

Barbie becomes domestic violence victim in new art exhibition

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An artist has shown what Barbie would look like, were she to fall victim to domestic violence, huffingtonpost.co.uk reports.

In a bid to highlight the plight of women who suffer violence at the hands of their partners, Sam Humphreys of the Writtle School of Design in Chelmsford created a new art installation showing just how much this action would impact on the notoriously glamorous Barbie.

The work highlights the difference between a child's optimistic view of the world and the actual realities. It sees Barbie sporting black eyes, bruises and blood on her lip. The finished shots range from Barbie being slightly bruised to being sick and even, in one instance, being beaten to death.

Humphreys' work has already caught the attention of the art department at Leicester University, which has chosen to display her images at its 'Speaking Out' event. The display, which addresses the issue of violence against women through art, will promote resistance against such violence and show how other survivors have come out the other side.

Commenting after her work was picked up for Speaking Out, Humphreys told dailymail.co.uk that she believed teaching children about such issues from a young age could make all the difference.

"Using Barbie is a nice way of using a toy that everyone recognises as an imagine of perfection and undercutting that," she added.

"My children have seen it. My youngest is eight. She has seen a picture of the bruised Barbie but she hasn't asked what it's all about. She could have just fallen over. I don't think it's explicit or shocking."