

Thursday
JAN
30



**GIOVANNA
RICCIO**

POET

Giovanna Riccio

Plasticity's Bombshell

In 2019, the Barbie doll turned 60. Plasticity in body and persona allowed the Mattel toy company to position and reposition their high-achieving money-maker as relevant by exploiting social trend, political movements and historical shifts. As a complex international celebrity and feminist *bête noir*, Barbie is a mirror helping us to reflect on ourselves.

This lecture is based on my book, *Plastic's Republic*, a poem collection centering on the Barbie doll as an enduring cultural icon. I will examine her creation, her impact on female beauty and discuss how her mouldable nature made her a "capital doll" and free market diva. Following the book's themes, I will elaborate the philosophical, feminist and social issues she engenders and discuss how Barbie became plastic surgery's prophet by spawning "plastic positive" humans. Finally, plastic's reach extends to the dollification of romantic relationships via silicone sex dolls and ends (un)naturally in our plastic infused lives and smothered oceans.

I will follow the lecture by reading from *Plastic's Republic*.

Bio

Giovanna Riccio is a graduate of the University of Toronto where she majored in philosophy. Her love of poetry is her inheritance from a gifted autodidact father who penned his own verses. She is the author of *Vittorio* (Lyricalmyrical Press, 2010) *Strong Bread* (Quattro Books, 2011), and *Plastic's Republic* (Guernica Editions, 2019) and her poems have appeared in national and international publications and in numerous anthologies. Her work has been translated into Italian, French, Spanish, and Romanian. Giovanna has participated in various international literary festivals including Blue Met, The Edinburgh Fringe and the University of Calabria's Italian Diaspora Conference to name a few. Visit her website at giovannariccio.com

WHEN

Jan 30, 2020
4:00pm – 5:30pm

WHERE

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