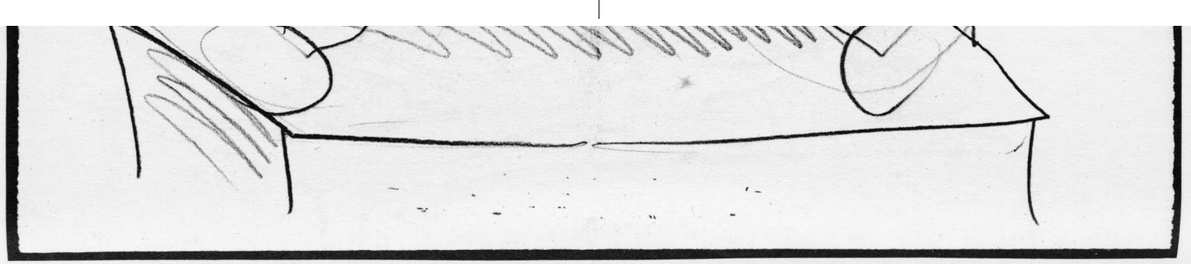
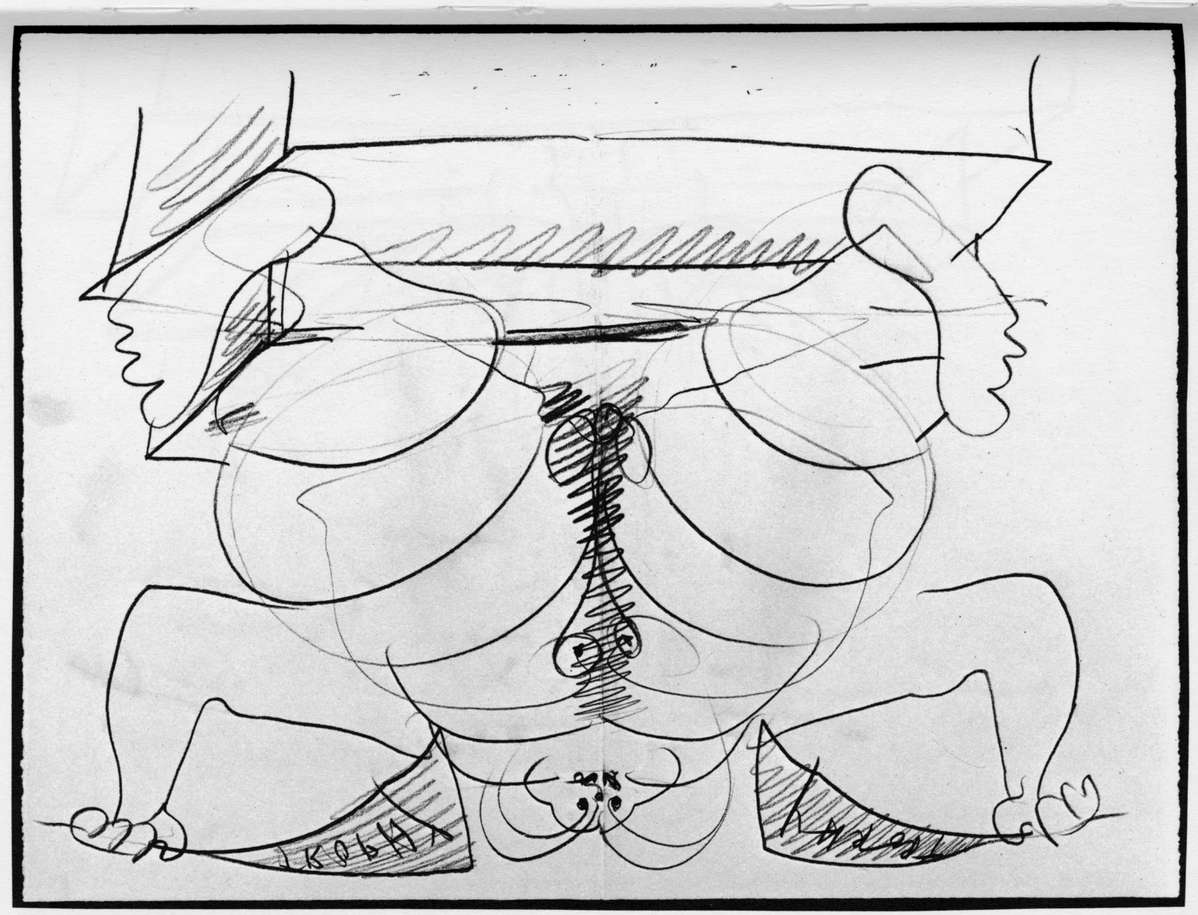
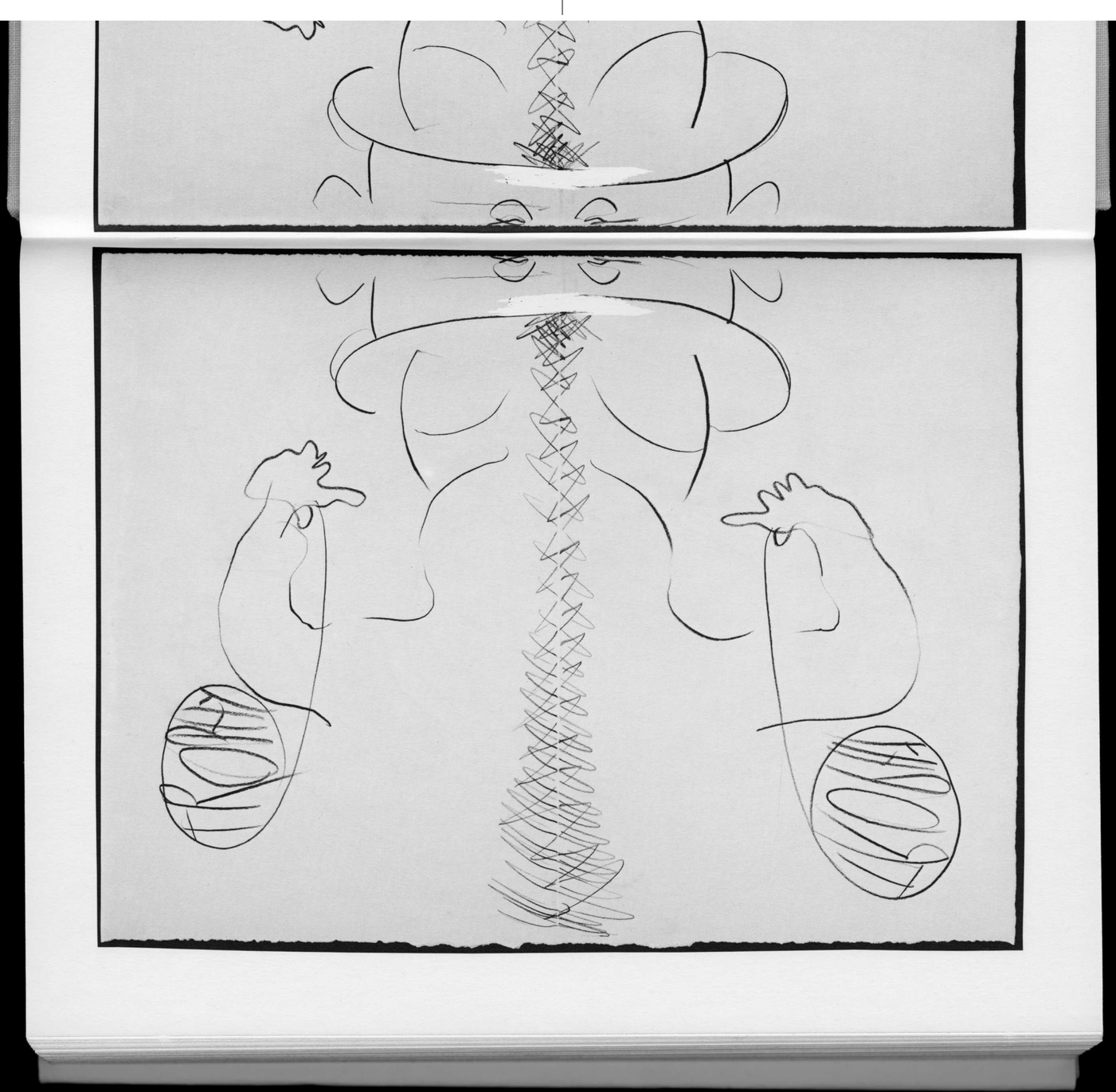
# Dieter Trophies



# Roth's Rotated







*Dieter Roth's 1979 book Trophies reproduces a substantial selection of the artist's serial two-handed speedy drawings. Its cover makes the mechanics of these works self-evident. A photograph shows Roth, a pencil in each hand, rendering his eponymous subjects with crude yet detailed symmetry.*

*The design of the book's interior pages produces a curious disparity between the symmetrical format of the drawings and the binary form of the open book. An identical photograph of a single drawing appears twice on each opening, the two images reflected along the axis of the binding. Apparently, this was Roth's preferred approach to displaying his two-handed speedy drawings on the pages of a book; he repeated it for two other publications of drawings in this format: Bats and Dogs (both 1981).*

*There should be no suggestion that Roth was ignorant of the relation between an image and its support. Symmetry is an explicit concern in several other of his book works. A special edition of Trophies even came packaged with an original drawing folded along its line of symmetry and tucked into the pages of the book. Perhaps the artist found the idea of likening the form of these drawings with the form of the book to be banal and felt compelled to resist the obvious. Or maybe he was concerned that important details in the drawings might be lost in the gathering of the pages for binding.*

*Whatever the reason for this disparity, the images on the previous pages are offered as a corrective gesture. The cover and three typical openings from Trophies (Eaton House Publishers English edition) are rotated and reproduced parallel to the binding of A Circular, restoring their original imperfect symmetry.*

*James Langdon*