Chim † Pom: An Art Squad of 6

17 Jan 2008 Category: Features, Film / Animation, Japan

Chim↑Pom: An Art Squad of 6

Pink Puke! Art unit Chim ↑ Pom's Ellie in the video piece "Erigero" from 2005. Courtesy of Mujin-to Production, Tokyo.

Who would make a video of a cute young woman spewing up bright pink vomit? Who would pull a <u>it's me scam</u> and direct the money into a complete stranger's bank account? In the name of art, such interesting projects are being carried out by <u>Chim ↑ Pom</u>, a group of 6 artists who got together in 2005. Today PingMag tries to figure out exactly what they are up to.

Written by Ayana
Translated by Kevin Mcgue



A group photo of Chim ↑ Pom to commemorate their participation in the prestigious Venice Biennale in 2007…not! This photo was done guerrillastyle at Tokyo Disney Sea resort. ©2007 Chim ↑ Pom. Courtesy of Mujin-to Production, Tokyo

To start, could you all introduce yourselves?

Inaoka: I'm Inaoka. I build walls and make things with plaster.

Mizuno: I'm Mizuno. I'm going to be doing even more disgusting stuff this year, so please look out for it.

Okada: I'm Okada. I don't have a specific role, so I do stuff on the sly.

Hayashi: I'm Hayashi. I do all sorts of chores for Chim ↑ Pom.

Ellie: I'm Ellie, Chim↑Pom's leader…just kidding. I usually work on my blog.

Ushiro: I'm Ushiro. I guess you could say I am our captain.

So what does Chim ? Pom do?

Ellie: We show a wonderful world that most people don't normally see.

I heard that you were all influenced by the contemporary artist Makoto Aida, but how did Chim ↑ Pom get started?

Ushiro: Ellie is very bright and cute, so we have always been friends. Whenever I did something interesting with Ellie, I thought that we could turn it into art.

I really want to ask you about some of your works. You made the "Superthe Rat," a real rat, taxidermically stuffed, and frozen in a cute Pikachu pose. Could you tell us about that?



The rather cute "Super☆Rat" at the recent "Art@Agnes" art fair. Image by PingMag

Ushiro: It all started when I realized that the rats that you can see in Shibuya's <u>Center-gai</u> and the girls in Pikachu costumes, walking around in the same area, really look the same! I looked into it a bit and found out that recently, some rats have developed immunities to rat poisons. They survive to pass this adaptation on to their offspring. People in the extermination business call them "super rats." I decided to make "Super Rat" the name of one of our exhibitions. These super rats have developed into what they are because of human activities. Even though humans are trying to exterminate the rats, they have become an eradicable part of society. I also thought that the type of girls that hang around Center-gai are a bit similar.

But why is the rat in this pose?

Ellie: We wanted to do a faithful recreation of one of the poses that Pikachu often has in manga. I put a metal rod in its

tail and bent it into a zig-zag shape just like Pikachu's tail.

By the way, how did you get the rat in the first place?

Mizuno: We weren't able to get a big rat with a trap. We saw an old guy who worked at a ramen shop beating garbage bags with a stick to drive away rats, and that gave us an idea. We beat on some garbage that had been put out and caught the rats with a net as they ran out. It was as easy as catching fish in a small pond. In 20 minutes we had caught 5 or 6 of them. We finished so quickly, we didn't even have to pay that much for parking. (Laughs) What was interesting was that as we were leaving, a club tout told us, "don't leave yet," and then he gave us advice on how to catch female rats as well. (Laughs)



Chim↑Pom's member catching rats in Shibuya, from the "Super Rat" DVD. © 2006 Chim↑Pom. Courtesy of Mujin-to Production, Tokyo

It sounds like you have a lot of fun. Could you tell me about "I'm Bokan"?

Ellie: When I was in junior high school, I saw images on TV of Princess Di walking in a minefield. That made a lasting impression on me. Much later, when Ushiro and Hayashi asked me what my dream was, I told them "clearing minefields." We actually decided to do it, going to Cambodia for a month.



"I'm Bokan" from the "SPEECH" DVD. ©2007 Chim † Pom. Courtesy of Mujin-to Production, Tokyo

In this project, you blew up some of your personal belongings. Why is that?

Ushiro: I have never seen Japanese things that have been blown up by mines, so I decided to destroy my own personal property.



"Explosion" from "I'm Bokan" DVD, 2007. ©2007 Chim 1 Pom. Courtesy of Mujin-to Production, Tokyo

The other day you held an auction in which the prices went down rather than up, with the proceeds going to Cambodian charities. Could you tell us about that?

Ushiro: That is related to the recent bubble in the art market. I want to take our works and set them at the price of Damien Hirst's <u>diamond-encrusted skull</u> that reportedly sold for \$100 million, or Takashi Murakami's <u>Miss Ko2</u>, which sold for \$567,500. Starting with these prices, we worked our way down.

Hayashi: We got the musician Seiko Ito to be our auctioneer. We started by posing the question, "how many prosthetic legs could be bought with the \$100 million that Hirst's work got?" At one point I was thinking that it would be hard to donate all that money. The prices went down and down from there, and more and more hands went up. I had the feeling that the whole audience was deciding the final auction price.

Ellie: I was happy to see that normal businesspeople, not only collectors, were raising their hands at first. The auction was one link in the chain of "I'm Bokan."

Could you tell us about your recent work, "Black of Death"?

Ushiro: We heard that the taxidermist we met during the "Super Rat" project was using stuffed crows to amass live crows. So when we opened an exhibition at Laforet Gallery, we decided to get together as many crows as we could, and we certainly got a lot of them.



Panic in the streets of Shibuya! Using a stuffed crow and a loudspeaker broadcasting crow sounds, Chim ↑ Pom amassed a huge number of crows at the fashion center of 109: "BLACK OF DEATH (above 109, Shibuya, Tokyo 2007)" ©2007 Chim ↑ Pom. Courtesy of Mujin-to Production, Tokyo.

Beginning at Yoyogi Park, Inaoka rode his scooter down towards Shibuya station. Ellie was on the back of the scooter with the stuffed crow and the loudspeaker. We filmed from a car in front of the scooter. This was all done around 5 a.m., when a lot of garbage is being put out and there are a lot of crows. By the time we got to 109, the sky was really something to see.

Wow! Ellie, weren't you scared?

Ellie: No, not at all. The crows never attacked. Actually, this is a work in progress, so we will do it again.

Ushiro: The title "Black of Death" made me think of the funeral of a mafia leader, or crows circling above a bad man about to die.

Mizuno: There is nothing that doesn't die.

Of course! Do you get ideas like that often?

Ushiro: Yes. Basically, I am an ideaman, so I always have a stock of ideas. Putting form to those, we don't necessarily work in the context of art, we do something we want to do from our own state of impetus. For example, our simple motivation to go to Cambodia was to help Ellie realize her dream of doing work with landmines.

Have you discovered anything as a result of going out and creating art in the field?

Ellie: There are a lot of things you understand by actually doing them, and there are many things you see for the first time if you go out into the world.

Ushiro: And it is simply pleasurable. While out working on things, chance and fate become immediate feedback into what we are doing, and this raises our motivation.

Mizuno: By looking into things that aren't known, you go down a new road where you find something new and charismatic. However, everyone we meet seems to have similar auras.

Do you have any final message for people who will be viewing your works?

Ushiro: We are doing what we really want to, and I hope more people will be able to do the same.

Ellie: You know, I just love Chim \tau Pom! Ellie is so cute!



Art can be fun! Chim \tau Pom's members pose for a group photo. Courtesy of Mujin-to Production, Tokyo



The cover of Chim ↑ Pom's DVD "P.T.A" from 2006. ©2006 Chim ↑ Pom. Courtesy of Mujin-to Production, Tokyo

Thanks so much to everyone at Chim Pom for showing us your fun art today!

87 Comments

1. Slapstick Art Guerilla!

Posted by: nyuudo on January 17th, 2008 at 8:12 pm

2. Yes, Ellie chan is cute Sure but is that enough? I like the reverse auction. What was the outcome? How much did they make? Has this money been sent to Cambodia then? It is fun, is it art/ can it be sold as such, Does that matter? Is is fashion? How are they influenced by Makoto Aida? What has he done in this line?

Posted by: Anonymous on January 17th, 2008 at 8:55 pm

3. This is crazy lol But I like them.

Posted by: Akai on January 18th, 2008 at 4:28 am

4. Those are the real freaks of our time, and she is for sure cute… not!

Posted by: David on January 18th, 2008 at 3:30 pm

5. wtf is this crap but the chic is smoking hot

Posted by: hornybastard on January 18th, 2008 at 3:59 pm

6. Posers.

Posted by: Soap on January 18th, 2008 at 9:55 pm

7. um···so what do they exactly do?

Posted by: Anonymous on January 19th, 2008 at 10:46 am

8. um···so what do they exactly do?

Posted by: an on January 19th, 2008 at 10:47 am

9. I met them at their Bokan opening. They were showing the designer items they had exploded in Cambodia and I thought it was an very interesting project. Way more so than anything Murakami has done recently. I definitely would not call them posers.

Posted by: Matt Evans on January 20th, 2008 at 3:29 pm

10. does Chim Pom have a website? A myspace page? I want to add them as a friend to keep up with their progress...

Posted by: DEENiri on January 23rd, 2008 at 11:09 am

11. Very nice article and interview - thanks!

Posted by: Random on January 24th, 2008 at 2:37 am

12. [...] Siguiendo, viene el trabajo de Os Gêmeos que está en la misma sala que Aya Takano y del colectivo Chim↑Pom.

Posted by: Diálogo Brasil-Japón / Parte2 | BlogCouture on April 21st, 2008 at 5:13 am

13. Just saw a few of Chim Pom's work in a exhibit here in Brazil… (Erigero, Super Rat and Black of Death)

Thought it was simply great! That's what brought me to this interview...

Posted by: Will on May 25th, 2008 at 12:20 pm

14. Japan's Tracy Emmin but sexier and more fun.

Posted by: Charlie on June 5th, 2008 at 6:02 pm

15. Amazing. I want to keep up with their work from now on. I just love random discoveries like this. I think they make their teacher proud. ^_~

And she is cute. Their work, although strange, is original.

Posted by: Trish on October 15th, 2008 at 5:56 am

16. [...] Who would make a video of a cute young woman spewing up bright pink vomit? Who would pull a it's me scam and direct the money into a complete stranger's bank account? In the name of art, such interesting projects are being carried out by Chim ↑ Pom, a group of 6 artists who got together in 2005. Read the full story>>> [...]

Posted by: Kevin Mcgue - Tokyo-Based Journalist & Filmmaker » Chim † Pom: An Art Squad of 6 on March 3rd, 2009 at 10:59 pm

17. [...] this time was different. We were going to see work by a, artists' collective called Chimpom, a group with a sense of humor for a change. It was really refreshing to see some modern art that [...]

Posted by: Backtrack Post #1 « Tokyo High Life on August 19th, 2009 at 12:42 pm

18. [...] Read the English version at PingMag» [...]

Posted by: Kevin Mcgue | "Chim | Pom: An Art Squad of 6" Translation on April 17th, 2010 at 11:08 pm

19. I met them at their Bokan opening

Posted by: Technology on May 1st, 2010 at 2:42 am

20. Sorry, is this art?? Disgusting, and did you know they made fun of Hiroshima victims by atomic bomb? Absolutely disgusting people.

Posted by: really? on June 24th, 2010 at 7:40 am

21. Wow, that's some pretty crazy stuff, but very cool, I like it. Art should be creative and these guys definitely are!

Posted by: John Elias on June 25th, 2010 at 7:03 am

22. does Chim Pom have a website? A myspace page? I want to add them as a friend to keep up with their progress…

Posted by: seks on October 5th, 2010 at 11:05 am

23. I really like your website. I'm looking for a lawnmower repair in

Posted by: Riding Lawn Mower Store on May 24th, 2011 at 10:34 am

24. This website is plenty of extremely useful information!

Posted by: exercise on June 2nd, 2011 at 10:53 pm

25. Great website. I like this info your providing.

Posted by: Anonymous on June 3rd, 2011 at 8:07 pm

26. Hey, I like your website, it is a wonderful site! I'm looking for some informations about sports betting to put in my page.

Posted by: football college betting on June 7th, 2011 at 5:01 am

27. Thanks for the information about this topic.

Posted by: innovative healthcare on June 15th, 2011 at 1:46 am

28. Pannelli Fotovoltaici

Posted by: energie rinnovabili on June 17th, 2011 at 9:50 am

29. Am glad I found a site like this, very resourceful and easy to navigate.

Posted by: Ransford Taylor on June 17th, 2011 at 3:45 pm

30. Everyday I learn something new and im loving it.

Posted by: Free Traffic Referrals on June 25th, 2011 at 3:20 pm

31. Hi, maybe this is not on subject but in any case, I have been browsing about your web site and it looks truly tidy. impassioned about your writing. I'm building a new web log and hard put to make it appear great, and provide really good content. I have discovered much on your web site and I look forward to more updates and will be coming back.

Posted by: Werner Morgan on June 27th, 2011 at 10:03 am

32. Great,I want to see the many development of this site.

Posted by: Definition Strategy on July 2nd, 2011 at 1:32 pm

33. I am looking for hotels in london. I like the facilities available, great stuff.

Posted by: hotels.london hotels on July 19th, 2011 at 10:54 pm

34. I want to meet them, it would be cool as heck to see them in Winston Salem north Carolina, the best art collaboration I have ever seen. Come on out and show the usa what is really going on.

Posted by: will on July 27th, 2011 at 11:15 am

35. Hmm okay so what's this about?

Posted by: Fence PA on July 31st, 2011 at 6:25 am

36. Puke abstracts as art. Strange. But yeah.

Posted by: Video Production Philadelphia on July 31st, 2011 at 6:35 am

37. Yes, they do seem abnormal. In a good kind of way at some point maybe. Teehee.

Posted by: Pergola Construction on July 31st, 2011 at 6:36 am

38. Is Pikachu a rat? They do look similar. This is a good combination this bunch here. They seem like weirdos but it's all clean fun.

Posted by: Wedding Videographer Philadelphia on July 31st, 2011 at 6:38 am

39. I think you convey some interesting factors that not too many individuals discuss. It's interesting to see it from this perspective. I really enjoyed the post!

Posted by: Bill Poulos on August 10th, 2011 at 4:50 pm

40. Good topic..keep the good content coming

Posted by: nited health care on August 13th, 2011 at 1:55 pm

41. I am a giant fan of foreign exchange and finance so I find this topic very interesting. I always like to undertsand a brand new method of looking at it. Thanks for the information.

Posted by: Examples Viral Marketing on August 17th, 2011 at 12:32 pm

42. Enjoy this site very much. 4g is now happening wave of the "future" if you will, and just keeps getting better.

Posted by: 4g cell phone on August 17th, 2011 at 10:47 pm

43. Content like this is a great change of pace for me. I feel fervently about this and I like learning about this subject

Posted by: mulberry bags on August 26th, 2011 at 11:46 am

44. Thanks for entertaining the thought.

Posted by: Car Insurance on September 10th, 2011 at 2:18 pm

45. succes in your online business

Posted by: Get 125.000 visitors Free with Mighty Solos on September 26th, 2011 at 6:37 am

46. Niels van raak

Posted by: Get 125.000 visitors Free with Mighty Solos on September 27th, 2011 at 1:31 am

47. I like your website, looking for the best kitchen cabinets in town gta.

Posted by: gta kitchen cabinets in toronto on October 9th, 2011 at 6:20 am

48. Submit Your Resume

Posted by: Register Now on October 19th, 2011 at 5:14 am

49. [...] said they're also commenting on "the type of girls that hang around Center Gai" dressed up as Pikachus. These girls are most likely tweens and sorta harmless. But also…dressed up as Pikachu. [...]

Posted by: How To Make Adorable Pikachus Out Of Taxidermied Rats | BNewsworld on October 26th, 2011 at 3:25 pm

50. very good. thank you

Posted by: smycken online on November 5th, 2011 at 3:53 am

51. χριστουγεννιατικα δεντρα,χριστουγεννιατικα στολιδια

Posted by: $\chi \rho \iota \sigma \tau o \nu \gamma \epsilon \nu \nu \iota \alpha \tau \iota \kappa \alpha \delta \epsilon \nu \tau \rho \alpha$ on November 8th, 2011 at 9:16 pm

52. http://www.happyseasons.gr Online Store

Posted by: xristougenniatika on November 9th, 2011 at 7:47 pm

53. Hey, I like your website, it is a wonderful site! I'm looking for some informations about sports betting to put in my page.

Posted by: christian louboutin on November 10th, 2011 at 6:28 am

54. New Information About Hairstyles and Haircuts.

Posted by: hairstyles on November 11th, 2011 at 11:03 am

55. Very Good content. Its excellent for design world and Japan.

Posted by: Kindle on November 14th, 2011 at 6:53 pm

56. It is really a nice post, it is always great reading such posts,dd

Posted by: men watches online on November 23rd, 2011 at 10:31 am

57. Exetrmely helpful article, please write more. Team tigara electronica ego tank

Posted by: tigara electronica ego tank on November 23rd, 2011 at 9:04 pm

58. This is my Excerpt

Posted by: Cell Phone Accessories on November 24th, 2011 at 8:00 am

59. Dildo kopen?

Posted by: Dildo on November 24th, 2011 at 8:00 am

60. school of that massage and spa certificaes Association of that treditional medicine Appoved by the Ministry of Health

Posted by: School of thai massage on November 25th, 2011 at 1:18 am

61. Thank You FYI.

Posted by: Canon Black Friday on November 26th, 2011 at 10:40 pm

62. Check out our Cyber Monday deals on everything from cell phones with service to no-contract phones, unlocked phones, Bluetooth headsets, cases, chargers, and more

Posted by: technology on November 28th, 2011 at 2:53 pm

63. Timex Waterproof Watches

Posted by: Timex Watches on November 30th, 2011 at 5:51 pm

64. wow··· is cool···.

Posted by: toko jasa on December 1st, 2011 at 2:38 pm

65. Thank you so much for this content, Im so lucky and glad that I found this website, Please keep this website going and I will keep

Posted by: The Visayas on December 9th, 2011 at 12:09 pm

66. Your business sounds very interesting. It is great to have businesses that can contribute to so much to our society these days.

Posted by: Removing Tattoos Naturally on December 12th, 2011 at 3:10 am

67. HalloHi is Social Network service. You can write what ever you want you have your space on this site and you can do whatever you want share music, videos, write blogs, read blogs, ask question, answer question, play games, upload documents, do

Posted by: HalloHi Social Network on December 14th, 2011 at 1:58 pm

68. HalloHi is Social Network service. You can write what ever you want you have your space on this site and you can do whatever you want share music, videos, write blogs, read blogs, ask question, answer question, play games, upload documents, do what ever you want your free space:))).

Posted by: HalloHi Social Network on December 18th, 2011 at 3:36 am

69. This is the only blog that can keep you updated with latest information in every sphere of life. Whatsoever it may be health, automobile, science and technology.

Posted by: Online Information on December 22nd, 2011 at 10:48 pm

70. I always visit your blog and retrieve everything you post here but I never commented but today when I saw this post, I couldn't stop myself from commenting here. Fantastic article!

Posted by: للرأة on December 31st, 2011 at 1:42 pm

71. Hey this is awesome blogs. Keep posted usefull information. Thank you

Posted by: roll up awnings on January 5th, 2012 at 5:30 pm



73. Imobiliare, vanzari case, vanzari apartamente, terenuri, craiova

Posted by: Real estate on January 12th, 2012 at 12:27 pm

74. Enter to the safest social networking site! Love GENERATION -> http://www.love-2day.com Free Forum Free Blog Free Ads

Posted by: Social Network on January 13th, 2012 at 2:45 pm

75. Thanks for this post. It is very useful. I hope you will write an article. This issue again.

Posted by: illslick on January 17th, 2012 at 4:48 am

76. 1tradezone.my

Posted by: Malaysia's Online Marketplace on January 23rd, 2012 at 9:13 pm

77. Thanks for this post. It is very useful.

Posted by: Biggfirma on January 25th, 2012 at 11:36 pm

78. Live Music MOTET - Deutsch Polnische Hochzeitsband (Band) Polnische Hochzeitsband

Posted by: Hochzeitsband NRW | Hochzeitsmusiker | Musiker for Hochzeit | on January 27th, 2012 at 3:49 am

79. Hi ….. I have information about Whirlpool washers, you should read them and get tips and tricks commersial business with Whirlpool washers.

Posted by: whirlpool washers on January 27th, 2012 at 11:41 am

80. http://schlesische-hochzeitsband.blogspot.com/2011/10/polnische-band-polnische-hochzeit 9545.html

Posted by: Live Music MOTET - deutsch polnische Hochzeitsband for Ihre Hochzeitsfeier. on January 27th, 2012 at 6:28 pm

81. Software Juridico totalmente web para advogados, escritorios de advocacia e deptos Juridicos. Programa para advocacia

Posted by: Software Juridico e Programa Juridico e CRM Juridico on January 29th, 2012 at 12:20 am

82. Aylık kiralık villa kampanyalarımızı takip ediniz, beş yıldızlı otel konforunda, SPA, türk hamamı, açık ve kapalı havuz farklılıgına 97 TL ye sahip olun

Posted by: günlük kiralık on February 9th, 2012 at 7:57 am

83. Im so happy, now that I found your website, your contend is very informative and educational. I will always come back for

Posted by: advertise to millions on February 16th, 2012 at 8:15 am

84. \{\cdots\} good \{\cdots\} Thanks for the good works

http://www.al-zin.com/vb/

Posted by: الخرج on February 19th, 2012 at 12:49 am

85. Im so happy,	now that I found your	website, your conte	end is very informative	and educational. Best regards

Posted by: galaxy on February 26th, 2012 at 3:34 am

86. Im so happy, about your website, your contend is very good and educational.

Posted by: Sensorik on February 26th, 2012 at 3:35 am

87. Very nice site. Thanks

Posted by: hlektroniko tsigaro on March 15th, 2012 at 4:54 pm

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