



A Hip Alphabet – installation view, 2018, graphite or paper, 29 drawings 8 1/2 “ x 10 “ and the artist own hipster dictionary book collection, dimensions variable

A Hip Alphabet (2017) traces the relationship between black, pachuco, Chicano and cálo sub cultural vernacular in relation to musical culture of the 1940s and 50's and the subsequent removal of that history through popular discourse. This series of drawings re-contextualize language from a cartoon layout in a 1958 humor magazine *Cracked* issue #13 and portraits from archival research. The figures grounded in these drawings unveil the proliferation of music and zoot suit culture in the 1940's with portraits of a young Malcolm Little (X), a young Cesar Chavez and Germán Valdés aka "TinTan", Cab Calloway, the zoot suit riots, sleepy lagoon murder case, and more. *A Hip Alphabet* continues the artist ongoing psychoanalytical and linguistic inquiry into the symbolic violence that language produces, while highlighting multiple levels of operation.

This installation was accompanied by the artist own collection of hip/jive, pachuco, cálo language dictionaries. This includes the first dictionary publish by an African American which was Cab Calloway's *Hepster Dictionary: A Guide to the Language of Jive* (1944 edition) and was the starting point for this project. The collection also includes *Barrio language dictionary: first dictionary of Caló* (1974) by Dagoberto Fuentes and José A. Lopez and *Lowrider - "Dictionary of Pachuco Slang"* by Mr Cantu.

A

IS FOR



Action

LIKE LET'S REALLY ROMP ...

A Hip Alphabet detail-A, 2017, graphite or paper, 8 1/2 " x 10 ".

B

IS FOR



Beat

OF A COOL BLUESY STOMP...

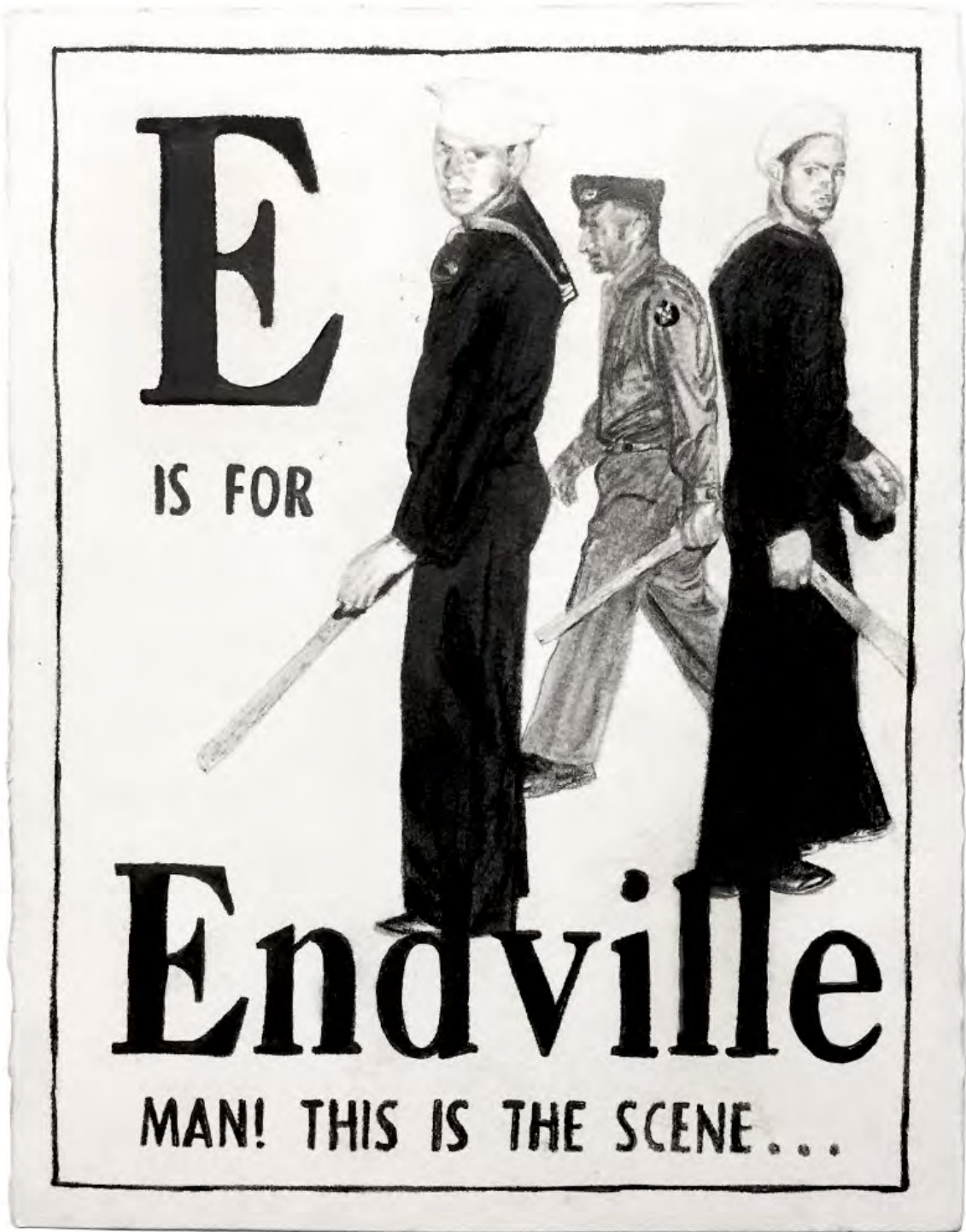
A Hip Alphabet detail-B, 2017, graphite or paper, 8 1/2 " x 10 ".



A Hip Alphabet detail-C, 2017, graphite or paper, 8 1/2 " x 10 ".



A Hip Alphabet detail-D, 2017, graphite or paper, 8 1/2 " x 10 ".



A Hip Alphabet detail-E, 2017, graphite on paper, 8 1/2 " x 10 ".

F

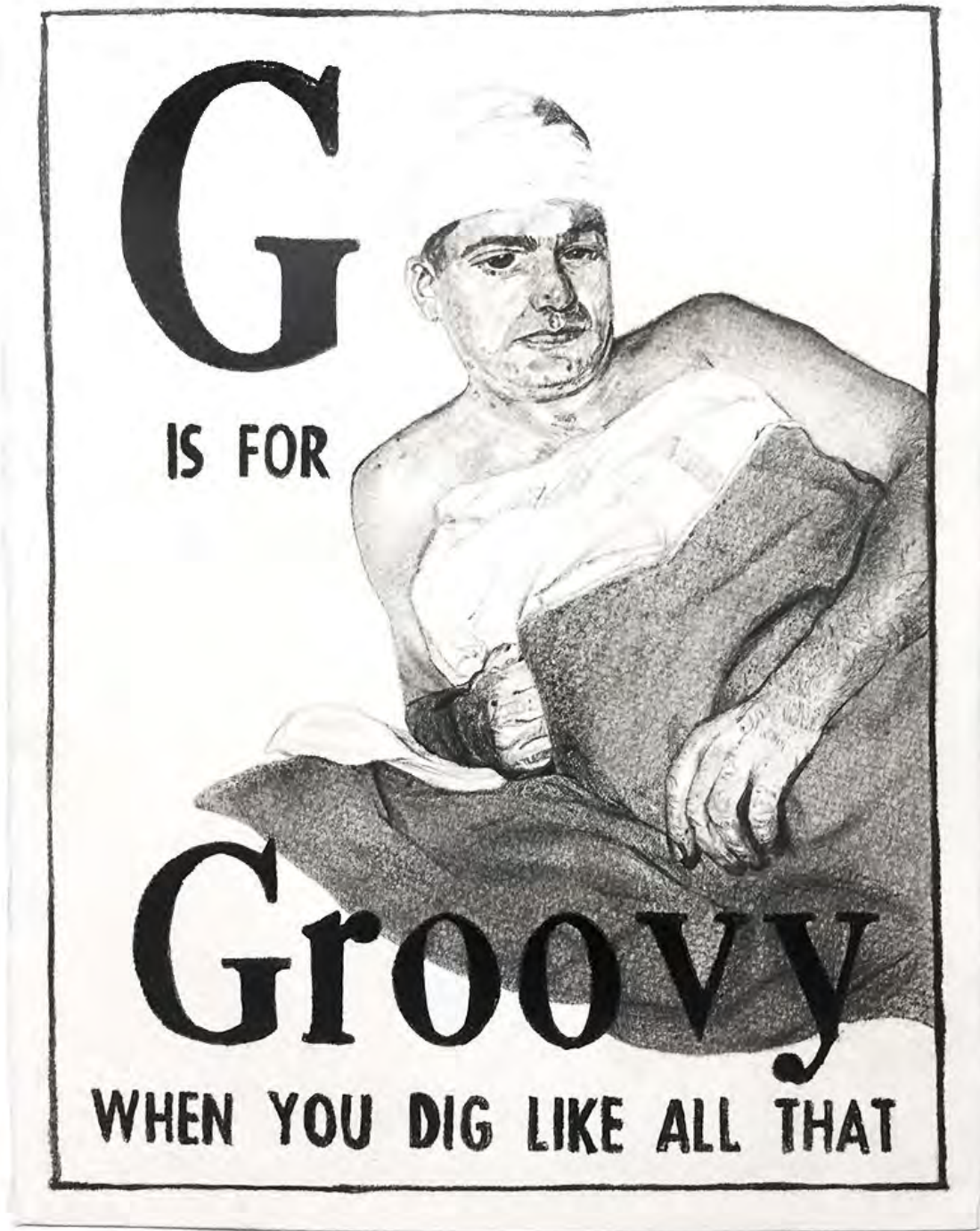
IS FOR



Far out

WHICH IS EVEN MORE KEEN.

A Hip Alphabet detail-F, 2017, graphite on paper, 8 1/2 " x 10 ".



A Hip Alphabet detail-G, 2017, graphite or paper, 8 1/2 " x 10 ".

H

IS FOR



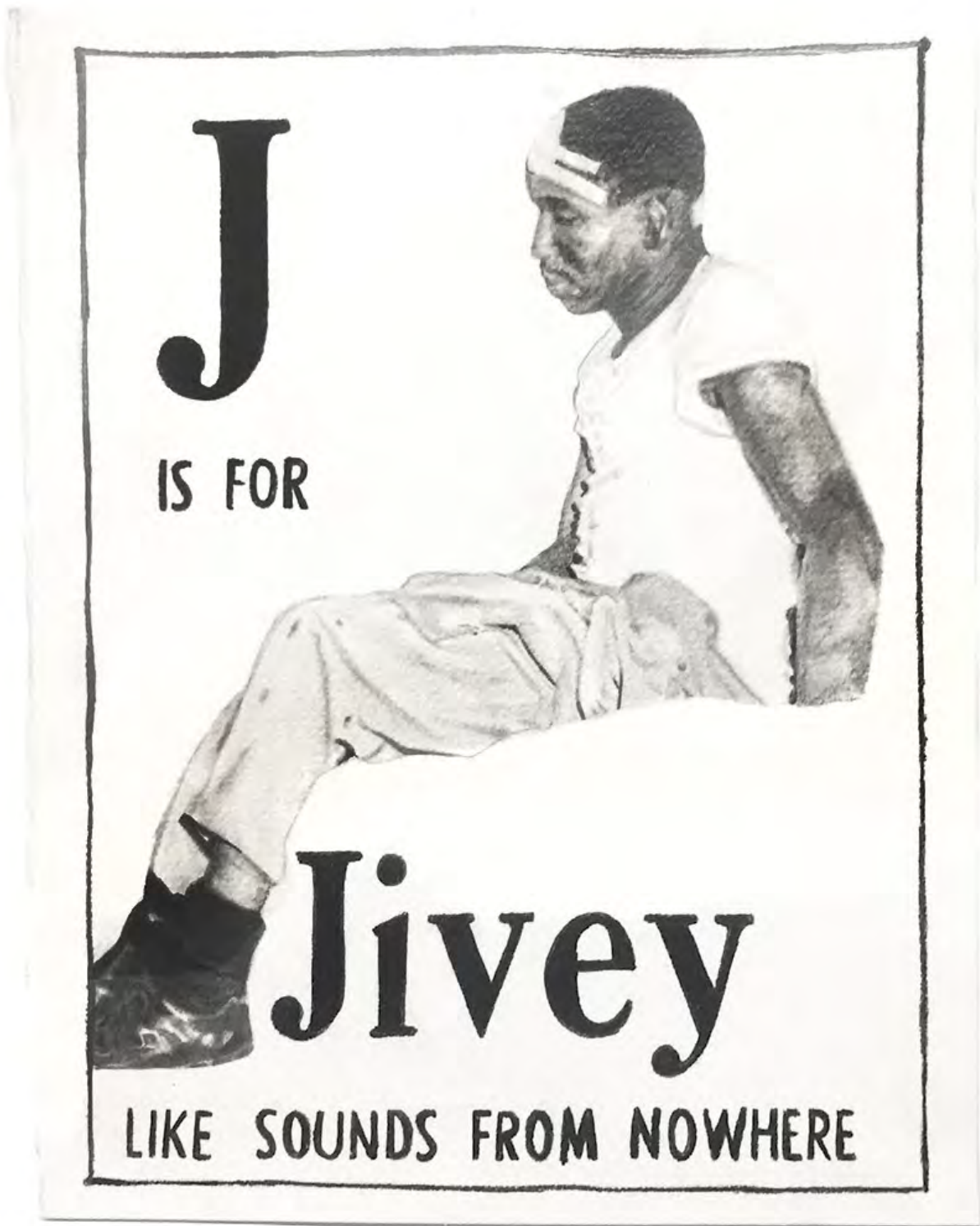
Hipster

WHO'S A REAL SOLID CAT.

A Hip Alphabet detail-H, 2017, graphite on paper, 8 1/2 " x 10 ".



A Hip Alphabet detail-I, 2017, graphite or paper, 8 1/2 " x 10 "



A Hip Alphabet detail-J, 2017, graphite on paper, 8 1/2 " x 10 ".

L

IS FOR



Licks

WHICH GET YOU ALL SHOOK UP

A Hip Alphabet detail-L, 2017, graphite or paper, 8 1/2 " x 10 ".

M

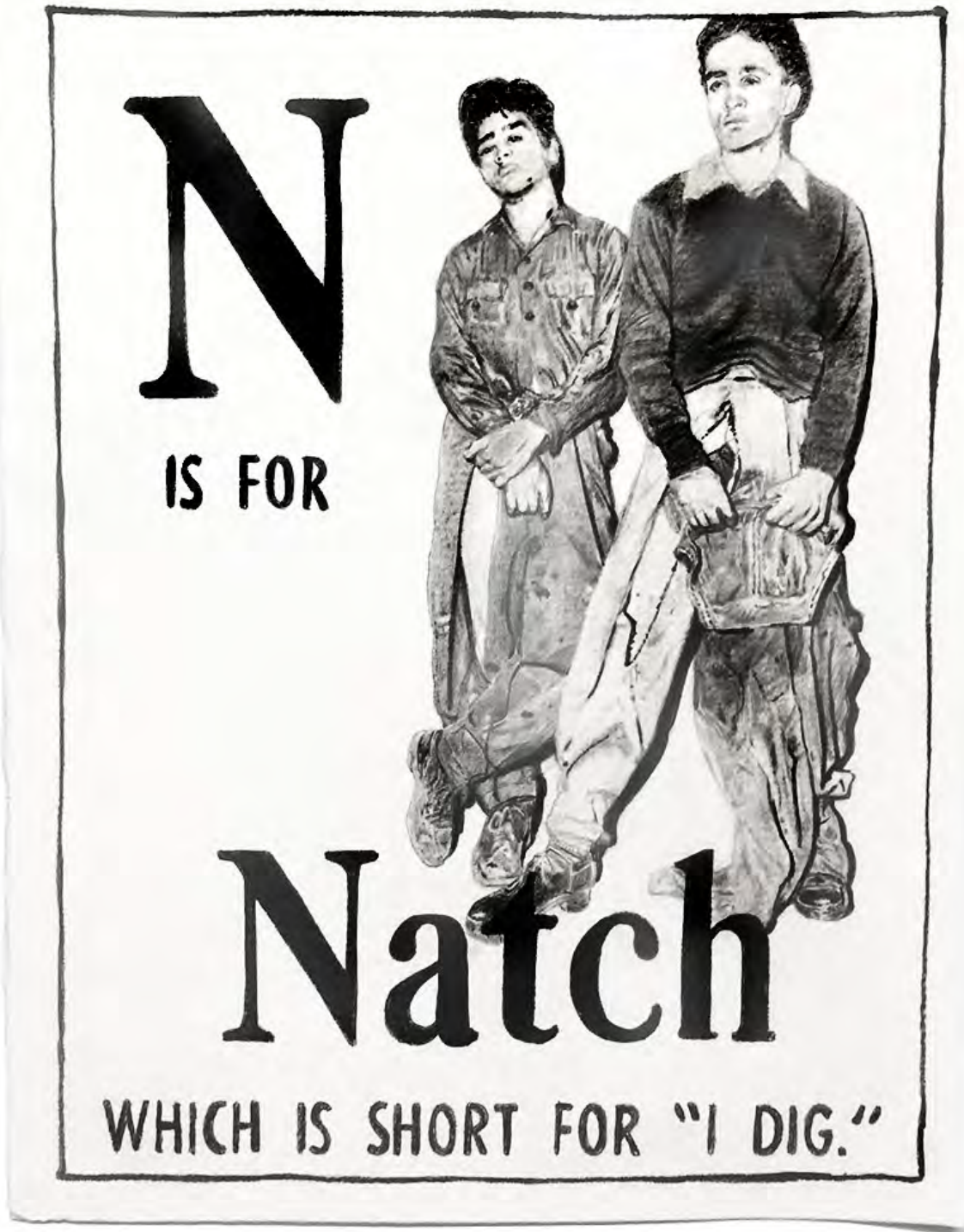
IS FOR



Most

WHEN YOU COME ON REAL BIG

A Hip Alphabet detail-M, 2017, graphite or paper, 8 1/2 " x 10 "



A Hip Alphabet detail-N, 2017, graphite or paper, 8 1/2 " x 10 "

O

IS FOR

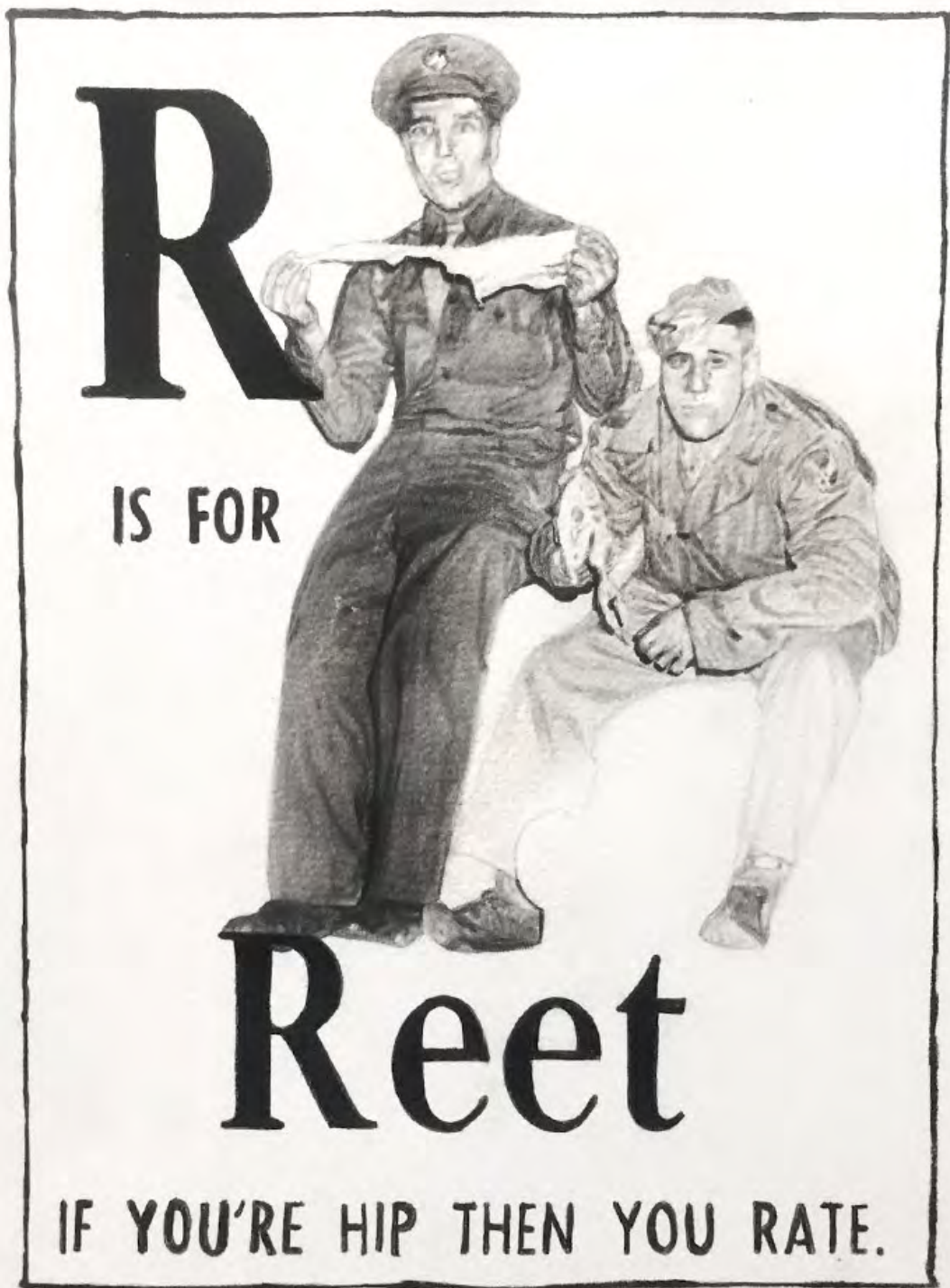
On

IF YOU'RE "OFF" TRY TO FAKE IT





A Hip Alphabet detail-Q, 2017, graphite on paper, 8 1/2 " x 10 ".



R

IS FOR

Reet

IF YOU'RE HIP THEN YOU RATE.

A Hip Alphabet detail-R, 2017, graphite on paper, 8 1/2 " x 10 "

S

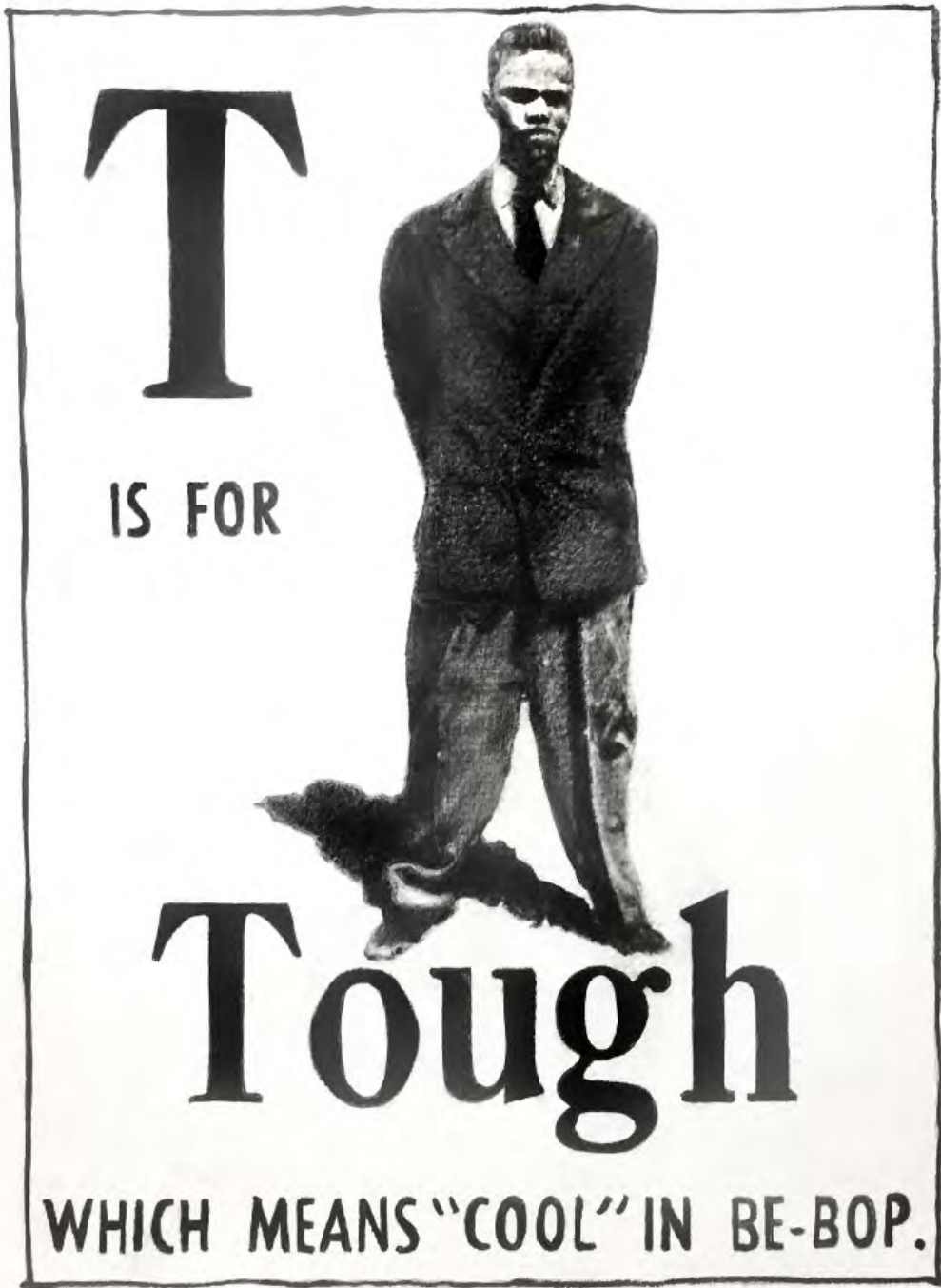
IS FOR



Swingin',

WHEN YOU FLIP YOUR TOP...

A Hip Alphabet detail-S, 2017, graphite on paper, 8 1/2 " x 10 ".



A Hip Alphabet detail-T, 2017, graphite on paper, 8 1/2 " x 10 ".

U

IS FOR



Unhip

LIKE NOT COOKIN' WITH GAS...

A Hip Alphabet detail-U, 2017, graphite on paper, 8 1/2 " x 10 ".

V

IS FOR



Vrootie

AND LIKE ALL OF THAT JAZZ.

A Hip Alphabet detail-V, 2017, graphite on paper, 8 1/2 " x 10".



A Hip Alphabet detail-W, 2017, graphite or paper, 8 1/2 " x 10 "

X

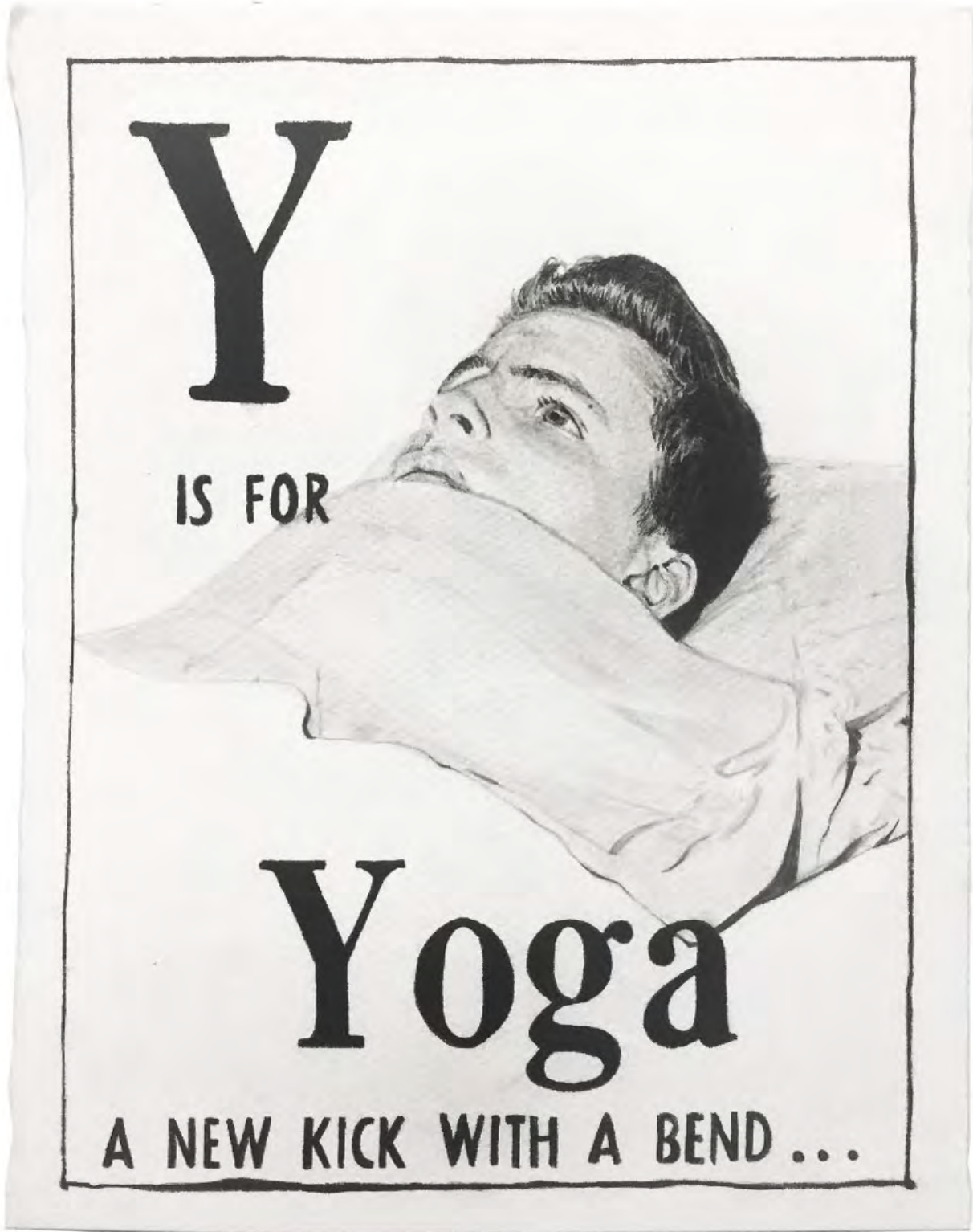
IS FOR

aX

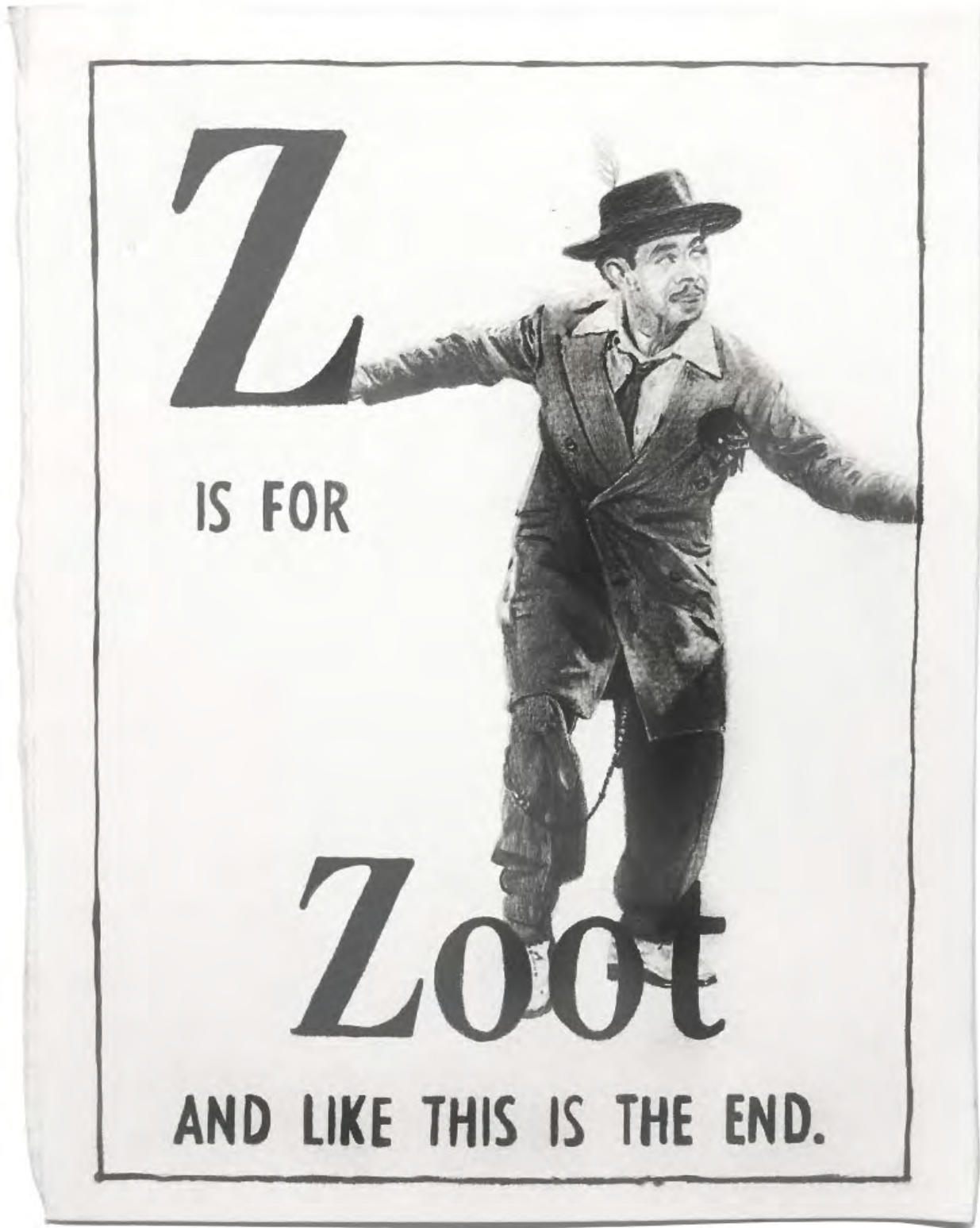
WHICH LIKE REALLY IS MIXED-UP.



A Hip Alphabet detail-X, 2017, graphite on paper, 8 1/2 " x 10 ".



A Hip Alphabet detail-Y, 2017, graphite on paper, 8 1/2 " x 10 "



A Hip Alphabet detail-Z, 2017, graphite on paper, 8 1/2 " x 10 "