

ROSA ABBOTT



## **Atsushi Kaga**

### *Happily Skipping Backwards*

A long-eared white rabbit might be an unlikely symbol for post-tsunami Japan, but in the hands of Atsushi Kaga, it's uncannily apt. Kaga's deceptively simplistic, "faux-naive" paintings could be mistaken, from a distance, for being somewhat twee; closer inspection reveals a more sombre underbelly. But for all its inability to shake off a pervasive and choking melancholia, Kaga's work is also woven with rich glimmers of humour and humanity, making his surprisingly perceptive work both endearing and intriguing. It's well worth investing a little extra time in.

Mother's Tankstation, Nov-29 -Feb1