

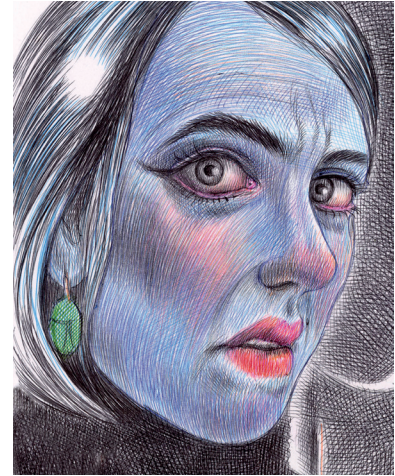
# EMIL FERRIS

## *BORN TO DRAW: MY FAVORITE THING IS MONSTERS*

June 13th — July 25th, 2026  
Chaussée d'Ixelles 337 | 1050 Bruxelles

Opening in the presence of the artist  
Saturday, June 13th from 6pm

Signing session by reservation  
Saturday, June 13th from 3pm



**Galerie Martel is presenting, for the first time in Brussels, an exceptional selection of original works by the American artist Emil Ferris. *Born to Draw: My Favorite Thing is Monsters* serves as a prelude to the major monographic exhibition *Emil Ferris: Between Selves*, which will be presented at the Cartoonmuseum Basel from July 4 to November 15.**

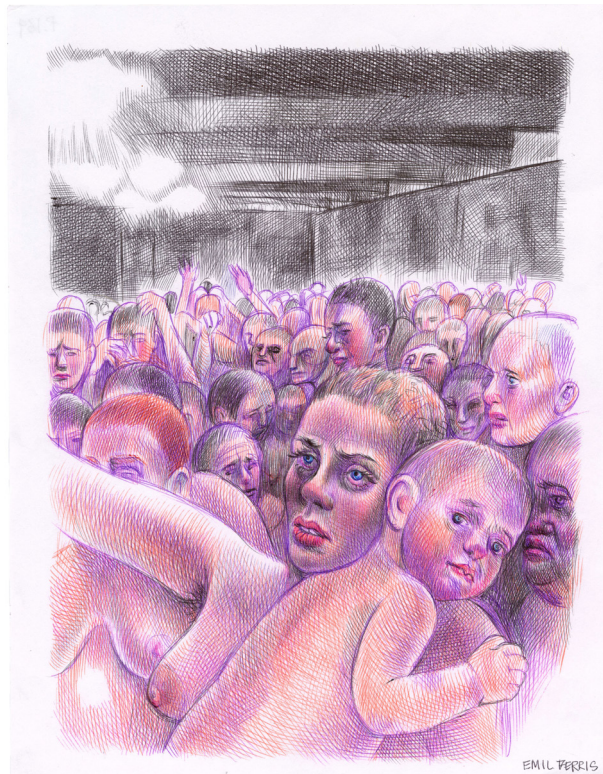
Internationally acclaimed for *My Favorite Thing is Monsters*, the graphic novel that has become a landmark work of contemporary comics, Emil Ferris has developed an instantly recognizable artistic language: ballpoint pen drawings on lined paper, astonishing technical virtuosity, and an intimate narrative world where history, memory, popular culture, painting, nightmares and wonder converge.

The Brussels exhibition focuses primarily on works from Book Two, recently published, in which the narrative ventures further into the darker territories of family memory and History itself. Centered around the characters inhabiting Karen Reyes' universe — a monster heroine and child detective whose singular gaze reshapes the world around her — the exhibition brings together a series of portraits, original pages from the book, and Ferris' iconic fictional horror magazine covers. These images evoke an entire visual culture drawn from popular comics, B-movies and pulp magazines, all of which form essential foundations of her artistic universe.

The exhibition takes its title from *Born to Draw*, the tattoo inscribed on the body of Deeze, a central figure in the story inspired by Emil Ferris' own father, himself an artist. More than a narrative detail, these words become an intimate statement, almost a manifesto. Following a serious illness that profoundly changed her life, Ferris discovered in drawing not only a language, but also a form of rebirth. Drawing became a vital necessity: a way of moving through memory, fears and monsters.

Because in Emil Ferris' world, monsters are never what they seem. They are the outcasts, the figures on the margins, companions in solitude, and sometimes the revealers of something fundamentally human.

[Emil Ferris: Biography, Bibliography](#)

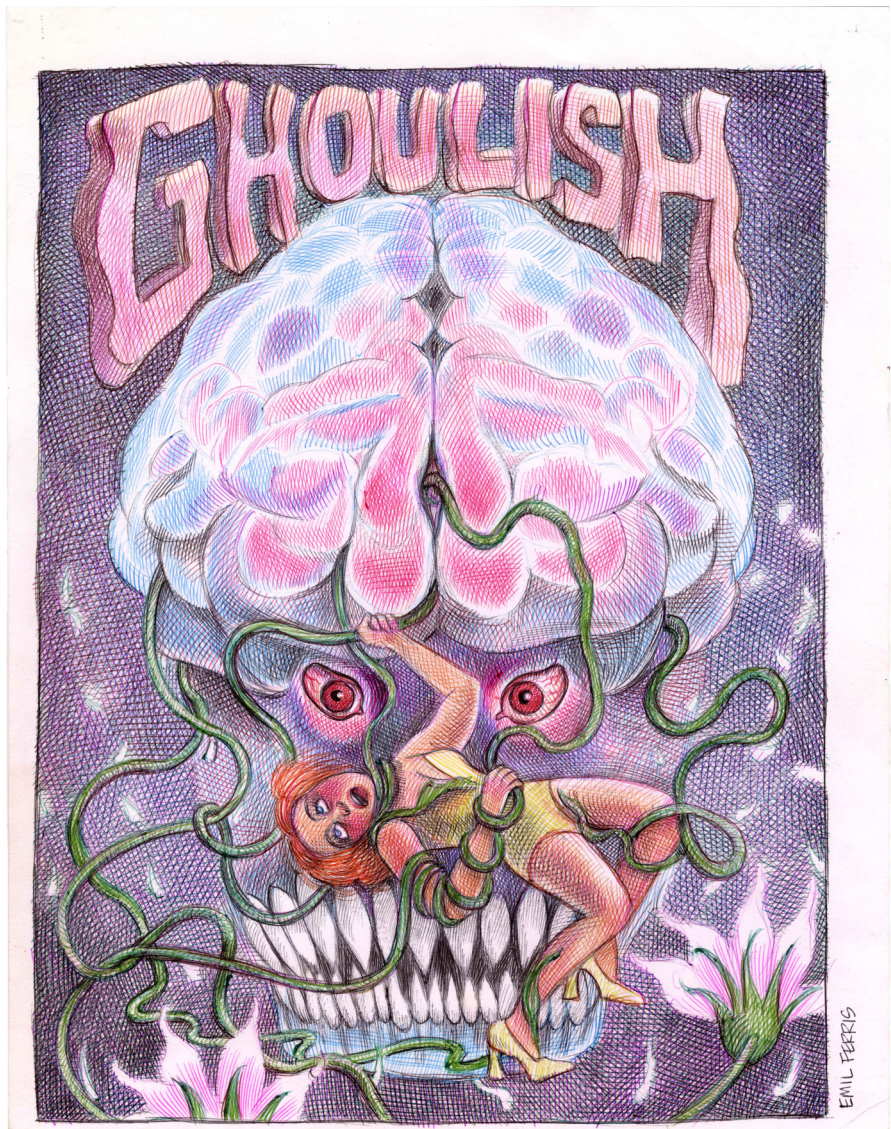


Emil Ferris, *My Favorite Thing is Monsters 2* pp. 168 - 169, 2021 - 2023, 21 x 28 cm, ballpoint pen on paper  
 ©Emil Ferris / Toussaint Louverture, courtesy Galerie Martel

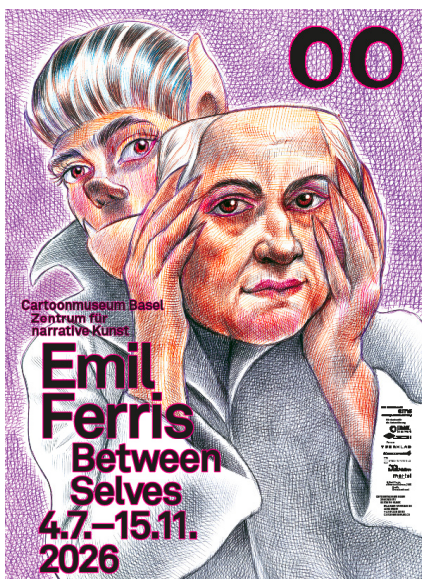


Emil Ferris, *Victor in the Dream Moonlight*, p.5, 2021 - 2023, 30 x 22 cm, ballpoint pen on paper  
 ©Emil Ferris / Toussaint Louverture, courtesy Galerie Martel

Press : Sylvie Chabroux | +33 6 64 25 48 42, [sylvie@chabroux.com](mailto:sylvie@chabroux.com)  
 MARTEL PARIS | 17 rue Martel, 75010 Paris, France | +33 1 42 46 35 09  
 MARTEL BXL | Chaussée d'Ixelles 337, 1050 Bruxelles, Belgique | +32 2 721 79 57  
[contact@galeriemartel.fr](mailto:contact@galeriemartel.fr) | [www.galeriemartel.com](http://www.galeriemartel.com) | mar - sam 14h30 - 19h



Emil Ferris, *My Favorite Thing is Monsters 2*, p. 207, 2021 - 2023, 30 x 22 cm, ballpoint pen on paper  
 ©Emil Ferris / Toussaint Louverture, courtesy Galerie Martel



## Emil Ferris Between Selves

Cartoon Museum, Bâle, Suisse

4.7. – 15.11.2026

Opening : Friday, 3.7.2026, 6.30 pm

Presseconference: Thursday, 2.7.2026, 11 am

Curator: Anette Gehrig

Tuesday–Sunday 11am–5pm

Cartoonmuseum Basel, Centre for Narrative Art  
 St. Alban-Vorstadt 28, 4052 Basel, Switzerland

[Emil Ferris Between Selves](#)

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MARTEL PARIS | 17 rue Martel, 75010 Paris, France | +33 1 42 46 35 09

MARTEL BXL | Chaussée d'Ixelles 337, 1050 Bruxelles, Belgique | +32 2 721 79 57

[contact@galeriemartel.fr](mailto:contact@galeriemartel.fr) | [www.galeriemartel.com](http://www.galeriemartel.com) | mar - sam 14h30 - 19h