
Edward Koren: The Capricious Line - Ephemera

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Edward Koren: The Capricious Line Brochure

Bellarmino Museum of Art

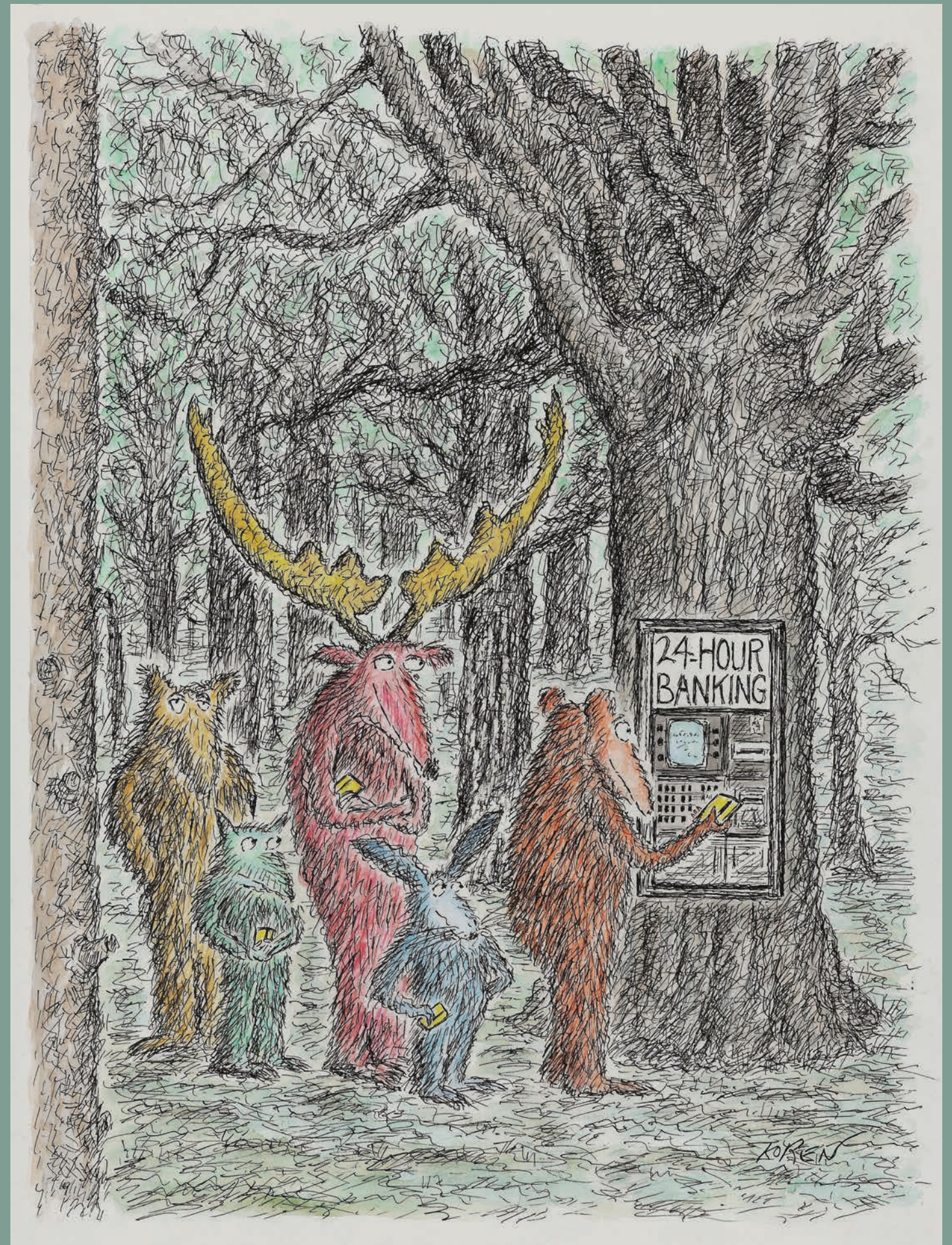
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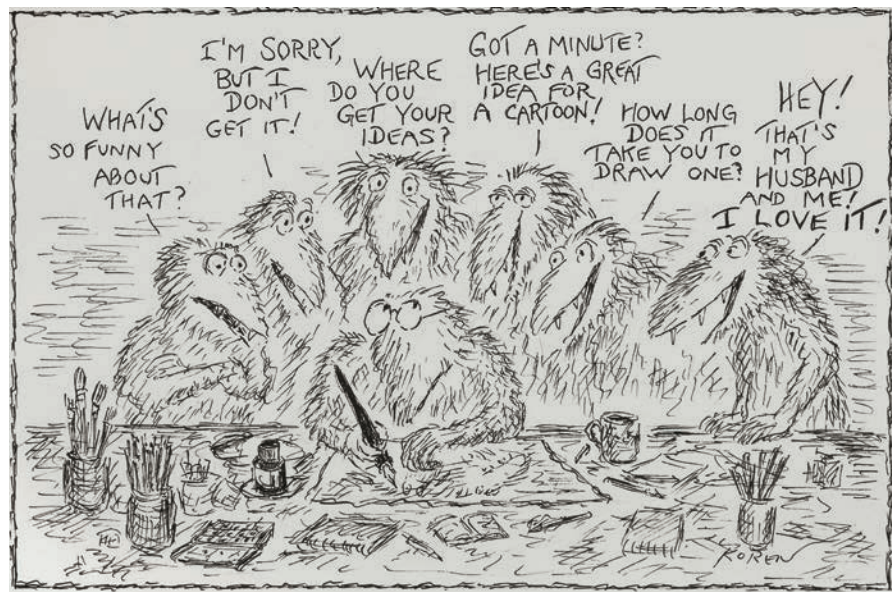
Fairfield
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EDWARD KOREN: THE CAPRICIOUS LINE

February 5 - April 8, 2016

A life-long relationship was born in May 1962, when *The New Yorker* featured its first cartoon by Edward Koren. Since then the magazine has published over 1,000 of his cartoons and he has designed some 30 of its covers. Unfailingly amusing, witty, improbable and clever, Koren's vignettes are populated by his signature shaggy, endearing humanoid creatures of all stripes, enacting or enunciating some immediately familiar thread of the tapestry that is the human condition. His cartoons have also appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Boston Globe*, *Time* and *Vanity Fair*, among other magazines and newspapers, but it is as a beloved staple of *The New Yorker* that Koren's work is best known. Remarking on the popularity of the cartoons that appear every issue, Editor David Remnick quipped, "98% of the people who get the magazine say they read the cartoons first—and the other 2% are lying." Driving that cartoon-loving statistic is the capricious line of master cartoonist Edward Koren.

Edward Koren: The Capricious Line is curated by Diana Fane and the late David Rosand, developed by the Miriam and Ira D. Wallach Gallery, New York, and organized for tour by International Arts & Artists, Washington, D.C. At the Bellarmine Museum of Art at Fairfield University it was ably coordinated by Carey Mack Weber, Museum and Collections Manager, with the assistance of Tiffany Barnard Davidson, Museum Assistant, and Anna Landau-Smith '16, Museum Intern. Acknowledgment is due to them, as well as to Edmund Ross, Senior Graphic Designer, Design and Digital Print Services, and Dr. Mary Frances Malone, Associate Academic Vice-President. Finally, we are deeply grateful to the Robert and Mercedes Eichholz Foundation for generous funding in support of the exhibition, to *TownVibe*, media sponsor of the museum's 2015-16 program, and to The Westport Library for joining us as a Community Partner for this exhibition and its associated programming.



~ Linda Wolk-Simon, PhD
Frank and Clara Meditz Director
and Chief Curator

ca•pri•cious

adj. given to sudden and unaccountable changes of mood or behavior.

Celebrating a five-decade span of the career of renowned cartoonist and graphic satirist Edward Koren, this exhibition presents works drawn from more than 1,000 cartoons and covers published in *The New Yorker*.

Koren's satiric art addresses diverse social, cultural, and environmental issues. Straddling a world of imaginative beasts and the brutal, but often hilarious, banality of everyday life allows Koren to flourish in his role as society's keen observer and sharp critic. These innovative illustrations demonstrate the psychological, philosophical, and comical talents of Koren's pen. In contrast to other cartoonists' aggressively political caricatures, Koren's decidedly nonconfrontational tone relies on psychological acuteness and philosophical provocation to elicit laughs and stimulate thought.

This exhibition not only honors the accomplishments of Koren as a beloved cartoonist, but also demonstrates his skill as an artist. The full-scale, heavyweight ink drawings—which until now have only been experienced as postcard-sized images in the pages of *The New Yorker*—showcase his mastery of illustration and his command of comedic understatement.

Koren's art is all about drawing and the imaginative worlds it can unveil and record. Through this impressive collection of works, he shares the sheer fun and joy of drawing with his audiences. Koren's "capricious line" articulates the neurosis of contemporary society with a distinctive drawing style, relatable characters, and wry criticism.

