



BADROOMS

A N N E P L A I S A N C E



"The newspaper stories were like dreams to us, bad dreams dreamt by others. How awful, we would say, and they were, but they were awful without being believable. They were too melodramatic, they had a dimension that was not the dimension of our lives. We were the people who were not in the papers. (...) We lived in the gaps between the stories."

Margaret Atwood, "The handmaid's tale"



The Badrooms art installation deals with the traumatic and taboo subject of child sexual abuse, using dolls, handwritten testimonies of survivors, video and doll houses.

Anne Plaisance began the Badrooms project in 2014, while living in France. She plans to have created 100 boxes by 2019. In the boxes, dolls are pinned, thus similar to delicate butterflies on joyful colors backgrounds, evoking at the first glance, a child bedroom in a welcoming home.

In the boxes, short sentences are handwritten: these testimonies, found on the web, are usually anonymous. They tell about rape, sexual abuse, that adults have experienced when they were kids, when they were young and vulnerable. Testimonies have been written in French, polish, and English. 3 languages fluently spoken by the artist. They could be written in each existing language.

Dolls are giving back their voice to the victims of sexual abuse, changing symbolically their victim role to a survivor one.

A doll is a model of a human being, often used as a toy for children. Dolls have traditionally been used in magic and religious rituals throughout the world. The use of an effigy to perform a spell on someone is documented in African, Native American, and European cultures. The intention is that whatever actions are performed upon the effigy will be transferred to the subject based in sympathetic magic.

Adults who as children were victimized by adults often suffer from low self-esteem, difficulties in interpersonal relationships, and sexual dysfunction, and are at an extremely high risk of many mental disorders, including depression, anxiety, phobic avoidance reactions, other disorder, substance abuse, borderline personality disorder, and complex post-traumatic stress disorder.

In addition to these boxes, the installation includes doll's houses and a video.

www.anneplaisance.com



Anne Plaisance in front of the *Badrooms* installation
Legacy exhibition, South Shore Art Center, Cohasset, MA, USA
February 2017

Bedrooms



Dolls (vintage and collection dolls, bought and modified for the majority).

Mixed technique: paper/acrylic paint/doll/fabric/ink/wood/Plexiglas/paper clay/barbed wire/lace/pearls/..)

Boxes size : 19,7 x 13 x 3,54 (50 x 33 x 9 cm)

Doll House size : 28 4/8 x 38 x 18 4/8"

The boxes are modular and adapted for each exhibition space.



Bedrooms was censored in the USA in 2017.

The exhibition title was "Girls just wanna have fun" regarding women, their voices and suffering.

The exhibition was held at the First Parish Unitarian Church of Lexington, MA in June 2017.

My answer to the censorship, was first informing what was being censored. Second, I provoked a discussion, with the "What happened at the Church" project (ongoing): it was presented at the Kathryn Schultz Gallery in Cambridge, MA in October 2017.



Exhibition view at the Church - June 2017



Exhibition view - Monday morning - just after the installation





Exhibition view - Wednesday morning (no one informed me)





Exhibition view -Thursday afternoon: my answer to censorship





Exhibition view - Thursday afternoon: my answer to censorship







I was raped at four years old,
before I could even write my name,
by some adolescent that was a babysitter.
Then less than 2 years later, my father
began sexually abusing me.



My Father used to touch me
in a horrible way
when mum was at work at night.
I was 10 years old when it started.



Why me?





Then he put his hand on my genitals
and started masturbating me.
I was petrified

McGorley



I was abused by
my stepfather
I was 5 years old.
He would touch me
in weird ways



I'd kept this to myself
for so long before I told
any one



He was my father
and I thought that
whatever he was doing
to me was normal.



I internalised my feelings
and worries about my life and the abuse
and locked my thoughts in a box
in my head.



The defense barister had no sympathy
whatsoever. He called me a liar (...)
I couldn't believe what he'd said,
and thought: what 6 year old imagines
that? You don't even know about
stuff like that when you're 6.



My message to anyone who
has experienced something
similar is never give up
because life can get better.



I was constantly
being told
by adults
that I had to
do things
I didn't want to do



I want to protect
other children
from going through
the awful abuse
I did



I was so scared
to answer
the questions.
I was so worried
that no-one
would believe
me.



I was 7 years old
the first time it happened.
I was sleeping in my
father's bed and he started
touching me



Looking back, it feels
like I lost my childhood



the feelings
of
ANGER
SHAME
HUMILIATION
were so intense



For years
I did not know
WHY
I'd get
PANIC ATTACKS
when
I heard Keys



I want to protect
other children
from going through
the awful abuse
I did



I was so scared
to answer
the questions.
I was so worried
that no-one
would believe
me.



the abusers were the people
monitoring the foster home
sleeping in the room next door



I was very young
when I was sexually abused
by someone known
to my family



Backing me into the corner
until I was whimpering and crying,
he would just laugh at me and walk away,
satisfied with my distress.



My father
grabbed me by the pussy

A Vous,

Vous qui n'avez pas compris,
La différence entre non et oui.

Vous qui avez insisté
Vous qui avez usé de mots
Comme d'une lame de couteau.

Vous qui avez insisté
Vous qui n'avez aucune notion

De ce que signifie non
Vous qui avez insisté

Vous qui n'avez aucun
De ce qu'est la

Vous qui avez insisté
Vous qui savez user

Mais sûrement pas ce
Vous qui avez insisté

Vous qui pensez qu'
Sans même vous

Vous qui avez
Vous qui avez

D'abuser de
Vous qui avez

Pour faire de
Vous qui avez

Le temps d'être
Vous qui avez

Pour faire de

J'aimerais retordre la vérité,
Et, par le "vous", marquer le respect,
Et la distance à respecter,
Ce qui vous a cruellement manqué,
Le temps d'une certaine saine...



respect
féminité.

tous
qui est l'amour.

vos envies
soucier d'autrui.

insisté

la bassesse

la faiblesse

insisté

moi, votre jouet

insisté

soyez, abusé

insisté

moi, votre poupée



Clouée sur ce lit, tu n'as pas eu besoin de ma liqute,
je suis restée sage, étendue, raide, inerte, morte.
Tu m'as voté mon enfance, ma vie de femme, ma vie
toute entière. Tu as coupé et brûlé mes ailes, tu as
arraché et pichné mes racines.



... l'une des choses, les pires, m'est arrivée
lorsque j'avais 7 ans, par mon beau-père.
Il me passait son pénis partout sur le corps.
puis la fellation...
Je me sens encore toute salie par son venin.



Je suis un petit garçon de 8 ans,
ma mère utilise mes doigts, ma bouche,
pour son plaisir, dans son lit,
depuis plusieurs années déjà.



I WILL SURVIVE



La jeune fille que j'étais, pleine d'innocence
et de joie, a disparu.
Je n'ai plus confiance en rien, ni personne,
pas même en moi.



Il m'a volé mon insouciance
mais m'a donné une soif de vivre
incroyable... Je me suis relevée, me
relève de jour en jour, pour moi.



Je pense à toutes celles,
qui luttent en secret,
qui pleurent à chaudes larmes
silencieuses,
et implorent le destin
de les libérer.



Some famous iconic women have been sexually assaulted when little girls. They sang, they played, they created. They used their sorrow and resilience to inspire and make art.



A wise girl knows her limits
A smart girl knows that she has none
Marilyn



Painting calmed the chaos
that shook my soul
Niki





Try to be a rainbow
in someone's cloud
Maya

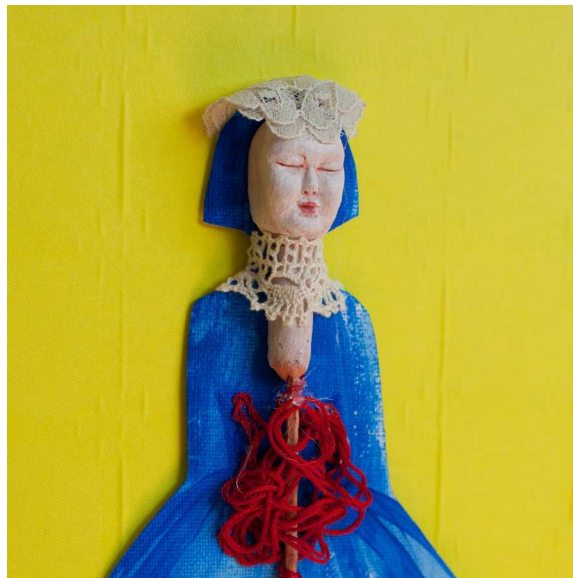
All I wanted was just what everybody else wants you know,



to be loved

Rita





The Badrooms concept was adapted for an exhibition in Warsaw, Poland, in the street, between schools, embassies, near the Parliament (2015).

Dolls were created with materials like clay, fiber, barbed wire, wood, paper, lace, acrylics, plastic, canvas, etc..



Mnie molestował w dzieciństwie
mój ojciec. To się odbija na naszej
psychice do końca życia.
Nienawidzę ojca, mieszkam od
dawna w innym mieście.



Daleki wujek dotykał mojego sromu i go pieścił...
Kilka lat później brat mamy, robił to samo oraz
wkładał mi palce do pochwy,
a potem zabawy z Kuzynem starszym o 8 lat...



Też zostałem wykorzystany raz przez pedofila
jak byłem mały, tak pedofilo ze zapomniałem,
a nie obawiam się już przez to mam kłopoty
w życiu.



Do kołyski się w swojej "zamrażalce" wspomnienia
wypartego ze świadomości. Byłam molestowana
jako 8-9 latka przez nauczyciela do gry.
Piszę ponieważ chcę uporać się z demonami
przeszłości, chcę rzucić z siebie ten ciężar
dzieństwa.



To jest tak straszny ból, że nikt
tego nie zrozumie, kto tego
nie przeżył.

Zawsze spawca w mawia ofierze,
że to ona tego chciała, dlatego
czujemy się winne.
A ja byłam tylko małym dzieckiem.



Robił mi to ojciec (tata i ojcem moim nie
nazwę go nigdy). Trwało to od 3 do 18 lat
małej nieszczęśliwej i było częste. Sprawiało przyjemność
kiedy myślałam że to moja wina. Jako dojrzewająca
dławiłam własną myśl i samobójcze i chciałam
się zabić.



Badrooms exhibition view - Warsaw, Poland, 2015

