

'Herself: Girlhood in Stop Motion Film'

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By Rachel Heidenry

The illusion of motion is key to stop-motion film. The genre is rooted in technique: Each scene must be crafted, captured, and then pieced together so that thousands of unseen configurations become a solid motion. But stop-motion is equally about creating images or narratives that connect to experience. Indeed, these works can be just as much about reality as about fantasy.

Five examples of stop-motion films that highlight the emotional potential of the genre are presented in *Herself: Girlhood in Stop Motion Film*, an exhibit at Santa Barbara City College's Atkinson Gallery. Curated by Sarah Cunningham, the exhibit features the work of Rita Basulto, Laura Krifka, Heidi Kumao, Kirsten Lepore, and Suraya Raja. Including production shots, figurines, and drawings, the exhibition takes girlhood as its central theme to explore topics such as grief, social norms, and coming-of-age.



By Courtesy Photo

Still from *Sow the Wind* by Laura Krifka