

# APOLLO

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The Ubu Gallery, impressively situated opposite the Queensborough Bridge at 416, East 59 Street, New York, is currently the home of an intriguing and thought-provoking exhibition of works on paper by German-born Unica Zürn. Zürn, best known for her relationship with Hans Bellmer, produced a body of ethereal, delicate and haunting drawings during the most prolific decade of her life, the 1960s. It is a selection of these works that form the basis of this exhibition. Already an established journalist and author of fiction in the early 50s, it was through Bellmer, whom she met in 1953, that she began fully to explore her artistic potential. Living together in Paris during the 1950s, they provided artistic inspiration and encouragement for one another. Bellmer urged Zürn to develop her interest in the subconscious and experiment with automatic drawings. During their relationship Bellmer introduced Zürn to his surrealist contemporaries and it was a fateful meeting with Henri Michaux – who was attempting to understand the mechanics of human consciousness through prolonged experimentation with drugs – that, according to Zürn, set into motion the mental illness that was to torment her for the rest of her life. It is far from easy to separate one's responses to these strange and beautiful works from the knowledge that they were produced during a keenly productive but ultimately desperate time that ended tragically in Zürn's suicide in 1970. This compelling show will stay with you long after you leave the gallery; it continues until 16 April.

## Around the Galleries



*Untitled* by Unica Zürn (1916-70), 1965. Ink on paper, 64 x 50 cm. Ubu Gallery