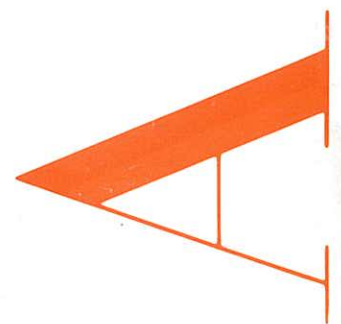
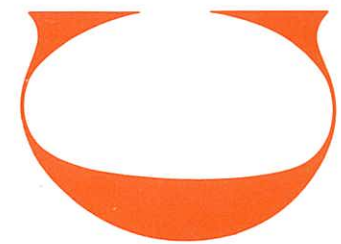
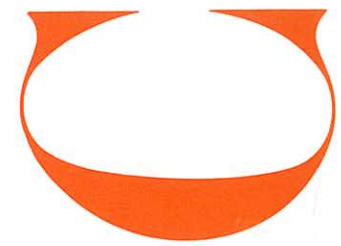
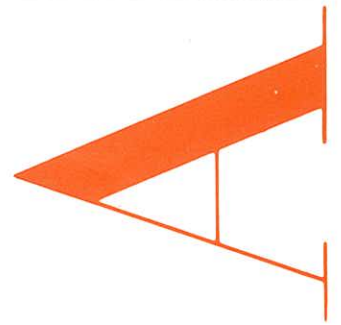


# Rodney Alan Greenblat

November 21st, 1985 – January 25th, 1986



*The Discovery*, 1985 (detail)  
Gouache and pencil on paper, 25.0 x 25.0 cm



## SUBURBAN UTOPIAS/FAMILIAR FRONTIERS

Rodney Alan Greenblat, a young artist from the East Village in New York, has been visiting artist for 1985 at the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art. This is his first Australian exhibition and all of the works in it have been created in Melbourne.

His work is typical of the East Village, only in that it is cheekily at odds with the current established Soho concerns and styles, and is created with a localised New York audience of budget-conscious domestic collectors in mind.

Its roots are in his suburban, middle-American upbringing with its memories of toy train-sets, California colours, hot dogs, hamburgers and visits to Disneyland. He recalls a childhood in which he was surrounded by "things" – objects he made, broke, fixed or transformed.

In art school he was part of a generation which felt it had to rebel against the prevailing minimalist/conceptual aesthetic: one which looks back to the by then established Pop art style for its inspiration of which the great master was, of course, Warhol.

Rodney Alan Greenblat's brightly painted sculptures mischievously occupy an ambiguous area between sculpture and furniture, fine art and function. His pictures and drawings hover between cartoon-like children's book illustration and neo-Pop painting. The imagery is of suburban, apple pie America, humorously transformed into a Rodneyland utopian world of wide-eyed red-roofed houses with straight pink paths on neat green lawns. His storybook characters – blond haired, blue eyed boys and girls – frame and witness inexplicable events, such as 'The Day the Bank Exploded' (Cat.6), or are involved in some fragment of a Spielberg-like narrative as in 'The Discovery' (Cat.1). They are incidents and events with beginnings and ends, but without middles or vice versa.

The intent of the work is toward a deliberate ambiguity, the humour is lightly surrealist, the titles are both wacky and wonderful and the real subject is fun.

The ACCA is pleased to have hosted the visit of Rodney Alan Greenblat and to have been the venue for his first Australian exhibition.

John Buckley  
Melbourne, 1985

## RODNEY ALAN GREENBLAT

Born in Daly City, California, 1960.

Studied: Walt Whitman High School, Bethesda, Maryland, 1975-1978.

BFA, Honours, School of Visual Arts, New York, 1978-1982.

## One Man Shows:

1982 "The Threshold, Rodney Alan Greenblat", Museum of Modern Art, Rhode Island School of Design, RI

1983 "Rodney Alan Greenblat", Gracie Mansion Gallery, New York, NY

1984 Anna Friebe Galerie, Cologne, Germany

1985 Gracie Mansion Gallery, New York, NY

## CATALOGUE

1. *The Discovery*, 1985

Gouache and pencil on paper, 25 x 25

Gouache and pencil on paper, 25 x 25

Gouache and pencil on paper, 25 x 25

Mixed media, 17.8 x 19.0 x 25.4

2. *The Land Where Everything is Available*, 1985

Pencil on paper, 9.0 x 21.3

3. *Follow Me*, 1985

Pencil on paper, 12.5 x 21.3

4. *Parking Incident*, 1985

Pencil on paper, 12.5 x 21.3

5. *Architectural Setting*, 1985

Pencil on paper, 17.8 x 25.0

6. *The Day the Bank Exploded*, 1985

Gouache and pencil on paper, 25.0 x 30.5

7. *The Trip*, 1985

Gouache and pencil on paper, 29.2 x 17.8

8. *Rodneytronic Computer Images*, 1985

Mackintosh Computer Generated, on paper, 14.5 x 9.0

Mackintosh Computer Generated, on paper, 14.5 x 9.0

Mackintosh Computer Generated, on paper, 14.5 x 9.0

9. *Brainturbine Vehicles*, 1985

Pencil on paper, 32.5 x 40.6

10. *Landlab*, 1985

Pencil on paper, 32.5 x 40.6

11. *Furniture Designs*, 1985

Pencil on paper, 32.5 x 40.6

12. *Early Flight*, 1985

Pencil on paper, 47.5 x 40.7

13. *Decorative Heads of Wonderment*, 1985

Acrylic on wood, 89.0 x 53.2

Acrylic on wood, 89.0 x 53.2

14. *The Big Finish*, 1985

Pastel on paper, 55.9 x 76.2

15. *Backyard Song*, 1985

Pastel on paper, 55.9 x 76.2

16. *The Enchanted Harp*, 1985

Pastel on paper, 55.9 x 76.2

17. *Frontier Wagon*, 1985

Pastel on paper, 55.9 x 76.2

18. *Whirlyboy and the Birds*, 1985

Acrylic on canvas, 122.0 x 183.0

19. *Walking Wardrobe*, 1985

Mixed media, 145.0 x 91.5 x 48.2

20. *Vanity of the Three Graces*, 1985

Mixed media, 157.5 x 139.8 x 47.0

21. *Musical Cabinet*, 1985

Mixed media, 83.9 x 86.3 x 43.2

22. *Flying Vanity*, 1985

Mixed media, 52.5 x 193.0 x 111.8

23. *Home Chair (1)*, 1985

Mixed media, 85.0 x 44.5 x 42.0

24. *Home Chair (2)*, 1985

Mixed media, 85.0 x 44.5 x 42.0

## CATALOGUE NOTES

All measurements are in cm height x width x depth and are image size. All works are courtesy of the artist.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Australian Centre for Contemporary Art would like to thank the artist for his co-operation, and his wife Deena, Guisepppe Romeo and Terry Matassoni for their invaluable assistance. Special thanks also to Bill Conn for his generosity in providing additional funds for the exhibition.

Catalogue assembly by Terence Hogan, photography by Val Foreman, typesetting by The Type Centre Pty. Ltd., printing by Pink Panther.