



**Contemporary North
Members' Showcase
A dummy run...!**

Issue 10

December 2023

Contemporary North

(Part of the RPS Contemporary Group)

Members' Showcase

provides a platform for contributors to our monthly meetings to display the work they have shared.

Contributors have curated their own images and provided the accompanying text making this a collaborative group venture.

17th December 2023 — Meeting via Zoom dedicated to the many aspects of mannequins

Chaired by Patricia Ruddle

Contributors:

Carol Olerud	Anastasia Potekhina	Andre Bergmans	Morris Gregory	
Peter Bartlett	Andrew Hersom	Wendy North	Michel Claverie	
Patricia Ruddle	Lyn Newton	Prabir Mitra	Harry Silcock	
Douglas May	Celine Alexander Brown	Donata Rogozik	Bunshri Chandaria	Don Harris



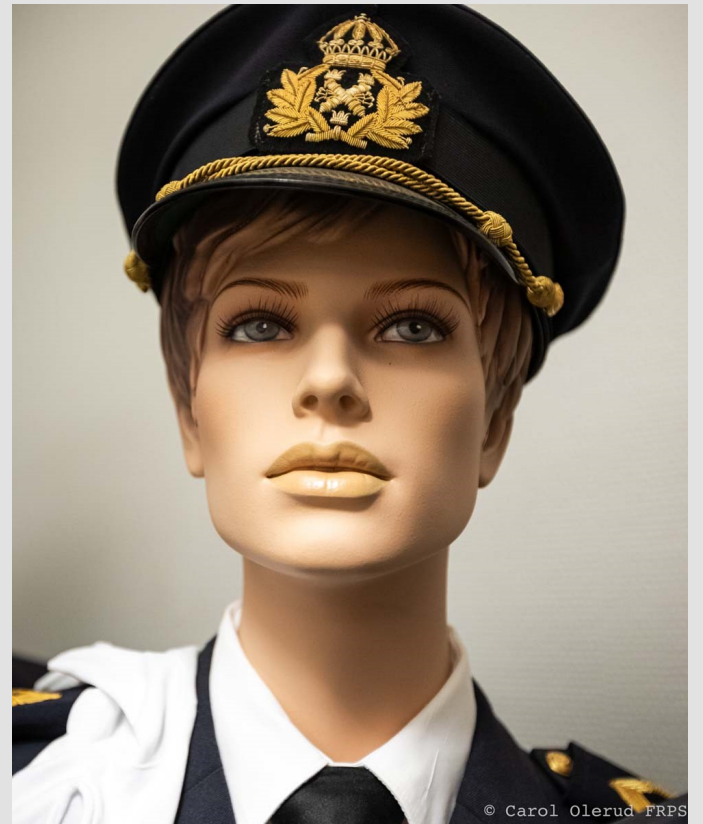
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Carol Olerud FRPSMannequins in Museums in Sweden

Museum för rörligt kustartilleri (Museum for mobile coastal artillery) – Aspö, Karlskrona
and Marinmuseum (Naval Museum) – Karlskrona
August 2023









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Peter Bartlett ARPS









Patricia Ruddle ARPS

..... The Repair Shop

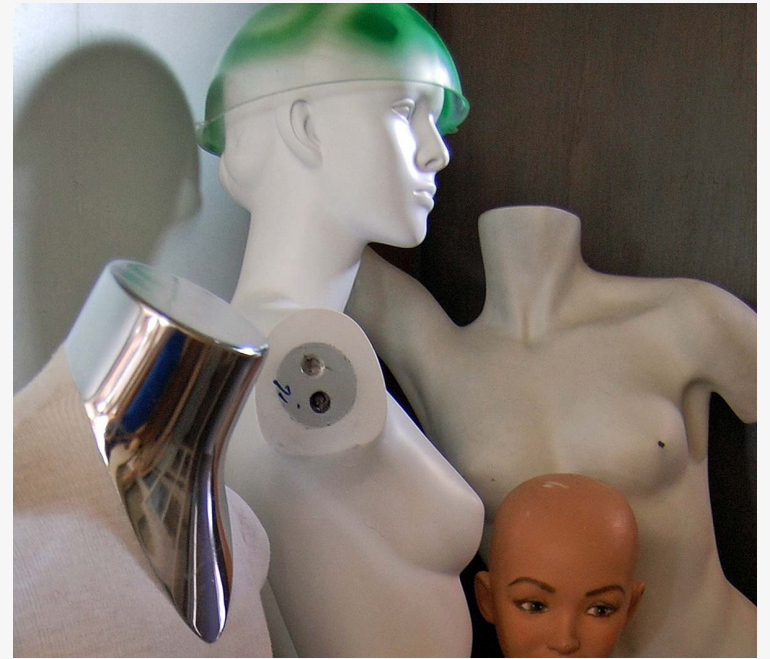
Several years ago my husband and I were driving down Route 66 in Tulsa, Oklahoma when we spotted this shop window. Of course we stopped. After taking several photos through the window we chanced going in to see more.

The young woman, the granddaughter of the owner, was pleased to let us roam around for over an hour. A feast for the camera, a hotchpotch of endless opportunities. Mannequin overload.



I can't remember the name of the massive shop, but it was very popular for restoring, renting and selling mannequins. We went back a couple of years later to discover that it had closed down. So where do the people of Tulsa go?!







“Genesis: chapter 3 verses 10 to 14.

In the Garden of Eden God forbade Adam from eating the fruit from the tree of knowledge.

The serpent persuaded Eve to tempt Adam to eat the fruit which he did.

The consequences were expulsion from the Garden of Eden and the infliction of harsh punishments on the three of them, which are described in graphic detail in the rest of the chapter.

I have created a series of four photographs around this story for an exhibition. I dreamed up the idea whilst looking at an apple tree.

The picture shown here is a variation on the one for the exhibition of the serpent persuading Eve to disobey the command.”



Anastasia Potekhina ARPS



I have found several photographs of mannequins. Mannequins are surreal and they inspire me to experiment. In these experiments, like in children's games with dolls, I look for new worlds, new realities.









Andrew Hersom

These images were taken during a visit to St Bavo's Cathedral in Ghent, Belgium in 2013. There was an exhibition of fashion so I took some pictures of the models as well as the church itself.









Lyn Newton



It is amazing how evocative the face of the humble dummy is. Mass produced polystyrene heads exude aloofness and mystery. Haughty plastered and painted faces look beyond us with disdain.

Fixed to their designated spot they achieve an indifference to the mere humans who scuttle around them rooted just as rigidly on life's treadmill.



“Mannequins are the artificial intelligence of the modelling industry.” Mokokoma Mokhonoana







Celine Alexander Brown

Fashion



Sculptures – darkness and suffering



A different take - Christian religious statues

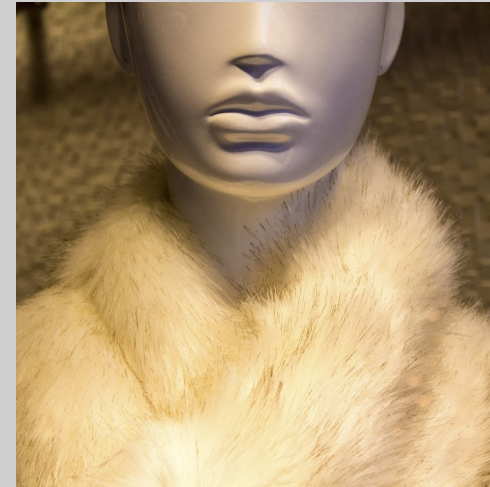


www.eyesoftheheart.co.uk

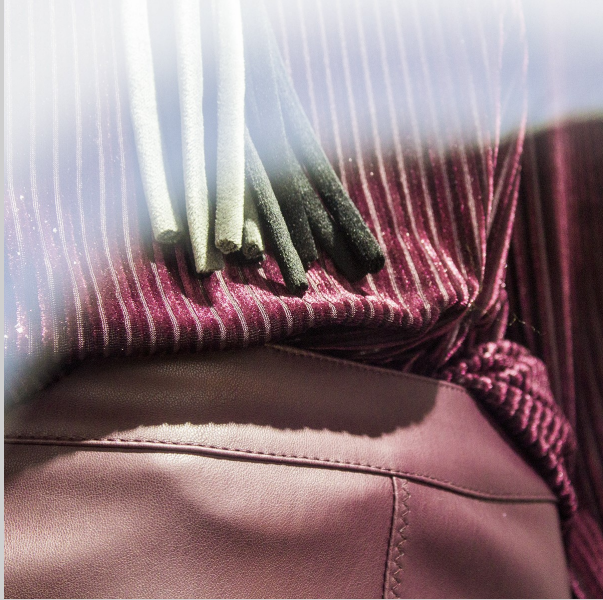


Andre BergmansXmas Panel

The advantage of 3X3 panels as an assignment is that they be done in a relatively short time yet the process and experience is the same as a larger and longer type of project. We can consider it a step-up or an exercise for bigger projects.









Further reading:

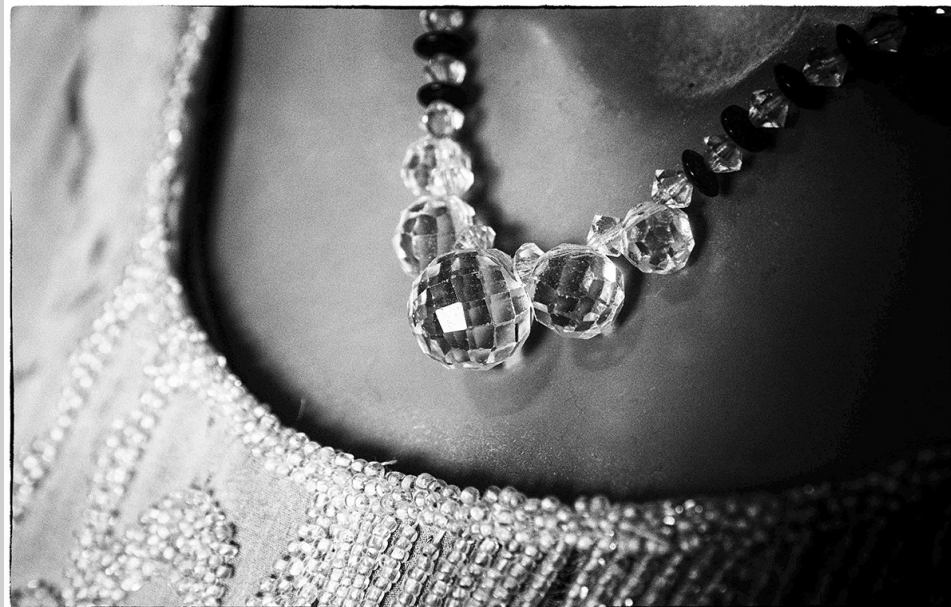
Boris von Brauchitsch, *Neun*, Kehrer Verlag, 2016.

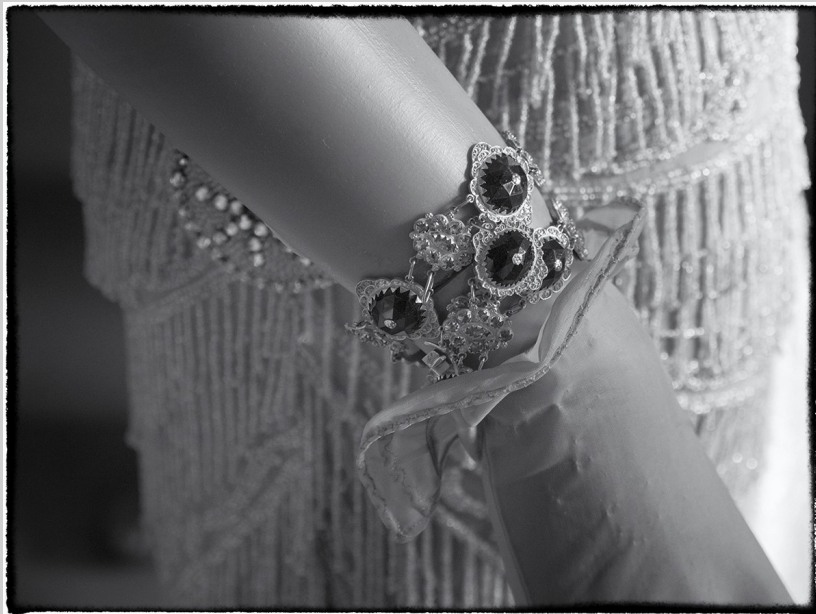
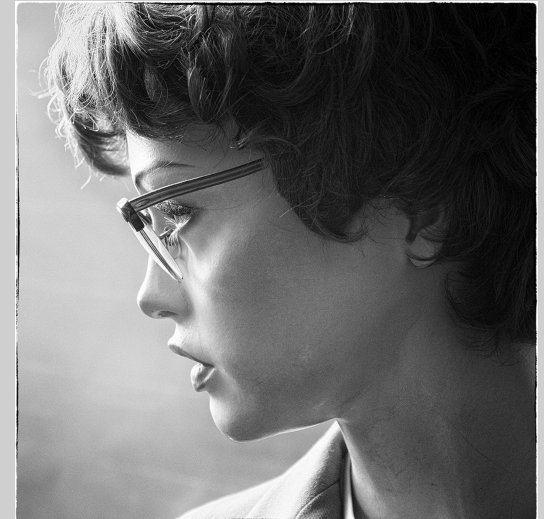
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https://issuu.com/royalphotographicsociety/docs/rps_benelux_chapter_ejournal_volume_16_autumn_2019



The Museum of the 20th Century (Museum van de 20e Eeuw) in Hoorn (Netherlands) shows what daily life was like last century. It has thousands of items, photographs, film and sound. My images highlight the style of the 1920's.





Wendy NorthManikins and Dummies!

Wikipedia

A **mannequin** (sometimes spelled as **manikin** and also called a **dummy**, **lay figure**, or **dress form**) is a doll, often articulated, used by artists, tailors, dressmakers, window dressers and others, especially to display or fit clothing and show off different fabrics and textiles. Previously, the English term referred to human models and muses (a meaning which it still retains in French and other European languages); the meaning as a dummy dating from the start of World War II.

In response to the title 'Manikins and Dummies' I undertook a short journey of exploration.

I'd like to introduce you to:

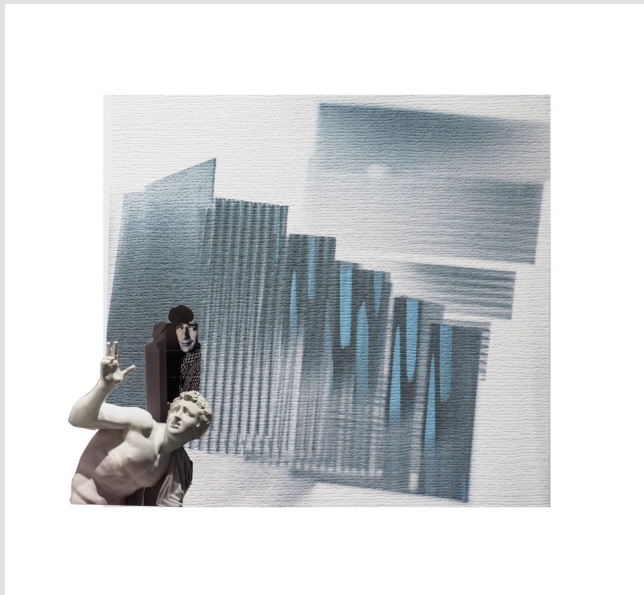
Manikins and Hair as spotted in one of the windows of an Arcade shop in Barnsley.





My imagination sparked, I began to look for other examples of humanoid forms

in The Hepworth Gallery



and the Yorkshire Sculpture Park





on the dumping ground of an amateur sculptor who resides in my village





Viewpoint
By Viewpoint

17th
Apr, 21



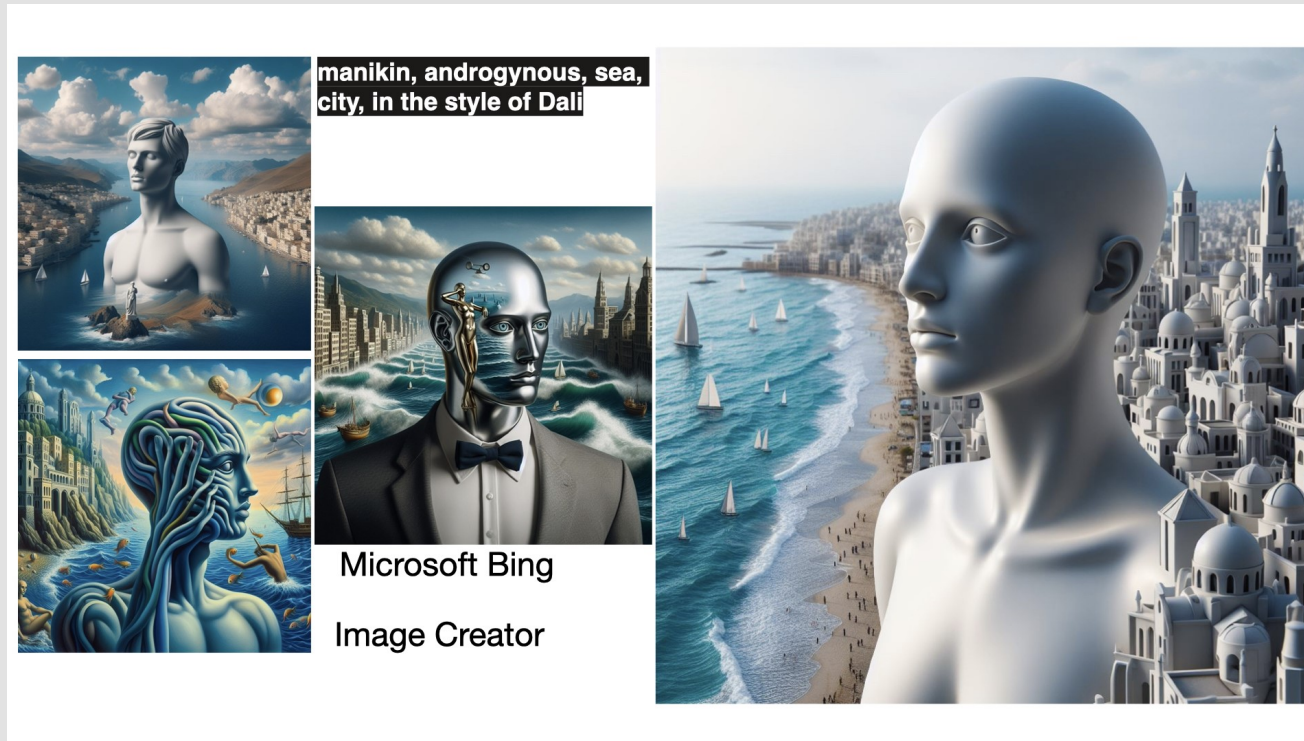
On the scrap heap

143
views



...and finally I turned to BING Image Maker to see what Artificial Intelligence (AI) could contribute if I typed in the following key words:

manikin, androgynous, sea, city, in the style of Dali



Notes and web links:

The Hepworth Gallery: Conflicts and Collisions

<https://hepworthwakefield.org/whats-on/conflict-and-collisions-new-contemporary-sculpture/>

Tom Price at the YSP

<https://yvsp.org.uk/whats-on/exhibitions/past-exhibitions/thomas-j-price>

A note on AI images: Following a FB comment about the AI images created using the BING Image Creator I thought I should emphasise that the images shared are not photographs, i.e. they were not created in-camera but instead the software creates an image that is sourced from the millions of images it finds online. These are then used to create what is in effect Digital Art and not Photography.

Prabir Mitra FRPS

.....“From Clay to Clay: The Kolkata Festival celebrating the cycle of life”

Popular history states that the King of Kolkata, Raja Naba Krishna Deb, established the first public ceremony to worship Goddess Durga at his palace “Shovabajar Rajbari” in 1757. Since then, the worshipping of Durga has become more of a festival than merely a religious ritual. The Hindu goddess epitomises the victory of virtue over evil. To celebrate this mythological victory, groups of artists create fascinating street art during the festival.



Clay from the river Ganga, which is considered the best in quality, is used for making the images (idols/ mannequins) of the Goddess Durga.



Artists who specialise in different aspects of artwork collaborate to create spectacular images which are worshipped subsequently as Goddesses.





On the tenth or final day of the festival, these images are immersed in the river where the clay came from, thus completing the cycle of life. The traditional belief is that we originate from nature and blend into it at the end, but the span in-between is “life”, which must be celebrated with positivity.



Durga Puja presents us with the unique opportunity to witness the journey from clay (origin) to clay (end) at the same time celebrate art and festivity. People, irrespective of caste, creed and religion enjoy the clay images of the goddess, the lights and decorations, traditional clothes, food, and music as the whole atmosphere exudes joy.

Donata Rogozik

I find some shop windows in Windsor very intriguing. For example, they can seamlessly transform from quintessentially British to festive and glamorous. I guess that the merry mannequins of Windsor give a helping hand here!





Morris Gregory

My selection of dummies photos consist of those retrieved from my files and some taken explicitly for the presentation. The latter ones were taken at night in the centre of York where the direct and reflected Christmas lights added an extra dimension to the dummies. I chose to present all of them as monochrome images as I wanted shapes, lighting and texture to dominate the photos without the distraction of colour.









HUMAN HAIR

GHD-KID





Michel Claveriethe street brings mannequins to life

Mannequins are the perfect companions for street photographers. They don't move much, they wear interesting clothes, and they are very nosy – they love to be involved in other people's business. You will rarely see a mannequin who is not staring at passers-by from her window shop; males and females are equally curious, and groups are the worst.



There is no social divide either; in my personal experience, the mannequins from the discount shops of Reading or Paris boulevard Barbès, and from the expensive boutiques of central London and Milan are equally keen to interact with the people strolling past, apparently not minding that they are stuck in a sedentary job, without prospect for travel. Instead, they appreciate their job stability, and from one year to the next they look forward to new waves of fashion on both sides of the shop window.

In some of these pictures, however, you will detect a sense of competition – London mannequins don't like to be upstaged by the outfits of pedestrians. When it happens, they don't make a fuss, but very little escapes their darting eyes.

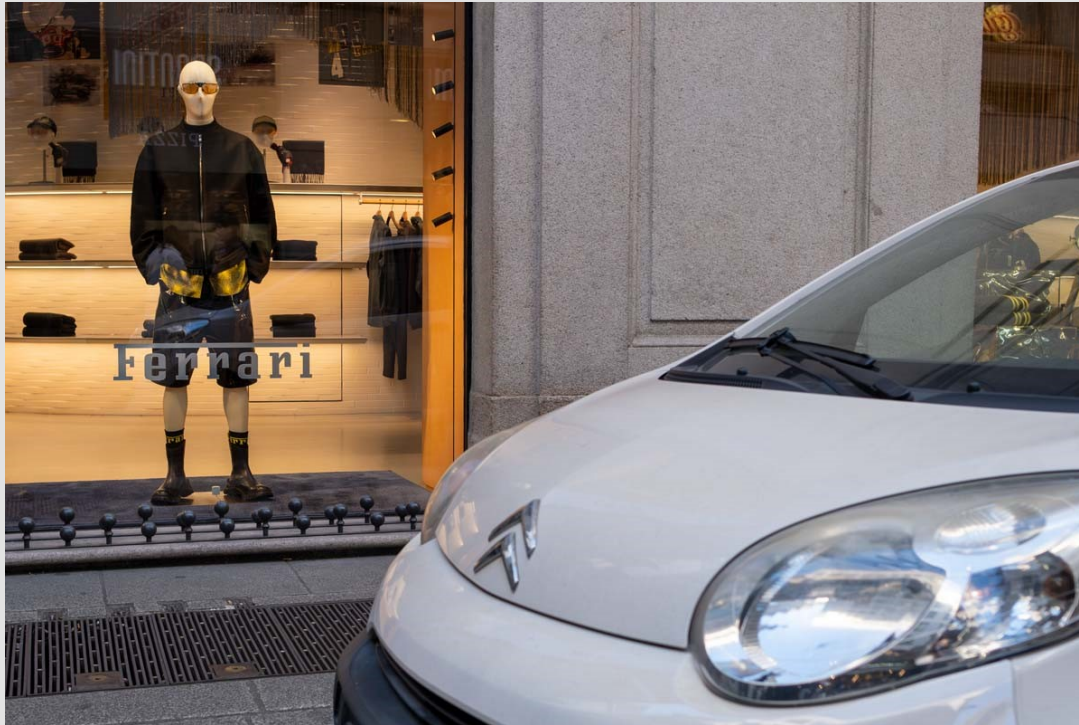




Mostly, mannequins show a great amount of empathy for humans. In Reading, they will be seen together resting after shopping or waiting for the bus.

In Paris boulevard Barbès, they venture outside barefoot, posing proudly in their tight-fitting suits





And in Milan, mannequins take on eerie human traits: a Ferrari mannequin displays car envy for a vintage Citroën C1, and two mannequins – a model and her photographer – are so well designed that they are nearly life-like.



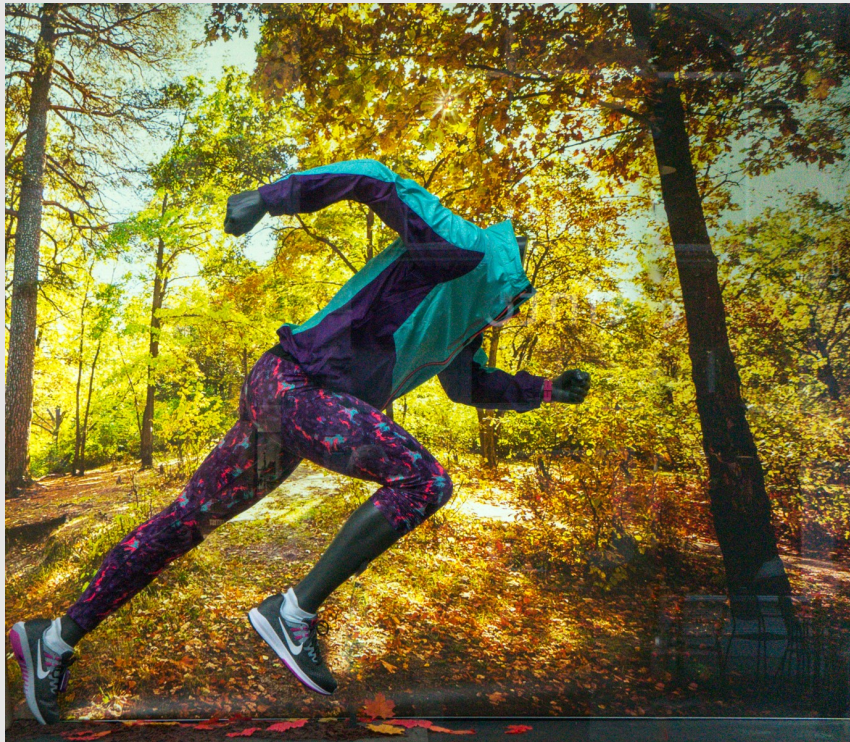
Harry Silcock

My images are typical street photos, particularly those taken in Turkey, where I always like to exploit any humour in my subjects.

Lanzarote



Leeds





Turkey





Spain



Whitby



Bunshri Chandaria FRPS

The sari is an expression of identity and a crafted object carrying layers of meaning. Here the sari is a metaphor for the complex definitions of India today.





*Super Models once in the
employment of Dorothy
Perkins reappear,
following a period in
excess of fifteen years
confined to a garden shed.*







