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VOL. 2 NO 5  
WWW.TOKION.COM

PRINTED IN THE USA  
\$6.99US \$6.99CAN



# SURFACE TENSION

## Amie Dicke's D collages

Text Aimee Walleston

Dutch artist Amie Dicke is a woman at home with the paradoxical. In her "cut-outs," Dicke has contemplated the exaltation and destruction of beauty to produce works that index a modern deconstruction of femininity, wherein "perfected" forms are hollowed out to reveal their inner vacancies. In collusion and at odds with the worlds of fashion and beauty, crystallized in contemplation and dissolved in spun-sugar decadence, Dicke's work embraces the obsession with the exterior that defines contemporary Western culture.

Dicke's cut-out works create ethereal and macabre imagery derived from fashion photographs. She conceived these works because, as she says, "I love fashion and I love leafing through magazines, but at the same time doing so gives me an empty feeling. By cutting away, I tried to look for the deeper meaning—a truth—behind those images." The cut-outs followed earlier sculptures, where Dicke interpreted her own female form as both familiar and fleeting, with a conceptual twist brought about by a mendacious p tissier. Explains Dicke: "With my *How Sweet is the Space Between My Legs* sculptures, I made a pressing of my legs from crotch to foot in marzipan coated with icing. I was promised that the material would last for several years by the baker who helped me, but as soon as they were finished, they fell apart."

Dicke's latest works play against the unique aesthetic of her cut-outs, while pushing her concepts and processes to darker realms and referencing her own Christian upbringing. Of a recent sculpture, *Desert Boundaries*, Dicke says, "The title refers to a story of a woman with a transparent skin. The lines are similar to the lines of the cut-outs, only here, they are formed by hair placed underneath a stocking. For this piece, I found a lot of inspiration in the stories and images from Mary Magdalena. She was always shown with a lot of hair, trying to cover her naked body—she symbolizes the whore and the saint in one person."

*This September, Amie Dicke will have a solo show of work at Peres Projects Berlin.*

