

play nicely

Ilona Skladzien

In '*play nicely*', Ilona delves into intricate dynamics of play.

The pieces invite reflection on the cost of our strife for unattainable perfection and unrealistic standards through our interaction with seemingly innocent objects such as dolls.

The exhibition is an exploration of boundaries, these imposed by society and by ourselves. It is an invitation to question what it means to play nicely, where our boundaries lie and who is setting them. Who is really in control here? Is it the one who plays with the doll? Or is it the doll, with its often idealized form and fixed, perpetual smile that shapes us, our expectations of ourselves and others?

Through transforming the symbol of innocence and beauty into something uneasy to look at, by using medium such as pencil, clay, photography

and installation, Ilona is also inviting a conversation on how the act of play can be a safe space for one to explore.

Following that thought, in the central installation made of dolls distorted by external forces and suspended of the ceiling , Ilona is exploring the feeling of loss of agency in both children and adults, often caused by societal ties and pressures to 'get things right'.