

## *damali ayo*

### *elements of playback*

#### *day in the life of a little girl* *a series of 9 prints*

each print in this series takes its layout and title from a norman rockwell painting, as does the series as a whole. if each painting were underneath the print, rockwell's characters would be revealed associated with each dialogue balloon. the golliwog inserted either replaces a character in the rockwell, or resides as an onlooker. the paintings were then removed from the layout leaving white space.

it was often said of rockwell's work, that it portrayed a quintessential american experience—that a viewer would either see themselves or long to see themselves portrayed as belonging in these "american" pictures.

in comic book art, neutrality is central. the less specific the characters are drawn, the more likely a reader is to identify themselves as inside of the comic, with the researched exception that white people are unlikely to project themselves onto black characters.

#### *how i sometimes find myself* *five assemblages with golliwog dolls*

this work is influenced by the plays of samuel beckett and james moore, as well as my own memories and experiences. i purchased the golliwog dolls from ebay and one from a second hand store a few blocks from my home in portland. i placed them in familiar environments (pet carrier, desk drawer, keepsake box, tomato cage, heating duct) positing brown threads as their heart, mind, desires, protected areas, roots. in direct contrast to the caricatured pitch-black fabric of their skin.

#### *rent-a-nego.com* *interactive web-art-performance*

this web site was developed as a reflection on the everyday commodification of blacks by whites. it was designed to shift the cost of ignorance. each of the services offered and all of the quotes on the site are things people say to me or request of me on a regular basis.

#### *the race card* *three turns of a phrase*

a "race ace" the ace of spades reading "let's call a spade a spade" 10 greeting cards offering sentiment about racism, and a business card for people of color. "certified at birth"

#### *blacklight* *video assemblage*

blacklight is "light waves that cause white objects to glow while dark objects become invisible." a series of nigger jokes taken from a web site.

#### *othello* *on-site performance*

"you be white and i'll be black." the game of othello is played. after 10 minutes a polord of the board is taken and tacked to the gallery wall.