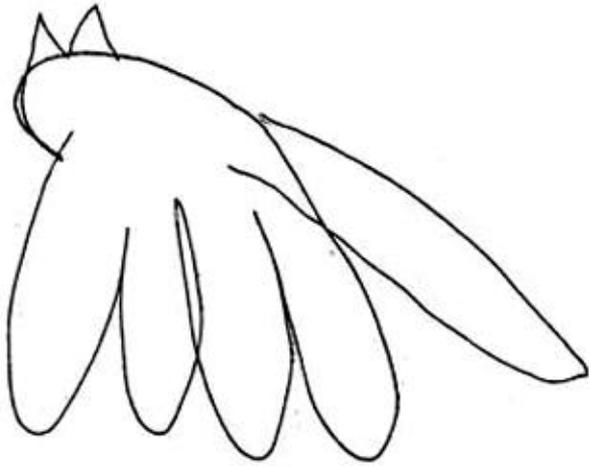




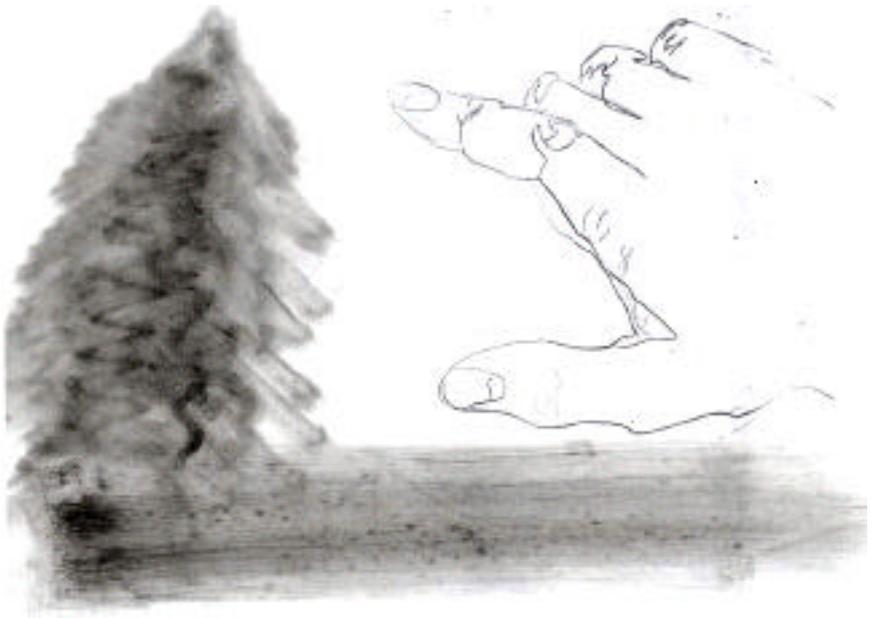
the
omen
triad

Vadim Bystritski

2003 down in the dirt chapbook
scars publications



I remember believing this
as well as others
that I no longer remember





MY CALM AND I



HE RUN AROUND THE COSSIE

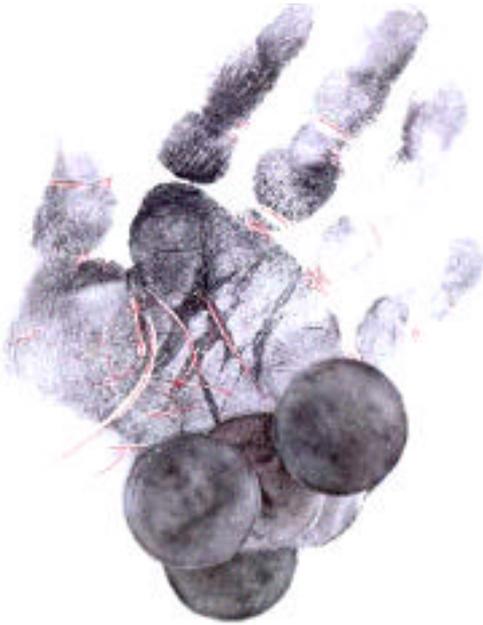


WHERE A BEGGAR SITS

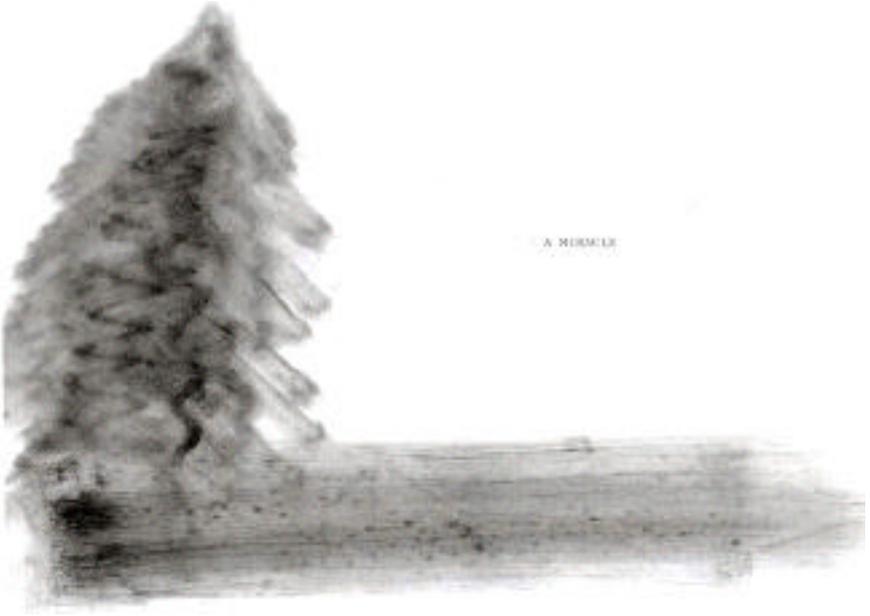




BUT INSIDE THE STORE



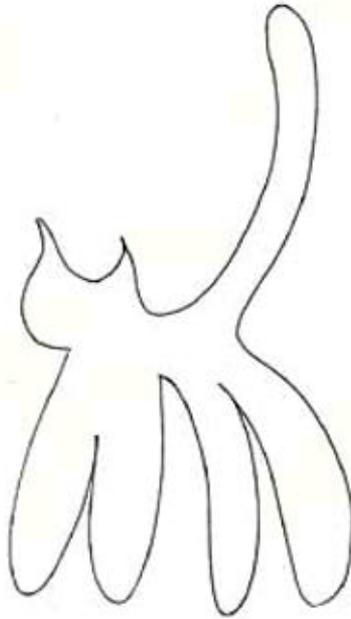
IN MY HAND I SEE FIVE COINS AGAIN



Cats

In my childhood black cats
were a menace
always crossing the street
on my way to school
No use trying to outrun them
for the cat would see you
and run faster
faster
Going around the block
it was still uncertain
if that cat
hasn't been there already
The school bell
had long rung by then
Coins

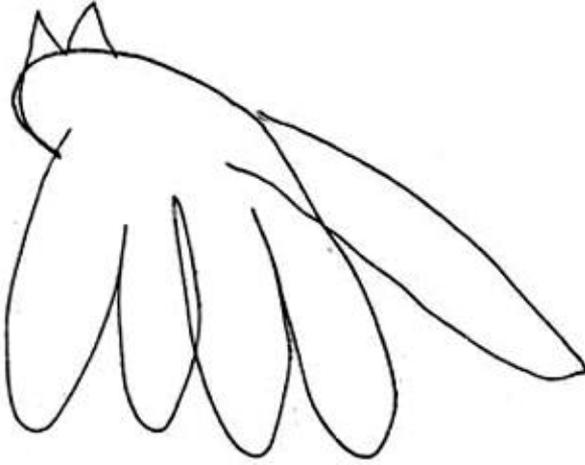
My coins and I we
run around the corner
where a begger sits
There!
I throw him one
and now I am one coin
short
But in my hand
I see five coins again
A miracle!
Or simply a mistake?



OMENS

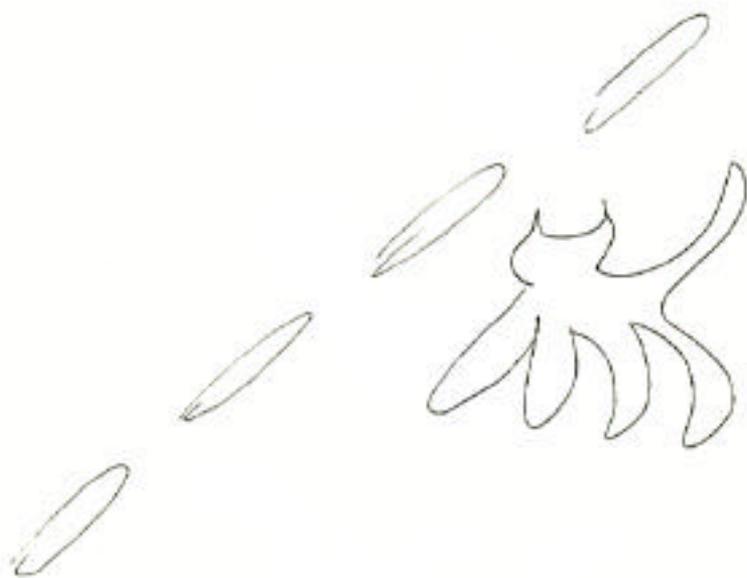


I REMEMBER BELIEVING
IN THIS
AS WELL AS OTHERS
THAT I NO LONGER REMEMBER



IN MY CHILDHOOD

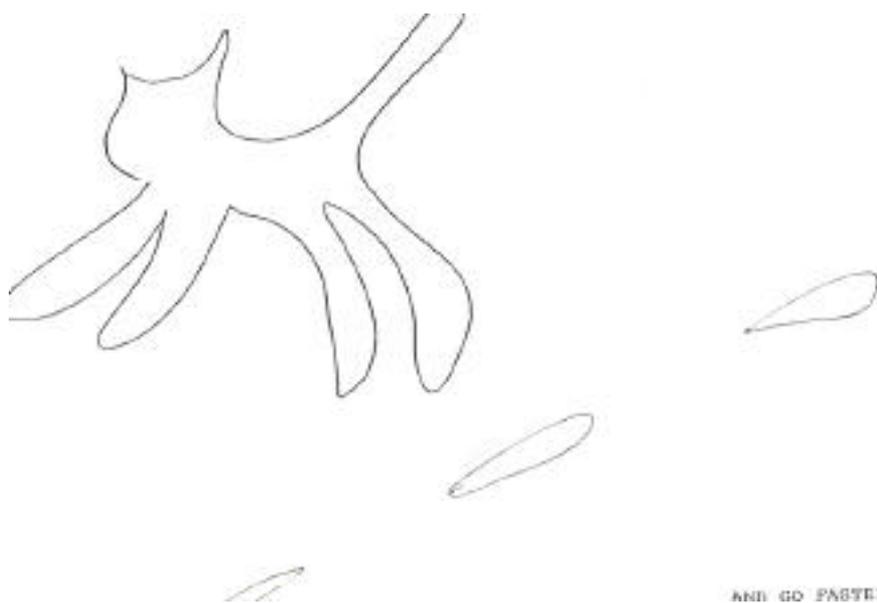
THE BLACK CATS WERE A MENACE



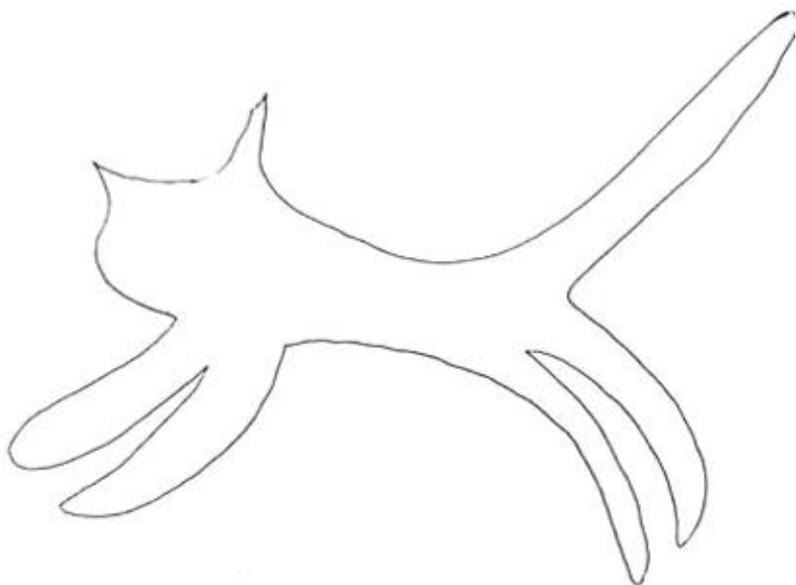
ALWAYS CROSSING STREETS ON THE WAY TO SCHOOL.



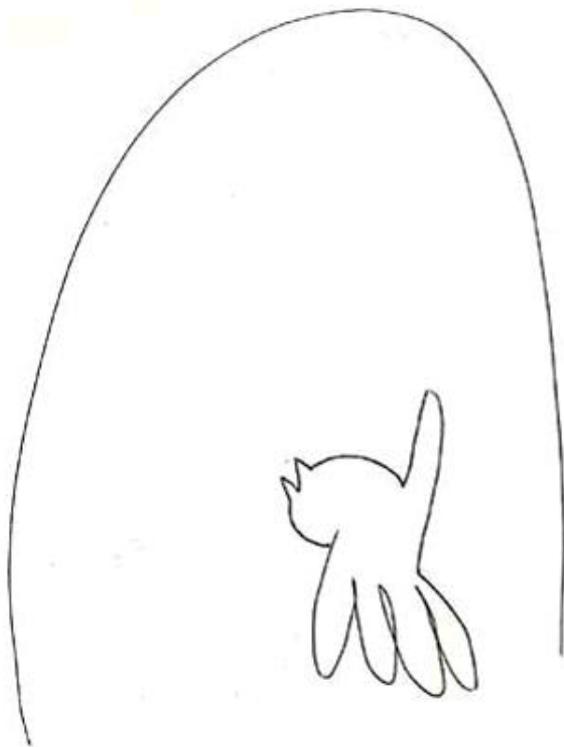
FOR THE CAT WOULD SEE YOU



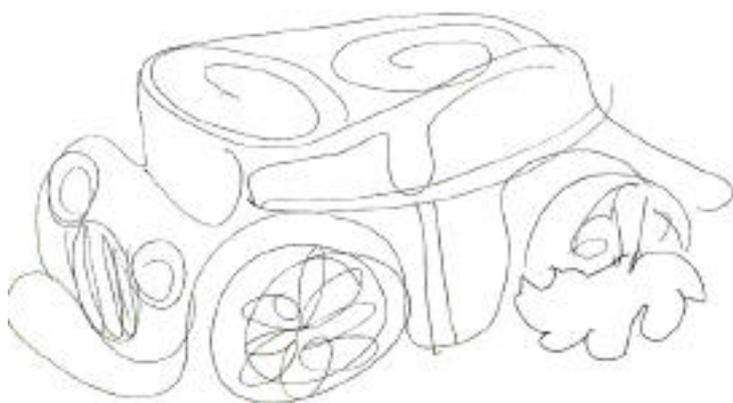
AND GO PASTE!



FASTER



WALKING BACK AND AROUND THE BLOCK



IF THAT DAY HADN'T BEEN THEIR ALREADY

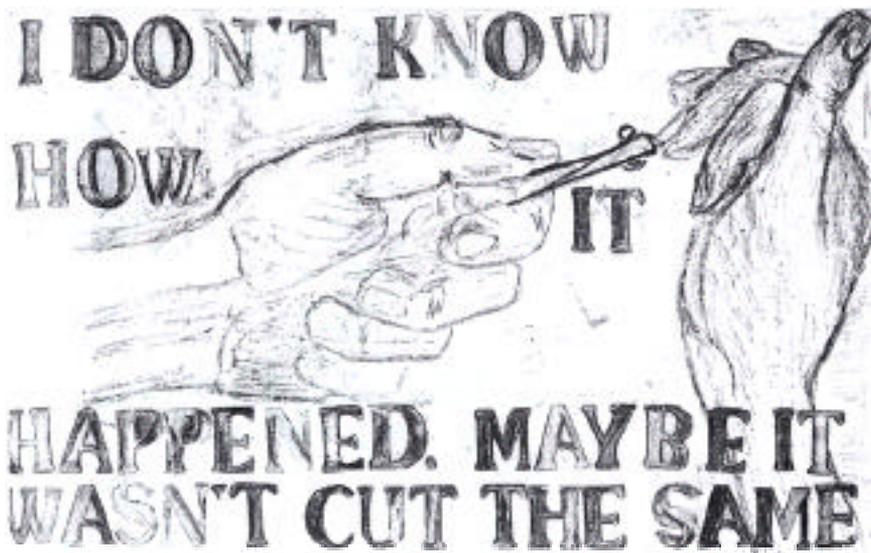
IF WE HELL INCERTA:IN



AND THE SCHOOL WELL
HAD LONG KING BY THEM

Nails

I don't know how it happened
perhaps it wasn't cut the same
length as the others
I first noticed it Monday morning
driving to work
By Thursday it became so long
I pressed it into the fist
for fear that someone else may see it
there are no nail clippers at the office
at home I
always forgot about my nail
Then Sunday
I reached into the drawer
click
with scissors and
it fell on the carpet
bouncing off
somewhere
Later
I thought of it again
standing by the window
staring into the night

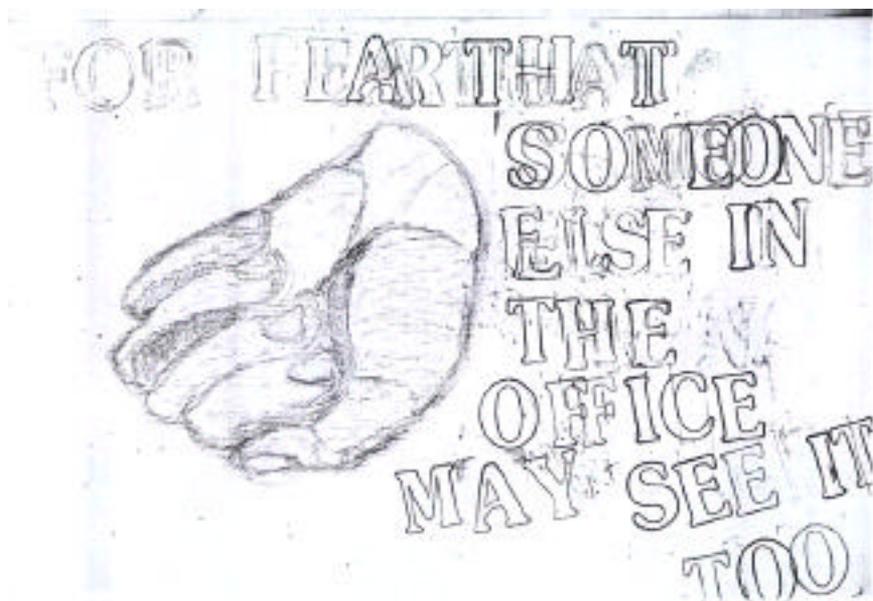
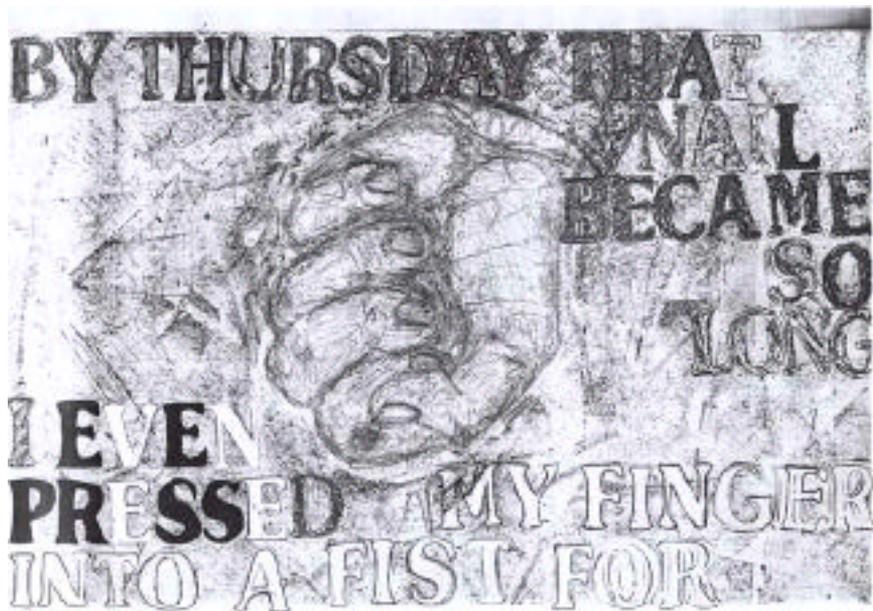


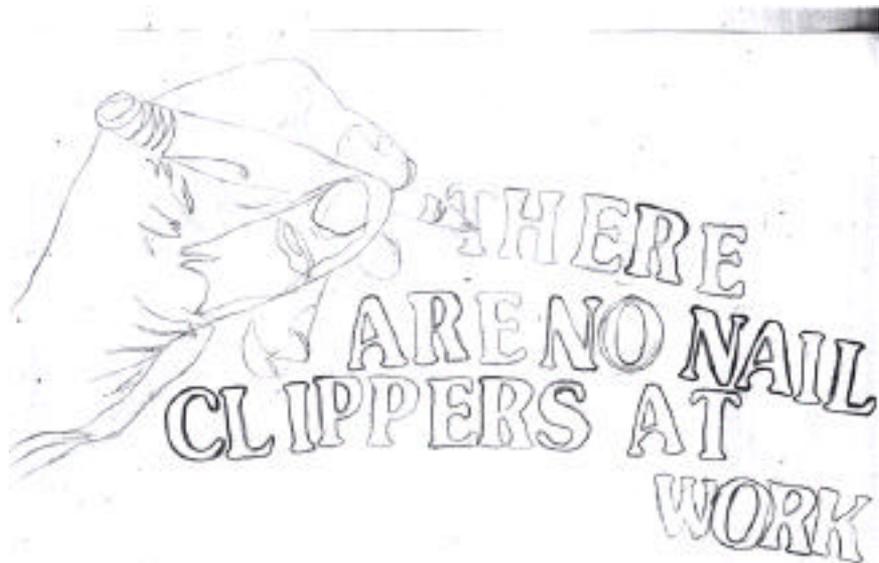
LENGTH AS THE OTHER



FOR A WHILE ALL OF
THEM WERE SHORT









In the window
that hairdresser
his scissors
like a sign of
benediction



the omen triad

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