



In Celebration Of... Diyan Achjadi, 2009 © D. Achjadi

SUBLIMATED VIOLENCE AND ACID CANDIES...

Under the veil of a candy aesthetic, *The Further Adventures of Girl* by Diyan Achjadi conceals a tacit violence. The artist questions the role of popular culture in the construction of national identities, and releases a worrisome program from a cauldron of acidulated colors.

In this installation-inspired exhibit, Achjadi puts childhood imagery through a fine-tooth comb to uncover the insidious promotion of military and totalitarian ideologies. With her pigtails and golden skin, standing alone or with a regiment of identical little girls, the character of "Girl" inhabits the videos, sculptures and printed images of this exhibit.

Diyan Achjadi was born in Jakarta, Indonesia, and is currently based in Vancouver. She received a BFA from the Cooper Union School of Art, New York, and an MFA in Print Media from Concordia University, Montreal. Her works have been exhibited at galleries such as the MAI (Montréal arts interculturels) (QC), Kamloops Art Gallery

"Girl" is shown, unperturbed, near industrial landscapes afflicted by natural disaster—landslides, volcanic eruptions, flooded villages—and where factories spit out vile smoke, shaped like cotton candy.

Using the vocabulary of pop culture, Diyan Achjadi offers a critique of the current socio-political climate, generally occupied by a rhetoric of war and catastrophe. Not only does the artist point to the reality of countries where political instability goes hand in hand with escalating violence and natural disaster, but also to the reality of Canada where violence and indoctrination fly under the radar.

(BC), the Ottawa Art Gallery (ON), Centre A (BC), Romo Gallery (GA) and The Bronx Museum of the Arts (NY). She teaches in the Faculty of Visual Arts and Material Practice at Emily Carr University, Vancouver. Her animations are distributed by Groupe Intervention Video, Montreal (GIV).