

Pictured: Artist's shocking work to be used in domestic abuse exhibit at Writtle College

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Other dolls created touch on the subject of eating disorders



BRUISED: One of the dolls that will be displayed



SHOCKING: The dolls were made over a period of five months last year



REACHING OUT: This doll represents a dead person



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AN ART student has created a series of shocking work for a university exhibition on violence against women – showing Barbie Dolls suffering domestic violence.

The dolls, which include one with blood around the mouth and a second with a male doll standing behind a Barbie with a bruised face, were made over a period of five months last year and now they will be displayed at a university's gallery as part of the Speaking Out project.

They are the work of 41-year-old Sam Humphreys, who is studying for a BA Honours degree in Contemporary Art and Design degree at Writtle College.

"When I was a little girl I played with Sindy dolls and you did housey things with dolls then," she said. "Then along came Barbie dolls and they were very different and very materialistic. They had everything whereas Sindy was a housewife.

"My Sindy dolls used to go to the shops. Barbie could be the first instruction to young children how adults live their life."

Speaking about the intended audience for the project, Ms Humphreys said: "It could be intended for young adults to perhaps demonstrate that life is not perfect as we are led to believe through the TV and TOWIE (The Only Way Is Essex)."

A total of 10 dolls were created, including some being sick and one that's heavily bruised, but only three will be displayed professionally in the gallery of the University of Leicester.

The Speaking Out project at the educational establishment brings together artists, survivors, support organisations, and local communities to explore domestic violence.

It aims to move the debate into a wider public audience and shows how survivors can overcome trauma and promote a positive view of women's resistance.

Sam Humphreys' website can be seen at: www.samhumphreys.com

More information on the Speaking Out Project, which runs until March 28, can be found at www.speaking-out.co.uk

Read more: <http://www.essexchronicle.co.uk/Pictured-Artist-s-shocking-work-used-domestic/story-20565387-detail/story.html#ixzz2wJwAziad>