

For Immediate Release

Ellen Wetmore

The Joys of Motherhood

September 2 – October 4, 2009

SOWA First Friday Reception: Friday, September 11th, and October 2nd, 5-8pm.

SOWA Open Studios: Saturday & Sunday, September 19 & 20, 2009, 11:00am-6:00pm

Gallery Hours: Wednesday - Sunday, 12noon-6pm. (or by appointment)

Boston Sculptors Gallery is pleased to present artist Ellen Wetmore's third solo exhibition of new sculptures entitled, *The Joys of Motherhood*. This is a set of sculptures and images exploring the maternal body and experience in a surreal way. Pregnancy and motherhood involve a bizarre physical transformation.

Reports Wetmore, "I have experienced extreme physical deformity, profound emotional delirium, intense hunger, and fatigue. This is normal, even celebrated, but not necessarily enjoyable. I am an ambivalent mommy actor and work out some common anxieties through a variety of media."

On view will be a new series of figurative works exploring now familiar themes in Wetmore's exploration of the fecund female body. The most ambitious of these is *Melt*, a monumental reclining female figure with a dissolving midsection that formally recalls the work of British sculptor Henry Moore. Wetmore's interpretation of this classic pose is sharpened with gross narrative and anatomical details. The model embodies the failure of female fecundity; she passively contemplates the goop into which her body has dissolved. She is covered in a slippery, self-lubricating graphite, as though dipped in crude oil, both lovely and toxic.

Artist Ellen Wetmore (b. 1972) lives and works in Fitchburg, Massachusetts. She works with sculpture, video, sound art, and interactive environments. Her work has been the subject of one-person exhibitions at Fitchburg State College and at the University of Massachusetts, Lowell, where she has an appointment as Assistant Professor of Digital Art. In April, she exhibited new videos and a large wall drawing, *Janus*, from the *Motherhood* series at the Art Institute of Boston as part of the Cyberarts exhibition, *Nourishment*.

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