



## Artist Creates “Domestic Abuse Barbie” To Expose Realities Of Violence Against Women

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*Warning: This post contains material about domestic abuse that may be disturbing to some.*

Mattel’s Barbie dolls are the toy countless young girls spend their childhoods playing with, often forming their ideas about femininity and adulthood from the doll’s aesthetic characteristics. On the outside, Barbie is perfect – and that’s exactly why artist [Sam Humphreys](#) chose the doll to be the subject of a domestic violence awareness series.

Exploring the space between appearance and reality, Humphreys morphs Barbie dolls into victims of abuse. The series is titled “It’s A Matter Of Trust,” and its tagline hauntingly states: “We shouldn’t be taught that life is perfect.”



Humphreys has added black eyes, scars, blood and bruises to the Barbies. With her highly recognizable image, Barbie makes a powerful statement about domestic violence. “It’s A Matter Of Trust” features ten dolls, which carry a variety of abuse – lightly bruised to severely injured. Humphrey says:

**“I was interested in how, when we’re younger, we’re led to believe that everything is perfect, and how as children we are quite rightly sheltered from the harsh realities of adulthood.” [\[source\]](#)**



Humphreys believes that the only way to decrease domestic violence is by teaching children about respect early on. She says:

**“Using Barbie is a nice way of using a toy that everyone recognizes as an image of perfection and undercutting that.” [\[source\]](#)**

Three of Humphrey’s ten dolls have been selected for a display at Leicester University (England) called “Speaking Out”, which portrays depictions of violence against women in art. The exhibition will run until March 28th - [details here.](#)

