

Feb. 17, 2009

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Contact Information

Amy Galpin, Gallery Coordinator

Phone: (312) 738-0400 Email: gallery@womanmade.org

womanMADE



GALLERY

Dig In, Float Up

Re-Imagining with Tracy Featherstone and Krista Connerly

Opening Reception: Fri., March 6, 6-9 p.m.

CHICAGO - Woman Made Gallery is proud to present a collaborative exhibition of situational examinations made into intriguing and beguiling photographs and wearable sculptures asking the viewer to *re-imagine* their experiences and by proxy, our own. *Envirotouchers*: re-imagining the world around you – from the exhibition:

Why do I move through my environment in isolation when it is so obviously alive, breathing and reaching out to touch me? When there seem to be such intense opportunities for exchange and interpenetration? I walk down the sidewalk and find the branch of a tree gingerly grazing my cheek. A lamppost runs its light over my skin. What happens if I return the caress?

Dig In, Float Up is a response to these questions. Featuring Connerly and Featherstone's *Envirotouchers*, a series of prototypes for a more connected world, *Dig In, Float Up* seeks to replace rationality with sensuality and isolation with relationship.

Often, we get stuck in a relationship-rut with our environment, wearing down the same path to work and back or ignoring the (arguably) tender call of a car-alarm.

Envirotouchers are a series of actions and wearable sculptures that offer a simple and playful solution to this. Through them we can create new, experimental relationships with our environment; we can dig in, collect, absorb, float, lick, snuggle and ultimately instigate our own actions to



Tracy Featherstone and Krista Connerly
Dig In, Float Up, photograph

-more-

build a personalized and meaningful connection to the world around us. Through these new connections we are doing nothing less than re-imagining our environments, and with them, our selves.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS:

Tracy Featherstone:

Much of her work deals with the theme of personal environment and she received a research grant to travel to Ghana, West Africa to initiate a body of work that explores this theme. Featherstone's work has been featured nationally and internationally. She has shown at the Wexner Center in Ohio, at the Contemporary Art Center in Cincinnati, at the Corcoran Museum of Art in Washington as well as at the Fringe Festival in Scotland among many others. Featherstone lives and has a working studio in Hamilton, OH. She earned a BFA from the University of Cincinnati and a MFA from the University of Arizona. She is currently an associate professor in Art at Miami University, Ohio.

Krista Connerly:

Connerly's work has been exhibited nationally and internationally in places such as Los Angeles, Portland, Chicago, Memphis, Basel, Cairo, Dublin, and Melbourne. Some of these venues include: The Urban Institute for Contemporary Art in Michigan, The Next Wave Festival in Melbourne, Australia, WOW, Women's International Film Festival in Sydney Australia, The Los Angeles Center for Digital Art, Banff Centre for the Arts in Canada, and at the Egyptian Ministry of Culture in Cairo. Connerly lives and works in Portland, Oregon. She earned her MFA from Carnegie Mellon University and was responsible for developing the Digital Media program at Anderson Ranch Art Center. Currently she teaches at Oregon State University.

EXHIBITIONS AT THE GALLERY:

Group Show: **12th International Open** juried by Yolanda M. López

Solo Show: **Dig In, Float Up** by Tracy Featherstone and Krista Connerly

Solo Show: **Rack and Ruin** by Marjorie Woodruff

Artisan Gallery: **Whimsicality** curated by Margaret Denny

Woman Made Gallery

685 N. Milwaukee Ave.

Chicago, IL 60642

Website: www.womanmade.org

Gallery Hours: Wed-Fri noon-7 p.m. / Sat-Sun noon-4 p.m. / Admission: Free

Woman Made Gallery is supported in part by grants from the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency; a CityArts Program II grant from the City of Chicago, Department of Cultural Affairs; the Arts Work Fund for Organizational Development, a donor advised fund of the Chicago Community Foundation; the Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation; the Efrogmson Fund, a CICF Fund; a major anonymous donor; and the generosity of its members and contributors.

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