

# Basic Detail Report



**Title: Bubble Cut Barbie**

Date: 1998

Primary Maker: com.gallerysystems.emuseum.core.entities.RecordXPerson@3e7f1

# Basic Detail Report

Medium: Polaroid Polacolor ER Land

Description: Bubble Cut Barbie belongs to a series of large-scale polaroids that explore the image of the Barbie. Mattel first manufactured Barbie 50 years ago after the conclusion of World War II, a time when couture houses boomed in France due to the ending of wartime restrictions. Vintage dolls, including the "bubble cut" Barbie of the 1960s, were the quintessence of glamour and represented a microcosm of mid-century, predominantly white, upper-middle class aspirations. To craft his society portraits of the Barbie, Levinthal combines white light and sharply contrasting shadows with intensely saturated color. By using a narrow depth of field, soft focus and close-up range, Levinthal brings a sense of life to the doll, making her appear to be made of both plastic and flesh. A solid monochromatic background eliminates any sense of scale, and as the artist explains, "further adds to the power of the images and enhances their ability to force viewers to re-think and re-imagine what toys are really about." The resulting ambiguity opens the door for interpretation of the impact of Barbie's image on American collective subconscious and popular culture.

Dimensions: 20 x 24 in.