

# A very funny bunny

## ART REVIEW

### Bunny's Darkness And Other Stories: Recent Works By Atsushi Kaga

★★★★★

Going to an art gallery is seldom high on the list of Things To Do For Laugh-Out-Loud Fun. Isn't art something to earnestly navel-gaze over while stroking one's chin before uttering something suitably knowing and pompous? Prepare to have any such preconceptions challenged by Tokyo-born, Dublin-based artist Atsushi Kaga.

His new works present alter-ego Bunny and his friends: 111 cartoon-style drawings ram-packed with visual puns, Manga references, recurring characters, linked scenarios and speech bubbles daubed with Tipp-Ex. Some are playful, some poignant, others downright smutty as *The Knickers Are White Too* (pictured) testifies, with Bunny peeking up Snow White's frock. Elsewhere, Bunny looks through a pair of binoculars towards a house, where a woman is undoing her bra, oblivious to the lecherous, fluffy rodent.

But it's not all Benny Hill humour: frequently Kaga's animal friends suggest very human frailties. In one work, two blue lions sit in separate cages, one feeling 'a bit depressed' and the other 'very



depressed' according to signposts. 'Hi, how are you?' asks one. 'I'm OK,' replies the other. It's all so very simple, utterly effective and possibly ingenious. Elsewhere, there are crying pandas, humans hanging from nooses and, of course, poor Bunny, 'full of emotion and excitement'. In one picture he's stood at a door with a

bouquet of flowers behind his back, unaware that on the other side his girlfriend cavorts with another lover – a horse wearing a dressing gown.

Kaga's skill and wit underscore the art of drawing as art in itself, rather than a study tool – the only criticism here being that occasionally minuscule text can be difficult

to read. Otherwise, Bunny's *Darkness...* is like tripping down a portal into the artist's weird and wonderful mind.

Lucy White

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