

SOCIAL LIFE

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POST POP ARTIST JESSICA LICHTENSTEIN

By HILARY PERERIA

Jessica Lichtenstein is an emerging artist on the radar of major collectors and curators. This summer, she has been making a splash with her exhibition, "Peep Show," at the Vered Gallery in East Hampton. Jessica calls it "a voyeuristic show about the empowerment of women." The central piece, "Peep," Jessica explains, "is built like an aquarium or a fish tank with girls swimming around in the water. I wanted to equate the way that we gaze at the naked female body to the way that we gaze at other beautiful objects surrounding us."

Well known for her manipulation of anime figurines and giant word sculptures, her work challenges audiences to confront their own notions of beauty and sexuality. When asked what word sculpture best describes her now, Jessica answers, "Play": to walk through life like a child constantly at play, gazing at the world with fresh, inquisitive eyes, and to hopscotch through those moments of fear and doubt with a smile on your face." Jessica's work has been exhibited at Gallery nine5 in NYC, at Art Basel Miami Beach, and in Aspen this summer at Galerie Maximillian.

A former lawyer, Jessica says that her "body physically revolted" against that career choice and she turned her focus to art. Describing her work process she says: "All in all, it takes about a month. The figures start as dolls that I buy from novelty comic book stores in Japan. To me they represent the perfect models to examine issues of sexuality, objectification, fetishism, commercialism, impropriety, and feminism."

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(Also at artMRKT in Bridgehampton, July 11 -14,
with Vered Gallery
and Art Southampton, July 25 -29, with Gallery nine5)



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