

It's a girl.



**Mixed media paintings exploring violence
against girls and women**

Jeannie Friedman

Simply being born female means entering the world with a much greater chance of experiencing violence in one's lifetime. An estimated 35 percent of women worldwide — more than one in three — will endure physical or sexual abuse at the hands of others. In some parts of the world a girl is more likely to be raped than to learn how to read.¹

Yet, it is easy to become desensitized to the brutality inflicted on girls and women — domestic violence, sexual abuse, trafficking, genital mutilation, murder — when we simply hear the statistics again and again. What's obscured behind the numbers and percentages are the actual women and girls deeply impacted by this violence, each with her own story to tell. These pieces of art are created to help repair the disconnection, restore the humanity to those who are violated, and reconnect us to these real individuals.

I work with commonplace materials: used girls' dresses and discarded wood. Materials as everyday

and ordinary as the violent acts they portray. Clothing, especially dresses, are very personal artifacts. A particular dress can tell us so much about the child who wore it. A dress holds the unique spirit of a girl. It offers clues about her personality, her life, and what she might have been doing when she wore it. The viewer can feel, can imagine a personal relationship with the child, taking in her essence that is held in the dress.

Why use wood? I imagine rough pieces of wood grabbed spontaneously to do harm. Discarded, jagged, and heavy, the wood is symbolic of targeted rage.

As an artist, and a female, my hope is that this work will reawaken an emotional and personal connection to the countless girls and women, young and old, violently brutalized every day. Let our reawakened, deeper connection now inspire us to work as much as we can to eliminate the violence that can result from simply being born female.

¹ Brussels-based United Nations Regional Information Center for Western Europe © 2016

Jeannie Friedman is a mixed media painter living and working in New York City. She is the recent recipient of the Gonzalez-Edwards Travel Grant for painting, an award of \$15,000 and four months of travel and study in Spain.





She wouldn't stop crying
Acrylic, girl's dress, found wood
36" x 26"



Didn't really mean to hurt her
Acrylic, girl's dress, found wood
28" x 25"



She asked for it
Acrylic, girl's dress, found wood
27" x 25"



Not like I didn't warn her

Acrylic, girl's dress, found wood, rocks
25" x 30"



For her own good
Acrylic, girl's dress, found wood
28" x 21"

Each piece in this booklet is for sale. With every purchase, 10% of the total will be donated to the non profit of the buyer's choice working to eliminate violence against women and girls.

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To see more work by Jeannie Friedman, visit <http://www.jeanniefriedman.com>

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One less mouth to feed
Acrylic, girl's dress, found wood
25" x 17"

