



### SELF PORTRAIT

Out of the 391 pairs of Barbie shoes included in mixed-media artist Jenny Dina Kirschner's "Self Portrait," an unexpected challenge came from one particular pair: the pink bunny slippers. (See above: eighth row from the bottom; fifth column from the right.) "They fell off the piece and landed on the floor of the acrylic box frame," says Kirschner, whose ambition for the piece was to portray her passion for organization and perfection as well as pay homage to Damien Hirst's famed spot painting series. "Everybody loved it and said, 'Oh, that's intentional. That's so fun!'" But it wasn't intentional and it wasn't fun for Kirschner. Seeing those slippers on the base of the frame drove her crazy. So she took the piece down and realigned the slippers with glue once more. Order achieved. But the slippers continued to fall every time she reattached them. Finally, she realized that the whimsical pair added a new dimension to the piece by acknowledging the more playful aspects of the artist's personality. Thanks to the wayward pink slippers, "Self Portrait" captures Kirschner's "self" more accurately than she ever thought possible. The 37-by-49-inch piece, which hangs on a wall close to the foyer of her Brooklyn, New York, home, reminds her that the perfectly imperfect can be artful as well. —Jessica Schuster

