PANEL FORMAT

CARRIE WEIS – Introductions and acknowledgements
DR SMITH – Cognitive dissonance and contradictions of Barbie
LORI FAULKNER – Barbie in the fashion world
PIPER ADONYA - Diversity and representation in art, design, and dolls
DR BUSCH – 3rd wave feminism and final remarks
Q & A

DR MELISSA SMITH - In one of the most iconic moments of the 2023 film, Barbie explains: “By giving voice to the cognitive dissonance required to be a woman under the patriarchy, you robbed it of its power.” This presentation explores this cognitive dissonance by recognizing and voicing the contradictions of the film (and the toy itself).

LORI FAULKNER - Barbie is the epitome of a fashion doll. Before there were fashion shows. dressmakers/designers for the upper class used dolls to show clothing trends. Many famous fashion designers have designed for Barbie including names like Bill Blass, Vera Wang and Donna Karan.

PIPER ADONYA – Brown and black barbies were introduced twenty years after the release of the original Barbie. The importance of diversity in art and design is a core value for Piper in her career as an illustrator and designer. Her experience illustrating the title card for *Black Barbie: A Documentary*, gave her the opportunity to represent the film using her unique style and powerful voice.

DR TRACY BUSH - The growing popularity of the feminine-presenting fictional Barbie and actual Taylor Swift reveals that 3rd wave feminism achieved its goal of de-stigmatizing femininity. During the second wave, anything "girly" was seen as a liability for girls/women who wanted to be taken seriously. My hypothesis is that success of Taylor and the Barbie movie indicates a sea change for women/girls in the U.S. and beyond.

FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY

MUSEUM OF SEXIST OBJECTS

AAUW
empowering women since 1881

Much Ado About Barbie Reception & Panel Discussion
February 15th 5:30-6:30PM

Panelists

DR TRACY BUSCH
Dr. Busch is an Associate Professor of History and lead faculty for Ferris State University's Museum of Sexist Objects. She earned a Bachelor of Arts from Vassar College in Pughkeepsie, New York and her Doctorate from Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. Dr. Busch was named Distinguished Teacher in 2018.

LORI A. FAULKNER
Lori A. Faulkner serves as Professor and Fashion Studies Chair for the Pamella Roland School of Fashion of Kendall College of Art & Design. She was the recipient of the Ferris State University 2023 International Educator and 2020 Distinguished Teacher Awards. In addition to teaching, Lori serves as a member of the FSU Academic Learning Council, KCAD Academic Senate, Study Abroad Committee and the Grand Rapids Public Museums' Collections and Cocktails Committee. Lori's work has been in the KCAD Alluvium Gallery, Ferris State University Fine Art Gallery, and is currently on display in the Grand Rapids Public Museum's Fashion and Nature Exhibit through May 2024.

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PIPER ADONYA
Piper Adonya uses illustration and design to educate, inspire conversation, and make complex social justice-related issues easier to comprehend and work through. She was the lead designer for the 2023 Fifth Third Bank Summer Concerts at Meijer Gardens campaign, and is an ArtPrize, International Serious Play, and Eclipse award winner. She has designed for Founders Brewing Company, Condado, Lakeshore Ethnic Diversity Alliance, and—in collaboration with 9B Collective—The Black Barbie Documentary, recently acquired by Netflix and Shondaland.
WEBSITE: piperadonya.com SOCIAL: @piperadonya

DR MELISSA SMITH
Dr. Melissa Smith is a professor of English at Ferris State University where she studies children's and young adult literature, feminist and narrative theory, and writing communities. She is also a facilitator for the Ferris Museum of Sexist Objects Storytelling Community. Her favorite Babie toy growing up was the Barbie Ice Cream Shoppe.

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