

Amie Dicke



IN AN ATTEMPT TO ESCAPE FROM THE SUFFOCATING WORLD of the aesthetically pleasing, Amie Dicke masks, distorts, pierces, coats, burns, subverts, and comments on the real world. She became instantly notorious in 2001 for her series of cutouts, made from fashion photos where she sliced away parts of the image until only a tracery of veins remained.

"To my amazement, that first show was a sell-out. Before I knew it, I had galleries in Berlin, LA, New York and Tokyo calling me. It was all about sales. Very soon, I began to feel highly ambivalent about it. My work was extremely successful, but its essence was being ignored. The cutouts were usually interpreted as a literal attack on the contemporary ideal of beauty, but

I WAS TRYING TO GET AT THE PROMISE INHERENT IN FASHION IMAGES. THEY ARE OFTEN GLOSSY AND ARE ALL ABOUT THE NEW, WHICH IS ALWAYS TEMPORARY. I PREFER TO CREATE A CERTAIN OPENNESS TO THE IMAGE, A SPACE TO INSERT ONE'S OWN THOUGHTS OR IMAGINATION.

What are your favourite things right now? Lost bicycle bells, find them often. The ones that are stuck in the pavement. I try to photograph.

What do you think of art education? Depends on who does the teaching.

What's the role of the artist in society? To get off the beaten track.

What's your take on contemporary art? To take away.

What inspires you? Lately, I am really into the space between the man and his suit.

What do you think about the human race at this moment in history? The human race has already perpetuated all stupidities and wrongs possible, and now it is just repeating them. Everything fits back into place again, and goes round and round.

What can we do as individuals to contribute to a better world? Sometimes take a standstill, and just watch what is around you. Observe, see what's there.

Do you believe in the end of the world? Depends on what you think the world is.

What's the best piece of advice you've ever been given? To stand up straight, lower your shoulders. Everything changes.

Do you have any interesting tip or trick you would like to share with us? Take the top of a simple Bic pen, and take the inside tube out, then remove the point from the pen and play with it. It has a wonderful arrow shape and turns beautifully. A perfect pointless point.

Books, records, films; what are your recommendations? Books: *Tristes Tropiques* by Claude Levi Strauss. *Regarding the Pain of Others* by Susan Sontag. *Book of Disquiet* by Fernando Pessoa. Records of last week: Ragga, Mobb Deep, Coroner, Dean Blunt. *Dear Heartbeat*, Darkstar. Films: *Alphaville* by Jean Luc Godard. *Sans Soleil* by Chris Marker. *The Garden* by Jan Svankmajer.

Tell us something that people don't know about you. I like to follow strangers, just a few blocks, and observe them.

What images or things from your life today do you think you will still remember in 35 years? I can't predict that. I really think we need to forget in order to remember. Forgetting is essential to give space to new images. They are often based on the forgotten parts, but that's the beauty of it. ▼