I see your work as being about relationships. There is something very tactical in the way your work makes visible the processes of negotiation or ways of 'working through' and figuring out how to be in relationships with others. You continue to use itself to access and access to return the image of the women, family and the self - complex sites of representation on their own as well as collectively.

For relationships to succeed, they require immense work, they demand ongoing care that is unyielding while also adaptable. Uniquely, the relationships that you explore in your work are manifold, such as between you and your mother; the self and control over and to resistance and private ways of being. Using representation as a vehicle for considering such diverse entanglements, your work offers a glimpse into the complex ways in which identities are formed - through inheritance, construction and more importantly, through negotiation. The corresponding photographs, of the very point where words fail us: (the old word ‘fiat’), “faith” No. 1 & No. 2, digital inkjet print, 2016

A Conversation between Erika DeFreitas and Ellyn Walker. For a digital copy of this text, please visit our website at www.gallery44.org/exhibitions

Ellyn Walker is a writer and curatorial based in Toronto. Her work explores the decolonizing potential of intersectionality through an art historical and curatorial lens. She is currently a PhD candidate in Cultural Studies at Queen's University.

Erika DeFreitas is a Toronto-based multidisciplinary conceptual artist. She explores the influence of language, loss and culture on the formation of identity through public interventions, textile-based works, and performative actions that are photographed; placing an emphasis on process, gesture and documentation. Exhibition sites have included Project Row Houses in Houston, the Art Museum at the University of Toronto, The Art Gallery of Windsor, Platform Centre for Photographic & Digital Arts, Centre [3] for Print and Media Arts, The Art Gallery of Mississauga, the Pollock Gallery at the Southern Methodist University in Dallas, the Houston Museum of African American Culture, and a residency at Mentoring Artists for Women's Art in Winnipeg. DeFreitas is a recipient of the Finalist Artist Prize from the Toronto Friends of Visual Arts. She is a graduate of the Masters of Visual Studies Program at the University of Toronto. www.erikadefreitas.com