

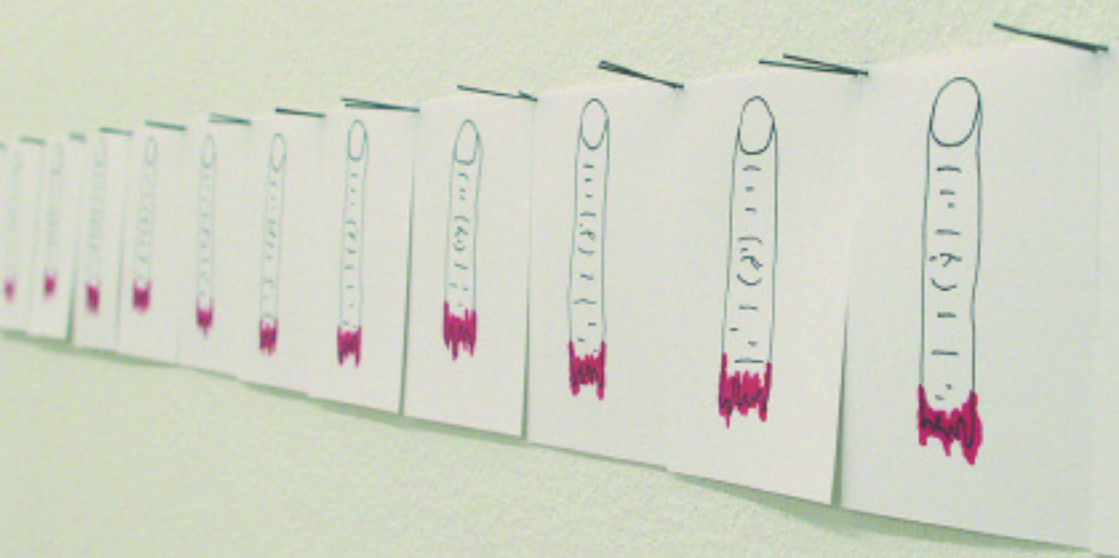
A doll with a white skull face, black eye sockets, and a wide, toothy grin. It has long, dark, curly hair. The doll is wearing a white long-sleeved shirt with pink ruffled cuffs and pink overalls with white straps. Its arms are raised above its head. The doll is lying on a blue surface, with a yellow fabric visible at the top.

**KEN KAGAMI
HELLOWIEN**

KRINZINGER PROJEKTE







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**KEN KAGAMI
HELLOWIEN**

KRINZINGER PROJEKTE

DAS HELLOWEEN DES KEN KAGAMI

oder eine fröhliche Welt, die Bosheit, Perversität, Zärtlichkeit und Brutalität miteinander verbindet. Von Steven Guermeur.

Ken Kagami ist ein junger japanischer Künstler, der über sechs Jahre die praktische Arbeit als Kostümbildner für japanische Fernsehserien einer akademischen Ausbildung an einer Kunsthochschule vorgezogen.

Er verwendet sein praktisches Wissen, um eine künstliche Welt zu erschaffen: Puppen mit Totenköpfen, Stoffmurmeltiere, die Kindern die Gliedmaßen herausreißen, abgerissene Finger und Füße, gevierteilte Monster, Unterbekleidung in Marionetten transformiert, Libido-Kissen...

Sein Universum ist dasjenige eines Horrorfilms für Kinder, die genug haben von virtuellen Welten aus Plastik, Stoff und Silikon. *Penis*, *Vagina* und *Kot* werden verwendet als nicht sehr respektable Logos. Zahlreiche Referenzen an den Kultfilm "Dawn of the Dead" von George A. Romero sind zu finden. Diese jämmerlichen Szenen reizen oftmals zum Lachen. Sie sind so skurril wie die letzten Gäste eines zu Ende gehenden Festes.

Wenn man diesem Spielzeug gegenübersteht, ist der Reiz groß, wieder Kind zu werden und alle diese Puppen dazu zu bringen, ihre merkwürdigsten Geschichten zu erzählen.

Ken ist jedoch weit davon entfernt, in die Karikatur einer Kindheitswelt abzudriften, die von Erwachsenen wiederbetrachtet und korrigiert wird. Im Gegenteil, durch die Verwendung lebhafter Farben (Erdbeerrosa, Bananengelb,

Apfelgrün), durch abgerundete Formen und Deformationen, die durchaus an die Popkultur und den Einfluss Oldenburgs erinnern, drängt er die Karikatur zu seinem Paradox und stellt der idyllischen Kindheitswelt eine Falle. Wie bei den Arbeiten von Paul McCarthy und Mike Kelley (z.B. „Heidi“), die eine Kinderwelt präsentieren, die nur mehr Vorstellung ist, völlig durchmischt mit Phantasien, die von Erwachsenenmagazinen gespeist werden, verpufft die kindliche Welt von Ken Kagami vor unseren Augen.

Es gibt viel Leichtigkeit und Amüsement, Freude und Lachen in der Arbeit von Ken. Kissen, die er auf der Straße findet, oder Perücken, die er auf dem Flohmarkt kauft, haucht Ken mit viel Fantasie wieder Leben ein. Sie werden zu neuen spielerischen Persönlichkeiten.

Ken Kagamis Arbeiten bergen süße Gewalt und leichte Perversität. Oder rühren diese Gewalt und Perversität nicht weniger von der Szenographie her denn von den Projektionen des Betrachters im Angesicht dieser Situationen? Seine Arbeiten verstricken uns in unsere eigenen Widersprüche. Denn wir fordern eine Gesellschaft, die uns Sicherheit bietet und doch suchen wir auch nach Schrecken und Angst. Paradoxerweise bringt diese Sicherheit das Verlangen nach ihrer eigenen Suspension mit sich. Die Magie Ken Kagamis besteht daraus, dass er gerade auf unsere widersprüchlichsten Begehren zielt, die unser täglich

KEN KAGAMI'S HALLOWEEN

or a cheerful world which mixes malice, perversity, tenderness and cruelty. By Steven Guermeur.

Ken Kagami is a young Japanese artist who preferred gaining his initial experience as an artist by working for six years as a costumes stylist for a Japanese television company than a formal education at an art academy.

Since completing his training, he has applied his knowledge to the creation of an artificial world full of puppets with skulls, cuddly toy fabric marmots which children mutilate by tearing off their limbs, ripped of fingers and feet, mutilated monsters, underwear transformed into marionettes, libido-pillows...

His universe is that of a children's horror film tired of virtual worlds made of plastic, material and silicon. The *penises*, *vaginas* and *excrement* are used as not especially respectable logos. Numerous references are made to the cult movie "Dawn of the Dead" by George A. Romero. Such abject scenes as these frequently provoke laughter, recalling the image of the last guests at a voluptuous party.

When confronting these toys, one somehow experiences the strong desire to once again become a child and to have these puppets tell their most outrageous stories.

Ken is far from drifting off into a caricatured child's universe now revised and corrected by adults. On the contrary, by the use of lively colours (strawberry rose, banana yellow, apple green) and by rounded forms and deformations, especially reminiscent of pop culture and the influence of Oldenburg, he forces

caricature to confront it's own paradox, thereby setting a trap for the idyllic universe of childhood. Much like the work of Paul McCarthy and Mike Kelley (e.g. Heidi), who present a children's world which, fed by adult magazines, is rather imaginative and completely blended with the fantastic, Ken Kagami's childlike world fizzles out before our very eyes.

Ken's work is full of light amusement, joy and laughter. Ken breathes new life into his objects, whether it be a cushion, found by chance on the street or a wig bought at a flea market. They are transformed into playful personalities.

Ken Kagami's works contain sweet violence and a light perversity. Or is it that violence and perversity are as much derived from the viewer's own projections as they are from the scenery itself when observing these situations? His works entangle us in our own contradictions. This is because we support a society which offers security even though we search for terror and anxiety. Paradoxically, this security brings with it a yearning for it's own suspension.

The magic of Ken Kagami consists in the fact that he aims precisely at those of our contradictory yearnings which envelop our daily strivings.







Mouse with foot, 2006
plush shoe, plastic
24 x 11 x 15 cm



E.T., 2005
plastic, mix media
70 x 47 x 16 cm



Sabine, 2006
plastic, doll
48 x 70 x 17 cm



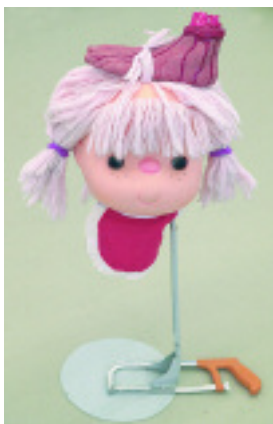
Scary desk, 2006, various materials, 131 x 130 x 116 cm



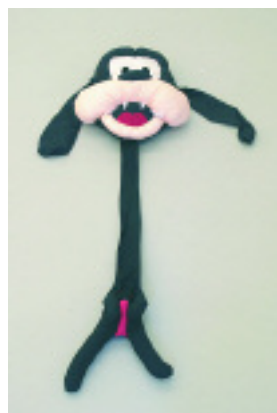
From left to right (all 2006): *White ghost*, 66 x 50 cm; *Three long ghosts*, 87 x 447 cm; *Yellow dot ghost with two underpants*, 155 x 220 cm; *Grey dog ghost*, 40 x 40 cm; *Black stick ghost*, 8 x 38 4 cm; *Black snake ghost on brown fluffy ghost*, 40 x 40 x 58 cm; *Triangle ghost*, 50 x 50 x 43 cm; *Fruits and vegetables ghosts*, 30 x 30 x 63 cm; *Banana ghost*, 10 x 16 cm; *Dead Micky and Dead Minnie*, 60 x 110 cm; *Chair ghost*, 55 x 80 x 77 cm; *Grey ghost and brown ghost*, 2006, 30 x 37 cm; *Green stripes ghosts*, 60 x 89 cm



Untitled, 2006
plush, plastic
20 x 20 x 14 cm

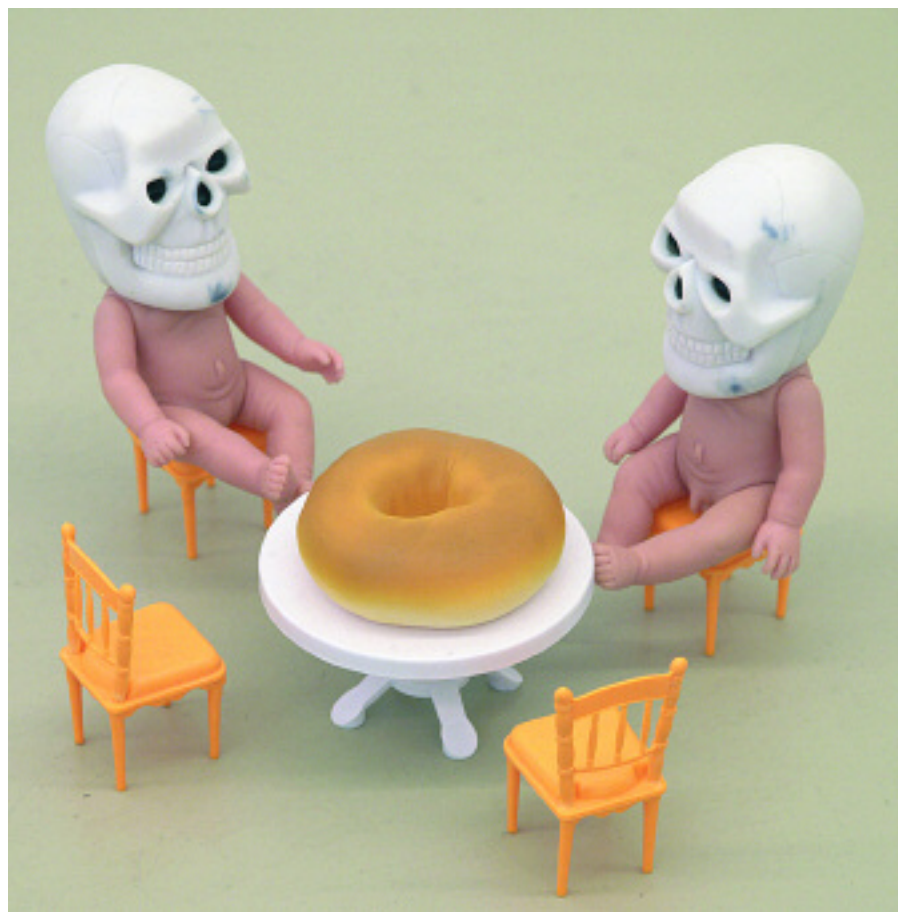


Tomoko, 2006
plastic, doll
25 x 30 x 68 cm



Dog, 2004
cotton, nylon
140 x 55 x 14 cm







Black snake with naughty boy, 2006
stuffed animal, doll, 36 x 164 x 20 cm



Shopping, 2006
plastic, mix media, 48 x 53 x 23 cm



Dogs with two feet, 2006
plush shoes, plastic 24 x
11 x 15 cm each



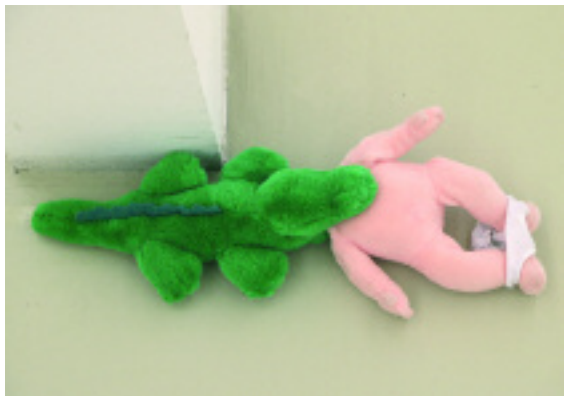
House with hand, 2006
various materials
83 x 47 x 100 cm



Rainbow snake with boy
2005, cotton, plush
25 x 153 x 8 cm



Scary Costumes, 2006, various materials, dimensions variable



Green crocodile with baby, 2006
stuffed plush animal, textile doll
17 x 33 x 8 cm



Nora, 2006
plastic, textile
80 x 40 x 25 cm



Bagel, 2006
plastic
30 x 30 x 18 cm



Witch with Bat, 2006
various materials
38 x 12 x 40 cm



Mister Orange, 2006
various materials
120 x 154 x 100 cm



Dead Charly with Dead Snoopy, 2006
textile dolls, 150 x 117 x 30 cm



Silvia, 2006
plastic, doll, 48 x 56 x 53 cm







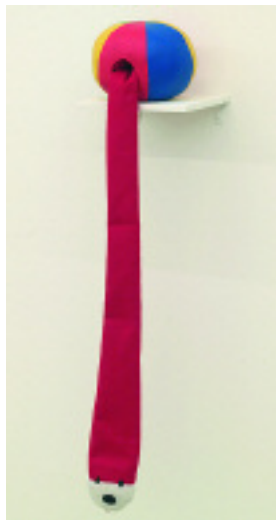




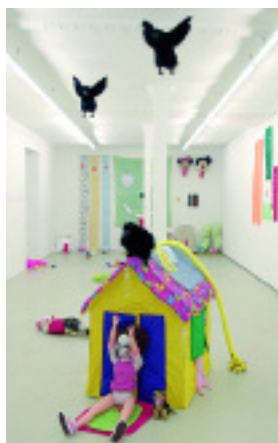
Green snake with boy
2006, plush toy, textile
34 x 235 x 15 cm



Matthias, 2006
textile, doll, plastic
54 x 44 x 25 cm



Untitled, 2006
textile, 20 x 20 x 84 cm



Scary House, 2006
various materials
80 x 170 x 140 cm



Rat Baby, 2006
plastic, doll, plush
41 x 37 x 80 cm



Big Shit, 2006
textile, plastic
100 x 65 x 25 cm



Ferret with boy's head
2006, stuffed animal,
textile, 40 x 39 x 42 cm



Basketball Boy, 2006,
doll, textile
76 x 33 x 73 cm



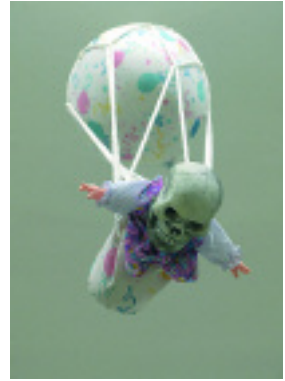
Mister White, 2006,
doll, textile, plastic
44 x 18 x 58 cm



Orange monkey with banana, 2006, var. mat.
40 x 42 x 40 cm



White cat, 2006
various materials
26 x 100 x 20 cm



Ballon, 2006
3 pieces, textile, plastic,
stuffed animal, dim. var.



Untitled, 2006
textile, 20 x 20 x 14 cm



Fluffy Bear, 2006
plastic, stuffed animal
27 x 34 x 44 cm



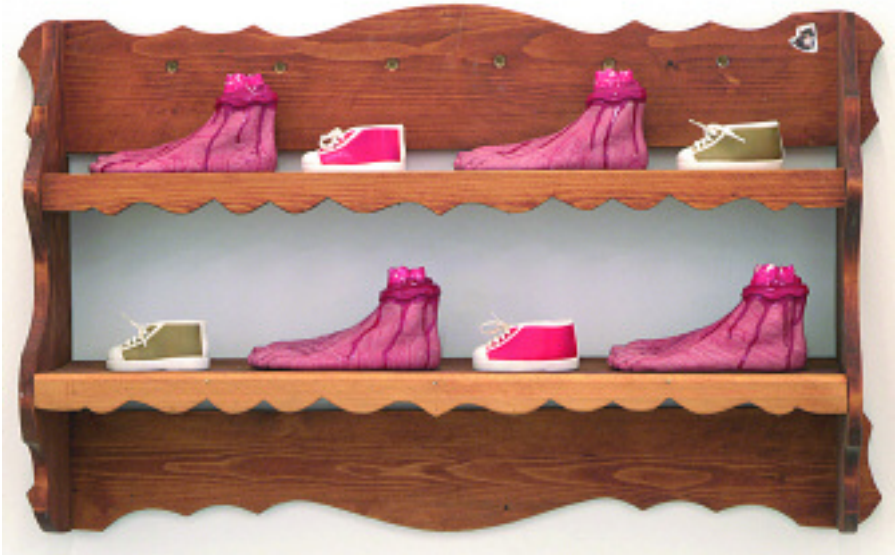
Pink crocodile with boy
2006, stuffed textile toys
38 x 125 x 21 cm



Bears with two feet
2006, plush shoes, plastic,
21 x 9 x 11 cm each







Footlocker, 2006, wood, plastic, 78 x 50 x 16 cm



Crocodile with hand, 2006
textile, plastic, 30 x 15 x 25 cm



Fly girl, 2006
knitted doll, plastic, 28 x 48 x 18 cm



Two cats with two mice, 2006
stuffed plush animals
46 x 56 x 45 cm



Miss Bear, 2006
plush, textile
30 x 30 x 62 cm



Blood stained underpants, 2006
textile, plastic, 24 x 38 cm each



Dog with two girls and five shits, 2006
various materials
178 x 70 x 66 cm



Fly House, 2006
plush, plastic
24 x 22 x 37 cm



Black snake with wetty girl, 2006
stuffed plush animal, doll
35 x 165 x 20 cm



Angie, 2006
textile, plastic
60 x 20 x 10 cm







Sexy Cabinet, 2006
var. mat., 10 x 16 x 24 cm



Untitled, 2006
textile, 4 pieces, 6 x 16 x 4 cm each



Untitled, 2006
textile, 30 x 40 cm



*Spider
cobweb with
bra*, 2006,
var. mat., 123 x 116 cm



Hellowien, 2006
various materials, 120 x 80 x 220 cm



Untitled, 2006
textile, 170 x 176 cm



Little Bob and Little Mary, 2006
overpainted, framed photographs
22 x 30 cm (x 2)



Tim, Sam, Tom, 2006
overpainted, framed photographs
26 x 32 cm



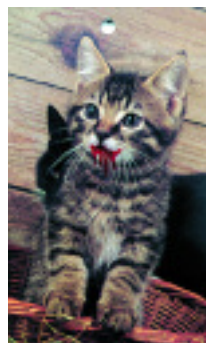
Untitled, 2006
print on paper
11 x 10 cm



Untitled, 2006
print on paper
22,5 x 14,5



Gourmet, 2006
overpainted can
8 x 9 cm



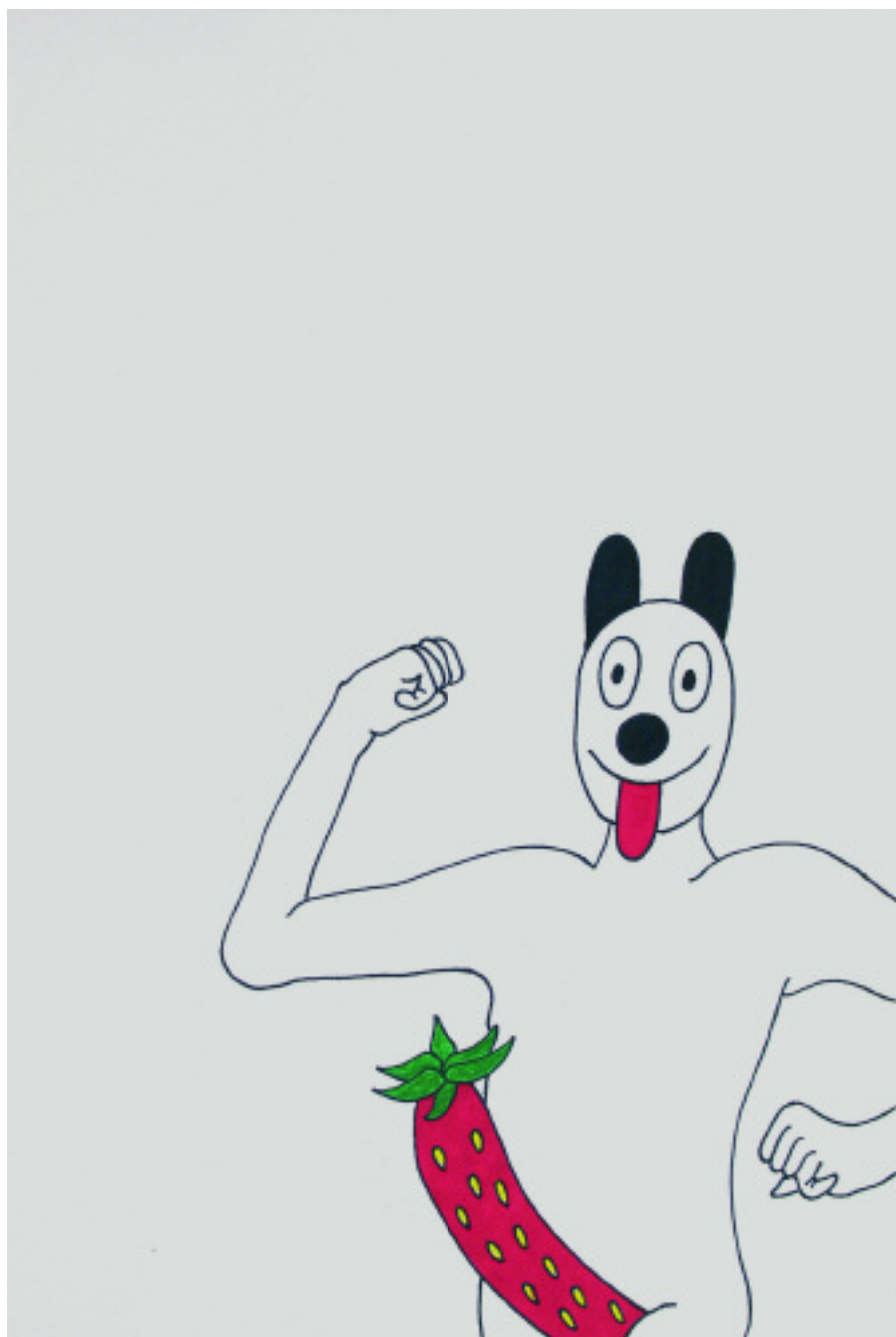
Kitty, 2006
overpainted plastic
23 x 14 cm

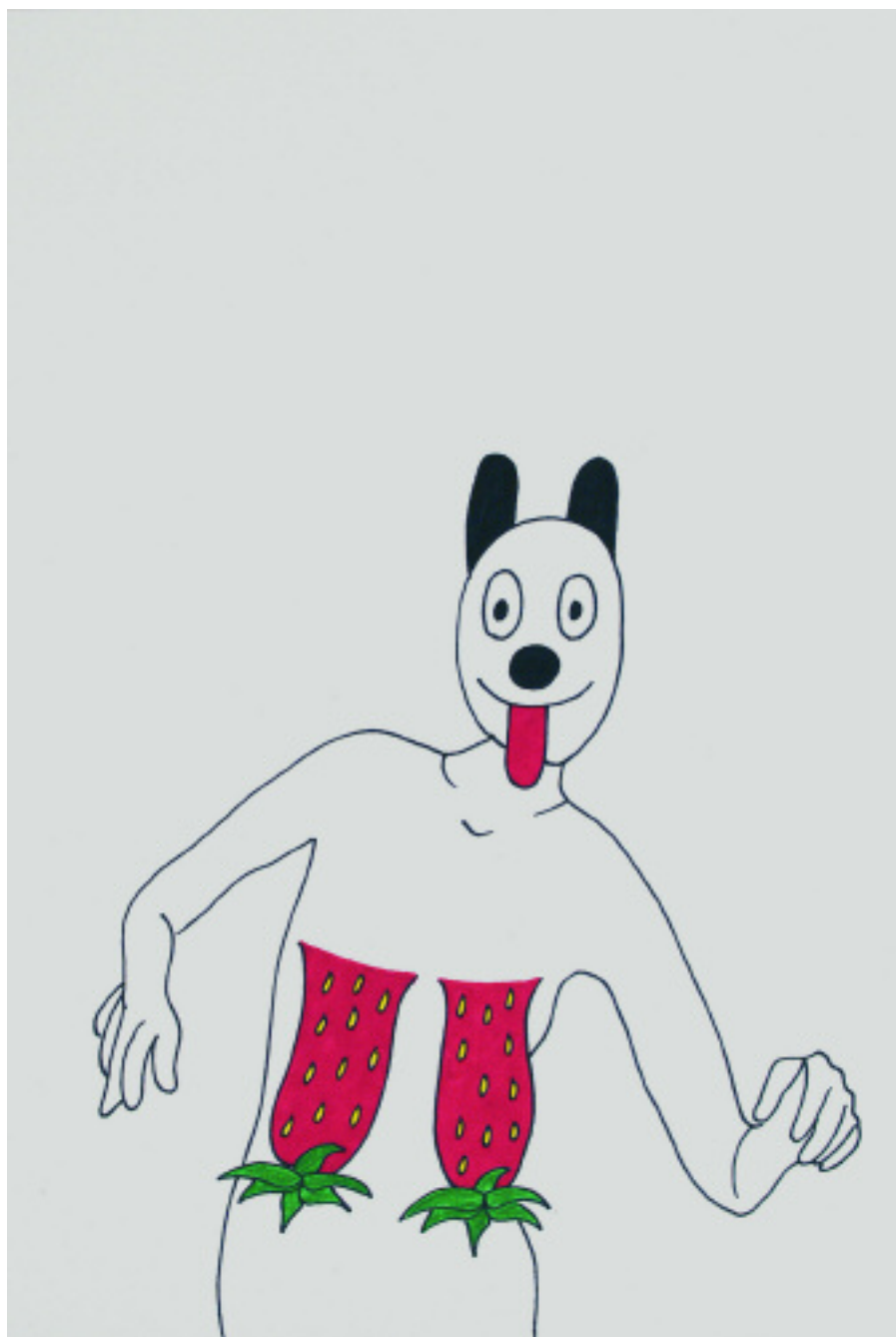


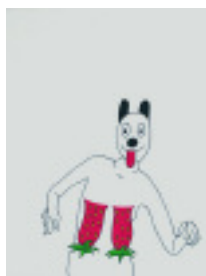
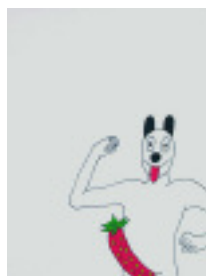
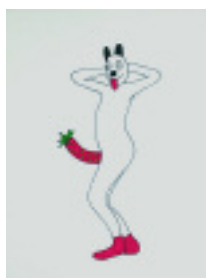
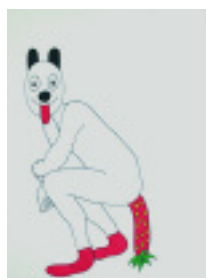
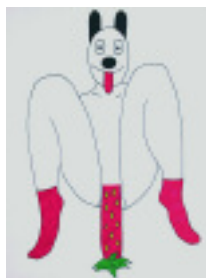
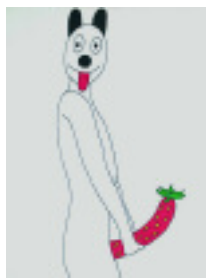
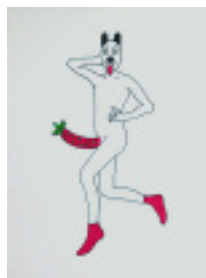
Untitled, 2006
overpainted print, 28,5 x 41,5 cm



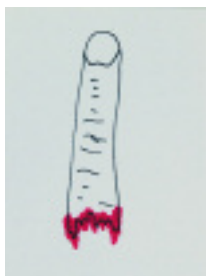
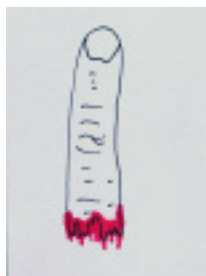
Coloring Book, 2006
Collage, 34,5 x 50 cm



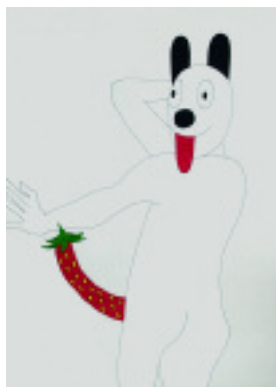




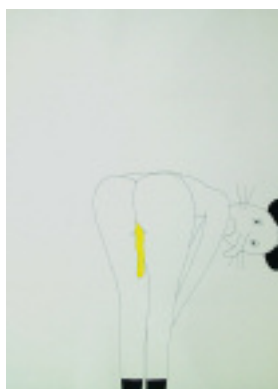
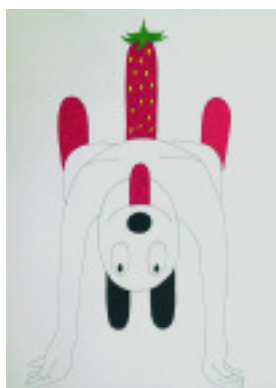
Ramiro, 2006
colored crayon on paper
23 x 30 cm each



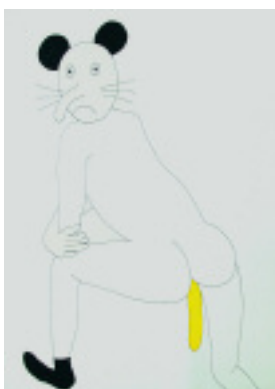
Fingers, 2006
crayon on paper
series of 96 pieces
10,5 x 7,5 cm each



Ramiro, 2006
colored crayon on paper
70 x 100 cm each



Severin, 2006
colored crayon on paper
70 x 100 cm



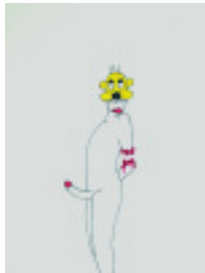
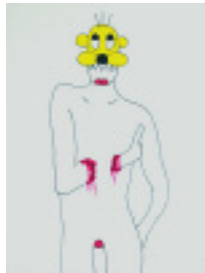
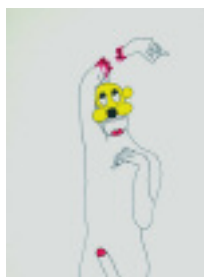
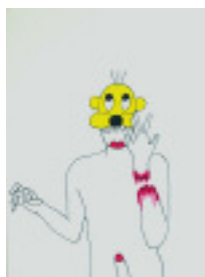
Severin, 2006
colored crayon on paper
70 x 100 cm



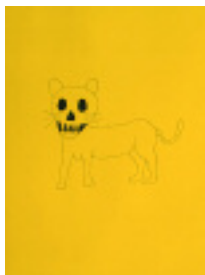
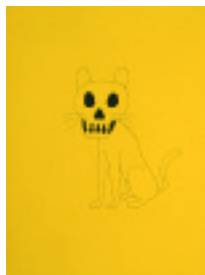
Steven, 2006
colored crayon on paper
70 x 100 cm



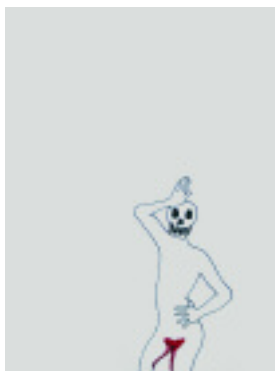
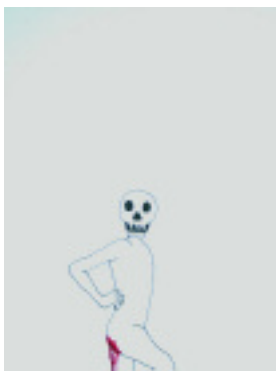
Untitled, 2006
crayon on paper
50 x 70 cm each



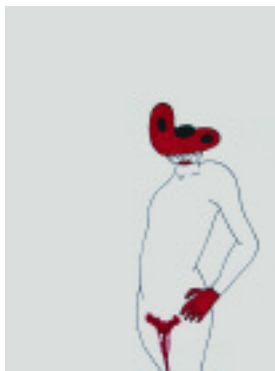
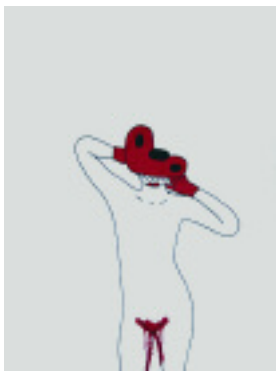
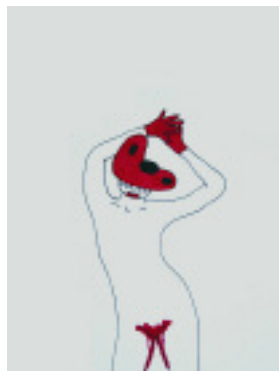
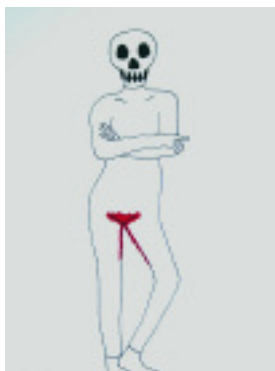
Steven, 2006
colored crayon on paper
23 x 30 cm each



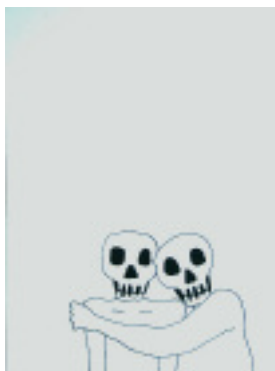
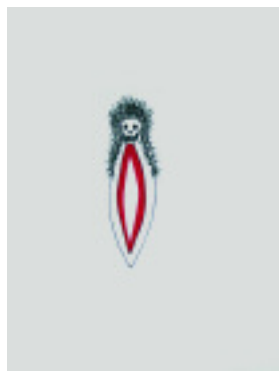
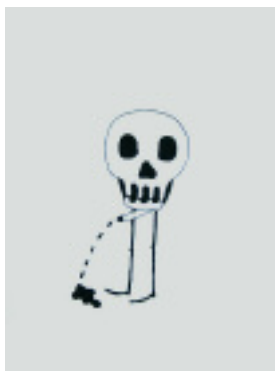
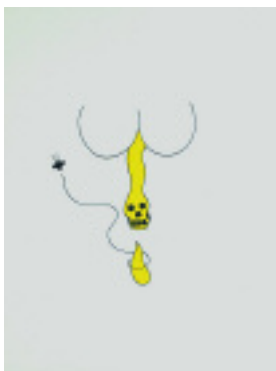
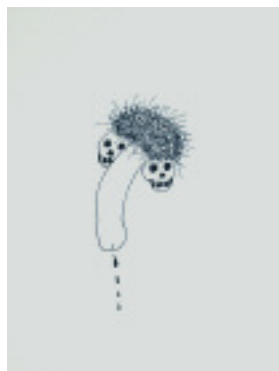
Cat, 2006
crayon on paper
50 x 70 cm each



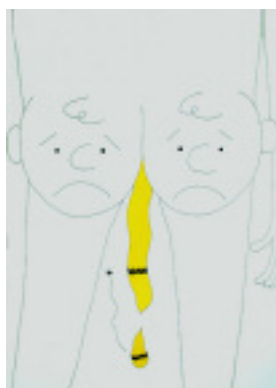
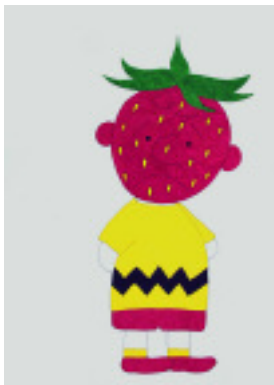
Untitled, 2006
colored crayon on paper
23 x 30 cm each



Stacek, 2006
colored crayon on paper
23 x 30 cm each

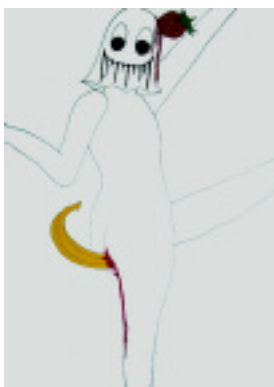


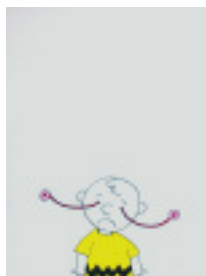
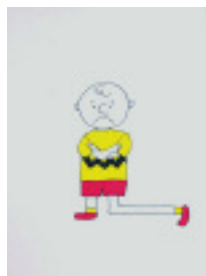
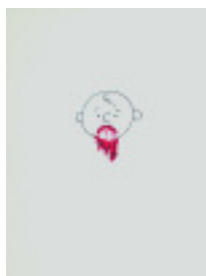
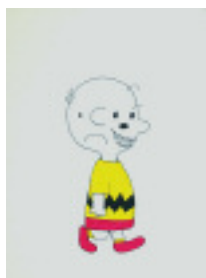
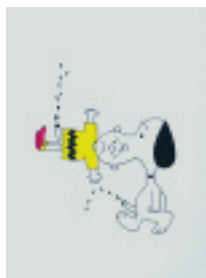
Untitled, 2006
colored crayon on paper
23 x 30 cm each



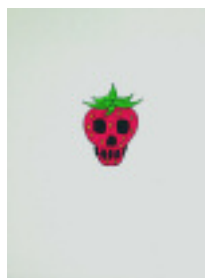
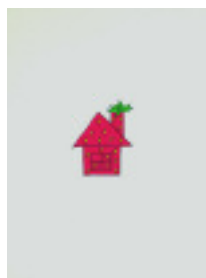
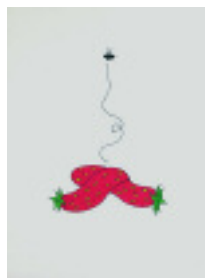
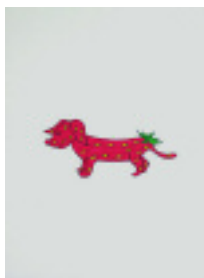
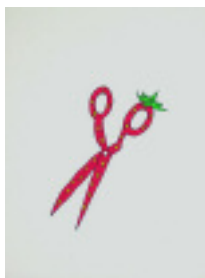
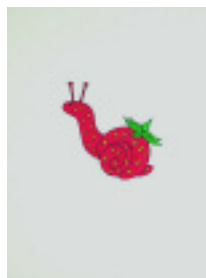
Top: *Charlie*, 2006
colored crayon on paper
70 x 100 cm each

Bottom: all 2006, colored crayon on paper, 70 x 100
cm each: *Sun*, *Milk Man*, *Apple Penis*





Charlie, 2006
colored crayon on paper
23 x 30 cm each



Strawberry, 2006
colored crayon on paper
23 x 30,5 cm each

KEN KAGAMI

Born 1974 in Tokyo, Japan.
Lives and works in Tokyo.

SOLO SHOWS

2006

Hellowien, Krinzinger Projekte, Vienna
2005

Penis, Gallery sora, Tokyo

Art Coffee (together with Tadashi
Kitami), Factory, Tokyo

2004

Tetsuko's Room 2 (together with
Tadashi Kitami), Cannabis Gallery, Tokyo
2003

Kitami Ken (together with Tadashi
Kitami), Cannabis Gallery, Tokyo

Milk Man, Taka Ishii Gallery
(Showroom), Tokyo

2002

Sexy Brown, Cannabis Gallery, Tokyo
2001

Milk Man, Paul Smith Shibuya, Tokyo

GROUP SHOWS (SELECTION)

2005

Hide and Seek, Hong Kong Arts Center
Baby Shower, Galleri Nicolai Wallner,
Copenhagen, Denmark

2004

Framed, BBS, Tokyo

10 Year Anniversary Exhibition, Taka
Ishii Gallery, Tokyo

2003

Opening Exhibition, equal, Osaka

IMPRINT

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cover:

Ken Kagami, *Scary House*, 2006

var. materials, 80 x 170 x 140 cm (det.)

back:

Ken Kagami, *Dog with two girls and*

five shits, 2006, various materials,

178 x 70 x 66 cm (detail)

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