

# Dave Graham – Magic Moments

## Visual Description

This exhibit is of 37 small pieces of art created in various types of media – most have elements of hand drawing (pencil and coloured pencil, ink and watercolour) which are later manipulated with computer. All images on the panels are prints of originals. They are hung with four to six pieces to a panel. There are four double sided panels, covered with a light grey linen, stacked in a line, running north-south. The panel faces also point north-south. The panels are numbered 1 through 8, with 1 being the northernmost panel, 2 being the south facing panel on the rear side of panel 1, and so on, through panel 8 being the southernmost panel.

Dave Graham notes about his exhibit, “My art is about people having inspirational, mood-elevating images on their walls. They carry messages about friendship, marriage, family relationships, etc. often done in an amusing yet meaningful way.”

Dave Graham is a New Westminster-based artist. He is a married Grandpa who loves hiking.

### **Panel 1 – Granny the Go Girl (8”x9”)**

Panel 1 has images of two cats in various portraits – some lifelike, some very fantastical. In this portrait, a grey fluffy cat is doing a high-kicking manoeuvre while wearing pink roller skates. She has a red pair of pants with a matching vest and hat, is twirling a baton in one hand and carrying a large pink ice cream cone in the other hand. Her pink beaded necklace is swaying in the movement, and her eyes look up and to her right as if she is gazing at her ice cream cone in her right hand. The landscape is simple with some blue sky, darker trees and a dark green hedge behind a paved foreground, and the background is within an oval shape, setting off Granny and her fancy show. Her grey striped tail is stretched out behind her on our left, and she is kicking across her body with her right foot.

### **Panel 3 – Bubba Flies Over the Moon (10”x13”)**

The third panel has six images on it with portraits of two different dogs – one is a French bulldog and one is a small, long haired black and white dog with prick ears (possibly a long-haired Chihuahua). In the different images, the dogs are portrayed either close to form or placed into fantastical situations alone or together. In Bubba Flies Over the Moon (hung in the bottom left spot), the French bulldog is inside a small red space ship that is speeding through a star-dotted purple and pink space background. The space ship is heading up and to the right, and we can see the cratered surface of the moon in the bottom left corner. We can also see the earth in miniature under the front of the space ship. The space ship is cherry red and slightly steampunk style. There are gold tips on the fins and gold riveted edging around the window and porthole and like racing stripes down the side. The front of the ship has a large bubble window filled almost entirely with an image of the dog. He is grinning with an open month, ears pulled back, eyes are wide open and looking down toward the viewer. His front paws are draped over a red steering wheel – he looks slightly maniacal as he pilots his ship. Under the window is the ‘face’ of the space ship with headlights, vents and a grill that look like a slightly evil face.

### **Panel 5 – Speed With Caution (8”x10”)**

This panel has five images of squirrels in various hijinks. Speed With Caution is in the bottom left hand spot and is a print of a mixed media drawing, mostly created with charcoal and a bit of coloured pencil. In it, a squirrel sits on an old fashioned roller skate (the kind that can be strapped to a shoe) as he speeds down a hill. He holds two straps that are attached to the front of the skate in his hands, like the reins of a horse. He is wearing a helmet made of a walnut shell (very slightly yellow), and has knee and elbow protectors made of acorn caps (very slightly brown). He wears a seat belt that is the brown strap of the skate and braces his feet against the front of the skate. Behind him, his fluffy tail and lines of speed stream out behind him. The expression on his face is one of glee.

### **Panel 6 – Brunch with Uncle Buster (11”x8.5”)**

Panel six has cartoons of woodland creatures – four of the five are beavers and one is a raccoon. In Brunch with Uncle Buster, the painting is a cutaway of the interior of a beaver den. We can see the curve of the ceiling, and some of the branches, colourful vines and flowers that make up the exterior wall. Inside, the adult beaver relaxes in an easy chair with his feet propped up on a stump with two little beavers, one tucked in on each side. The baby on the left is asleep, and the little beaver on the right is gazing up at the Uncle – it seems as if the Uncle is telling a story. The Uncle beaver wears blue overalls, and his construction clothes (hard hat, reflective vest and axe, are hanging on a rack by the wall. His construction boots and lunch kit including a Stanley thermos are to his left. A large bowl of nuts is on a low table to his right. In the floor of the den we can see two holes into the water below. One hole is empty and the other has the head and shoulders of another beaver poking through, dripping water. This beaver looks like she’s in a hurry or perhaps is upset that she’s missing out on the story and wants to get in on the action.

### **Panel 7 – Pals Playing it Up (13”x10”) and Pals Playing it Down (13”x10”)**

This panel has a variety of characters in the 4 pieces, but these two works go together. On the left, the French bulldog (from panel 3) and a tabby cat are playing in a homemade car heading up a hill, and on the right, the same characters are going downhill. In Pals Playing it Up, the overall-wearing dog rides in the car, which has a metal garbage can as its engine housing, and wheels that look like they come from a shopping buggy. The dog is driving but his face is turned toward the viewer, with a wide grin and open mouth. The ears are pulled back and up and he looks like he’s having fun. The cat, wearing a striped red and white shirt, patched jean shorts with a slingshot in the pocket and a baseball cap on backwards, pushes the car up the hill. He runs on back legs and pushes with his ‘arms’. The scene is a small road with grass on either side, and the background is contained within a circle. The two figures in the foreground extend beyond the boundaries of the circle, so it really gives the sense of them travelling quickly. In Pals Playing it Down, the same two characters with the same background, careen down the hill. This time, the cat does not need to push, and he’s hopped on the back of the car for a ride. His cap has blown off, and both the cat and the dog have their ears, tails and clothing blowing back in the breeze.