



ATSUSHI KAGA CONTINUES TO SOFTEN THE WORLD'S EDGES WITH HIS IRRESISTIBLE BUNNIES AND BEARS.

Tokyo-born artist Atsushi Kaga graduated from NCAD in 2005 and since then has populated our world with his magical, imaginative version of wonderland to ever increasing critical acclaim. He uses a whole cast of recurring characters such as Usacchi, Kumacchi, Sachiko, Robert and Alex to explore some of the daily philosophical conundrums as well as the isolation we can face in the modern world. Most of these recognisable cyphers are from a world of cartoon characters and animations, such as the teddy bear with a crutch and missing leg, the ever-present white rabbit, and the panda heads that urge us to cry with them.

Kaga's highly successful exhibition at Kilkenny's Butler Gallery, entitled *I Want to Give Love to Socially Neglected Parts of You, That is My Mission* – marked the start of what has been a meteoric rise to prominence in the art world. Following a Fountainhead Residency in Miami and a residency and exhibition in Galeria LEME in Sao Paolo in 2009, Kaga's work was much sought-after at the NADA Art Fair in Miami, which was a sell-out. Currently on residency at IMMA, Kaga is working for a solo exhibition of his work at Mother's Tankstation, Dublin and another solo show in Kantor Art, Los Angeles later in the year.

Inspired by the bags and teddy bears his mother made, Kaga has begun to introduce fabric and create increasingly sculptural forms in addition to his animations and canvases. The physical space he enjoys through his residency at IMMA has also changed the scale of his work producing large, ambitious compositions of heaven, hell and purgatory peopled by his familiar cast of lovable creatures. If you're in need of some cheer, we highly recommend a visit to Mother's Tankstation to be moved by the charm and technicolour joy of his furry creatures.

Atsushi Kaga's exhibition, *Rest With Us in Peace*, runs from May 19 to June 26, at Mother's Tankstation, 41-43 Watling Street, Dublin 8, 01 671 7654; [www.motherstankstation.com](http://www.motherstankstation.com).