



intervention

Barbie Hits the Beach

Her slender limbs and impossibly hourglass torso were restrained by nylon zip ties. Yet beneath the heavily made-up eyes—blue as the ocean behind—a wide smile continued to shine, as the wind whipped her trademark long blond hair. Barbie, actually 4,500 of Mattel's dolls tied together, took the form of a 10-foot-high wave bursting out of the sand at a beach in Perth, Australia. The winner of the EY People's Choice Prize in the annual "Sculpture by the Sea, Cottesloe," exhibition, *Wave 1* was Perth resident Annette Thas's response to a trip back to her native Belgium to visit her sick sister.

"I sought to communicate the feeling of being overwhelmed by childhood memories," Thas says.

"To represent childhood, I decided to use dolls."

She found them at secondhand shops and flea markets. It took 9 months to build an armature of aluminum pipes, anchor them to a steel sandbox, and attach the dolls.

As for the zip ties, she reveals, they weren't a kinky fantasy on the part of Ken. She simply couldn't achieve the same effect with glue.

—Mairi Beautyman

