

SOFT AIRY FIGURES THAT COULD NOT HURT ANYONE EXCEPT
BREAKING THE MONOTONY OF THE GRAY CONCRETE WALLS

BUT THOSE WERE THE 70s. IT WAS PRIVATE PROPERTY. AND IT WAS ZÜRICH.

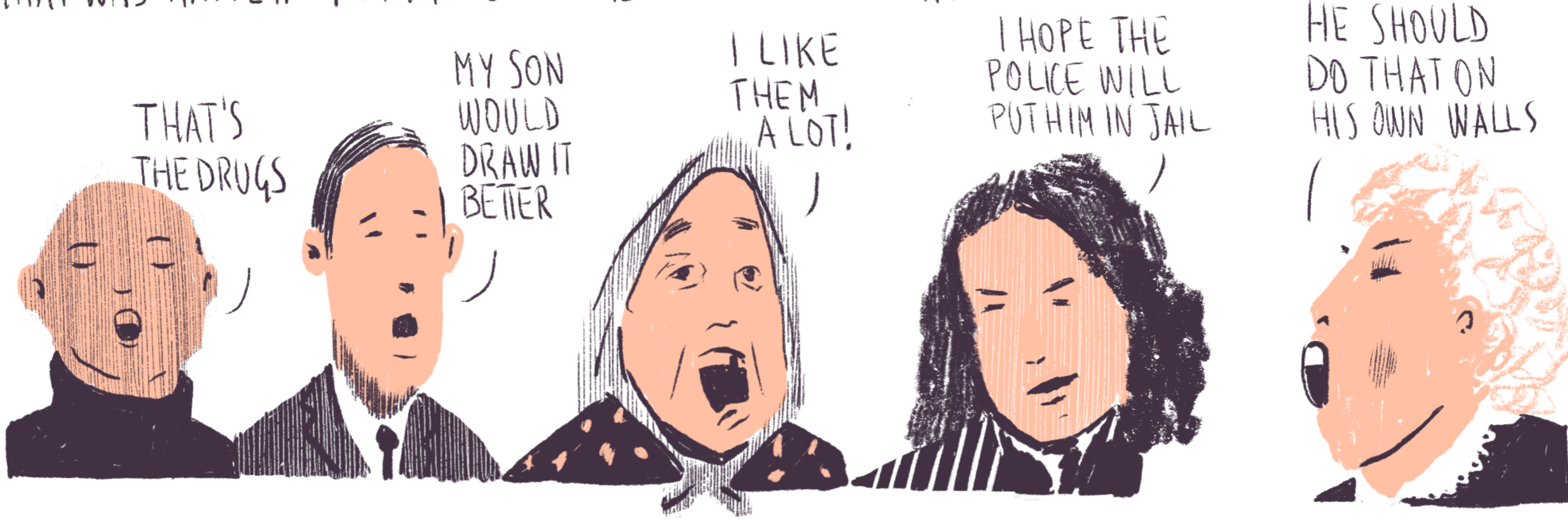
**NO WAVES! WE'RE STRAIGHT!
WE LOVE GRAY!!!!**



NO ONE COULD IDENTIFY THE AUTHOR WHILE NEW GRAFFITI WERE POPPING UP AROUND THE CITY, OVER GRAY WALLS, PILLARS, GARAGES.



ALMOST NO ONE COULD UNDERSTAND THE CRITIQUE AGAINST THE ANONYMIZATION THAT WAS HAPPENING IN THE CITY AND ITS LOSS OF IDENTITY.



AND THE POLICE WAS TRYING TO CATCH HIM IN EVERY WAY BUT WITH POOR RESULTS.

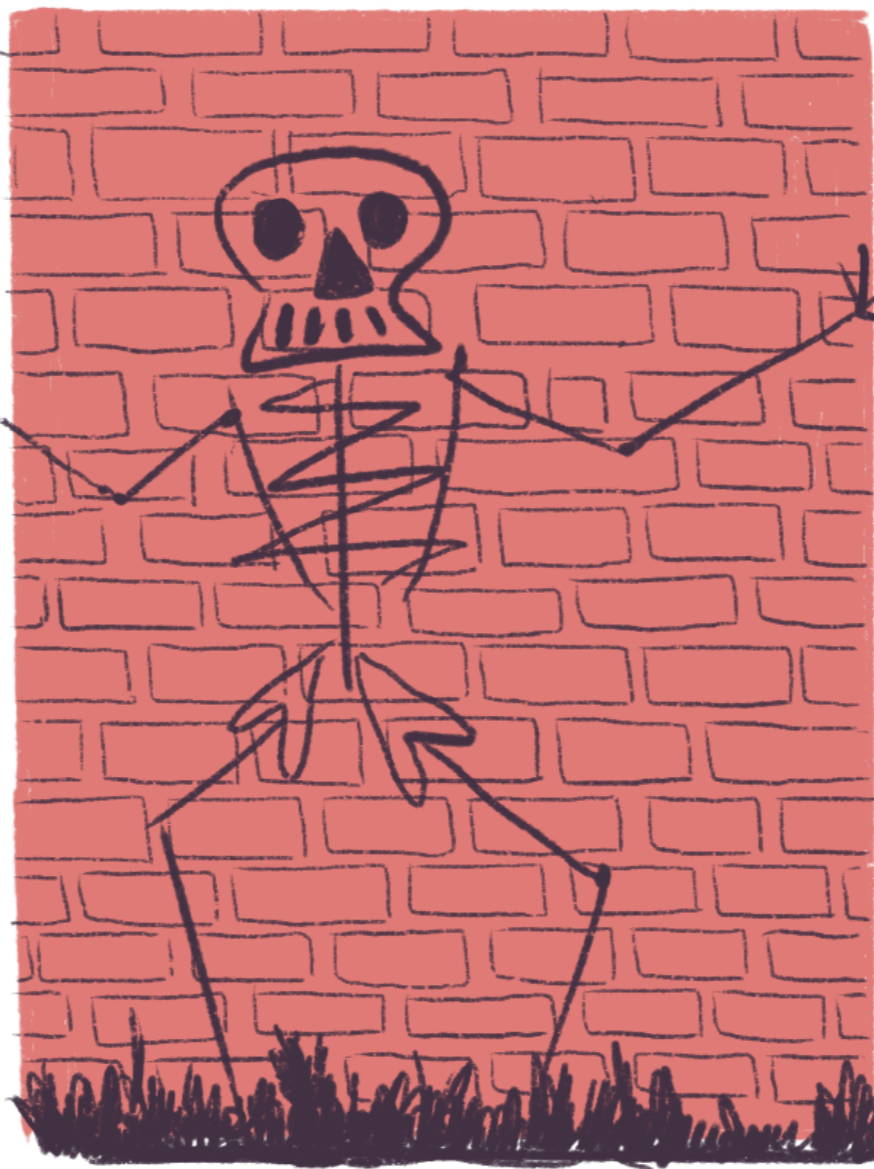


THEN ONE NIGHT IN 1971

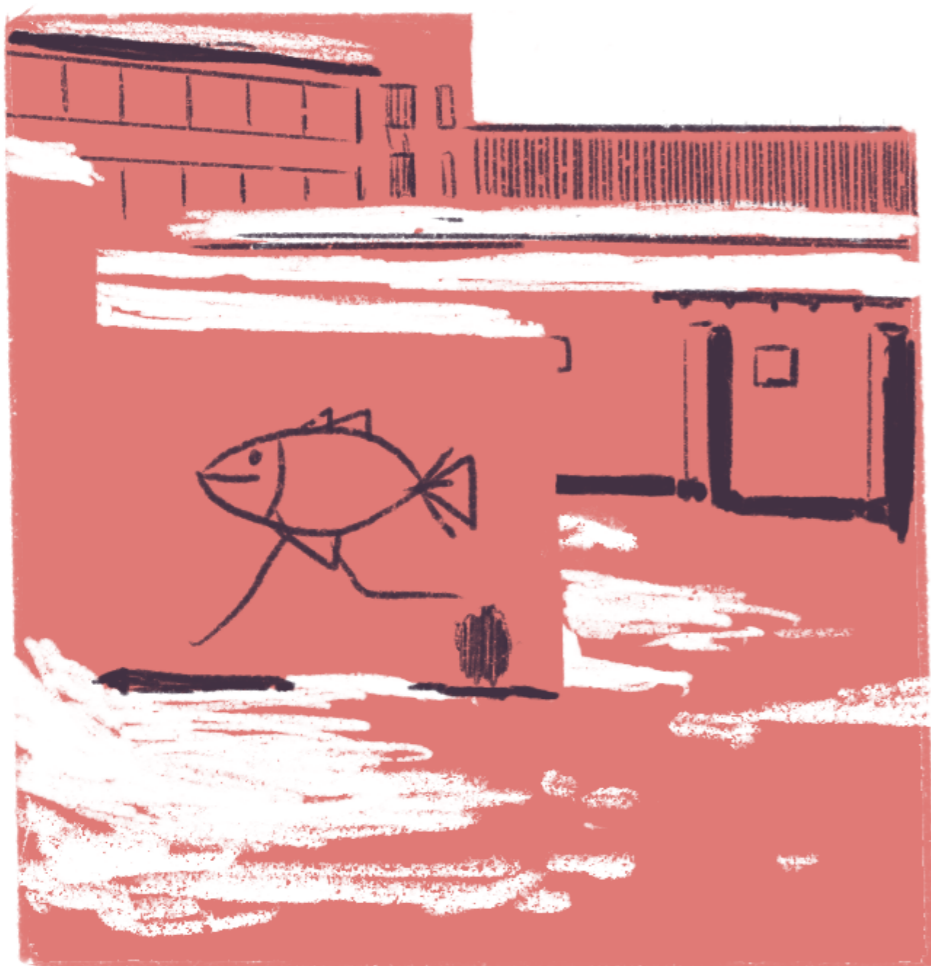




THE SPRAYER OF ZÜRICH, HARALD NAEGLI, WAS FINALLY ARRESTED, SENTENCED TO NINE MONTHS IN JAIL AND A FINE OF 206.000 FRANCS. IN THE MEANTIME HE HAD FLEED TO GERMANY, WHERE HE GOT HIGH RECOGNITION FOR HIS ART.



72 SWISS ARTISTS HAD SIGNED A PETITION IN HIS FAVOUR. BUT IT WAS 1981, AND WHILE IN NYC KEITH HARING WAS PAINTING THE UNDERGROUND WALLS, THE SWISS POLICE WAS ISSUING AN INTERNATIONAL ARREST WARRANT FOR THE SPRAYER OF ZÜRICH.



WHEN IN 1984 GERMANY HANDED HIM OVER TO SWITZERLAND, THESE WERE NAEGELI'S WORDS OF ACCUSATION TO HIS PERSECUTORS.

J'ACCUSE!



J'ACCUSE!

ICH KLAGE AN,
DASS SIE KUNST-

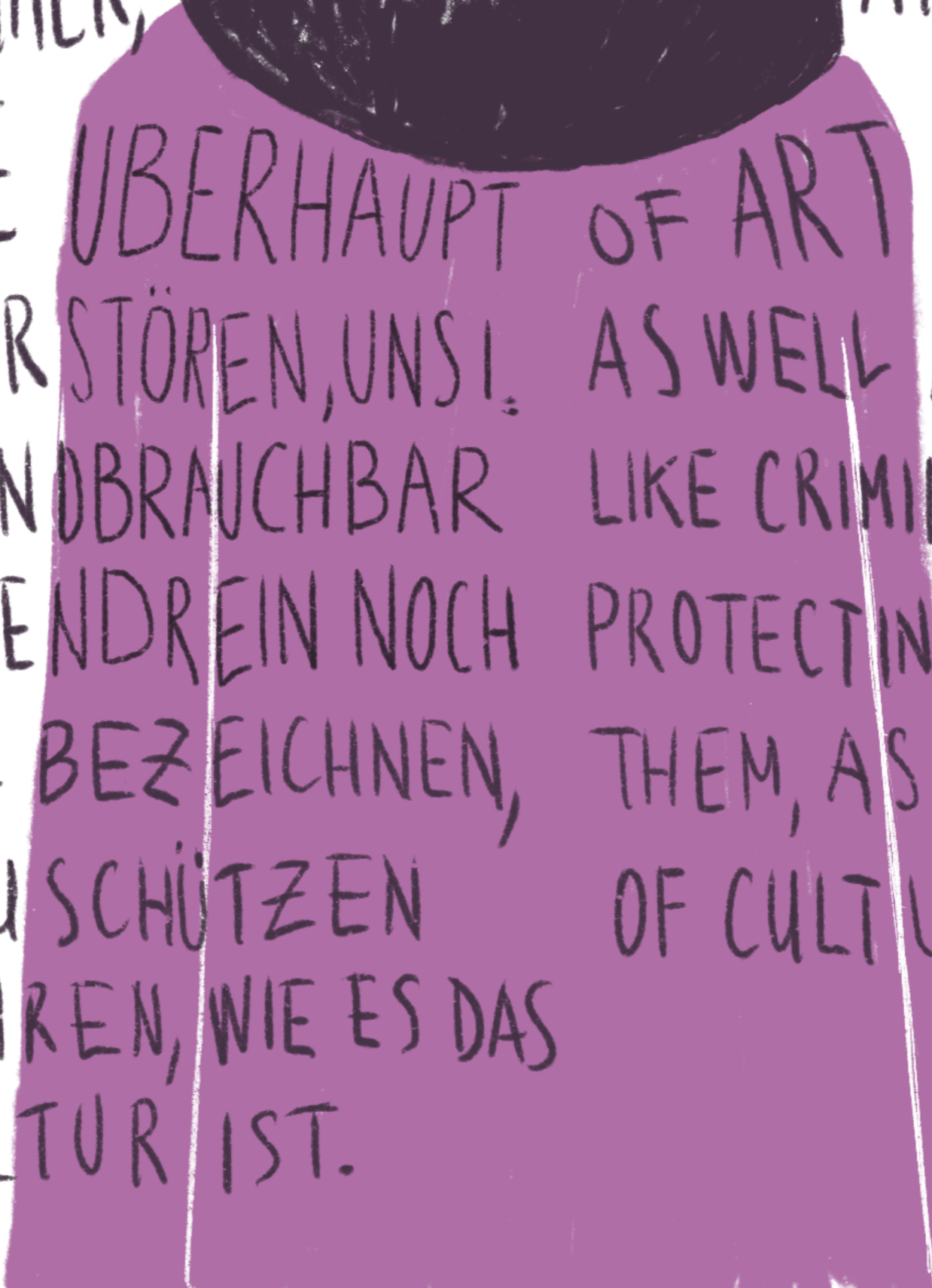
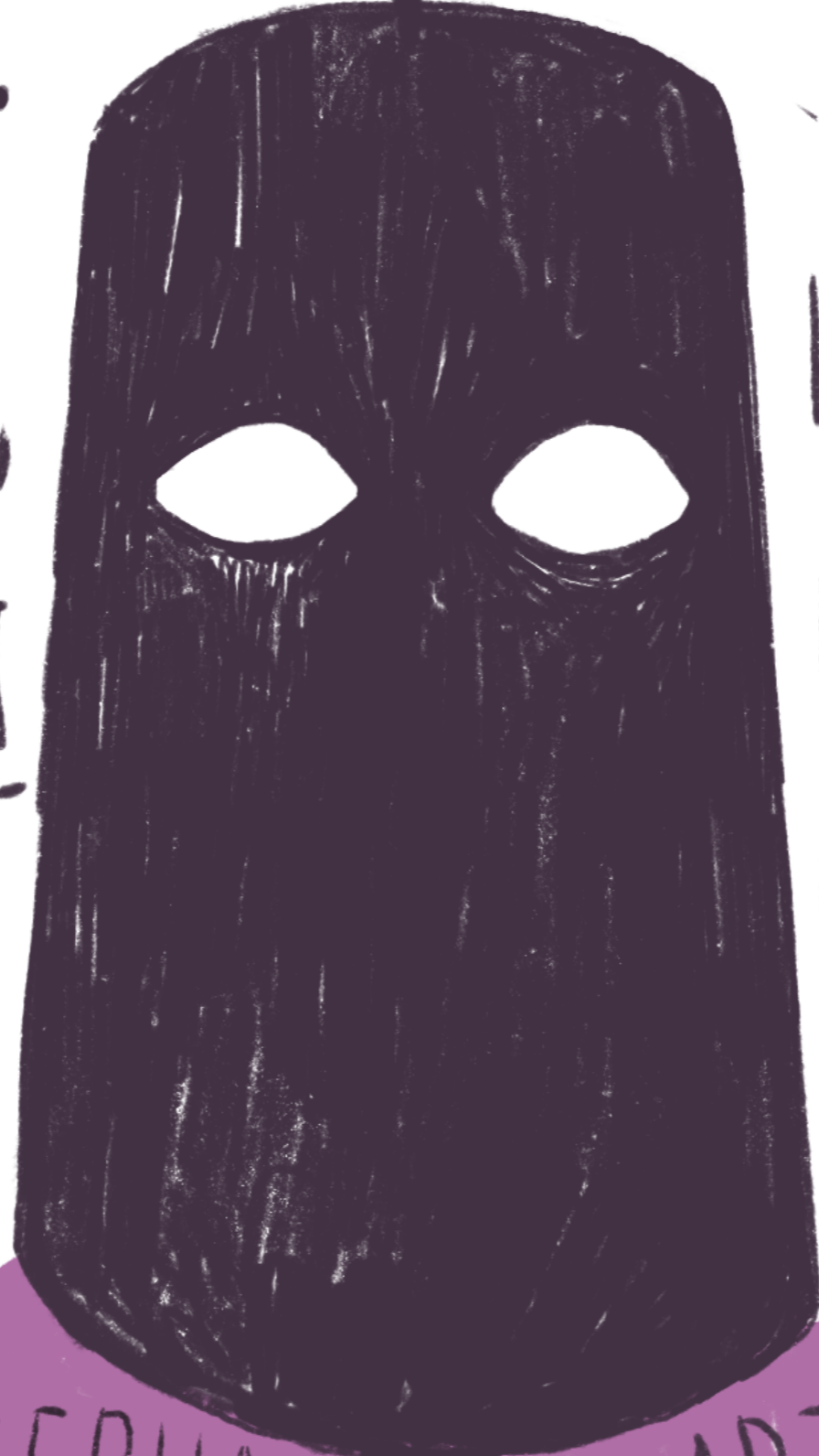
I ACCUSE YOU OF
KILLING, DESTROYING,

WERKE VON
WEMAUCH INNER,

MAKING INVISIBLE
AND USELESS WORKS

KUNSTWERKE ÜBERHAUPT
VERNICHTEN, ZERSTÖREN, UNSI-
CHTBAR UND UNDBRAUCHBAR
MACHEN UND OBENDREIN NOCH
ALS KRIMINELL BEZEICHNEN,
STATT DIEZE ZU SCHÜTZEN
UND ZU BEWAHREN, WIE ES DAS
GEBOT DER KULTUR IST.

OF ART OF ANY KIND,
AS WELL AS DAMAGING THEM
LIKE CRIMINALS, INSTEAD OF
PROTECTING AND PRESERVING
THEM, AS THE COMMANDMENT
OF CULTURE IS.



THE VIDEO OF THE ARREST LOOKS LIKE A PARTY WHERE THE POLICE HAS BEEN SENT TO MAKE SURE THAT EVERYTHING GOES FINE



*Freedom for the Sprayer

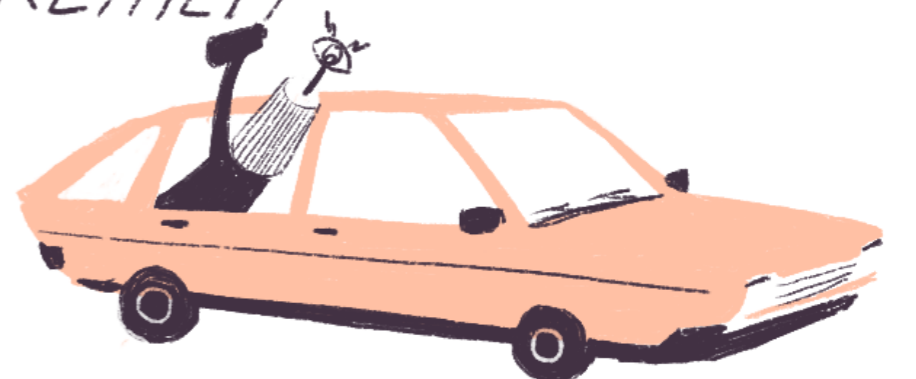
NAEGELI DRAWS ONE GRAFFITI IN FRONT OF BYSTANDERS, JOURNALISTS, TVs, PHOTOGRAPHERS.

AND BOTH GERMAN AND SWISS POLICE. THAT AT ONE POINT EXCHANGE THE PRISONER.



THE EAGLE OF GERMAN POLIZEI STANDS ON THEIR SLEEVES TOGETHER WITH THE STICKER "FREEDOM FOR THE SPRAYER". AND IT SEEMS A PROVOCATIVE ART PERFORMANCE.

FREIHEIT



THE BEST POSSIBLE ENDING WOULD HAVE BEEN A CROWD OF FANS RUNNING AFTER THE POLICE CAR, WHILE NAEGELI SAYS FAREWELL TO EVERYONE SPRAYING THE WORD "FREEDOM" IN THE AIR.