

Morton Bartlett

By Grayson Perry



When I first came across the works of **Morton Bartlett** it was the context of their creation that fascinated me more than the works themselves. These dolls and photographs seem less like sculptures and pictures, more like fetish objects created as a healing ritual for a traumatised unconscious. I identified with his role as a maker of talismans freighted with tender feelings. I was touched most of all by his behaviour after he misguidedly exposed his disturbingly sexualised surrogate family in a popular magazine. On receiving an understandably less than enthusiastic

reaction he packed them away in special boxes, perhaps to protect his sincerest wishes that these sculptures carried like charms or the relics of saints. The transition of deeply held feelings into the glare of an audience can be a troubling one, a journey I identify with.

Grayson Perry
b 1960 (Britain)
artist, curator