

BIOGRAPHY

Cynthia O'Dell

Cynthia O'Dell is an Associate Professor of Art at DePauw University in Greencastle, IN and Chair of the Art Department. She has a B.F.A. with honors in photography and a B.A. in English from the University of Iowa. She received her M.F.A in art from the University of Colorado at Boulder in 1998. She was born in Oregon and raised in Iowa. A photographer and video artist, O'Dell explores notions of female identity, the personal and public, issues of narrativity, land and place, memoir and the experimental documentary form.

She has had 22 solo exhibitions/screenings with twelve of those representing *common threads*, at sites including the *Phizer* Headquarters in Manhattan and the *Viewing Room* in Chelsea. She was awarded best of show by the late Hollis Sigler in a juried exhibition titled, *A Shared Journey: Confronting Cancer Through Art*. *common threads* is an exhibition of non-traditional documentary photographic quilts depicting the lives and stories of women living with breast cancer. She was recently chosen for the juried exhibition at the Indiana State Museum titled, *Whispers to shouts: Indiana Women Who Create Art* which published a catalogue of the show. She has exhibited in over 40 juried exhibitions throughout the United States. Some sites have included, Austin, Denver, Ann Arbor, DesMoines, Iowa City, Boulder, Brooklyn, Berkeley, and Minneapolis as well as her recent exhibitions in New York.

In 2006, she was an Artist in Residence at the Burren College of Art in Western Ireland and recently completed a sabbatical project that involved living in Ireland for five months. Her new work "Migrations," explores the Irish Diaspora and ideas of transience and dislocation.

Her video work *Residue of Memory*, was debuted at the Mine-Cine Independent Film Center in Louisiana and received **Best Experimental Documentary at the New York International Independent Film and Video Festival** in the Spring of 2003. *Residue of Memory* is an autobiographical video, which documents her journey to understand the notion of home through both its presence and absence

She received a DePauw Fisher Fellowship in 1999 (given to only one faculty member per year) to fund her video project titled "Residue of Memory," and a DePauw Elftmann Faculty Fellowship from 2002-2005 to fund the photographic project titled, [un] natural. A piece from this series was chosen for the Indiana State Museum exhibit mentioned above. This series explores philosophical issues behind the concept of human relationship to the land and the defining or mythical line between what is considered natural and [un]natural. It consists of large-scale digital still-life photographs which allude to genetic engineering and provide new mythical but disturbing visual possibilities. She was also awarded an Indiana Arts Grant in 2003 and 2005 and a professional development grant from Amgen Inc., a Deans Small Grant from the University of Colorado both in 1998 and a Fine Arts council grant from the University of Iowa as an undergraduate.