

Artists takes online violence, and makes art

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Hong Kong / USA:

On 25 November, 2019 the provocative artist and Instagram sensation, Sareytales joined forces with global arts initiative, Micro Galleries to create a 24 hour online exhibition for the U.N International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, "GRRRL PARTS."

As a female artist, and an Artistic Director, both discovered they were having a similar experience with online violence, and so decided to create a series to help raise awareness of the prevalence of online violence experienced by women, as well as the normalisation of it.

They called out to women around the world to submit screenshots of their cyber-violence experiences. Sarey Ruden then took these real interactions and used the iconic Barbie Doll, and statistics, as the subject matter.

The title for this campaign, "GRRRL PARTS", highlights how violence can reduce women to just "parts" of a whole person. They become objectified, and dehumanised.

For Detroit artist Sarey, as explained in her recent TEDx talk "The Art of Online Dating", there is an increasingly fine line between the digital space and real life. Lack of accountability and anonymity allow the aggressor to commit these cyber-crimes with little repercussions.

Sarey explains:

It's my hope that by exposing this toxic behaviour so evident in the digital dating landscape, we can bring awareness to the severity of the situation and how it is present in many areas of women's online and day-to-day life. This series aims to raise awareness, and highlight the gravity of the problem we have with gender-based violence in the digital arena.

And the results of the project to-date have been huge, with women reaching out to continue sharing their experiences, and many people shocked at the reality that many women experience online.

Artistic Director of Micro Galleries, Kat Roma Greer, explains why she felt this online exhibition had to happen, and why she chose Sarey to work with on this project:

It was amazing to me that others were having a similar experience of violence online. When I learnt about Sarey's fun but confronting work, I realised that artists like Sarey are coming forward and exploring this issue in unique, quirky, powerful and playful ways that were helping women feel validated, and also showing men what happens to women online, daily. By choosing to have this as a 24-hour durational online exhibition, we are showing the relentlessness of this issue for women, as well as reclaiming online space via Micro Galleries' Instagram and Facebook platforms, using the very frameworks that violence occurs within, but reclaiming it back for ourselves, on our own terms.



Violence against women and girls (VAWG) is one of the most widespread, persistent and devastating human rights violations in our world today and remains largely unreported due to the impunity, silence, stigma and shame surrounding it.

To see the works, head to www.instagram.com/microgalleries, or over to www.microgalleries.org/events/grrrlparts for the archived exhibition.

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About Micro Galleries

Micro Galleries is a free global arts initiative, social impact project and virtual creative hub that uses art as a vehicle to create positive change. 50 artists from all over the world work together virtually and onsite to create interventions in public spaces, workshops, art tours, talks, artist residencies, and an annual arts festival called Micro Galleries Live. They work together with communities who are in some kind of social or creative need, usually developing communities, and together create new conversations, opportunities, and ways to reimagine our communities and lives.

www.microgalleries.org

www.facebook.com/microgalleries

www.instagram.com/microgalleries

www.vimeo.com/microgalleries

About Sareytales

Detroit-based artist Sarey Ruden's project "Sareytales: The Art of Online Dating" is a collection of art and designs inspired by the creepy, cruel and misogynistic messages she has received during her online dating journey.

Using her art and design background, quirky sense of dark humor plus her personal experience and insight, Sarey turns tragic dating app messages into fearless and thought-provoking works of contemporary art.

www.sareytales.com

www.instagram.com/sareytales

Micro Galleries and Sarey Ruden are available for interviews.

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