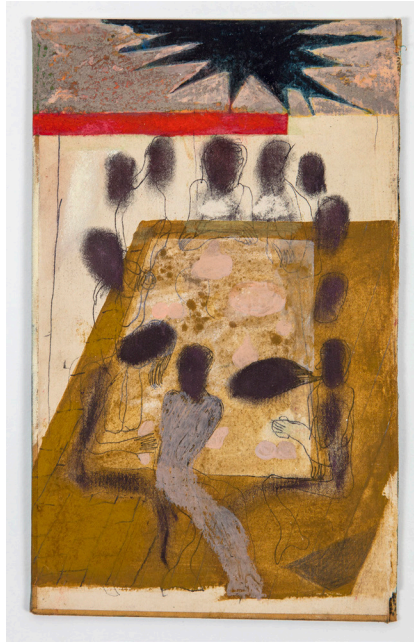


The Pictionary Individual

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When I speak about how I feel, I am forming an individual. I am reaching inward, among the miasma of my interior affective life, and extracting a distinct emotional state. This state, parceled out from the vagaries of experience, of minor offenses, injuries and misperceptions, is an “individual.” It is mine to define and express. Think of it like a Picabia, provoking sensations, simultaneously displaying my affective state and my attempt to codify it. Now consider the game of Pictionary. Imagine I am terrible at drawing. My card says “rabbit,” yet I draw something that looks more like a duck. The picture is still “mine,” in that the full range of my expressive character, personal style, and emotional disposition come to bear on it. Yet, if you call out “rabbit,” my duck is a rabbit. A “Pictionary individual” is an emotion that is both identified by a group, and altered by the subjective emotional character of the members of that group. Its image is one in which private and public affective language hang in a state of abeyance.