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FAKRAY, SARAH. "ART: DASHA SHISHKIN."
DAZED AND CONFUSED, JAN 2007: 36

Art: **Dasha Shishkin** / THE NEW YORK TIMES



Hides Palla, Misses Trifly with Ukis and No Hax, 2008

Since her drawings graced the cover of Clap Your Hands Say Yeah's debut, the Russian-born illustrator has been tackling bigger things.

Born in Moscow, Dasha Shishkin didn't start thinking about a career in art until she moved to New York in 1993. Now, she inhabits a mysterious world of sexual taboos, strange animals and abstract life forms. Her drawings and paintings are part Egon Schiele, part E. O. Reiss, as twisted characters play out rich and imaginative narratives with an unreserved grotesquerie. Shishkin exhibited as part of MoMA's *The Complete Line: From 1905 to Now* show after graduating from Columbia University in 2006, although she bashfully claims not to be a part of the NY art scene. Careful to emphasize

powerful. You have to be able to stand your ground, although it's not a competition." Growing up, Shishkin found herself partying with the Russian theatrical cognoscent — both of her parents were involved in theatre — and so naturally, at first, she wanted to become a dancer or an actress. "Every teenager goes through phases when they want to be everything," she reflects. Graceful movements came out to infuse her art, and she says, "I very poorly live vicariously through my work. I really think of drawing, because I don't draw from life, as very much like handwriting."

surfaces. When pointing muscles, she explains, "there is no audience but at the same time it's just you and the wall and you have to have a power struggle about which is bigger and which will take over the other. Then the moment occurs where it becomes this symbiosis and you actually become comrades rather than rivals." Likewise, Shishkin's figures might share a dash of love for a limb and a lung. "I think it has to do with economy of line," she says. "How can a single line convey as much information as possible? This is why the work is so linear and doesn't have much volume development. In it,

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Sarah Fakray. Art: Dasha Shishkin, Dazed and Confused, Jan 2007, p. 36