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Jennifer Raimondi Artist Statement and Artwork List

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Gallery

Jennifer Raimondi

Though Freud is considered old-fashioned, I am very interested in his theories about childhood development, infantile sexuality, and "family romance." Perhaps this is why I am consumed by a fascination with aspects of childhood, particularly my own. We impose innocence on children and attempt to shelter them from "adult" concerns, yet we allow them toys that mimic troubling aspects of adult life (sexy Barbies, violent war toys). The concept of toys as indicators of social taboos and inhibitions is therefore the basis of my current work. By relating adult sexuality to childhood sexuality, I hope to demolish the myth of childhood innocence.

To put it bluntly, I make toys, such as four-foot-high stuffed animals, that are imbued with adult issues, such as sex (the large stuffed animals sit on the gallery floor, involved in various sexual positions). But my work goes deeper than sex; sex is really just the superficial manifestation of a very complex and involved thought process. I have established a mental link with my own childhood behavior in order to get to the source of these ideas. My private introspection into my personal developmental history has resulted in art objects that amuse and disturb my audience, thus provoking a similar introspection in each viewer.

Jennifer Raimondi

1. **Installation View of Senior Thesis Exhibition**, Wesleyan University, April 1997. *The larger stuffed animals are on the floor; the pieces on the wall are smaller mixed media pieces that deal with different, but related, issues.*
2. **Untitled (Monkey and Pig)**. Fabric, polyfil. Each is approximately 4' high. 1997. *The female pig uses the male monkey's long tail for sexual stimulation.*
3. **Untitled (Octopus and Monkey)**. Fabric, polyfil. Approximately 2' and 4' high. 1997. *The female monkey is being penetrated by one of the octopus's tentacles.*
4. **Untitled (Colby and James)**. Fabric, polyfil. Approximately 2' high. 1997. *Colby is anally penetrating James.* Collection Buster Seccia.
5. **Untitled**. Leather, twine, buttons. Ranging in size from 3" to 5" in height. 1997.
6. **Untitled**. Flannel, latex. Each is approximately 16" long. 1997. Collection Tracey Ingle and Jill Cicero.
7. **Untitled**. Bass wood, leather. Approximately 16" long. 1996. Collection Lynn Fiffer.
8. **Untitled**. Beeswax. Approximately 9" high. 1997.
9. **Untitled**. Fake fur, polyfil. Each is approximately 2' tall. 1997.