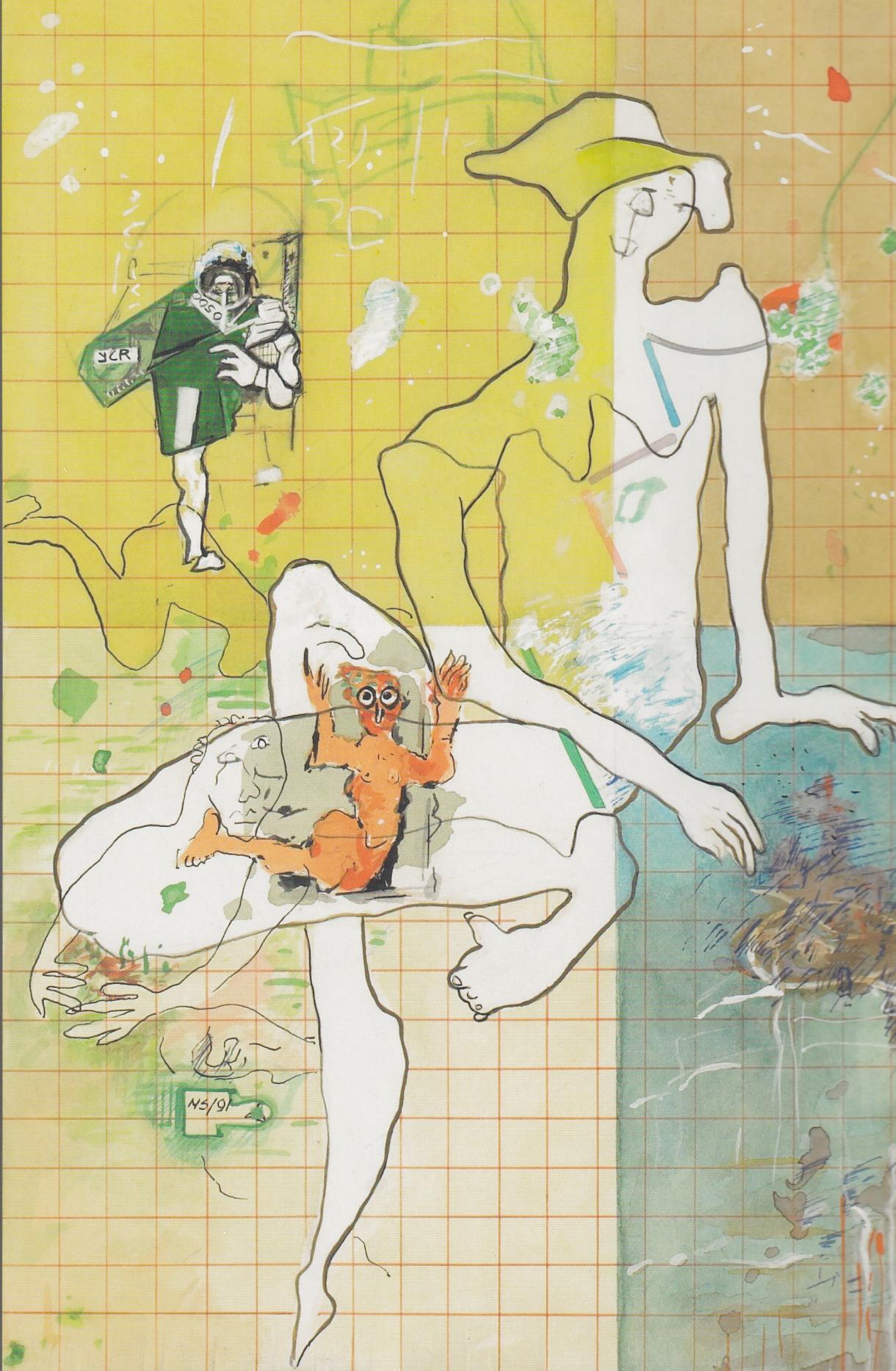


Marianna Schmidt



Marianna Schmidt (1918–2005), who lived and worked in Vancouver, British Columbia from the mid-1950s until her death in May 2005, was an accomplished and idiosyncratic modernist. Hungarian by birth, she fled her country as a refugee in 1944, and spent years in displaced persons' camps in Austria, Germany and England before eventually migrating to Canada. Not surprisingly, the most persistent feelings in her art are those of loneliness, alienation and painful dislocation. Whether depicted in prints, drawings, paintings or collages, her twisted, distorted and fragmented figures are often stranded against featureless grounds, huddled in inhospitable rooms or suspended above place maps and generic landscapes. The crisis they evoke is both universal and particular.

Still, humour, irony, pathos, celebration, and a keen interest in the human circus also find expression in Marianna Schmidt's art. This publication is the first posthumous attempt to honour her entire career and to place it within the context of her life and times.

Cover image:
When You Are Silent, It Speaks, 1991
Mixed media on paper
38.5 x 28.2 cm
S.M.A.K.