



# The Drawers - Headbones Gallery

*Contemporary Drawing, Sculpture and Works on Paper*

## **Robert Farmer**

Weird Queer Freaky Xmas

December 3 - January 8, 2008



Commentary by Julie Oakes

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Director: Richard Fogarty  
[www.headbonesgallery.com](http://www.headbonesgallery.com)

## Robert Farmer

*Julie Oakes*

Robert Farmer is a modern day surrealist with a pop bent. The background has bled through and the bedroom has been overrun with copulating bunnies. The wet dreams of the innocent have become part of the wallpaper - almost unnoticeable. The overall design made by the shadowed pink and blue clad carousers forms an abstract lacy web over the surface of the aged paper and lulls the awareness of the permutations into a comforted sense of quiet decency.

Farmer has used paper bases before with geography appearing like veins beneath the semi transparent skin of the well rendered characters that make up his particular narrative. These works on paper step up the energy of the action depicted. Now that the human resemblance is less dominant, overtaken by bunny bodies, the only human tendencies exhibited are in their imaginative positions for the animal world doesn't employ the props and playthings as these bunnies do. The bunnies at one time were merely witnesses to the madcap world of Robert Farmer. Their references more naïve, they had sat at tea parties in the company of baby faced guests, marveled at the hot dog served for the last supper or been present, and perhaps in collusion, when the teddy bear humped the pussy cat. More than one bunny has lost its head over the strange state of affairs, but never before have they appeared with such fornicating force - crowds of bunnies getting it on with an overall frantic feeling of "What are those bunnies up to?!"

There is a formlessness to their bodies that belies the sexuality being enacted. Like androgynous figurines, they appear to be made of a malleable substance similar to bubble gum. Their shapeless clothes recall gum wrappers and the overall color scheme of pink (for a girl) and blue (for a boy) reiterate the hermaphroditic allusion. Robert throws in accents of other characters such as a snowman in a cowboy hat, a gay reference to the archetype of a queer cowboy hooker. Since he has carrots serving as dildos, the erect nose of the blue snowman, launched into an upturned bunny body, furthers the reckless atmosphere of wild orgiastic abandon. Cavorting with the glee of propagating and adding twists of bondage to the naughtiness, Robert Farmer's bouncing characters play out their sexual fantasies against a backdrop of delicate wallpaper and within their lacy layout they appear as harmless, delightful and seductive as safe sex.



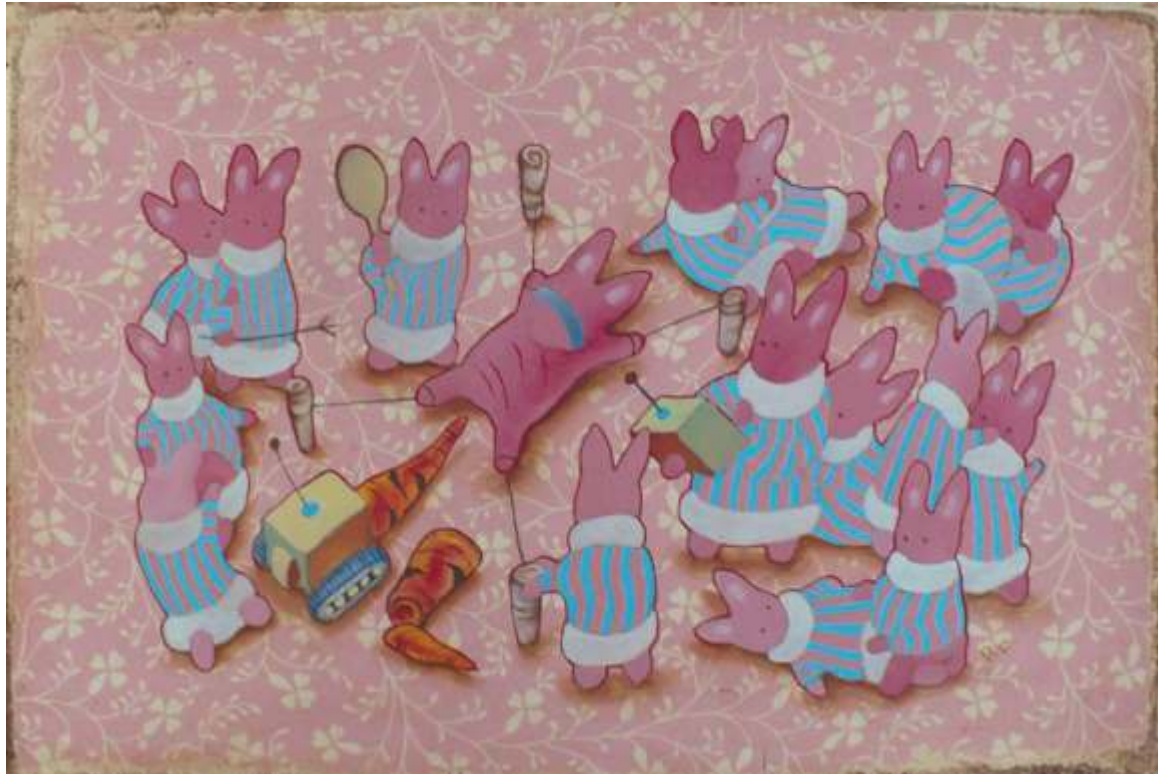
Cookie Monster - 2006  
oil on paper, 22 x 30 inches



Shapes To Come (D) - 2007  
oil on wallpaper on paper, 8 x 12 inches



Shapes To Come (B) - 2007  
oil on wallpaper on paper, 8 x 12 inches



Shapes To Come (A) - 2007  
oil on wallpaper on paper, 8 x 12 inches





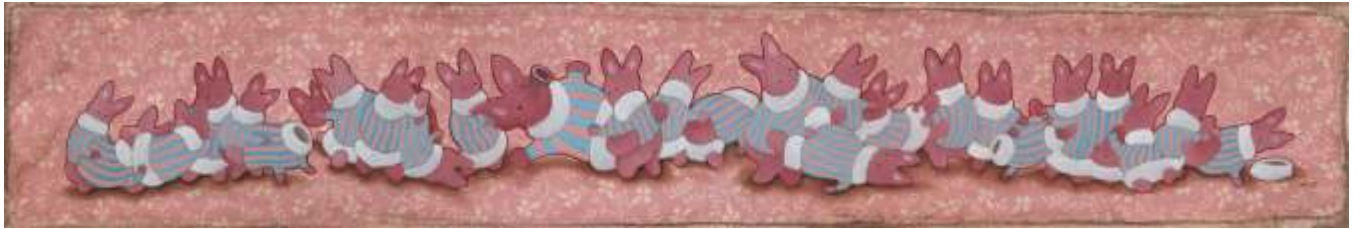
Shapes To Come (C) - 2007  
oil on wallpaper on paper, 8 x 12 inches



The Shape of Things To Come - 2006  
oil on paper on wood, oval 18 x 30 inches



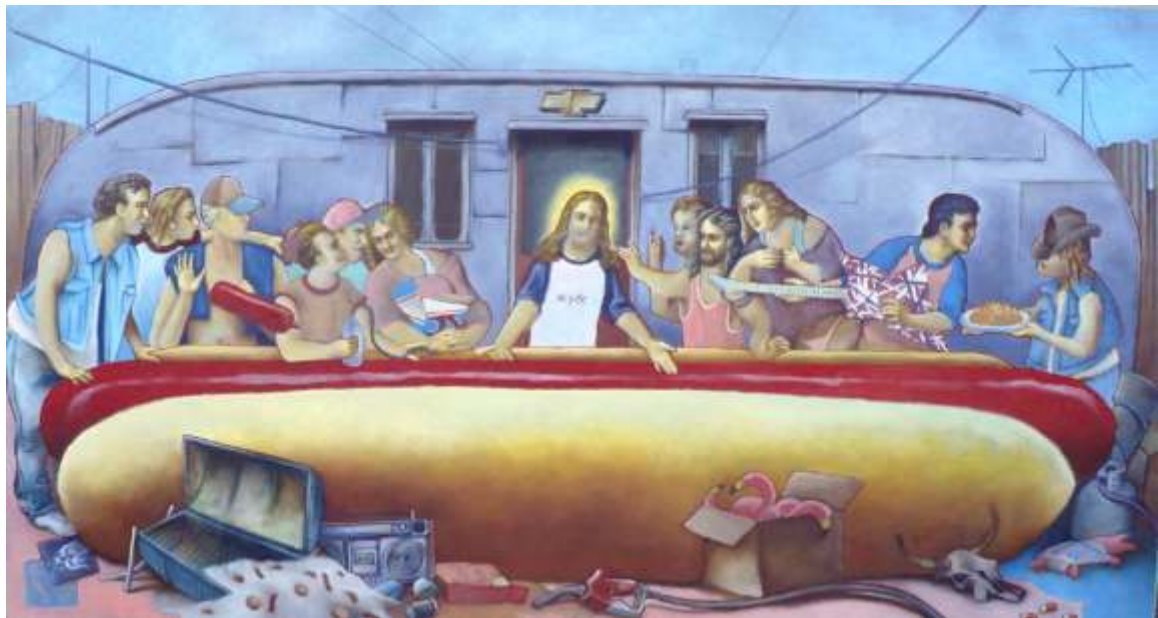
Shapes To Come (E) - 2007  
*oil on wallpaper on paper, 5 x 30 inches*



Shapes To Come (F) - 2007  
*oil on wallpaper on paper, 5 x 30 inches*



Shapes To Come - 2007  
oil on wallpaper on paper, 30 x 23 inches



Last Supper (III) - 2007  
oil on paper on board, 16 x 30 inches

## **Robert Farmer**

Born Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, 1968

### Education

1999 Kootenay School of the Arts, Nelson, BC.

### Solo Exhibitions

- 2007 The discovery of pink IV: mini salon, Eastern Front Gallery
- 2006 Child's Play, (with Sharon Filip, Julie Moon) Upcountry, Toronto
- 2006 Retrospective, Eastern Front Gallery, Toronto
- 2006 Discovery of pink II, mini salon, Eastern Front Gallery, Toronto.
- 2005 Exhibition of new work, Tango Palace, Toronto
- 2005 Toronto Outdoor Art Exhibition
- 2005 Robertfarmerworld, Eastern Front Gallery, Toronto
- 2005 The discovery of pink, Hangman Gallery, Toronto

### Group Exhibitions

- 2007 Riverdale Art Walk, Eastern Front Gallery
- 2006 Little Art Show, BMW Building, Toronto
- 2006 Riverdale Art Walk, Eastern Front Gallery, Toronto
- 2005 Square foot IV, Project Spaceman, Williamsburg, NY
- 2005 Little Art Show, BMW Building, Sunlight Pk Rd, Toronto
- 2005 Blender 3, Mind Control Gallery, Gladstone Ave, Toronto
- 2005 Riverdale Art Walk, Eastern Front Gallery
- 2005 Group exhibit, Barber Home and Gallery, Avenue Rd, Toronto
- 2004 'mas-x', AWOL Gallery, Ossington Ave, Toronto
- 2004 Little Art Show, BMW Building, Sunlight Pk Rd, Toronto
- 2004 Cabinets of Curiosity, Eastern Front Gallery
- 2004 Square Foot, AWOL Gallery, Ossington Ave, Toronto
- 2004 The Red Show, Eastern Front Gallery

Reviews and published images:

Now Magazine, Jan 6-13<sup>th</sup>, 2005, page 64, Catherine Farquharson  
The Toronto Star, Jan 6<sup>th</sup>, 2005, 'What's On' section  
Riverside Quarterly Magazine, Autumn 2004, page 3  
Now Magazine, Nov 16-22, 2006, Little Art Show preview, page 96

Selected Collections:

Peter Tabuns, Democratic MPP, Toronto- Danforth  
Ethan Canter, Writer, Brighton, UK  
Anesti Tsiourantanis, Toronto  
Diana Braun-Woodbury, Toronto  
Aleen Riley, Toronto  
Lynn Swiderski, Toronto



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