

Project Title: "Plastic Voyeurs: The Secret Lives of Dolls"

General Description: "The Secret Lives of Dolls" (henceforth, "SLD") is a part of an ongoing, larger project of mine, entitled "Plastic Voyeurs" ("PV"). The series "SLD" is intended to be a sub-category in the broader view of its parent project, "PV", and will be comprised of roughly 50-100 photographs (both black and white and color) and digital paintings. Pieces in other media may also be added.

The dolls in question are Asian ball-jointed dolls which are designed and created by Korean doll sculptor Bimong, and are cast in resin. These dolls come in male ("Narin") and female ("Narae"), many different skintone options, and two different scales: 1/3 (or 60 cm) and 1/4 (43 cm). I selected Asian ball-jointed dolls for their flexibility, "posability", ability to be completely customized (you can swap the wigs and eyes) and also for their beauty. Bimong's "Narindolls" are like little works of art themselves, and, best of all, the artist has created faceplates which you can change in order to give the illusion of a changed expression. In my project, this is important in order to have a psychological connection with the audience. I chose the 1/4 scale dolls because they are half the price of the larger dolls, and much lighter in weight, so that won't become an issue if I have to transport them anywhere.

Background: The purpose of "PV" was to provide social commentary and criticism on the marketing of sexuality through advertising and entertainment. Asian ball-jointed dolls assume the role of the female models we find in the media; their direct gaze, nudity, and suggestive poses not only mirror what we are bombarded with as "sexy", but serve to challenge the viewer

directly, blatantly inviting them to look. The viewer will, most of the time, feel uncomfortable because this is not a real woman he or she is looking at, which, I think, proves my point of the desensitization we as a society have come to experience when it comes to sex in the media. This idea also doubles as a “woman as object” statement.

Specific Goals of the Project: “SLD” takes the idea further by, in essence, adding a partner, and creating erotic –but satirical—scenes, from which the viewer will experience discomfort based on the idea that they are intruding or spying on an intimate moment between two people, or, in this case, dolls. Most people would not think twice when seeing two human models in the same situation in advertising, however, it is the artificiality of the dolls which sets the viewer on edge, and also points to the artificiality of this whole idea of commercialized sex and sexuality.

Methods and Timeline: The methods I intend to use refer to the artistic media to be used in the “SLD” series, which include: black and white photography, color photography (both to be corrected in Adobe Photoshop); digital painting with programs such as Corel Painter and, again, Photoshop; the use of “real” media such as oil paint, gouache and watercolor may also be used.

I estimate a time period of about two (2) months total will be needed to reach my goal of 50-100 images. The first week will be dedicated to creating wigs for the dolls out of mohair pelts (supplies for which I already have). The second week will consist of taking the actual photographs, whether they will be presented as such, or used as reference for another media. The following two weeks will be used to “touch up” or “correct” these photographs. Three more

weeks will be used for the creation of digital paintings, and the final week will be used to get the images printed and prepared for a show.

Role of the Student and Faculty Sponsor: As this is my project, I will be responsible for creating the body of work for the show. Professor [REDACTED] role in this project will be to offer constructive criticism on the pieces in order for me to put together the best possible series of images to achieve the desired effect. I may also utilize Professor [REDACTED] print shop to print my work.

BUDGET PAGE

Please refer to BUDGET INFORMATION (page 2) before preparing.

STUDENT APPLICANT NAME(S): [REDACTED]

FACULTY SPONSOR NAME(S): [REDACTED]

PROJECT TITLE: Plastic Voyeurs: The Secret Lives of Dolls

List all items requested for funding and provide a brief narrative to justify requested expense.

\$ _____ Student Fellowship(s) [not to exceed \$500 total for project]

Note: A fellowship is a non-wage award related to an academic endeavor and is subject to IRS regulations. Students who are awarded fellowships will be paid only after presentation at Student Research Day.

Name(s): [REDACTED]

Amount: \$ \$ \$ TOTAL: \$ (Not to exceed \$500)

\$1480.00 Supplies/Materials/Minor Equipment: List and describe below.

- 43 cm Narae (female) doll, white matte resin, with 1/3 open eyes face: \$425
- 2/3 open eyes faceplate for Narae: \$150
- 43 cm Narin (male) doll, tan matte resin, with 1/3 open eyes face: \$425
- 2/3 open eyes faceplate for Narin: \$150
- face painting service for face plates: \$65 each X 4 = \$260

\$0 Travel: Include air/train fare, mileage (current mileage rate is \$0.585/mile), lodging, per diem (check www.gsa.gov for accurate per diem rates by location), ground transportation, parking, tolls and any other travel expenses required specifically to conduct the research or creative activity (see Budget Information on page 2).

\$20 Other Expenses: Describe expense.

The remaining \$20 will go toward having my work printed.

TOTAL REQUEST: \$1500.00 (not to exceed \$1,500)

FACULTY SPONSOR FORM

This form must be completed by the faculty sponsor(s), printed and signed, and included in the grant package for submission by the application deadline (noon, 10 November 2008). Additional pages are allowed for narrative comments, which will be strongly considered in the review process.

STUDENT APPLICANT NAME(S): [REDACTED]

FACULTY SPONSOR NAME(S): [REDACTED]

PROJECT TITLE: Plastic Voyeurs: The Secret Lives of Dolls

Rate the quality of the project and the ability of the student(s) to carry out and complete the project.

1 Excellent 2 Very good 3 Good 4 Fair 5 Poor

- | | | |
|-------------|--|--|
| Project: | <input type="checkbox"/> Originality of project | <input type="checkbox"/> Significance of the project |
| Student(s): | <input type="checkbox"/> Familiarity with work in the applicable field | <input type="checkbox"/> Ability to organize work |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Perseverance in pursuing goals | <input type="checkbox"/> Self-reliance and independence |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Potential to complete project | <input type="checkbox"/> Laboratory skills and techniques, if relevant |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Ability to work cooperatively with others | <input type="checkbox"/> Ability to communicate effectively |

Rate the student(s)' contribution to this proposal, including originality of ideas, background research, and writing.

<25% 25-50% 50-75% 75-100%

In the space below (and additional pages, if needed), please comment on the following:

Your role in developing the proposal and how you will facilitate completion of the project.

see attached

The applicant(s) potential to carry out the proposed research or creative activity and the relevance of the project to the applicant(s)' chosen field of study; compare the applicant(s) with other students you have supervised or with other successful students you have known.

Additional remarks:

Signature of Faculty Sponsor(s):

[REDACTED SIGNATURE]

The Secret Lives of Dolls

My part in the development of this project has been limited to talking to the student about her work that this project stems from. She has been totally responsible for the entire concept and proposal. I will work with her on the project by providing criticism and technical assistance wherever needed.

I believe that [REDACTED] will be very successful with this project because she has a level of professionalism and maturity that is rare among students at the undergraduate level. She has many responsibilities, including being a single parent, that she balances well by allocating her time and using it most efficiently. This project is at the heart of her chosen field of study and also has tremendous meaning to her personally. [REDACTED] is a very serious student with a very high level of intellectualism in her work that I normally do not expect even amongst most graduate art students. What she proposes to do is something that she would do with or without the grant, but I know she would not be able to afford it without some form of financial assistance. In other words, this project was not invented because there was a grant available, the project needed to be done and there happens to be a grant available at the time.

I hope you will give serious consideration to her proposal.

Thank you.

[REDACTED]