

Kalle Grude (1946)

Untitled (Drawing) 1992

Ink on paper in heavy metal frames, 200 by 200 cm

Ellen Gleditsch house

The two monumental works by Kalle Grude show two ink drawings shaped like concentric circles or spirals. The ink line is irregular, and messy where ink has spurted from the marker. There is a little hole in the centre of the drawing; it looks like someone has pushed a nail through the paper. The large drawing has been framed in massive steel frames which need to be kept in place by sturdy mountings.

The drawings are the product of a performance. During an exhibition at the Norwegian Drawing Association, Grude placed large sheets of paper on the floor, put a nail through the middle and tied a GI Joe figure with a marker under its arm to the nail. In other words, the ink drawing we see on the wall today is the track of a doll which crawled in a fixed path on the sheet for a long time.

We often find this playfulness and sense of the absurd aspects of everyday life in Kalle Grude's work. He is one of the artists who played a part in changing Norwegian art in the 1990s – both through the subjects he deals with in his art and the materials he uses to create it.

Kalle Grude's works have been purchased by the National Museum and other major national collections. He is also among the artists who contributed to the facade of the Norwegian National Opera and Ballet building.