

ARTS ()

THE ARTISTIC PROCESS OF DAVE COOPER

IT ALL STARTS HERE WITH PAPER AND A PENCIL

visual arts BY TINA HASSANNIA

You might know Dave Cooper because of his career as a cartoonist, but lately he's been painting pop surrealistic creatures that he refers to as "pillowy women." These disturbingly sexified girls seem sculpted out of cellulite, with knobby cheeks, nipples, elbows and knees resembling pimples about to burst.

"Wobbly, jiggly women are one of the most beautiful things in the world to me," Cooper explains in an email interview.

I ask him why there are no pillowy men.

"It's like the difference between a big, wobbly plate of pink Jell-O and a big lumpy plate of ground beef," he replies.

Fair enough. As intriguing as his finished products are, so is the process that gets him there. At least, that was the thinking of La Petite Mort Gallery owner Guy Bérubé, who asked Cooper to put on a show of his pencil sketches. Until July 27, the gallery's north wall is covered in Cooper's preparatory sketches that helped him work out "poses, expressions, anatomy etc." A few of his final pieces, including the horizontal meadow of forest creatures, *Clay*, are also on display.

The skeptics may think this isn't a "real exhibit," but they're just wrong. It's fascinating to see a completely different angle to Cooper's work, details that he admits can become lost with the

introduction of canvas and paint.

"Often there's a lightness and energy to doodles that are lost in the more accomplished final product," he explains. "It's a fair trade-off, but it's a shame that often no one sees the preliminary figuring."

It All Starts Here changes that. The exhibit offers a rare chance to glean a bit more insight into the imagination of one of Ottawa's most beloved artists.

() **IT ALL STARTS
HERE
BY DAVE COOPER**

@ La Petite Mort Gallery
(306 Cumberland St.)

July 4-27



COOPER: "WOBBLY,
JIGGLY WOMEN
ARE ONE OF THE MOST
BEAUTIFUL THINGS
IN THE WORLD TO ME"

Light Body, Bright Face

SPECIAL

Massage Therapy* w/ Facial \$135

gift certificates

Free parking downtown

www.downtownbb.com • 613-563-4399

Siri
Bandhu
Khalsa

