

Min, Our Mothers Ourselves



Waiting to be brought back to life (photo by Michael)

A post (we thought) pandemic project of the Daniel and Trudy Regan Foundation.

Dan Regan secured mannequins, offering them to artists to modify with an outdoor show to follow in spring 2021.



Mannequins have always fascinated me, like these found in an old auction barn that has been transformed into artist studios for the Wassaic Project.

The mannequins pre-date the art-based organization.



Or these...







What has their life been like (if mannequins can be said to have lives) and how did they get to where they are?

Photographed in New Hope PA.

Most of the mannequins were extremely skinny white women or muscular men, I choose gold, the color of dawn.



As a photographer I was intimidated and exhilarated by the blank slate. How could I use photographs?



Mary Irene (Min) Cody Farrington



MaryLou Farrington Kelly (Lowe, Gunther)



Julia Hornsby Kelly, unknown, Min Farrington

From beginning to end it was a process of discovery. I often work collaboratively and took this as an opportunity to invite friends and relatives to participate by contributing pictures of their Moms to the project.

Many thanks to Karen, Dana, Doreen, Margaret, Allan, Barb, Loretta, Jeanette, Wendy, Donna, Amy, Brian, Kathleen and John.



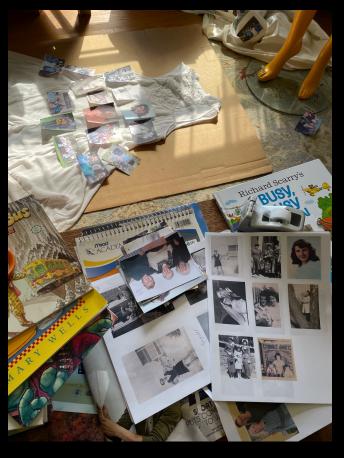


Min was born.

Her first dress was mine. Her white dress was purchased at a shop on Long Beach Island, a barrier island off the shore of New Jersey, a loved vacation spot.

With an idea slowly germinating I searched for vintage family photos.

I included my Grandmothers, Mother, Sister, SisterCousin, and Aunts, my Granddaughter and her Mom. My Father, Husband, Sons, Brothers, and Nephews stitching together my history.



A fiber artist friend, Donna Castelluccio, provided technical support on adhering the photos to the fabric.





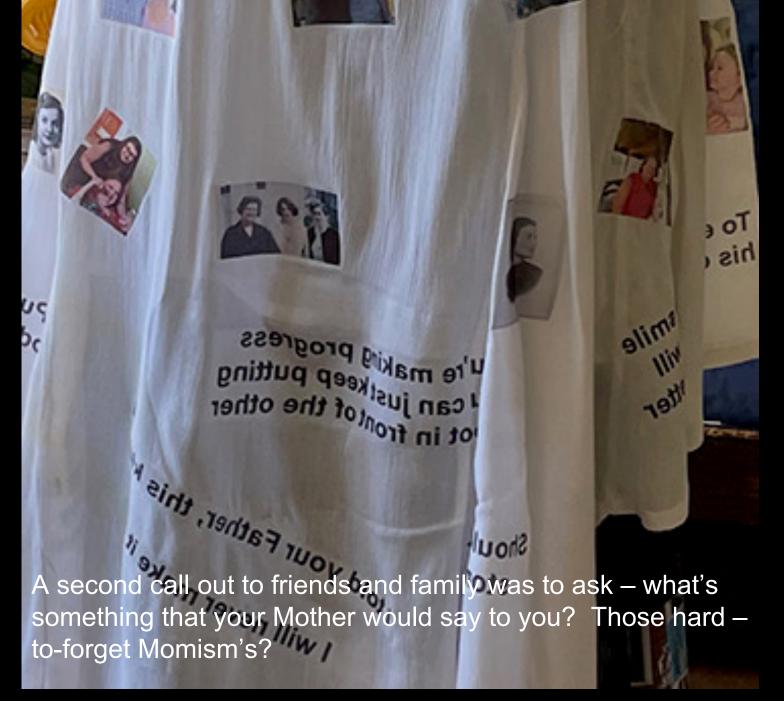


It was 2021 and feeling the resistance of the patriarchy to women's rights and the pull of the Womens March's on NYC I added photos from the marches.





A friend offered her Mother-in-Law's box of jewelry where I found this great teapot necklace. The women in my family are tea drinkers, always offering a nice cup of tea. The blue and white beads are my Mother's.



"I told your father that kid and I are never going to make it"

"Do it...like a good girl"

" Always smile, people will like you better"

Recognizing how fraught communication between Mother and children can be, I mirrored each quote.























Friends, fiber artist Donna Castelluccio, and multi- media artist Bill Prickett, also created mannequins for Art Reborn, 100 Mannequins.













I'm a lens-based storyteller. My favorite subjects are loud and enthusiastic street scenes like the Women's March on NYC, everyday life, and long running collaborative projects based on community participation.

In the 2020/21 pandemic years, I spent a lot of time outdoors. I find the company of trees and nature comforting and stress relieving. A solo tree was always my first stop before beginning a run or walk and made a great year long photo project. The project spans a wide variety of skyscapes from threatening to beautifully blue.

Synergy was a second project born of the pandemic. Every month I invited friends, colleagues and collaborators to respond to my suggested topic. This 12 month community based project, and the pandemic tree, can be viewed on the website LonnaKellyStudio.com

I am fortunate to live in a region that is fairly heavily treed. Sadly, I see more and more of these climate change protectors get clear cut for development. To focus more attention on local trees @LKtree is a year long 2022 project. Each person contributing is following a tree for one year, watching how it changes through the seasons.

2016-Prresent Mail Art Postcard Project asks the public to modify and mail the cards back to me. Images have included street art, a quarry, \$1 bill, and the Statue of Liberty (in various locations)

Camera Obscura captures the outdoors projected onto Indoor walls. I'm working on a series of this sugar maple tree and am seeking other locations. Long term I'm exploring the options of creating a moveable structure that I can take on location.

ART REBORN: 100 MANNEQINS

Many thanks to the Daniel and Trudy Regan Foundation. The exhibition opened in New City, NY, October 2021 and was visited by over a thousand people. Artists participating created a dizzying and eclectic mix of mannequins.

Thanks to Dan and his staff.

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