

Little Donnie (The Ten Inch Terror)

Artist statement:

Little Donnie” is a dark parody of the 1975 made-for-TV horror film, *Trilogy of Terror* starring Karen Black. In the original movie, Black plays the victim of a knife-wielding Zuni fetish doll that comes to life and terrorizes her. In our parody, the original Indian doll has been replaced with a rhetoric-spouting Donald Trump doll, thereby politicizing the story and again making it a metaphor for the state of things in America as I see them. The Karen Black character now becomes a 2017 representation of the 1975 “every woman” amid the Trump dynasty where women’s rights are in danger of backsliding. Today, women’s healthcare, equal rights, equal pay, social status, etc., are at risk.

As an artist, I feel it is my duty to respond to the state of current American politics,* repurposing and transforming *Trilogy of Terror* into the perfect vehicle to make my point. The original *Trilogy of Terror* came out in 1975, during a time when the second wave of the women’s movement was well underway. Reproductive rights made a leap that year with the passing of Roe v. Wade. The tie-in to that time in history is another important reason why I used *Trilogy of Terror* to make my point.

Although I’m a man, I feel my perspective on the American women’s experience is relevant. I am the father of two daughters, a husband, son and women’s rights advocate. If my mother were alive today she would appreciate this film and give me her loving smile of approval. That alone is worth it.

-Chel White

*Other political expressions in my work include *Harrowdown Hill*, a music video for Radiohead’s Thom Yorke in which metaphoric images depict environmental and political concerns. And in 2007, I made a short film called *Wind* that poetically addresses climate change.