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The Other Toy Story: Installation art by Joyce Dallal

by Tracey Harnish | 05/17/11 |

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Receptacle by Joyce Dallal

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Author



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When you enter the gallery hallway at the Marlborough School for Girls, you are surrounded by shadow boxes made by the students. Created from magazine cut outs and personal ephemera, they are the subjective statements of young teens, a commentary on culture, family and perception. This hallway leads you into the larger gallery room wherein Joyce Dallal's "baby" sits. The baby is an almost to ceiling height mesh wire Receptacle (actually the name of the piece), that is filled with non-recyclable toys. When Receptacle is full, you won't see the wire frame and what you will see is a giant toy doll made of toys.

The piece creates conversation about several things: Why are toys so important in our society? Why do we create them out of materials that are practically indestructible yet parts fall off or crack and often cannot be passed onto other children? What kind of unseen impact are toys having on our children and the environment? It's an interesting mix to look at the social context alongside the physical one. The show includes the collection of toys, sorting them into groups that can be donated, recycled or fed to the baby. Students participate in not only the baby feeding but in side projects that continue the dialog.

Dallal has created a powerful tool for talking about important issues without our society while at the same time giving young students a chance to learn about art and how it can be a learning device for not only oneself, but also the entire community.

Joyce Dallal has had a long career in art, often exploring social issues via installations. You can learn more about her work by going to her website: joycedallal.com.

Check out the [blog the Other Toy Story](#) for more information.

Artist Talk and Baby Feeding: Saturday, May 21, 2-4pm

The Other Toy Story Exhibition

Artist Joyce Dallal and students of Marlborough School

May 5-June 3, 2011

Reception: Tuesday, May 10, 3-5pm

Marlborough School Seaver Gallery

Munger Hall

250 South Rossmore Avenue

Los Angeles, CA 90004

Gallery Hours: M-F 9-6pm except school holidays,

Sat 9-3:30pm. parking entrance on 3rd east of Rossmore

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