

CHRISTIAN LÖFWALL

Christian Löfwall is a fanzine and comic maker from Södertälje, Sweden. We met him the first time at the International Comic Festival in Kulturhuset, Stockholm in 2018 where his works stood out for their old school attitude, tragicomic edge and explicit content with no intent of being pleasant nor politically correct, in fact quite the opposite. He was presenting two fanzines: *Rape Cats*, a metropolitan suburb cat rape story (now reprinted by COdA), and *Awww! Cute Comics For The Whole Family*, a collection of strips, images and short comic stories about rape, violence, torture, abuse and depravity in every form.

Christian draws with a rough, schizoid line. His zines are in inkjet black and white (which COdA of course loves) and his characters are all anthropomorphised furies, one of the things that makes these zines special. We sat down with Löfwall and his furry alter-ego – his fursona -- to discuss his passions and morbid dreams...

Your cartoon-like drawing style is filled with sarcasm and irony, yet the content is of the most extreme.. could you contextualize a stylistic road that brought you to this fusion of style and content?

When I was a kid there was a comic for adults called PYTON which main focus was joking about extreme taboos.

I knew that it was something I wasn't allowed to read and that made it way more exciting. I guess I want people to react the same way when they are reading my stuff.

I was a big fan of funny animal cartoons like ANIMANIACS & TINY TOONS and in the same time I loved to read horror comics like TALES FROM THE CRYPT and THE VAULT OF HORROR. Graham Ingels ghoulish art-style was a huge influence for me. So I guess that these two things fused together and became the stuff I do today. I love the contrast of having cute cartoon characters doing really horrible stuff.

A lot of inspiration came from real life. You read on the news about people who are these moralists that turn out to be horrible people. For instance, we had this police chief in Sweden named Göran Lindberg who was a women rights and gender equality fighter. In 2010 though it turned out that he had brutally raped women and little girls. I did these fanzines back in 2011, way before the 'ME TOO' thing began and now we are seeing people like Göran everywhere.

In 2011, you had a stand at the Stockholm Comic Festival, at some point you were asked to put warning signs at your table when visitors complained to the staff about the violent images contained in your comics. What was your reaction to these complaints?

I got pretty surprised that the staff gave me a warning because some years earlier they had Mike Diana (the creator of the VERY violent comic BOILED ANGEL) as a guest of honor at the same comic festival. Maybe the difference between him and me is that he was famous and I was not. I was not too worried that people where bothered over my comics, I kinda expected it. It's kinda the same thing with movies like Human Centipede and Serbian Film: if nobody got upset then what would the point be? How boring would it be if everybody liked your stuff? Its normal human behavior to be provoked over rape and mutilation and it's a good thing. I would have been more worried if someone came up to me and said that they found my stuff arousing and jerked off to it.



A scene from RAPE CATS, an urban rape and revenge catsplotation comic, first published in 2011 by Christian Löfwall and now reissued by COdA.





How would you explain how represented violence fits into art?

We live such comfortable lives these days (especially here in the western world) that we have turned soft and can't handle anything stressful and negative and have fits over everything. We are not used to REAL problems so we make them up. Come to think about it, the whole SJW/Snowflake generation we see today isn't really that new. I used to know people like that in high school in the early 2000's before those words were even a thing. They were offended by the slightest little thing and everything was sexist, racist, homophobic etc. So, they have always existed but today with Twitter, Facebook and YouTube they are way louder than before and are able to recruit young comfortable people, an army of woke soy boys that want to destroy all that is fun in the world. You can see all kinds of messed up stuff on the internet today with ISIS executions and school shootings. You know that massacre in Christchurch, New Zealand? That was on YOUTUBE for everyone to see. That's insane! I personally don't think my little doodles will create that much reactions. I see violence in art, music, movies etc as a healthy way to satisfy your inner monster without hurting anyone. Because regardless of how brutal and fucked up it is, at the end of the day it's just art and everybody is fine.



In *Rape Cats* you point out some movies that influenced your work: Russ Meyer, Driller Killer (also great Swedish punk band), cannibal movies and of course, Thriller.



Would you like to leave us with some other artistic suggestions that inspired you?

Oh man there is a LOT of them... **Frank Zappa** is one of my favorite musicians. Then **Anal Cunt**, **GG Allin**, **Onkel Känkel**, **Tunnan & Moroten**, **Mr Bungle**, **Rompeprop**, **Lord Gore**, **Gutalax**, **Mortician**, **Gwar** and so on.



When it comes to comics there is :

Misery Loves Comedy

by Ivan Brunetti

Psychopathia Sexualis

by Miguel Angel Martin

Boiled Angel

by Mike Diana

Panorama Of Hell

by Hideshi Hino

Tales From The Crypt, especially

the ones by Graham Ingles

Pure Trance by Junko Mizuno

Mr Arashi's Amazing Freak Show

by Suehiro Maruo

My Friend Dahmer

by Derf Backderf

Rehabilitating Mr. Wiggles

by Niel Swaab

Is This Some Kind Of Joke?

by Hugleikur Dagsson

Finally, two Swedish Novels:

Fjärilen från Tibet

The Butterfly from Tibet

by C. J. Håkansson

Great splatter novel that unfortunately hasn't been translated to English.

Äldreomsorgen i övre Kågedalen

by Nikanor Teratorlogen

Misanthropic Incest story about a little boy and his grandfather.

This one has been translated into English as "Assisted Living".

Well, seems as we've got more than enough to (re)discover there. You can find more of Christian's productions in our distro including the *Tatuerade Ordningstvåkukar* poster and the *Snuff Bunnies* and *Rape Cats* fanzines. As said Christian's comics are not for sensible harts and will offend and desecrate all that is holy, so beware... you have been warned!

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