

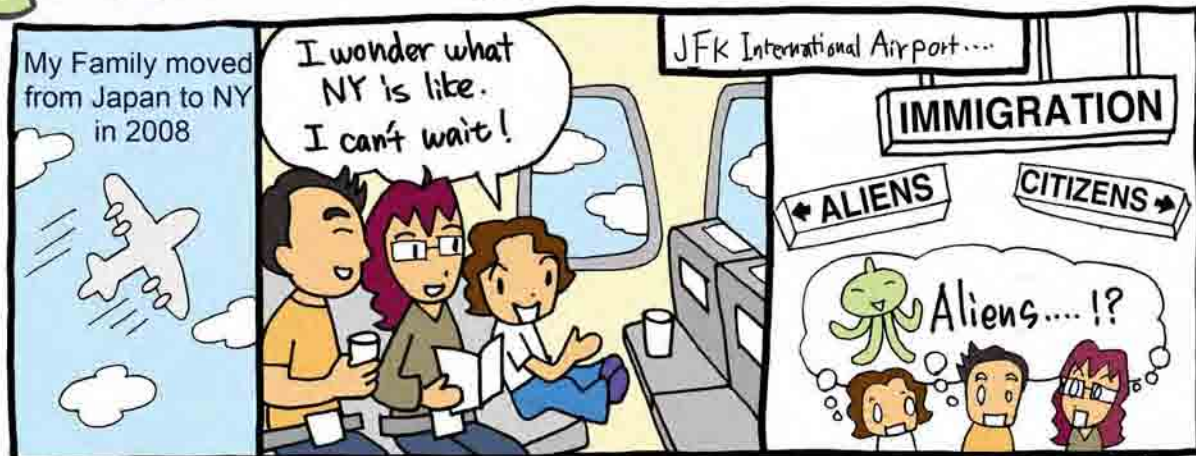
Aliens in New York



**The Annual
Report 2014**

Rica Takashima

THE STORY SO FAR...



That thought let Rica to hold "Aliens in New York" art project. The project got fiscal sponsorship in March 2013. However, Rica Takashima, the project artist couldn't utilize the benefits to the maximum. She was struggling in the United States as an immigrant artist, while working on her projects and, trying to understand the unfamiliar system. This is a touching Manga comic documentary of Rica and people around her, with love, tears and laugh....

Good evening, everyone!
My name is Yancie.
I am a partner of Rica Takashima.
I usually help her public art
projects in low profile.
For the first time I have this
honor to present the year end report!



We were supposed to be having
this debrief report party at
Queens Council on the Arts' (QCA)
3rd Space, however, due to
some complications, the party is
held at Rica Takashima's
Brain Hall.

here →



APPLAUSE!

*1 We are having many
donors and dignitaries
as guests!!

*1 Thanks again my donors!!
Anonymous, Mariko Takegawa, MM,
Ivan, tokiolifetime, Colin-san



First, for the people who are watching us on TV, I am going to show you the entire hall. This is an exclusive party only for those who make donations to Aliens in NY project by the end of December '14 through NYFA *2 and others, staff, and their family members.

Many flowers and messages are sent from the supporters of all over the world. Even though they weren't able to make this party, their hearts are here...

Rica's mentor, Carlos with his newly wed wife Beatriz. He seems to enjoy vegan plates.

People from QCA. the biggest donor in 2014.

Only water? You're enough skinny...

Oh, There are people from *2 NYFA at the table in front of the stage.

*2. NYFA = New York Foundation for the Arts.



where's
my
mom?

I see people who are helping
the project regularly. They look
fabulous in tuxedos and gowns.

Tonight's banquet is
prepared by Japanese-
Kitchen.net, Yukiyo
Nagata and her family!

It's getting time for opening
ceremony. Ms. Rica Takashima
is coming up the stage! If you
can't see well, please look at
the large screen.

Good evening.
Thank you for coming.
This year, we had great
things and
surprises.

But we
start from
this....

March 21-23
Fri Sun

V-Art Exhibition

Group Art show including Visual Art & Theater Play ^{*3}

On Friday morning of March 21,
I went to The Four Universalist
Church on Central Park West
to install my art piece.



I created a pregnant
Peekaboo-kun. I intentionally
painted it black and white
without coloring the skin,
because I wanted to
emphasize the pregnancy.

When I went to
the place on Sunday

Where is my
work? I placed
it here...



Oh!
over
there!



It was moved
to the shadow of column
facing to the wall.

I don't know who did it.



The space was inside of
a church building, which
tolerates other
religions, and

*3 At the beginning, I just thought of participating the group art show as a female artist. But this incident made me think that I should include this pregnant woman piece in the "Aliens in NY" project.

... the theme of the exhibit was praising women.

Still, someone didn't like it. My work might've been something "Alien" to the person...

Hey Rica!

You weren't here on Friday evening when the first visitors of the exhibit. They were women's group from Kazakhstan.

Organizer

They came to your work first, and really loved it!!

Really? I'm glad!

My message to participants on the back



Many visitors enjoyed Peekaboo-ing on that Sunday evening.

After that, I put a mirror to the part of Peekaboo's face. Using the mirror, people can see their faces on the character without taking a picture of it.



Beginning of May
at P.S. 122 Queens.

PTA



Hi Rica, Aliens
show was a
great success
last year. Do you
want do it
this year, too?

Thank you!!
Does anyone
has a big van?
It helps to move
Peekaboo-kun.



That's
great!
Thanks!

Unfortunately,
no one has a van.
But we can pay
for the trans-
portation fee.



May 30 Friday

Culture Night



...Ramble...

It's getting dark suddenly ...

Flash

NOON

Howl

Howl...

... Peekaboo-kuns with 50lb weights were blown by the winds...

Aftermath....

Oh my god!
It was scary.
but no one was
injured fortunately.

I realized
that
unexpected
things
happen.
It's
important
to insure
my event.

Staff were soaking
wet, but we were
more united
than before due to
the accident...

June 28 Saturday

at Diversity Plaza

Jackson Heights Art Festival *4



I set eight Peekaboo-kun boards in a circle, so they looked like they talked each other. This time I picked Peekaboo-kun representing different occupations and cultural diversity. A taxi driver, a full time worker at NYPL, a gym trainer, a house wife, a part time worker at a small market, a sales person, a retired senior, a printshop owner.

*4 An art festival organised by Carlos Martinez, who is my mentor.



I achieved one of my objectives of 2014.
Issuing art certificates to the participants.

1

The participants choose the characters they want to be, or, a spinner can be used as well.



2

They read the card which is attached to the back of each Peekaboo-kun and become the character.



3

A staff takes a picture and make a certificate on the site.

4

The participant writes the reaction and signature.

We make two copies of the certificates. One is for the participant and another is for our record.



Name Dinesh Ganesan Date _____
 Original Art is beautiful
 Being India
 Words I am an artist and Art is beautiful. Art is happiness!



Name Askari

Nationality or Group

Iran

Peek-a-boo Board No.

I was a professional wrestler. I used to be around the world. Now I am retired and teaching in the MMA (Mixed Martial Arts) gym.



Name Nana

Nationality or Group

MALAYSIA

Peek-a-boo Board No.

I am 4th grader at a public elementary school in Queens. I love my mother. My mother works at a small market. I love to help my mother taking out the sweets and snacks from brown boxes, and arranging on a shelf. I am very glad when someone buy the sweets that I located in the shelf. Mother sometimes give me some candy for a prize.

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Name Saba Khan Date 6/14/14
 Original India
 Being Iranian
 Words Beautiful !!



Name Linda Afari Date 6/14/14
 Original Malaysia
 Being India
 Words I love going and culture.





Name MAY

Nationality or Group
Ukraine
Peek-a-boo Board No.

I have a photographic memory. People think it is a brilliant ability, but I don't think so. I want to continue to take college courses even after starting a full-time job at NYPL. I am thinking of switching to a more stylish wheel chair.



Intentional purposes achieved.



Name David

Nationality or Group
Mexico
Peek-a-boo Board No.

I bought an apartment, began my own business, made a family, and adapted a child recently.

I am really fortunate. It was good to come to the United States. My dream came true.

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Name 王娟 Wang Juan

Nationality or Group
China
Peek-a-boo Board No. 1994004

I was an elementary school teacher. I am happily retired now. My daughter got a citizenship of Canada 5 years ago and she works as an accountant in New York.



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Passerby were reading the labels eagerly before sticking their face out of the hole. Not all people understand the concept of the project immediately. Usually it takes times. If the participants hold on to the photo and look at it time to time, more people can realize the concept eventually. Everything including the certificate, embossed seal, and stamp are hand made.





.... An hour later





We didn't do it.

who did it?

They are gang members. They are gone already.



Two Peekaboo-kun were soiled with dirt and Isra was broken into 3 parts,

At this time. I was depressed and cried. I felt like my family member was raped.

Sprayed penis on his pants and painted female nude on his shirt.



As I don't have studio space for a wood and paint work. I am always working in front of my apartment right next to my apartment's garbage dump.

In addition to the support on the back. paint&draw a cane on a plywood...

I will never work outside after 2:30 pm...

I cleaned the graffiti with paint thinner.



August 17 Sunday

Grand Concourse Bet 165 & 167 St. The Bronx

Boogie on The Boulevard



7 Peekaboo-kun were set up in a circle. The new piece this time is Devika. → Like the mother & her child (pic below) people enjoyed reading the labels of characters.



Name
Devika
Nationality or Group
Dominica Republic
Peek-a-boo Board No.

I have worked at a supermarket as a cashier. I am a senior worker here.
A special seasoning I recommend at this supermarket is "Aromatic Bitters".
It makes any food taste better for any salty or sweet plates.
Please try and enjoy the product. You will see a brown small bottle on the middle of that row.





This time I wondered whether to exhibit a piece of "The Bronx Zoo Penguin". It might be perfect as exhibit in the Bronx, but it might look too childish.

My art work might look for family's children at a glance, but my main target is adults. I think children can imagine being someone else freely and easily. They don't need "Aliens in NY". Adults need to experience Peekaboo-kun and look the world from different perspectives.

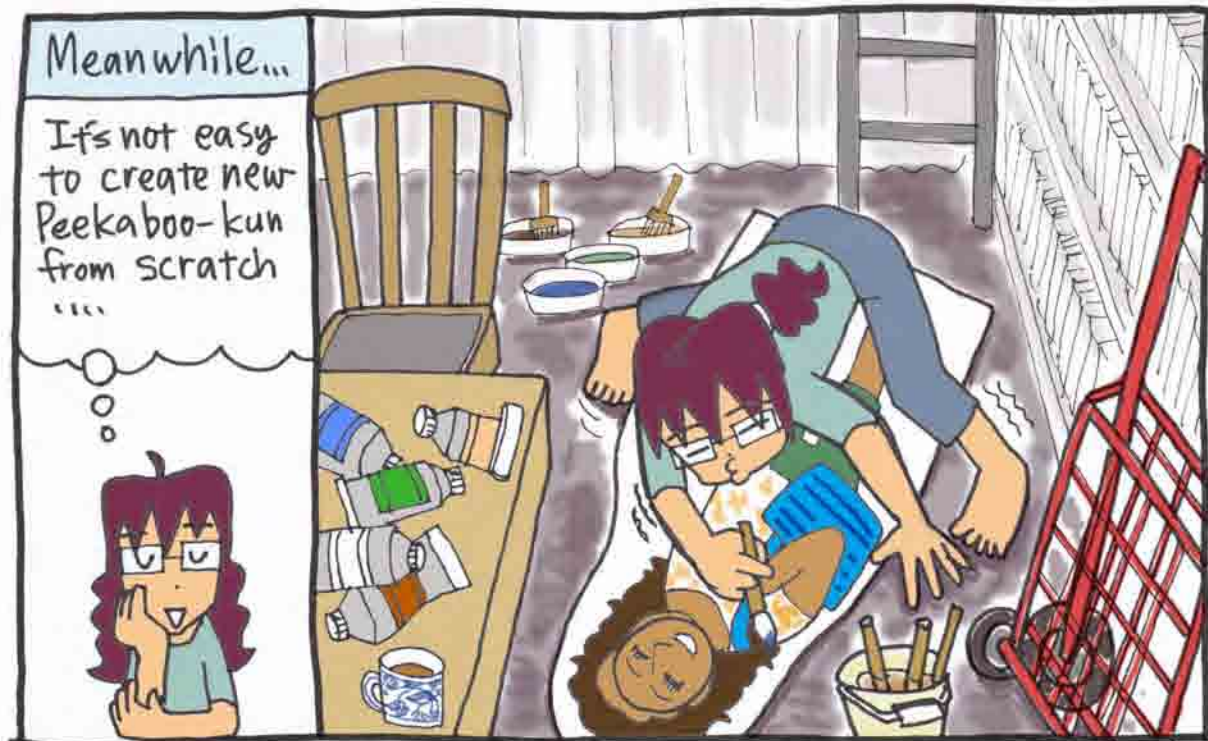
Isra, Ecuador Salesman who was broken to 3 pieces, is repaired and working very well.



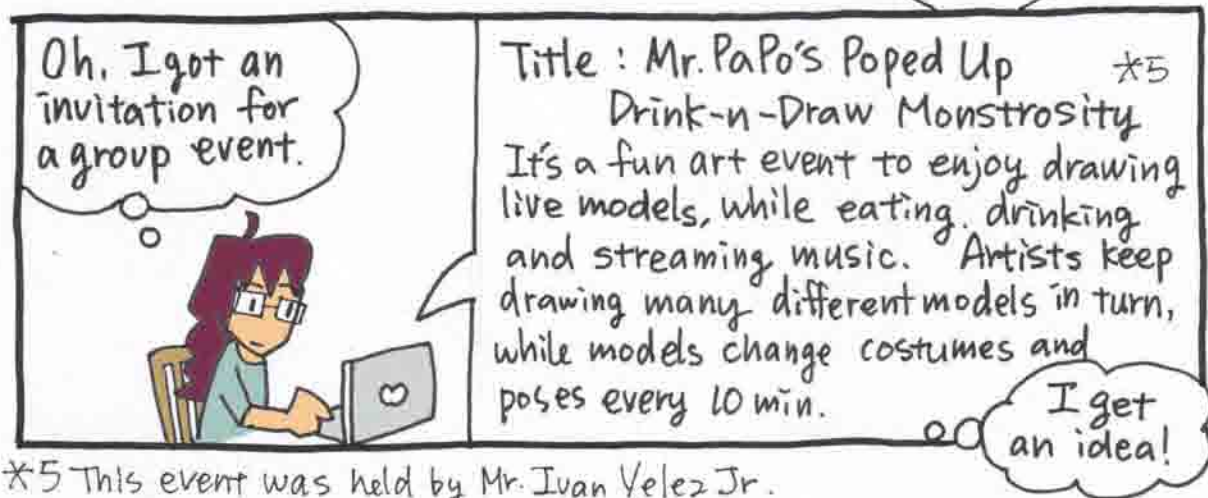
Juanita Cruz, The Bronx residence transformed to Mexican, Kenyan, Irish, Ecuadorian, Puerto Rican, Dominican, and Ukrainian.

It was the first time to hold Aliens' project on street in the Bronx. 400 People enjoyed Peekaboo-kun in 4 hours.





I don't have proper working space nor money to rent a studio. In my current working space, I can barely place one table. So awkward to work on a Peekaboo-kun, placing on the floor space. It's like a lonely Twister Game.



*5 This event was held by Mr. Ivan Velez Jr.

I can make Peekaboo-kun pieces on the spot. The event will be held at The Bronx Museum. It must be a big space, and I should be able to draw a lot at time!



The models are LGBTQ or the supporters so that I may be able to hear interesting stories as "Aliens in NY". They may be perfect models for my project too.



I prepared by painting old Peekaboo-kun pieces white. I didn't have budget to buy new boards, but I can paint the old ones white. I will draw directly on those, using a black marker.



Can I really do this?

Don't worry! just do it!



November 9 Sunday

at The Bronx Museum of the Arts

Mr. PaPo's
Drink-n-Draw

only for ages 18+



It was soooo difficult to fit a model's face into the existing hole.

It was super difficult to conform the model's pose to existing Peekaboo-kun's arbitrarily curvy shape.

Undersketching? Nope! I just drew right on the boards.





It's a piece of a cake to draw a model on a sketchbook size paper in 10 min. Drawing an actual size Peekaboo-kun in 10 min was a totally different story.



These Peekaboo-kun pieces will be painted and finished later, I would love to exhibit them in 2015!



Well, I wasn't able to make any additional Peekaboo-kun pieces from scratch in 2014, but I made improvements on exhibiting method & developing concepts.

I regretted that I wasn't able to secure budgets from foundation, even though I was awarded seed money from QCA. Funding is the biggest objective of the next year.

After Two Year of Learning

In order to secure budget for "Aliens in New York" project

- Having over 3 month of preparation period prior to an event.
- 2 or more years of financial reports.

Let's see the event schedule of 2015.

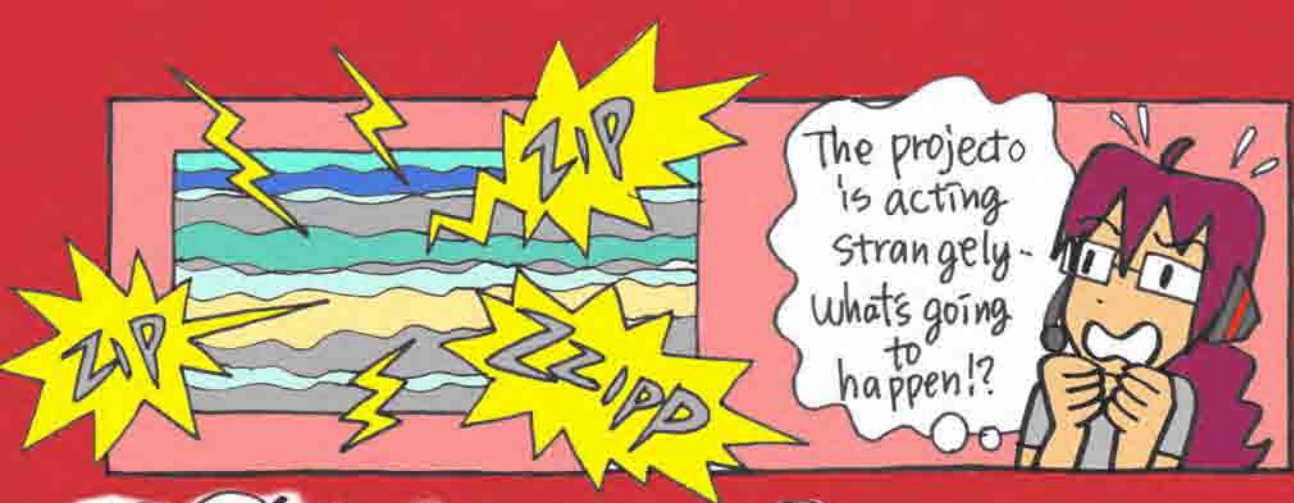
May 7-10, Queens & Comics Conference, presented by CLAGS: The Center for LGBTQ Studies The Graduate Center, CUNY, 365 Fifth Ave, NYC

July-September, AIM Group Art Show The Bronx Museum for the Arts, The Bronx

August(scheduled), Boogie On The Boulevard Summer Sndays, The Bronx

I already secured locations for 2015 exhibits, so that it will be easier to create applications. I need your continued support in 2015. The next year, I love to report you at an actual event, not inside my brain hall.....

Huh??

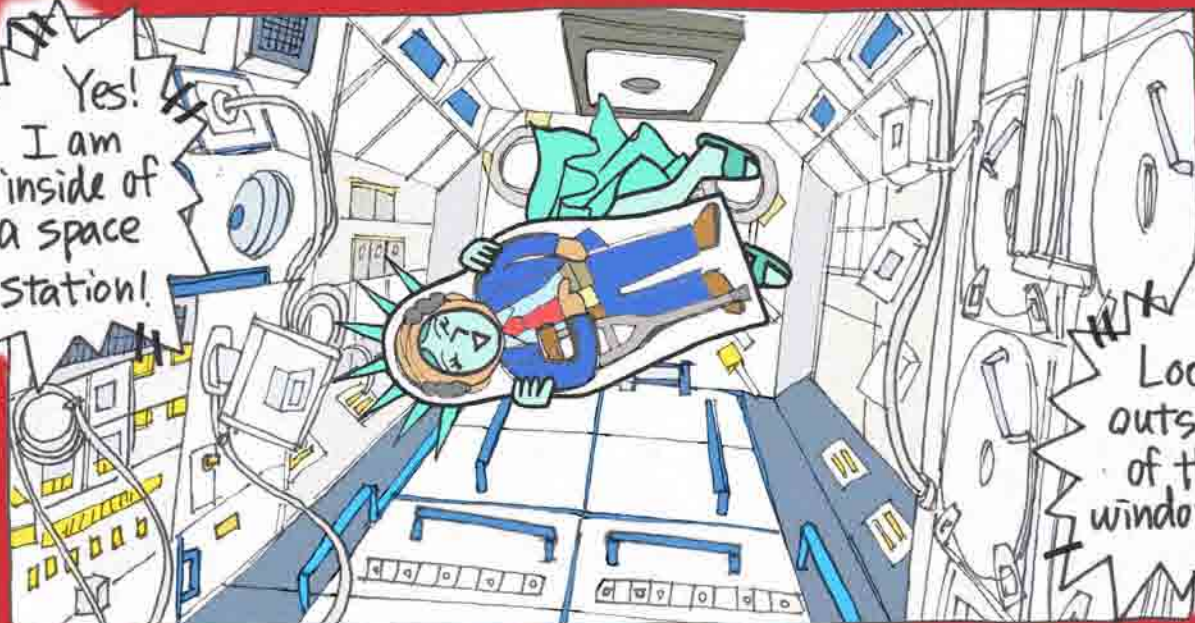


Do you
know
where
I am
at,



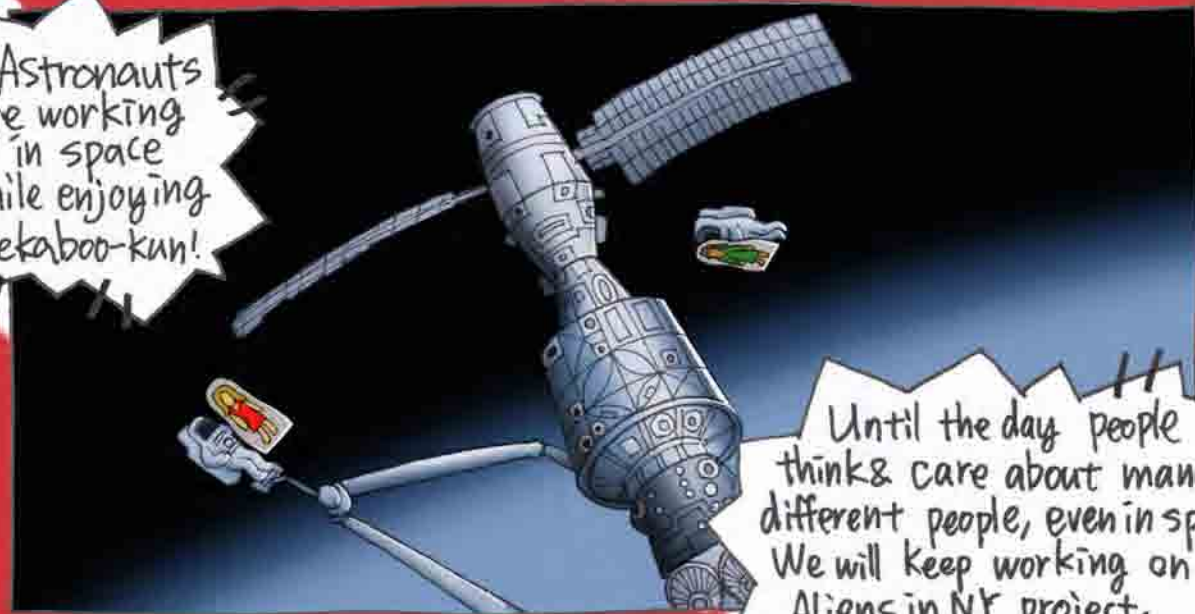
holding
Peekaboo-kun
like this?

Yes!
I am
inside of
a space
station!



Look
outside
of the
windows!

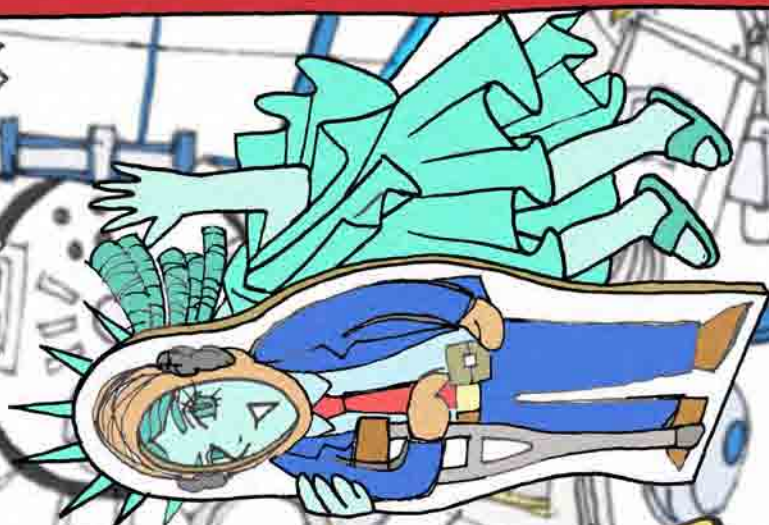
Astronauts
are working
in space
while enjoying
Peekaboo-kun!



Until the day people
thinks & care about many
different people, even in space,
We will keep working on
Aliens in NR project,
Please join us!

Now
it's time
to catch
the last
ferry to go
back to
Liberty
Island.

Farewell!
Return
to you,
Studio.



APPLAUSE!



Thank you
very much!
The following story
of this Manga comic
report will depend on
your support!
Stay tuned!

Looking
forward to
2015...

And
the legend
continued...