



## 18 Questions for Artist Laurie Simmons

By ARTINFO

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**Name:** Laurie Simmons

**Age:** You're gonna have to Google that...

**Occupation:** Visual artist

**City/Neighborhood:** Downtown N.Y.

**What projects are you working on now?** Trying to buy a third Japanese love doll to finish the video "Geisha Song/Day 31." (Part 1 is currently at Salon 94/Bowery.) Organizing an Art Feature project for Art Basel 2011 with Wilkinson Gallery in London — a dialogue between Jimmy DeSana and me.

**What's the last show that you saw?** "Cabaret" curated by Matthew Weinstein at Ramis Barquet Gallery

**What's the last show that surprised you?** "Cabaret"

**Why?** The juxtapositions were pretty surprising: Jorg Immendorff and Arch Connelly, Kathe Burkhart and Hunter Reynolds. Robert Mapplethorpe and Mika Rottenberg. Also the muralist José Clemente Orozco.

**What's your favorite place to see art?** The Prado (if I can afford to stay at the Ritz Madrid and walk out the back door into the museum).

**Do you make a living off your art?** Yes

**What's the most indispensable item in your studio?** My studio manager, Rachel Howe

**Where are you finding ideas for your work these days?** They kind of find me. Or Japan.

**Do you collect anything?** Art

**What's the last artwork you purchased?** A 1951 drawing by Doris Lee — an illustration from "Carousel" made for the composer Richard Rogers. And a 1995 Robert Blanchon black-and-white photo of a red bandanna.

**What's the weirdest thing you ever saw happen in a museum or gallery?** I saw a person squeeze though two naked people to get from one gallery to another.

**What's your art-world pet peeve?** People who think that the art world, artists, and art benefit from an economic apocalypse.

**What's your favorite post-gallery watering hole or restaurant?** I go home.

**What work(s) of art do you wish you owned?** Every single drawing in the Roy Lichtenstein show at the Morgan Library.

**What would you do to get them?** I'm thinking I won't be able to get them.

**What international art destination do you most want to visit?** The Oz Museum in Wamego, Kansas, and Naoshima Island in Japan

**What under-appreciated artist, gallery, or work do you think people should know about?** Jimmy DeSana (1950-1991). Yes, he was my close friend. Yes, I'm the executor of the estate. But the work is so heartbreakingly beautiful — so dark, so prescient. His spirit seems to infuse a lot of young work I see today.

**Who's your favorite living artist?** My FAVORITE living artist? Carroll Dunham