



## EXHIBITION

Atsushi Kaga is a Japanese artist living and working in Dublin. As a young man, he wanted to be a comedian, and his playful sense of humour is obvious throughout his work, which includes drawing, painting, sculpture and animation.

Kaga's whimsical approach is illustrated by his use of animal characters, all of whom are designed to show off a different aspect of

the artist's persona. These include Bunny (ostensibly the main man who depicts his silly side), his father Bear (his dark side), and his constantly crying Panda (his melancholic side).

After a recent trip home to Japan, doughnuts of every flavour have made an appearance in Kaga's work.

The bizarrely titled "I want to give love to socially neglected parts of you, that's my mission" (above), features a multitude of flavoured doughnuts, with "Welcome to Doughnut Heaven" emblazoned in Japanese

across the top. The characters Bunny and Robert appear in flowing capes like superheroes, apparently intent on gaining strength and fortitude from their sweet treats and leading us to sugar heaven. Kaga may not elicit the belly laughs of a stand-up comedian, but his zany art certainly makes the world seem just that little bit less grim.

*Atsushi Kaga's exhibition opens at the Butler Gallery, the Castle, Kilkenny on August 9, and continues until October 5. For more information, visit [www.butlery.com](http://www.butlery.com)*