

## art and motherhood (anthology)

Rachel Epp Buller

with apologies for cross-postings...

### Reconciling Art and Motherhood

For centuries, mother artists were an oxymoronic concept. And yet, they existed, carving out unique spaces for themselves in an often unwelcoming profession, amid social pressures and financial hardships. Long denigrated as a viable topic for artistic practice, motherhood is gradually gaining credibility and increasing its visibility in contemporary art. Mary Kelly, Sally Mann, Renée Cox, and many others in recent decades have paved the way to combining this life-altering social role with a successful career. Institutions, however, are so slow to change that, as in centuries past, motherhood can still serve as a detriment in both the art world and academic communities.

Submissions are sought for an anthology to be proposed, tentatively titled Reconciling Art and Motherhood. Essays by artists and art historians will explore how individuals have integrated experiences of motherhood within their work. While recent related anthologies, such as Bee Lavender and Maia Rossini's excellent Mamaphonic (2004), most often have favored writers over artists, this anthology seeks to highlight exclusively a range of visual artistic practice. The following topics, among others, are encouraged: readings of the maternal body in contemporary art; historical examinations of artist-mothers; artistic documentation of aspects of motherhood and/or childhood; the embrace of motherhood in artistic/art historical practice; the problematics of motherhood as a theme; the delicate balance of maintaining family and producing / writing about art; making motherhood a "legitimate" topic for artistic production; issues of motherhood and family leave in the artist's workplace; the implications of intentionally avoiding motherhood or mothering-based art; artist "success stories" in the face of adversity.

If you are interested in submitting to this anthology, please send an abstract by September 1, 2008.

Submit to: Rachel Epp Buller, Bethel College, [rachel@ddtr.net](mailto:rachel@ddtr.net)

Subject line: Artist Anthology Submission

Deadline: September 1, 2008, for initial abstract

Include: Title, Abstract (250-500 words), Name, Institutional  
Affiliation, Address, Phone, Email Address, Brief Bio (50 words)

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Reference:

CFP: art and motherhood (anthology). In: Arthist.net, Jun 27, 2008 (accessed Jul 4, 2025),  
<<https://arthist.net/archive/30535>>.