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Song Yan Tuang, a.k.a. Azee (New York City street artist) Untitled, 2004. Photo credit: Yousga.
Courtesy: The artist, New York

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One such ingenue is Virginie Sommet. Sommet, who is French, has lived in the United States for six years. She holds a salon show at her home/studio the first Tuesday of every month, from 6-9 pm. This salon attracts artists, collectors, magazine editors, writers, and, of course, friends and acquaintances. Virginie creates assemblages with found objects, such as toys, food, bric-a-brac and religious artifacts. Dominating her Canal Street loft is a statuesque male mannequin, clothed in a skin-tight collage of black and white newspaper cutouts of female escort ads. A fuzzy, silver Christmas streamer has been draped around his neck, which trails onto the floor. The piece is entitled, *Shemale*, an apparent reference to the mannequin's broad chest and bulging crotch, combined with small breasts and photos of female escorts plastered all over the body.

Much of Virginie's work is a process in meditation. Another piece, *Laxmi*, consists of an assemblage of Indian candies, each one laid with tweezers and handglued. The artist recounts how she spent over one hundred hours completing the work.

Virginie has had her work in group and solo shows both here and abroad. And yes, she has a website: www.virginiesommet.com.

