

'Ces Etranges Enfants' exhibit a modern look at children

Long Branch — SICA, The Shore Institute of the Contemporary Arts, 20 Third Ave., will host an exhibition, "Ces Étranges Enfants," starting this Friday. Artists who explore the imagery of the child as a major component in their work will be featured in this show.

A reception will be held Sunday, September 7, 3-6 p.m. The show runs through Oct. 10.

Douglas Ferrari, curator, says children have always been a favorite subject of artists, as a symbol of "that clean tabula rosa — the embodiment of wholesomeness and goodness."

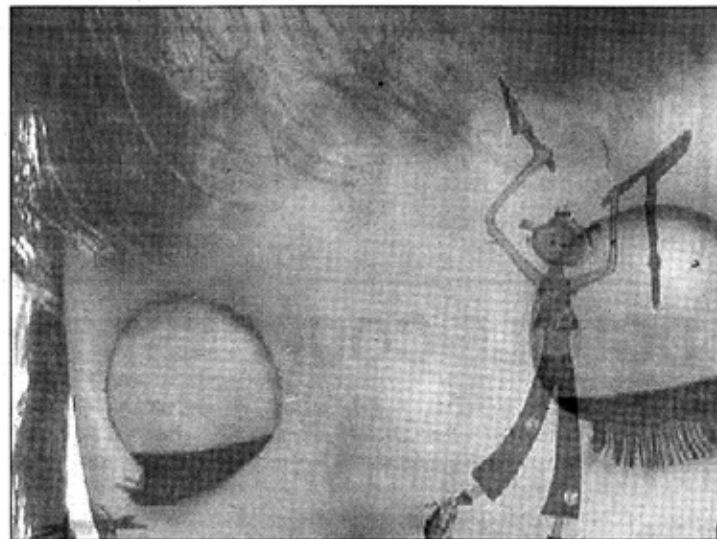
"But what happened to that sweet, beautiful child at the restaurant table next to you that cause it to transform into the pos-

sessed screaming brat you see before you now?" Ferrari asks.

"Many contemporary artists seem to take this somewhat 'different view' of youth, and this exhibition is meant to identify a sampling of these artists' depictions of children. Some may be illustrative of personal issues with children or their own childhood; some may be addressing recent social events; some may depict imagery of fantasy, while some find that just the hint of peculiarity is disturbing enough," he said. "The artistic views in this show may be different, they may be unnerving — some might be a bit twisted, and some are just downright weird. But all are investigations of 'Those Strange Children.'"

The artists whose work is being shown include Carolina Raquel Antich, Ray Caesar, Lori Field, Stephanie Graegin, Kyung Jeon, Nina Levy, Rene Lynch, Kim McCarty, Traci Molloy, Rachel Mozman, Huong Ngo, Aura Rosenberg, Sara Stadtmiller, Jeanne Susplugas, and Arthur Tress.

SICA is a non-profit corporation whose purpose is to establish a uniquely stimulating and creative environment in which to experience the contemporary arts. The primary goal of the center is to increase the general public's accessibility, awareness and appreciation of the contemporary arts in central New Jersey. For more information on SICA, visit www.sica.org.



A still from the video "For Your Eyes," 2005, by Jeanne Susplugas



"American Girls and American Girl doll," by Rachel Mozman, digital cibachrome print.