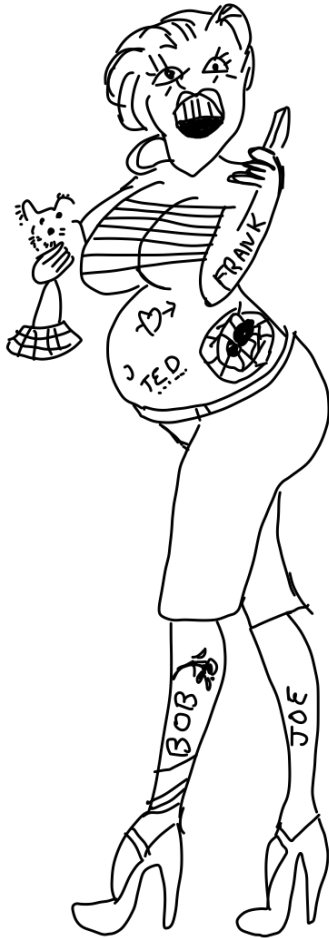
(71)

Get Used To It



Get Used to It





(96)

"I only have room on my body for two more boyfriends."

(106)



“I do have a nude scene, but I don’t mind doing one if it fits with my character. I play a love sick nymphomaniac heroin addict who kills her lover over a chicken pot pie. I love the director. It’s done very tastefully and I got along with him perfectly except for the mud wrestling scene.”

About Muriel

Muriel Schneps was born in the Germantown district of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She showed talent in art as a child, and while in elementary school took classes at The Fleichers Art School in Philadelphia, and while in high school at The Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts. In 1972, she moved to New York, where she took classes briefly at the Art Student League of New York. Over the years, she studied under several notable instructors, including Marshal Glasier and Daniel Green.

She painted for several years in NYC, and then moved to Seattle, where she worked feverishly at her craft for another two years. Her next stop was San Francisco, which would remain her home for the next 25 years. Her art has been featured in numerous gallery shows in San Francisco over the years, and she was often a familiar figure at the wharf, where she made pencil and acrylic portraits on the street. Muriel also painted on the streets of Paris for several months. She has received various awards for her work at art exhibitions.

She has dabbled in stand-up comedy, and performed in a variety of sketches for Kirk's Notes, a cable access TV show in San Francisco that ran from 2000 to 2009. She is presently posting comedy online.