



Charles Steffen Feb. 15 & 22, 2010

"Art of the mad may heighten the consciousness of the puzzle of the mind by losing some pieces under the couch. Steffen was a Chicago design student who, given a diagnosis of schizophrenia, spent thirteen years in a psychiatric hospital and then thirty-three living with his mother. (He died in 1995 at the age of sixty-eight.) Large, gnarled, funny, enthralling drawings of nudes, from memory and fantasy, seethe with unfiltered inner life, often evolving from or into sunflowers and other irrepressible flora. In the margins, Steffen scrawled journal entries ranging from an encomium to Willem de Kooning to "I have been drinking brandy all morning and I am sorta tipsy" to "please god help me."

Through Feb. 27