

Exhibition:

May 25 – June 23, 2007

Opening reception:

Friday May 25, 8 pm

Conversation with
artist Jennifer Crane:

Saturday May 26, 3 pm

Gallery hours:

Tuesday – Saturday, 12 – 6 pm

Admission to all events is free.



PAVED Arts

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Canada Council
for the Arts



Becoming
Jennifer Crane

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Photography, video and portrait sittings
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A portrait is a space with potential to present a constructed image of oneself; my work investigates how cultural expectations and popular narratives shape public personae. I am particularly interested in the relationship between the photographer and her subject, and in the negotiations that take place between them in the process of constructing a likeness.

Becoming is a term that describes a transitional period: in many ways it defines adolescence. The “prom” is an enduring cultural tradition in North America that marks a coming of age – a mythical passage from adolescence into adulthood. This work invites dialogue about the cultural longevity of prom celebrations while exploring portraiture as a site of self-invention and performativity where memory, gender, authenticity and spectacle converge.

Photographs taken at the prom, whether by a professional photographer or by friends and family, often reiterate conventional narratives of the ideal prom, narratives which are intertwined with conventions and cultural expectations around coming of age.

Dress Rehearsal

This series of portraits was produced in collaboration with students at a local high school. These photographs were not taken at the prom and the students are not graduating until next year. They are instead playfully dressing the part – engaging in role-play, taking part in a dress rehearsal. Other photographs in the exhibition focus on the dress as an object of both desire and dread as well as a symbol of femininity.

– Jennifer Crane

Throughout the duration of the exhibition the gallery will operate as a portrait studio and graduates are invited to have their portrait taken in their prom dresses or graduation outfits. The general public is also invited to have a photo taken wearing their original prom gowns or outfits.

Appointments can be made during regular gallery hours by calling:
652 5502 ext. 2.

Jennifer Crane would like to thank:

Ann Donald
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PAVED Arts
Tim Dallett
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Raj Padmanabh

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