

Symbolism in *Clown*

Cosmetic plastic surgery is big business in America today, with increasingly younger women electing to enhance their bodies.



Clown. Acrylic on panel, 2017. 36" x 24."

1. The balloons represent breast enhancement surgery, which often produces unnatural results.
2. The young woman holds the end of an air pump in her left hand and the handle for the pump in her right hand. She is the one that ultimately decides to have the surgery.
3. The young woman is depicted as a little girl in the background, staring at an image of the "ideal woman" from the *Sports Illustrated Swimsuit Calendar*. The proliferation of such images has a huge impact on girls and their body image.
4. The young man is dressed in a suit and represents the type of man that the young woman hopes to attract. However, most men that are attracted by the unnatural beauty of plastic surgery are merely clowns.
5. The young man pinches one of the breasts to see if it meets his approval and the young woman looks out at the viewer, seeming to regret her choices.