



**LISA LARSON®**

*All round designer  
Sweden*



*Lisa Larson*

**Lisa Larson** is a Swedish ceramic designer who started out at Gustavsberg Porcelain Factory in 1954. Since 1980 she has worked as a freelance designer and ceramic sculptor.

In 1955 the 'Lilla Zoo' series was the first of Lisa's figurines ever to be put into production. Stig Lindberg, who was the artistic director at Gustavsberg Porcelain factory at the time, discovered Lisa's unique talent for adapting her creative ideas to the many challenges of factory production.

During the 26 years Lisa Larson worked at Gustavsberg, more than 50 series of her designs were put into production. There was also the Studio Production of handmade pieces made by Lisa herself and her assistant ceramicists.

Throughout her career Lisa has always enjoyed creating unique, free ceramic sculptures, vases, bowls and plates, alongside the many design commissions from around the world.

In the last few years there has been a renewed interest in her work, especially from Japan. Though now in her 80's, Lisa is busier than ever. She designs not only for clay but also for other materials, including textiles, as well as creating unique sculptures for gallery exhibitions across the globe.



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**Lisa Larson – a quick history**

**1948** - Lisa's first experimentation with clay. A portrait of the neighbour's boy, made from blue clay her father had given her. The local newspaper liked it so much they published a picture! The sculpture vanished after time because it was never fired!

**1952** - Lisa at Art School in Gothenburg some time between 1948 and 1954.



**1958** - Two of the new young artists at Gustavsberg hired by Stig Lindberg. Britt-Louise Sundell and Lisa.

**1958** - In her studio at the factory, working on unique sculptures, some of which were put into production.



**1962** - The painting department at Gustavsberg working on a batch of 'Johanna'.



**1965** - thrown shapes turned into a kangaroo sculpture.

**1970** - thrown shapes turned into cats.





**1980s** - Lisa had left Gustavsberg and focussed on Unique work which she showed in art galleries together with husband Gunnar's paintings.



**1992** - The company Keramikstudion Gustavsberg was established by Lisa and Franco Nicolosi when Gustavsbergs Fabriker closed down the production of art goods.



**1990s** - A new figure for production, manufactured by the new Keramikstudion Gustavsberg.



**2008-** Lisa continues working from her own studio, both with new ceramics and illustrations for products made in other materials. Her popularity in Japan, Taiwan and Korea is continuing to grow.



### The story of Mikey

In 1957, Lisa made a ceramic sculpture which was inspired by the cats she had watched hunting in the woods around her summer house outside Gustavsberg. Working her clay, she found herself shaping a very distinct cat. A cat with a purpose. It was perfect for production at Gustavsbergs Porslinsfabrik, and was released as one of the animals in the series Stora Zoo.

50 years later she once more modelled a cat as part of a series of assorted animals, for the Japanese company Powershovel/Tonkachi. The material was different, however, the spirit of her 1950's pets, confident and purposeful, remained. The proud tail and sleek movement there for all to see.

When Lisa was asked to supply some drawings of animals to use in print she asked her daughter to help with the process of providing the artwork. Johanna, a graphic designer, was especially drawn to the cheeky cat character and enhanced the bold lines, its original poise and purpose. Mikey was born. A cat with an uncompromising air and integrity, a cat with a life of its own, just like the pets that hunted all those years ago.



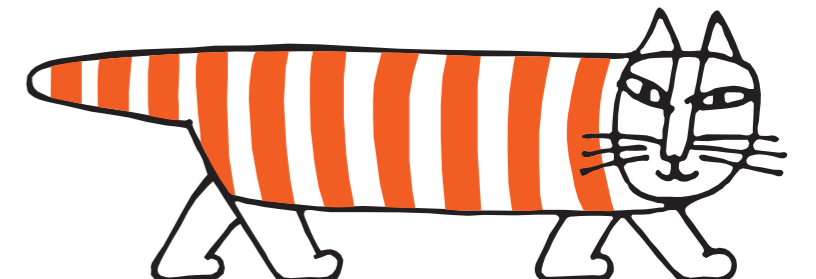
*Lisa & Johanna Larson*



This was the beginning of a new collaboration between mother and daughter. Johanna suggested that Lisa should allow her to work on some more of the many other humorous and inspiring animal sketches Lisa had created. These were developed into Baby Number Book and Baby Colour Book, published by Powershovel Books in 2010, and since then, new characters have also joined the Lisa Larson gang.

Mikey, the loveable rogue, became the focus for the book Night Cat, written by James Blake, translated by Mitsuyo Kakuta, and published by Jitsugyo-No-Nihon-Sha in 2012.

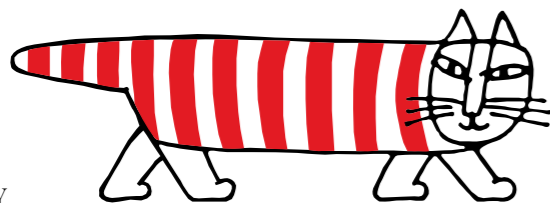
His cheeky face now adorns many products, in a variety of materials. His secret life continues to fascinate. Lisa has set him free to live his own life, he is grown up now. Please look out for him!



Lisa & Phanna Larson

**Baby Animals**

**MIKEY**



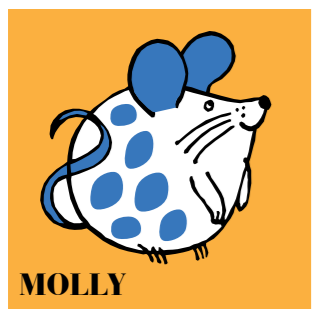
**Mikey**  
He thinks he is the king of everything. He gets everything he needs, everything he wants, all the time. He is quite pleased with himself.



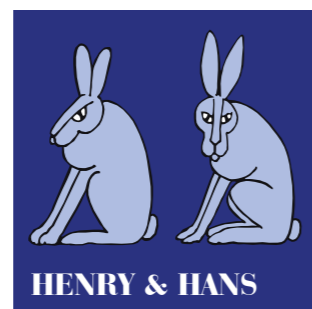
**Sam the Spaniel**  
He is quite nervous and worried about things. He tries his best but he never does anything right. He wants everything to be perfect.



**Lennart the Lion**  
He is the king, he is brave, he is tough. He is never bad to anyone, he is always fair and he is nice to the smaller animals.



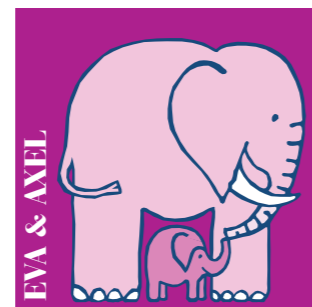
**Molly the Mouse**  
She is quite nosy, she wants to know everybody's business. She loves to gossip with her friends. She has the cleanest house of all the animals. She is always busy.



**Henry & Hans, the Hares**  
They are quite aloof. They are proud because they are the fastest, but they don't talk to others. Everybody thinks they look grumpy, but they aren't. They just keep themselves to themselves.



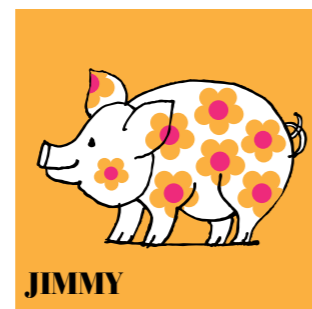
**Jemma & Joe, the Giraffes**  
They don't care for anything but their love for each other. Nothing can happen to them because their love is so strong.



**Eva & Axel, the Elephants**  
She is gentle and kind and very very wise. She knows so many things. She is huge and very strong, yet delicate and careful. She looks after her baby.



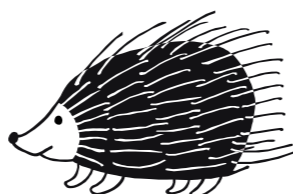
**Maggie the Cow**  
She minds her own business. She always tries to help. She is quite kind hearted, you can tell her all your troubles and she solves all problems, although she is quite forgetful.



**Jimmy the Pig**  
He is always hungry. He is always worried about missing his dinner. He is not greedy, he just likes a lot. When he is not eating he is sleeping. He likes to sleep in mud.

**Harriet the Hedgehog**  
She is probably the kindest animal. She is quite sad because she jags people but there is nothing she can do about it. She loves playing Hide & Seek. It is her favourite game.

**HARRIET**



**More characters by Lisa**

**Rudolf**



AKA Rulle. He is rolled up and cosy and snug. He feels secure. He loves his life and his family.

**Charlie**



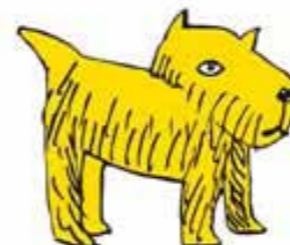
Charlie is a cat about town. He is stylish and has great posture. He is not as angry as he looks. Just a serious man.

**Mimi**



Mimi is a happy-go-lucky cat. The friendliest cat you will ever meet. She likes people. She likes to be part of the household. She is very clean and neat.

**Tristan**



Tristan is a little sad sometimes, but he struggles on. His friends are there for him and that makes it all worth while.

**Tyko**



Tyko is a thoughtful dog. He is a deep mysterious creature who sometimes has really crazy ideas. He feels a bit awkward sometimes but in actual fact he is really cool.

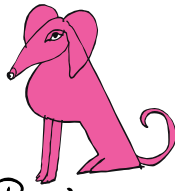
# LISA LARSON®



Mimi



Mia



Paris



Niko



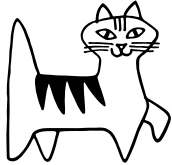
Tyko



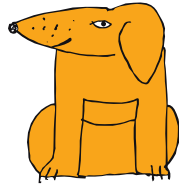
Tristan



Rudolf



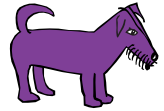
Felix



Bo



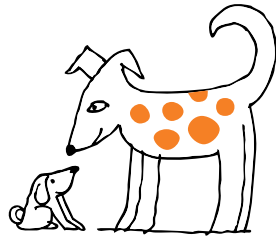
Amalia



Hilda



Max



Friends



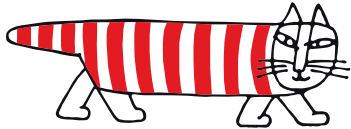
Colin



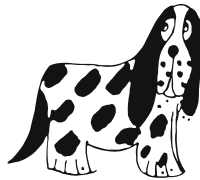
Duncan



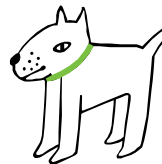
Emil



Mikey



Sam



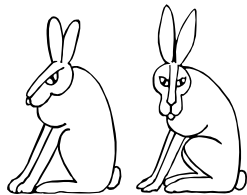
Bob



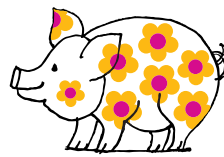
Bobby



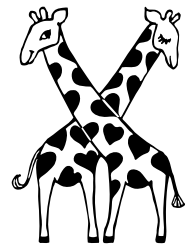
Maggie



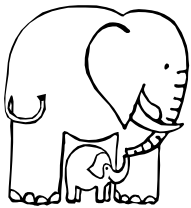
Henry & Hans



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Harriet



Molly



Leomar

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