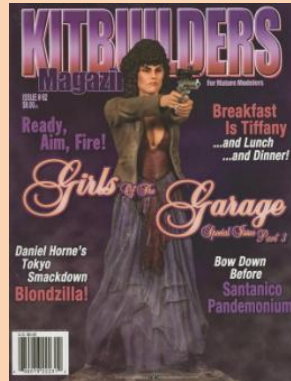


The Hardcore Modeler's Manual™: Volume One

Chapter 19 (Point/Counter-Point: Adult-Themed Kits) pp. 153-156

The debate among GK artists, producers, magazine publishers and convention organizers has continued for years about the appropriateness of sexually explicit model figure kits. Convention organizers hoping to provide a weekend of family appropriate entertainment are faced with prohibiting the exhibition of nudity or covering the naughty bits of the exhibits or confining them to a room or section where easily-offended eyes won't see them. And, for years, publishers have walked the fine line between hobby kits as art and hobby kits as pornography. There is a difficult position; advertisements pay the lion's share of the publishing costs of a magazine and many ads include sexually explicit imagery.



The publishers of Amazing Figure Modeler and Kitbuilders, for example, have found that their top selling issues are the "girl kit" issues which feature a number of sexually-themed kits. And, the owner of the now defunct magazine, Modeler's Resource, once produced a well-sculpted model kit called "Sitting Pretty" which depicted the owner's wife sitting naked on a milk bucket. Yet, all three of these leading GK magazines during the last 15 years have been well aware that some folks with more conservative sensibilities don't care for, and don't want their children exposed to, this subject matter.

Modeler's Resource's Sitting Pretty



Clearly, the hobby publications (and kit producers, too) have concluded that this sub-category is profitable and popular among GK artists and these kits will be around for a long, long time. They understand the challenge of publishing a magazine that appeals to the strong contingent of "girl kit" enthusiasts while not turning off readers and hobbyists more interested in horror and science fiction subjects.



Some critics of "girl kits" argue that the future of the hobby is dependent upon new blood, youthful modelers counting on their moms and dads to finance their participation in this hobby. These critics say parents are reluctant to allow their kids to participate in a hobby with such strong sexual content. However, defenders and proponents of kits in this strong-selling sub-category question those who voice concerns about "girl kits" being "too adult". They point to the inherent adult nature of the many horror and sci-fi kits (and the magazines devoted to them) which depict the victimization of women and in which elements of graphic violence, blood and gore are prominently displayed.



Black Heart's Werewolf



Jeremy Bohr's Final Chopper



Killer Kits' The Exorcist

In this chapter, for the benefit of kit producers, magazines and event organizers, HMM presents a point-counterpoint discussion of the issue.

Jan Curtain is a College art professor and former varsity basketball coach at Blessed Virgin High School, an all-girls catholic school in an Atlanta, Georgia suburb. He is an award winning GK artist with an impressive collection of "girl" kits. Dana Ackerman, Ph.D., is a Professor of Sociology at Harvard University and has appeared on ABC's Nightline with Ted Koppel as an expert on human sexuality. She is also a collector of vampire models and figurines and a critic of model kits which "objectify and degrade women".

Point



Jan Curtain: "Dana, the suggestion that a piece of painted plastic would be offensive and considered pornographic is ludicrous and, frankly, insulting. Anyone who considers a nicely sculpted, nicely painted figure of a woman as porn is either a **prude** or has to sit down to take a leak. I don't understand why anyone in GK would be offended by a model displaying the female form. The subtle curve of a woman's heaving breasts, firm thighs, supple buttocks... that's art, honey!

And the idea that moms and dads are worried about their kids being exposed to that is just stupid. How about all the monster models that depict decapitation or victims disemboweled or throats ripped open? AFM even had a build-up article about some crazy Victorian broad smearing herself with blood from a human heart and sitting by a female body bearing signs of torture. I don't hear folks whining about how **that** kind of model might negatively impact kids. Why don't I hear you and all of your puritanical friends objecting to military models that depict dead soldiers or garage kits that show blood dripping from mouths of werewolves? I'll tell you why; it's because you hate men and in some deeply buried fantasy of yours, you'd probably enjoy having some pasty, sparkle-skinned blood-sucker kicking in your bedroom door and chewing on your scrawny neck. Me? I'd rather see a model of a nude woman posed provocatively than to see her strung up like a side of beef.

Dana, it's clear to me that you don't have a clue about what impact girl kits might have on children since I doubt that a sexually-repressed **gal-goblin** like yourself could ever find a man willing to assist you in having children of your own. Maybe you need to lose that Victorian prudishness, meet a man and learn how to be a real woman. But, you probably hate men as much as you hate the female form. Like your fellow Victorian, William Shakespeare, said, 'Get thee to a nunnery!'"

Counter Point



Dana Ackerman: "Jan, you ignorant slut! You called me 'a sexually-repressed **gal goblin**'!?!? You wouldn't know a **real woman** if one planted herself on your face, you pillow-nibbling pervert. And your idea of a real woman must be one of the little figures that you can manipulate and paint and photograph to fit with your dirty little fantasies. And I'm not talking about model kits; I'm talking about the young girls you probably creeped out at Blessed Virgin High School. Is that why you are no longer the school's basketball coach?

Art!?! Are you kidding me?? The only folks I know of that would call models of naked, Asian girls touching themselves "art" are Bob Guccione and Larry Flynt. Of course, you probably don't know who those guys are because you don't read their magazines; you just drool over the pictures.

It is clear that you are a socially dysfunctional, emotionally delayed individual unable to relate, sexually or intellectually, to a real woman. I'm betting even the 9th graders at Blessed Virgin H.S. are too mature for a *schmeckl* like you. I'll bet the closest thing you've had to a relationship with a real woman is your "date nights" with your anatomically-correct inflatable doll.

And blood dripping from the mouths of werewolves? Next time I see you, there'll be blood dripping from the mouth of a 43-year old mama's boy who lives alone with his BetaMax porn collection. But we can't blame your problems on you entirely. I mean, there was a reason mommy and daddy gave you a unisexual name. You see, Jan, even at birth your parents had questions about whether you'd ever be a man. Let's hope, the next time you're playing with one of your pornographic girlie kits, you don't mistake your superglue for your lubricant."

The opinions expressed above do not necessarily reflect those of Black Heart Enterprises or The Hardcore Modeler's Manual™. However, we hope this discussion will help shed some intelligent light on this sensitive and important garage kit issue.

Check back with us soon for the next exclusive excerpt from The Hardcore Modeler's Manual™: Volume One.