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Sly and Seductive: A Painter's Response to the Theme of Good and Evil

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Sly and Seductive: A Painter's Response to the Theme of Good and Evil

About the Author

Barbara received a B.F.A. in Painting at Kutztown University and a M.F.A. in Painting at Old Dominion University and Norfolk State University of Virginia. She is Assistant Professor of Art | Painting for the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences, teaching visual design, color theory, drawing and painting courses. Her professional work, held in private and public collections, explores themes of sense memory, place identity and body adornment via drawing, painting, printmaking, and jewelry design. Her work has been exhibited in national and international exhibit venues including the Museum of Contemporary Art in Washington, D.C. She also continues to curate exhibitions for regional artists and arts organizations. Barbara is the co-director of Gallery 217 and has designed scenic paintings and props for the May 2010 dance performance *Dress Code/Respond if you please...* and The Promethean Theatre productions of *Still the River Runs* (2008) and *Cannibal the Musical* (2009).

by Barbara Ryan

Toys and Weapons is a series of oil paintings of toys that reflect and project the violent tendencies of our society into objects we market to children. From a toy army tank to a snub-nose cap gun, these plastic objects are presented as isolated objects allowing the observer to separate the play we might associate with them and to wonder about the violence that might later precipitate. Each highly realistic painting evokes a desire to touch or pick up the objects and in some viewers induces a sense of tactile responses as well as triggering powerful and nostalgic memories.



The *Sweet Suite* is a series of oil paintings of cookies, gum, candy and cupcakes that evoke specific sensory responses including taste and smell. Exhibited at or above the eye level, each painting is presented out of reach of the viewer and elicits memories that are tied to taste and childhood. The sweet taste and crinkle of the strawberry candy wrapper as well as the sticky icing of the chocolate cupcake leave the viewer with a very personal craving for the past and the sweetness they can only see and remember. Viewers often respond very directly by touching their fingers as if holding the object, or pursing their lips in anticipation of a sugary treat.