

Bluff

Desirable Fairy Tales

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by Sarah Koss



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A new show opens on March 10 at the KORUS House at the Embassy of the Republic of Korea. Embassy art shows are always tricky, considering the not-so-subtle political context that often surrounds such a show. Sometimes the work is just for publicity, and has absolutely nothing to say to the rest of the contemporary art world. “Desirable Fairy Tales” seems to promise more than just representations of pre-packaged Korean stereotypes. The press release mentions paper dolls, transgender barbies, and cyborgs.

All sorts of ideas about gender, stereotypes, sexual orientation, childhood, adulthood, fantasy, and reality are discussed in a dry press release that doesn’t seem to need any art to support it. And a curatorial essay is available for download from the website. Beyond the theory-laden text, the work seems to offer a great deal of engagement. I hesitate to bring up phrases like *drug-induced hallucination* and *techno-psychedelia*, but I have a feeling that some of the work will be heading in that direction.

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