

Ken Dryden

*That Republic was a deceptive model of perfection. It might be realized by some dictator, but it could only function as a machine functions—mechanically. And machines function mechanically only because they are made of dead inorganic materials. If you want to express the difference between an organic progressive society and a static totalitarian regime, you can do so in one word: this is art.*

– from JOURNEY THROUGH UTOPIA by Marie Louise Berneri.















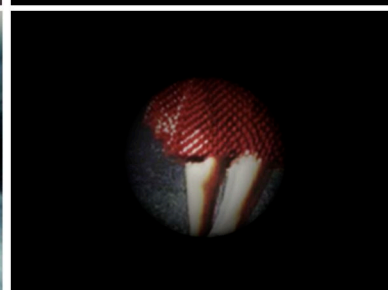
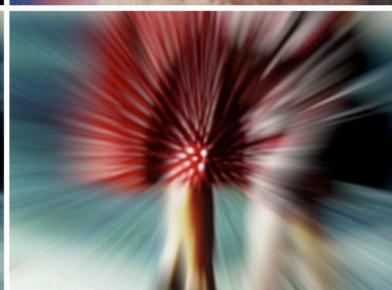
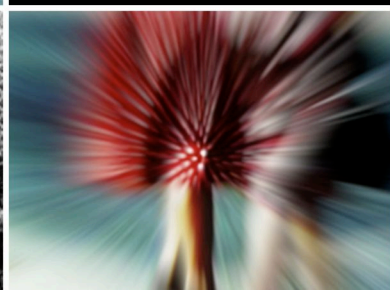
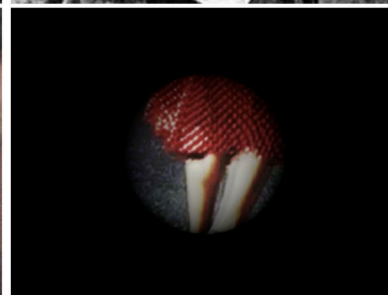
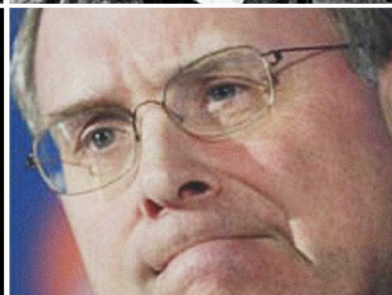
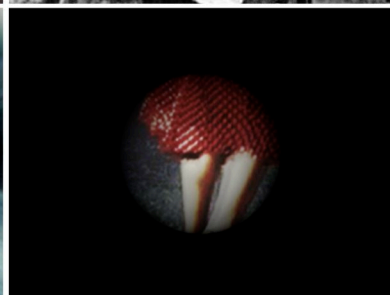
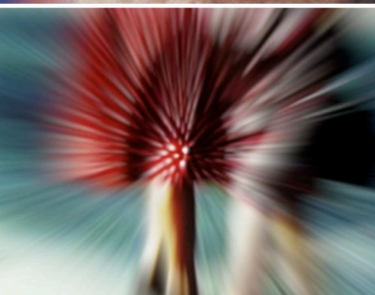
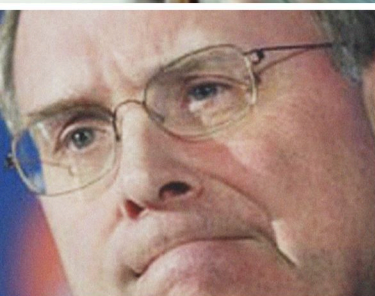


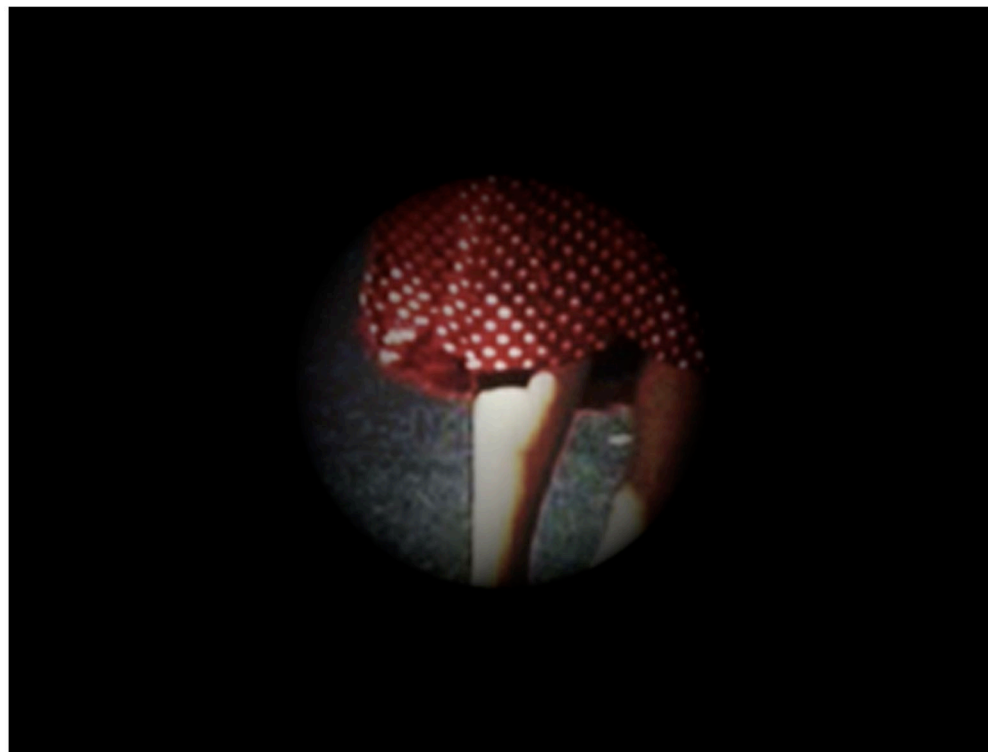
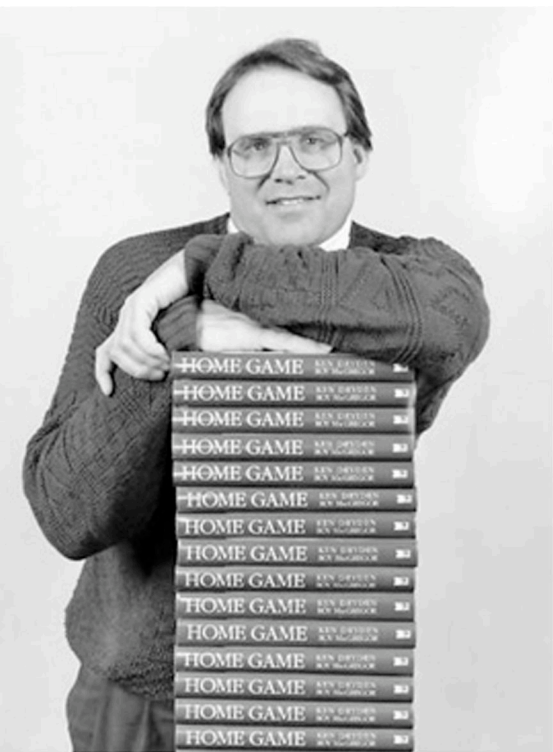




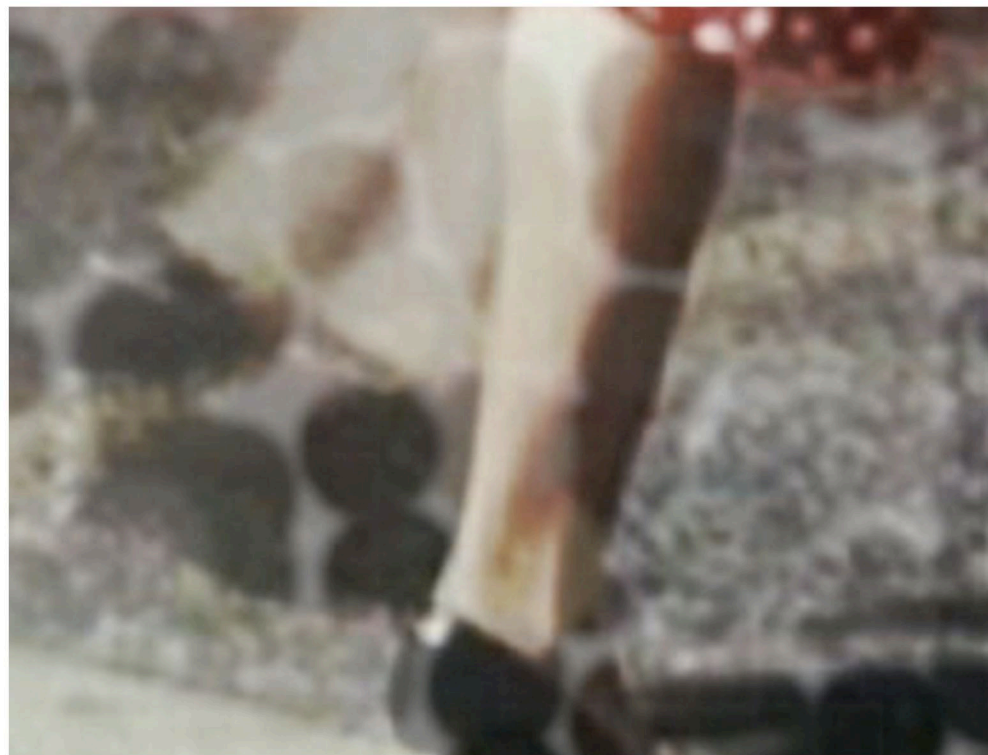












# Ken Dryden

Conn in 2008:

Ken Dryden is a famous hockey goalie – he's also a Member of Parliament, a piece of Canadian pop culture, and a white man. I'm most interested in the last one.

He first caught my attention when I was 10. My parents came from Ireland so I never watched hockey, but my new friend Charlie was a huge fan. I noticed right away that Ken Dryden wasn't normal. Whenever there was a 'bench clearing brawl' he'd stand leaning on his stick and watch until the fights were over.

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The next time I thought about him was in the mid-1980's during an amazing CBC interview, I had a tape recorder so I pointed it at the radio. He talked about the connection between sports, male violence, and especially rape. He focussed partly on a controversial new movie, *The Accused*, where Jodie Foster is gang-raped on a pool table.

I thought at the time, 'this is an unusual man'. I was in my 20's and trying to figure out what it meant to be a man, a white man.

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Today, as a politician, Ken Dryden's become a very powerful white man. He seems to be changing over time, he started with the Conservatives, then joined the Liberals, and now seems focussed on improving social programs. He travels the country consulting the population while using his hockey past as a folksy door-opener. Recently, he declared that ending poverty in Canada is a goal we should all see through. Sadly, I feel that what he's offering is... impossible. Not ending poverty. Him. If he's telling the truth, then *he's* impossible.

He has a sometimes clumsy, but straight forward way of talking. He still speaks like an athlete, in sports metaphors, but maybe this will help him stay focussed. He says we should tackle big problems, like poverty, in a steady, organized way, and to keep going until we 'win'.

This is anti-politics, *if he's telling the truth*, because our prevailing social system asks that everybody join in when there's a bench-clearing brawl. Never mind the 'goal'.

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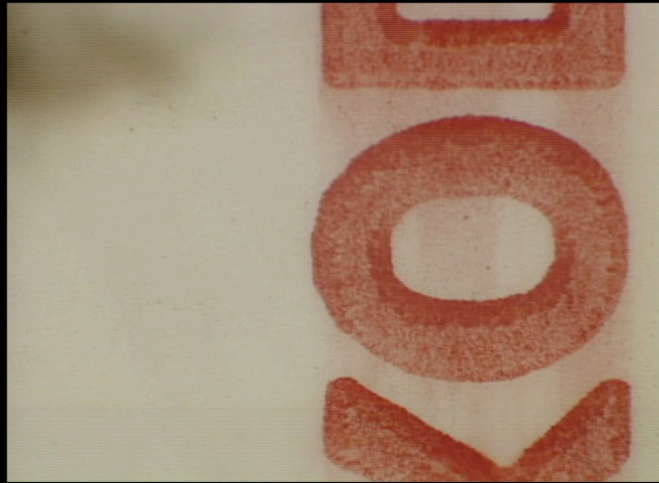
Ken Dryden ran unsuccessfully for the Liberal leadership last year. He said he was running because 'he was angry', which I liked, and I think he might win one day. What would it mean if we had a goalie Prime Minister? Would he wear a mask in Parliament? Could he stay calm and focussed, and defeat the problems of poverty, greed, and hate?

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When I found this old radio recording and realized I was going to make *Ken Dryden*, I was surprised. Sometimes, attempts to combine art with hockey make me uneasy, when the heady mix of pop irony, nationalism and nostalgia becomes too much. But the idea wouldn't go away. So now I'm watching this white man's life along with the rest of the country, watching its narrative arc unfold like a life-long sports movie. (Who will win?)

## Colour Prints + Diptychs

- Cover          Ken Dryden :: Women + Sleeping Ken
- Pp. 2-3        Ken Dryden :: Boy Ken + Woman at Curb
- Pp. 4-5        Ken Dryden :: Red Dress Close Up + Teenage Ken
- Pp. 6-7        Ken Dryden :: Young Man Ken + Women at Curb
- Pp. 8-9        Ken Dryden :: Red Dress Close Up + Masked Ken
- Pp. 10-11      Ken Dryden :: Woman Stepping Off Curb + Ankles Stepping Off Curb
- Pp. 12-13     Ken Dryden :: Women in Blue Dots + Women in Squares
- P. 14          Ken Dryden :: 16 Media Tiles
- P. 15          Ken Dryden :: Author Ken + Ankles, Circled
- P. 16          Ken Dryden :: Women, Starburst
- P. 17          Ken Dryden :: Action Ken + Ankles Stepping Off Curb



Clive Holden

2008