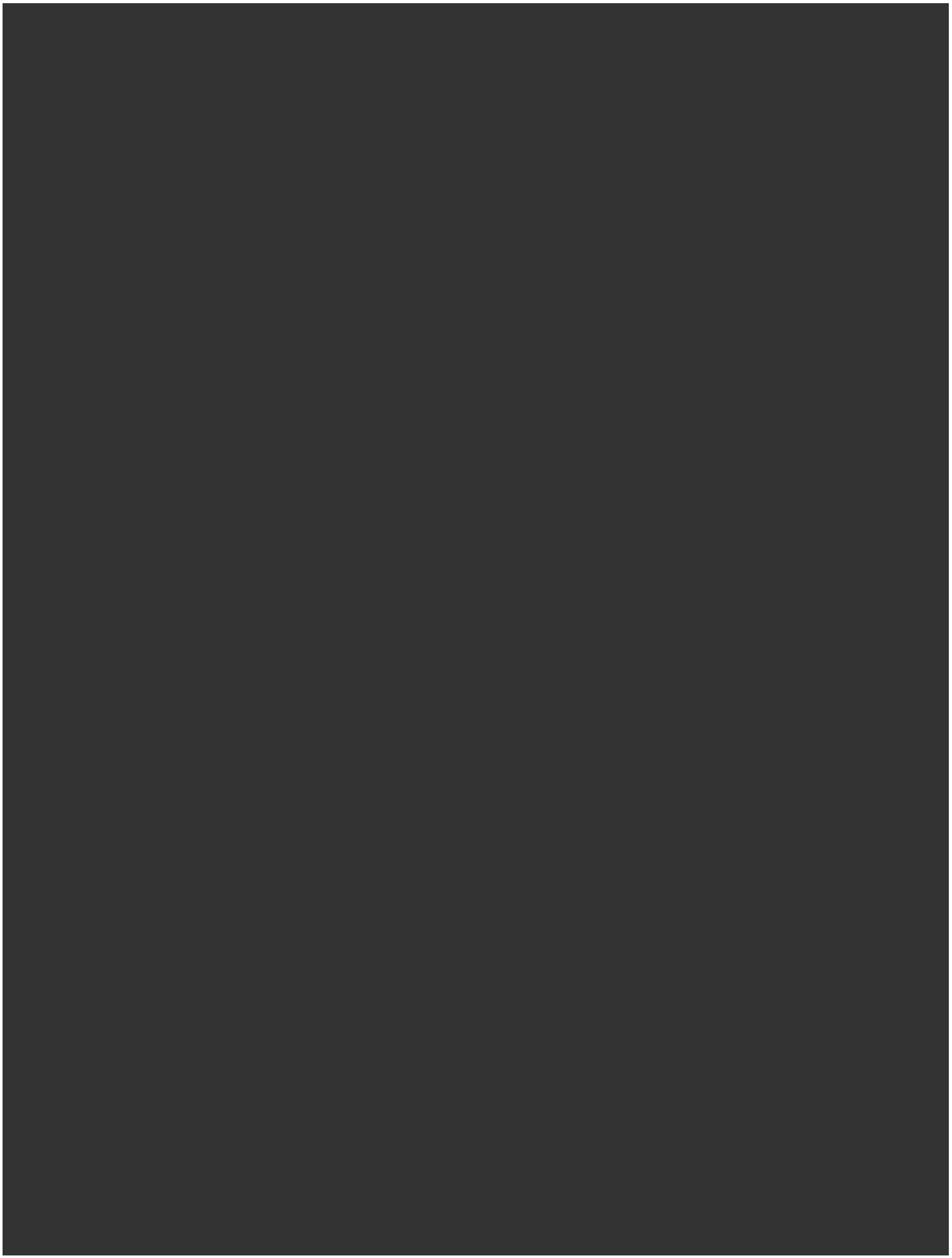
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Sesow in Folk Art Finder

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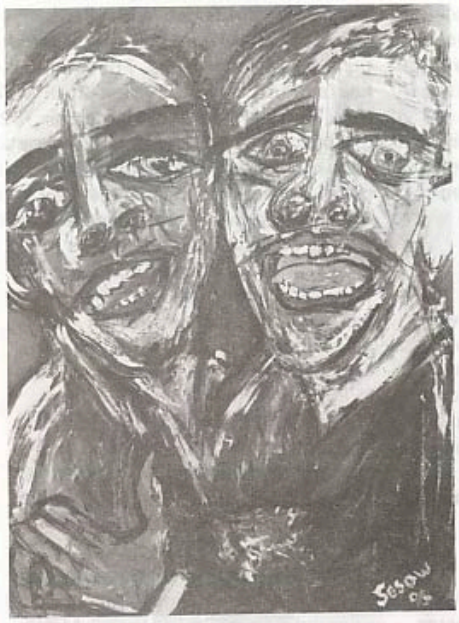
WINTER 1997



Queens After Bathing, Nek Chand. A section of Nek Chand's Rock Garden, Chandigarh, India. Figures clothed in bangles and human hair. *(See page 5).*

MATT SESOW

By Beverly Sue Kaye



Out of a Wheelchair and into Detox, Matt Sesow. Oil on cardboard, 30x40. Courtesy Beverly Kaye.

To see Matt Sesow's paintings is to share in a bit of his reality. A landing airplane hit and severed his left arm at the age of eight, forcing him to become right handed. The physical and emotional pain of the trauma has left a clear mark on Matt's work. In 1994, at the age of 28, he began painting. His titles, such as "Painting by Remembers," "Lost Luggage," "Alone in Death," "Sucker Punch," and "Waiting for Coagulation," are more than subtle hints of the turmoil he has experienced. He views painting as a way to communicate his emotions and experiences in an immediate and powerful manner. He talks of "punching" the paint on his surface, and the turbulence it creates grabs at the viewer, never quite letting go. Blood red backgrounds, angry and averted orange eyes, heavily outlined figures not able to stay within the confines of the canvas, are hallmarks of his style.

Matt also writes short stories and poems, all of which appear in lower case characters. He finds it easier not to use capitals, as it takes a second hand to push the shift key.

He writes, " people are sometimes very frightening to me. i paint what i think the subject might be thinking about me. faces, a hand, and mouths are very expressive, but it all comes together in the eyes. everyone i paint stares me down as i create them, challenging me to fail."

Matt grew up in Lincoln, Nebraska and has since moved to a tiny one bedroom apartment in Washington, DC, where he paints all day. He uses oil on canvas and cardboard. Paintings range in size from notebook-sized pages to 4 x 5 foot canvases. His subject matter is always the human form, often in a state of anger, confusion, or loneliness.

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PICKLEBIRD los angeles alternative art magazine

Matt Sesow

Beverly Sue Kaye

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Matt Sesow - Premature Burial

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Matt Sesow - Magnificent Seven

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