



*Friends
With You*

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Thank you:

There is absolutely too many of you that we love and have helped us greatly on this journey, if for some reason you are not in this list, you are still in our hearts .
Thank you all for helping us spread our magic, love, and joy all over the world.

A special thanks goes to both of our families for molding us into who we are.

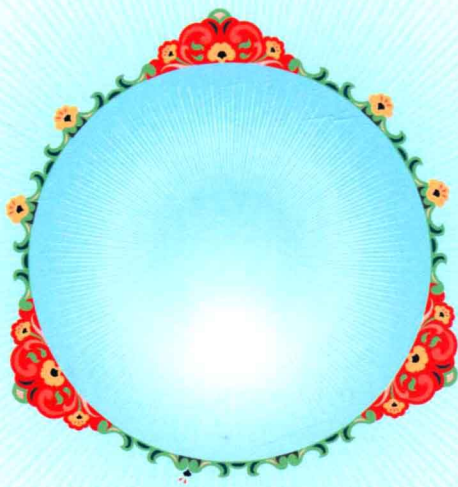
All of our Grandparents: Sosa, Cirita, Arturo, Herman and Rozzy Barnett, and a special thanks to Grammy, and Nana, Papa the Barnetts, Kapis and the Harrisons. Our parents Elliot, Raysy, Jane, and Mindy, Arturo Sr. & Marianela... Our brothers and sisters: Emy & Ryan Stark and her new baby, Min, Marla Michelle, Lacy Rose, Leonel, Paloma, and Palomita. • and Sweet little Jackie Valle

A warm thanks to my wife Melody, and my daughter Lola Sol Sandoval. • Thank you DGV, Robert, Henni, Jannie, Lina, Vinzenz and the rest of the crew. • STRANGECO and its crew: Jimmy, Emy, Tiger, and Greg • I love Dust and its crew: Mark, Dan and Alex • Our own faithfully crew of brothers who are always there to help us: Yamile and Golden eyes, Azulito, Andres, Sebastian, Leo, Maria, Louisa, PJ Mark, and our own Mr. Christopher Lee Boon. • Our friends Alvaro (*our buddy and Miami pics), Mike D, Press (*sweet miami baby and squid pics with Harlan), Manny, Jessie Ray & Cindy, Cookieheadz Alex Caso, David "Suede" Gonzalez, Hanna Fushihara!, Jesus, and the Jews, Jorgy Bear, Kim and Jessica. Martha, Manny, Otto Van Shirach, Yago, Schafer, Bruuuutha, Adam and Ryan, David Haxton, Rich our spiritual brother, Dan Nadel, Paperrrrraaaaaadddd, Mickey Mouse, Grimace, Anpan Man, and Domo Kun, Astro Boy and Buddha, Black & White, Brad Birdie Britton, The Harrisons, Mumbleboy, David Choe and his posse, Harry, Joe Toe, Gary Baseman, Mark Ryden, Tim Biskup, Boris Hoppek, Julian Pablo Manzelli, Doma, Orilo, Walter, Diego, Navas, Lum, Pepe, Locomotion and all it people! Maddie, Frookie, Miyazaki, Jodorowsky, Tezuka, Peter Thaler, Lars and the Pictoplasma crew. Dicken Schrader and BEBE Chaguire, Kidrobot and its crew, Paul, Chad, Nicole • MOCA, Bonnie Clearwater, Giant Robot. Brenty, and Eric, Nina Arias, Jose Diaz, Mariano Dabini, Drew Stoddard, Silvia (Yogi Master) MALfi and all the spirits that guide us. Merry Karnowsky and Akiko. Swindle: Roger and Sonja and Caleb, J Jamie O'Shea, Rolan Vega, The Handsome Panther aka Jon Garin, and Naomi, Nick D Lobo, SCHEMATIC Josh, Melanie, and Rom, JUICY PANIC, Tropical Restaurant, to all of our fans, magazines and everyone who has helped us along the way...

The light and the love SAM & TURRY!

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FRIENDSWITHYOU HAVE POWERS! by Sam Borkson & Arturo Sandoval

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Printed by Graphicom, Italy

Published by Die Gestalten Verlag, Berlin 2006

ISBN 10: 3-89955-163-X – ISBN 13: 978-3-89955-163-1

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Bibliographic information published by Die Deutsche Bibliothek. The Deutsche Bibliothek lists this publication in the Deutsche Nationalbibliografie; detailed bibliographic data is available on the Internet at <http://dnb.ddb.de>.

For more information please check: www.die-gestalten.de

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Friends
With You

Time to enter a land of fairy tales where the boundaries between fact and fiction blur – and nobody could care less.

Samuel Borkson and Arturo (Tury) Sandoval aka FriendsWithYou are two men with a mission and vision: to make art universally accessible and carry some of the pure and unadulterated joy of childhood into our adult realm.

Born with “an instinct to create, skills in papier mache, fruit baskets and now video, motion graphics, microbe taming and breeding,” the Miami-based design collective have been spreading their visual philosophy since 2002.

It all started out in the tangible realm, with hand-stitched custom patterns for their first line of magical plush toy arts. What began as a small sideline project soon developed a life of its own: reminiscent of long lost childhood friends, their evocative toys and characters proved an instant hit with kids and grown-ups alike – immensely and instantly loveable, these little critters appeal to and embody our basic pre-pubescent instincts: protection, hunger, security, friendship, escape and a glowingly childish view of the world.

With backgrounds in fine art and advertising, FWY were well aware of the power of brands and seduction. “Looking at the world through advertising eyes gives you an entirely new perspective on art in today’s world. Every day we compete with an immeasurable amount of conscious or subconscious memory signals. Once we have attracted people’s attention with something as visually powerful as the Malfi (their trademark character), they are drawn into our world, eager to find out more.”

Iconic by nature, FWY’s characters rely on their creators’ perfect command of visual language, paring sensations down to their bare essentials. “This is something everyone can relate to immediately, it’s the square root of conveying a feeling. It’s about archetypes and icons, the main ingredients that make and break all cultures. We were the first people raised by icons; we know Batman, Pacman and Mickey better than any scientist or Nobel Prize winner. Our heroes are all fantasy and they are so much better than the human qualities they represent.”

Luck, for example, comes in all shapes and guises. Literally. Story-tellers par excellence, FWY imbue each of their creations with a magical history and equally magic powers, turning them into some-

thing akin to voodoo dolls and avatars for modern society. Amid their weird and wonderful rabble of ‘Friends’, imaginary microbes blown-up to user-friendly sizes and equipped with “actual life-enhancing skills”, we have King Albino, who will happily erase all of life’s embarrassing moments, Black Foot to open and close all doors, Berry to soften the blows of mental and physical ailments plus myriads of other tiny helpers to provide comfort, aid us in decision-making or simply whisk us away to another world. And, lest we forget, “Albino Squid is a jerk. He is a useful friend in that he reminds you how not to act.”

A temporary respite from mundane reality, FWY invite us to join their own adventure-soaked universe – and share our wishes and desires with these newly acquired friends.

Imbued with these characteristics, their characters provide an exact indication of what we are – or wish we were. Simple, fun and innocent as they might seem, they also serve as a mirror and extension of their creators – and human nature itself. “For anybody who connects with them, it means that they feel it reflects something they love about themselves. It is our job, as creative people, to observe the good and evil of the world and make sure we understand that we are a bit of both. We believe that this is the most human form of art and that is why it will change the world. So get a little dirty, believe in magic, luck and friendship, and help us to spread it.”

Enchanted messengers of their creed, FWY’s wild array of endearing friends tend to shift, change and reincarnate with the times, tides and new discoveries. Skirting the boundaries between covetable toy, art and quasi-religious artefact, their ecosphere keeps evolving and mutating, occasionally even spilling over into earthly realms as interactive wishing wells or larger-than-life surreal playgrounds. Thus moving beyond playful art for desk, shelf or bedside table, FWY sneak more and more of their little helpers into our everyday lives – from sketches and paintings via toys and films to hotel rooms and public art installations.

An impressive breadth, yet to Sam and Tury, the choice of medium is simply an immensely fun means to an end, a beautiful vehicle for their universal message of friendship, enlightenment and creativity. United in their benign mission to become Friends With You, their projects favour simplicity as a blank slate for their ever-changing

dream worlds, teeming with recurring permutations of basic shapes and characters. Crystalline structures, rainbows galore, and a hint of op-art herald a long-overdue return to an almost psychedelic, colourful and joyful realm of ur-symbols, a primordial soup of creation with a very contemporary touch.

Nevertheless, their ultimate goal transcends this visual wonderland. Akin to a secret society, made up of all who endorse the FWY spirit, Sam and Tury have set their sights on a higher aim: "In the sterile settings of modern society, spiritual outlets have become low priority within our daily routines. Replaced by capitalist ideals, rigid religious requirements and other self-centred activities, our daily lives are rarely touched by anything void of monetary value."

With their colourful creations FWY aim to fill this spiritual hole and establish a new sense of perception, a movement, an encompassing 'friendship' based on participation and interaction. Both artists are well aware that phrases like 'mission', 'spreading the word' or 'movement' are likely to trigger alarm bells, fine-tuned to any kind of cultish overtones. Sam and Tury's universe, however, has no rules or commandments, no forsworn beliefs. "All we want to convey is magic, luck and friendship. I guess you could see it as a club that accepts people from all religions and cultures – each person, animal, even each blade of grass is already a part of it. We are all Friends With You."

Pre-rational and anti-materialist by nature, suffused by their honest conviction and boundless enthusiasm, this disarming naivety and complete lack of distancing irony may be unsettling at first – it is something we are simply not used to any more. And yet, for those who

dare to take the plunge, FWY's encompassing, tailor-made wonderland offers a beautiful, temporary respite from all things pragmatic, infused with a rare sense of joy and wonder.

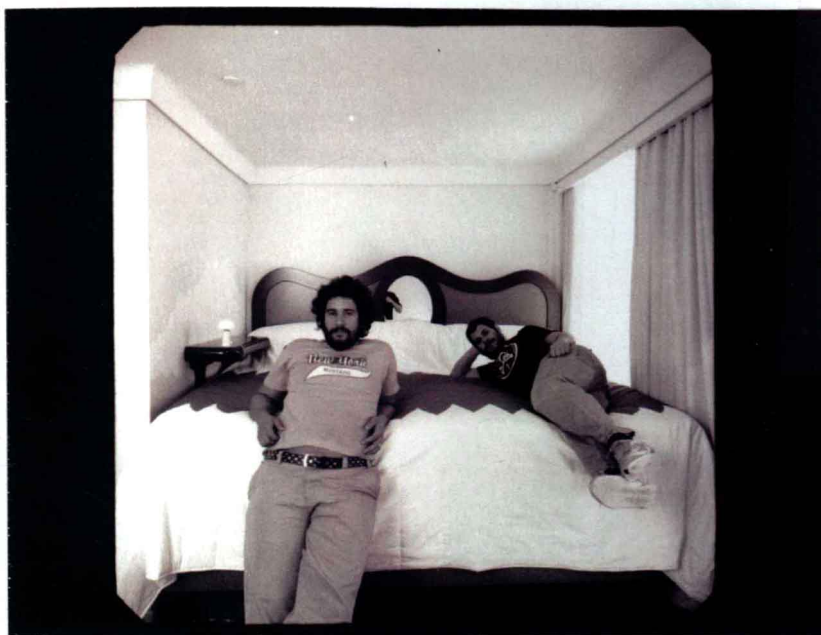
But what would a world be without its creator(s)? Much of what shapes the ever-expanding FWY empire is born of the relationship between its two human nuclei: "We work together flawlessly – each one of us is strong where the other isn't. I work through the night and Tury

wakes up right when I go to sleep. It is a constantly changing and amazing adventure, ultimately a stream of magical occurrences and instances. Our combined energies create something truly magical – even when we are working on our own projects we keep exploring the same ideas, since we both feel that this is an exercise that helps us grow our own visual and artistic language." A truly symbiotic relationship and visible proof that friendship can spur us on to greater heights –

"the amount of time and power we put into these projects is directly transferred to the people who experience it."

From magic realism to real magic, childlike, but never infantile, FWY's tightly woven realm effortlessly bridges the gap between toy culture and art, taking those who steer clear of museums that decisive step closer. Tirelessly chipping away at the fabric of our perceived reality to supply us with an endless stream of hugely inventive and covetable reminders of what it is like to enjoy and believe, FWY have created something very rare: art and spirituality you can touch – and that touches you in return.

Rain or shine – prepare for sublime enchantment!









Plush Toys

MALFI - Malfi will bring you great wealth or death. Good luck and be careful.

MR. TTT - ONE of our most amazing achievements was the induction of this luck friend. We all know the best things come in threes, especially LUCK! Like to share? Mr.TTT splits into 3 PARTS! Make new friends today without giving him all away. We have found that a shared Mr. TTT is three times as lucky as rabbits feet and golden horseshoes.

BARBY with SPIRIT SUIT - Comes with removable spirit mask. Barby is known for his shyness and modesty. He wears a mask for full focus and is in a constant state of meditation. If you need Barby to help you sort out a situation or just for a light conversation, remove his mask and Barby will give you complete love and attention.

ALBINO SQUID - Albino Squid is a jerk. He is a useful friend in that he reminds you how not to act. OR if you, yourself, are a jerk, then meet your new teammate in life. He wants to kick the asses of all your competitors and help you rule the world!

POPPINGS - Comes with detachable feet/babies. Are you ready to PARTY. Poppings is the charm and charisma you've always been wishing you had. Don't be nervous make a new friend, delight a bum, get that job. Everything will be at your fingertips with a lucky Poppings. Going on a date? Carry one of the Poppings feet in your purse or pocket for instant approval!

RED FLYER AND PESUS - Ever wondered what God looks like? Well this is him, and boy, does he look different. At the subatomic level, Red Flyer is literally the fabric of space as we understand it. He is what makes up the earth, the air, the water and, well, everything. Swipe your arm through the air and you are reconfiguring an unimaginable amount of red flyers. In his enlarged state, he offers invincibility and absolute power to his human companion.

PESUS is a small chunk of Red Flyer and is probably one of the potent parts, kind of like the best cut of meat.

BERRY CARRY & BARRY - Comes with a baby. A soft huggable friend, this fluffy pillow is actually the tiniest protein particle in existence. Use him as a gift for a distressed friend or a malnourished cousin. Berry Carry will grant you a healthy body and a healthy state of mind. Berry acts as a pillow to soften the blows of mental and physical ailments.

SHOEBACA - Comes with 2 detachable kidneys! Not to be surgically implanted into small children! except those without kidneys. Shoebaca is one of the most interesting friends in that, he can communicate telekinetically with his human companion. Shoebaca will help with the toughest decisions you are making in life. Remove his kidneys and ask away, then concentrate for the solutions to all your problems.

KING ALBINO - "Pigment stealer." King Albino GETS RID OF SKIN DISCOLORATION FOREVER! This little magic friend is the direct agent for all Albino animals, and he is also found in chemicals like bleach. From a one-night stand to a bad investment, let King Albino erase all of life's embarrassing moments, so you can move forward in life CAREFREE and HAPPY.

The Good Wood Gang

From the Black Forest comes a new type of lucky amulet. A wooden charm that dates back to the five ancient child gods, and the toys that delighted them. They can bring magic and mystery into your life. All have special powers and work in different ways for different people. If you treat them with respect, they will grant you all your wishes.

Black Foot aka Captain Bingo opens and closes all doors. Sweet Tooth brings you success and surprises. Lucky Doovoo can solve all your problems, like love, health, distress. Squid Racer, a triple team of power, unites to help you achieve your goals, and THE rare Mr. TTT BURGER will satisfy all your indulgences and help you to a delicious existence while showing you the key to immortality.

BLACK FOOT aka CAPTAIN BINGO - PLAY MY GAME! I RULE THE UNIVERSE! Try your hand at arranging your own luck. Is Black Foot tall? Is Captain Bingo small? It's up to you. Luck comes in all shapes and sizes. This lucky totem opens and closes all doors and possesses the key to all of life's ultimate adventures.

MR.TTT BURGER - Can YOU BELIEVE IT? A rare mixture of the finest ingredients, TTT Burger will satisfy all your indulgences and help you to a delicious existence while helping you enjoy the great life you have. Mr. TTT burger is the totem of Bumble Grump, the godchild of luck.

SWEET TOOTH is the sweetest! He always gets what he wants, but you have to give him what he needs, candy, a golden lock, or tiny mirrors and he'll let you in on his secrets. He represents the TRIPLETS of good fortune; Sweet Tooth is the sugar god head and will bring you surprises, Lil' Bernie represents the content child. Use this head for a stress free day. Baby Derwin has super powers and gives you the possibility to have really good luck or really bad luck. Which head will you choose today? Be Risky! GET BETTER RESULTS!

SQUID RACER - God of the Sea, Squid Racer uses the power of momentum to keep your life progressing until you reach your ultimate potential. This squid has fully evolved into one of the fastest, hardest working teams ever. Driven by the faithful Elby and navigated by Singing Robot Head, he is fully equipped and ready to help you take over the world!

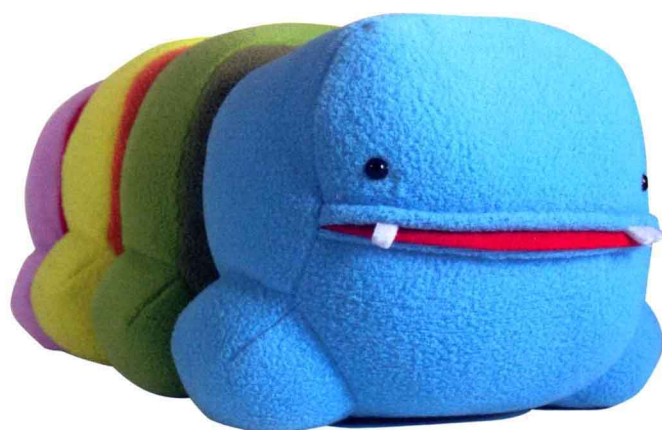
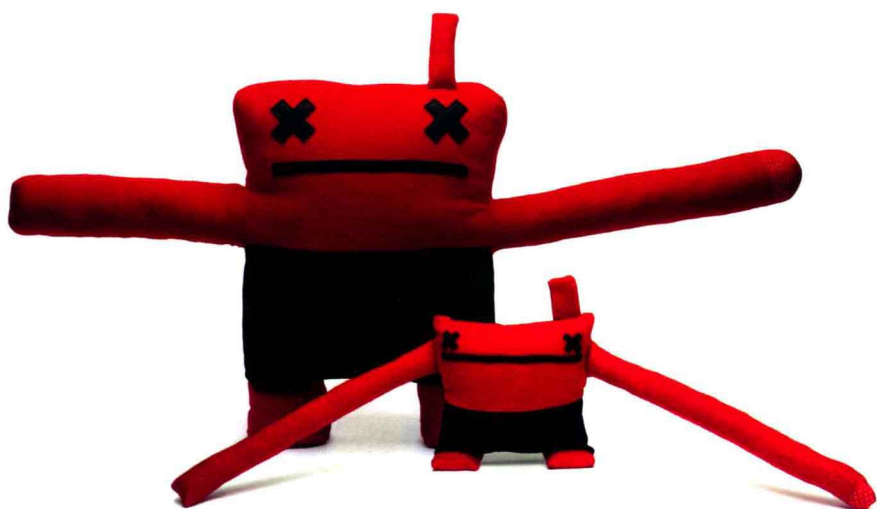
LUCKY DOOVOO - Lucky Doovoo is a dream guide who is always sleeping. Make all your dreams come true with the help of his enchanted blackboard. Make a secret drawing; write the name of someone you love. All your wishes can become reality with Lucky Doovoo on your side! He has three belly button articles you can choose, Insert the Ruby to concentrate on your goals, insert the heart to concentrate on your relationships, and insert the lollipop for carefree sleep!



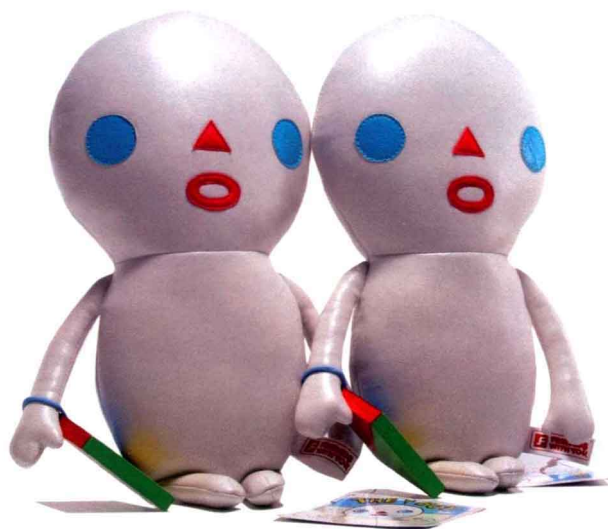
The Malfis - Yellow Malfi, Super Malfi, Blue Malfi (top row) - Original Malfi, Mini Malfi, Naked Mini Malfi, Naked Malfi (bottom row)



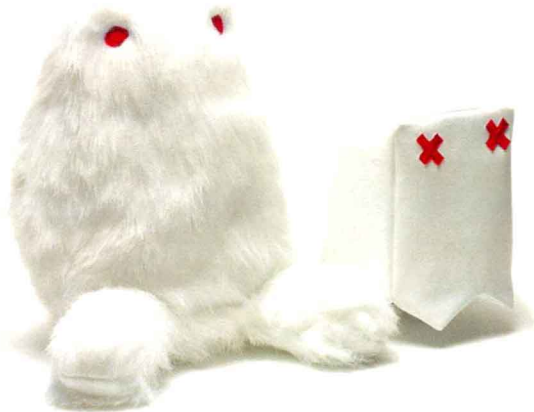
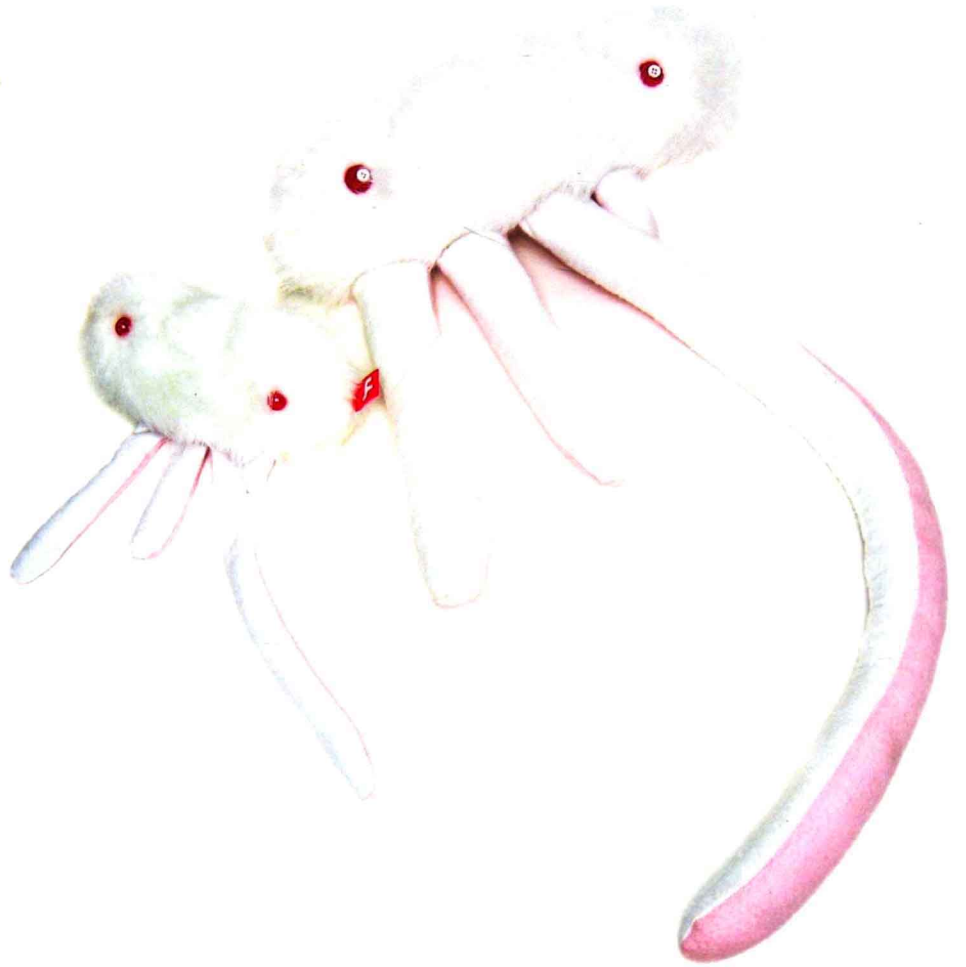
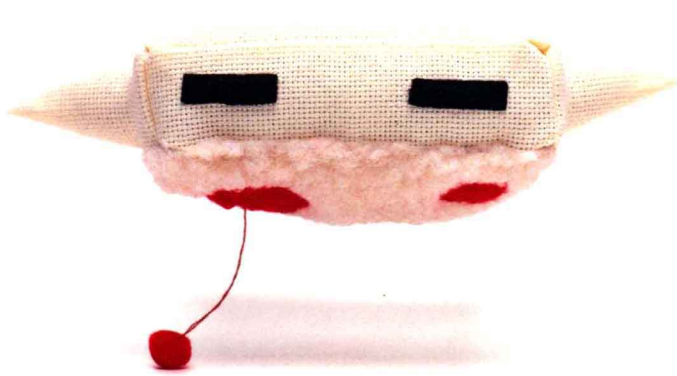
The Burger Bunch - Muffin, the whole bunch (top row) - Bumble Grump, Mr. TTT Burger , Mr. TTT Burger details (bottom row)



Poppings & Mini Poppings, Mr. TTT with Mini-TTT's (top row) - Berry Carry & Barry, Shoebaka & Mini Shoebaka (middle row) - Red Flyer & Mini Red Flyer, Mr. TTT (bottom row)



Xuxa, The Boy (top row) - Fou Fee, Fee Fee, Treasure Whale (middle row) - The Luckies (bottom row)



Pesus, Albino Squid (top row) - Mini King Albino (middle row) - Barby & Mini Barby with Spirit Suit off / on, Herbert (bottom row)



