

# 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.<sup>1</sup>

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.

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*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, given by The Art Students League of New York, an award of \$15,000 and four months of travel and study in Spain. The grant is based on three of the pieces shown in this brochure.*

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<sup>1</sup> Brussels-based United Nations Regional Information Center for Western Europe © 2016





*She wouldn't stop crying*, 2016  
Acrylic, girl's dress, found wood  
36" x 26"





*Didn't really mean to hurt her*, 2016  
Acrylic, girl's dress, found wood  
28" x 25"



*Not like I didn't warn her, 2016*  
Acrylic, girl's dress, found wood, rocks  
25" x 30"





*She asked for it, 2016*  
Acrylic, girl's dress, found wood  
27" x 25"



*Gave her something to cry about, 2018*  
Acrylic, girl's dress, rocks, shovel  
27" x 231"





*For her own good, 2015*  
Acrylic, girl's dress, found wood  
28" x 21"





*Taught that girl a lesson*, 2017  
Acrylic, girl's dress, found wood  
30" x 28"



*She asked for it, 2018*  
Acrylic, woman's full slip, found wood, rocks  
33" x 23"



*Why'd I hit her?*, 2018  
Acrylic, woman's full slip, found wood, rocks  
33" x 23"





*Wasn't even my kid, 2017*  
Acrylic, girl's dress, found wood  
19" x 16"



*One more peep*, 2016  
Acrylic, girl's dress, rope  
30" x 24"





*It's a girl, 2017*  
Girl's dress, found wood, rocks  
37" x 28"





*One less mouth to feed, 2016*  
Acrylic, girl's dress, found wood  
25" x 17"



Each piece of art 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.

To contact the artist, email: [jeannie@jerseyandginger.com](mailto:jeannie@jerseyandginger.com)  
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To see more work by Jeannie Friedman, visit <http://www.jeanniefriedman.com>