

# BEARS KENT ROGOWSKI



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

***Bears*** (powerHouse/Miss Rosen Editions, May 2007), the first book by **Kent Rogowski**, is a series of portraits of the most unusual sort: ordinary teddy bears that have been turned inside out and restuffed. Each animal's appearance is determined by the necessities of the manufacturing process. Simple patterns and devices never meant to be seen are now prominent physical characteristics, giving each one a distinctly quirky personality: their fasteners become eyes, their seams become scars, and their stuffing creeps out in the most unexpected places. Together these images form a topology of strange yet oddly familiar creatures. They are at once hideous yet cuddly, disturbing yet endearing, absurd yet adorable, while offering a metaphor for us all to consider. These bears, which have lived and loved and lost as much as their owners, have suffered and endured through it all. It is by virtue of revealing their inner core might we better understand our own.

**Kent Rogowski** received his MFA in Photography from the Rhode Island School of Design where he is now a Visiting Critic. He has received numerous awards, including the Center Award from the Center of Photographic Art, and was selected as finalist for the Calumet/Friends of Photography Emerging Artist Award and the Nerve.com Emerging Artist Award. Rogowski also produced a feature length documentary film on drug trafficking and immigration called *Al Otro Lado*. It premiered at the TriBeCa Film Festival in 2005 and made it's theatrical premier at the Museum of Modern Art, New York, in 2006. It was also broadcast nationwide on PBS's *P.O.V.* in 2006. Rogowski currently lives and works in Brooklyn, NY.

"I think these photographs might mean happiness. They are made by softness and cotton."  
-Nicholas, 3th grade student, PS84 New York

"If I were a stuffed bear that got turned inside out, I would want my ears too. What are we to make of this pack (?) of bears living in a seamless silence? Each member of this strange mute toyscape is odd and mysterious and seems terribly vulnerable." -WM Hunt, Art Dealer

"soft and fierce" -Calvin Tsao, Architect

"130+ years after Thomas Eakins portrayed a group of bloody surgeons removing a tumor from a patient's thigh in *The Gross Clinic* (oil on canvas), Kent Rogowski turns our emblems of childhood comfort inside out. One of Eakins' most famous and successful paintings, *The Gross Clinic* was rejected by the jury of the 1876 Centennial Exhibition as 'unsightly' and eventually sold to a medical school for the paltry sum of \$200. Perhaps Mr. Rogowski should sell his pictures to a day care center." —Alec Soth, photographer

"What kind of inhuman, paranoid, and selfish human being would do such a cruel thing to these once soft to the touch creatures?" —Matthew Stefanski, 14, Student

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PHOTOGRAPHY / STUFFED ANIMALS / AWWWWW...

HC, 8.25 x 10.25, 72 pages, 80 four-color photographs

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To preview the book please visit: <http://www.powerhousebooks.com/bears.pdf>

#### COLLECTORS EDITION:

An affordable collectors edition of Kent Rogowski's *Bears* is available featuring a signed first edition copy of *Bears* and a choice of one of four signed and numbered photographic prints, all housed in a custom-made slipcase. Each print is an edition of 25.

For pricing, availability and images please visit [www.bearsthebook.com](http://www.bearsthebook.com).

**For information regarding print sales, exhibitions, book signings and lectures contact:**  
**Kent Rogowski** Tel: 718-782-4501, email: [kentrogowski@hotmail.com](mailto:kentrogowski@hotmail.com)

**For press inquires, please contact Sara Rosen, Publicity Director**  
Tel: 212-604-9074 x105, Fax: 212-366-5247, email: [sara@powerHouseBooks.com](mailto:sara@powerHouseBooks.com)

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