

Artist's work shows Barbie as a victim of domestic violence

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Artist Samantha Humphreys has documented a series of disturbing pictures of domestic violence using an icon of female perfection - the Barbie. The series 'What If?' by Humphreys was featured in the Speaking Out Exhibition at Embrace Arts, University of Leicester. Since then, the series has been receiving worldwide media attention.

The series is based on the theoretical question of 'What if we were to teach our children at an early age about the harsh realities that face some?'

"Clearly, we wouldn't dream of exposing children to such things and my work is by no means intended to be used as an educational tool but by using Barbie dolls, an iconic toy that oozes perfection, I am demonstrating that life for some is by no means perfect. The series of ten images also explores insecurity, loneliness, illness and addiction," she said in her [blog](#). The images show Barbie with a bloody lip, a shiner, smoking a cigarette and being cheated on.



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