

## MEDIA RELEASE

Art Reviewers & Listings

### **annhomanART presents Frances Beatty's *Whispers* at New York Public Library, Lincoln Center : September 7-27, 2013**

Frances Beatty's *Whispers* is a highly personal and interpersonal exploration of beauty, loss, and letting go.

Inspired by Victorian mourning jewelry, and using Polaroid photography as the language of memory and preservation, the exhibit explores moments of transition and the act of letting go by creating portraits of women wearing necklaces of their own hair, handcrafted by Beatty. Each woman has expressed to Beatty something they are mourning, and this message of loss and letting go has been woven into the jewelry.

For Beatty, hair plays an integral role in our identity. It signifies various stages of our lives, marking occasions of transition and change. Most significantly, the dramatic cutting of hair is often an act of mourning, whether it is the loss of a job, a loved one, a home, or a relationship. Sometimes this hair is kept as a memento or keepsake of that moment of pain, or of that person. During the Victorian era, jewelry was handmade from a loved one's hair to keep that person close after they had passed away. Mourning jewelry was commonly worn during the second stage of mourning, and could be in the form of a watchband, necklace, locket or bracelet. There were many different kinds of mourning jewelry, but they were all woven into intricate and delicate patterns. With each piece intended as a way to hold on to the whisper of the beloved until one was ready to let go.

Beatty finds a certain combined irony and message reinforcement in her continued use of Polaroid film. Its chemical volatility makes each newly exposed image almost immediately begin to transition, decompose and fade. Her layering and scanning process documents the decomposition and turns the image of the film into an element of memory, while the image captured on Polaroid film continues to fade and let go.

*Whispers* will be exhibited at the New York Public Library at Lincoln Center, 127 Amsterdam Avenue and West 65<sup>th</sup> Street, New York City from Saturday, September 7 to Friday September 27, 2013.

An opening reception will be held on Saturday, September 7, 2013 from 2pm to 5pm. The artist will be present.

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*Frances Beatty is a graduate of OCADU and Columbia University. She is an emerging artist, who has exhibited at annhomanART, Gallery 44, XPACE, and OCADU's Transit Space.*

*annhomanART is an ongoing project by Toronto-based curator and urbanist, Ann Homan. Work has included the Emerging Artists salon series, Nuit Blanche Independent Projects, and participation in the development of the inaugural Toronto Biennale, TOB1. The project's current focus is creating opportunities for emerging Canadian artists to exhibit internationally. Homan received a Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal in 2013 for service to community.*

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#### **NYPL Hours**

Monday & Wednesday 11am – 7pm  
Tuesday & Thursday 10am – 6pm  
Friday & Saturday 10am – 5pm

Attachment – *Max*, by Frances Beatty