

scribblingwoman

Probably about books, c18, detritus, parenting, poaching, print, sf, or writing.

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January 04, 2004

Food Chain Barbie

Thanks to [feministe](#) for the following:

I found Thomas Forsythe's art, the artist who recently won the lawsuit against Mattel, in a [s](#) [Illegal Art](#).

These artists use corporate imagery to make statements about consumer behavior and socie is beautiful and interesting, aesthetically pleasing and thought-provoking.

In the interests of Barbiology, I looked up Thomas Forsythe and his series of photographs, "Food Chain Barbie" according to the artist, to criticise "Barbie's embodiment of America's culture of consumption and co: the stereotyping of women."

Here is a [page](#) from the ACLU archives about Forsythe, and other highlights from Mattel's aggressive Here is a [news story](#) from ABC, and here is an [interesting article](#) on Forsythe and other "illegal" art.

And here [drumroll] is Forsythe's "Food Chain Barbie."



I appreciate the issues here, and I'm glad that Mattel, who seem right up there with Disney in the "hu corporations" category, lost the case. But...but...I can't help being reminded of that *Hustler* cover the controversy years ago, with the photo of the woman's legs sticking out from a meat grinder. Barbie is well, fill in the blanks: consumerism, stereotypical femininity, the anorectic ideal, the American Drea

also a representation of a female body, however grotesque and distorted, and I for one find it uncomfortable being blenderized, mixed, barbecued, stir-fried, or rear-mounted by a giant mix-master, all of which are in the series. Yes, I make a distinction between children decapitating, etc., their Barbies and these photos. I don't think Bushes or Donald Trumps undergoing the same indignities would be funny. Very funny. But I digress:



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Hmmm?

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