

### Exhibition Description for Teachers

*Body Stories: Sandra Davis and Koo Kyung Sook*

April 10 - May 13, 2012

**Grade Level Recommendation** – This exhibit will be relevant to high school age and above, with special interest to photography students. The associated lecture by Doug Rice and Stephanie Sauer is recommended for adults only (see Supporting Events). The photo-related works are experimental in their use of media. The exhibited work does not portray the body in a realistic manner; images are abstracted, many with a translucency produced by the use of materials.

#### Exhibit Description:

In *Body Stories*, artists **Sandra Davis** and **Koo Kyung Sook** use their own bodies with striking objectivity as both inspiration and means for the visual narratives – sensual, conceptual, female and universal. The affecting beauty of the films, collaged stills, installations and prints that make up this show comes from the intimacy of the source, the artists' candid poetics, and their masterly innovations with mixed photographic and print media.

#### The Exhibiting Artists and Their Work:

**Sandra Davis** is a San Francisco-based experimental filmmaker whose work has shown in prominent independent film festivals nationally and internationally and been collected by major art museums and film archives in the US and Europe.

*Maternal Filigree*, a non-linear narrative screened on a monitor in the gallery, strives, Davis writes, “to evoke echos of sexuality, birth and maternity.” Another film on view, *Ignorance before Malice*, reflects on the medical treatment Davis received after a car accident: her struggle to heal, the experience, she explains, of “a mortally threatened body.” The film overlays images from the artist's life, MRI cells, and scanned pictures from art history and fantasy. These are printed on transparencies, stacked, photographed and manipulated using animation techniques. The wall pieces in the exhibition are reworkings of the narrative's key moments.

**Koo Kyung Sook** moved to Sacramento in 2010 from Korea, where she is an established artist and was a professor of art at the Chungnam National University, Daejeon. Her work is in a number of prominent Korean and US collections, including the Baltimore Museum of Art, the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, and Yale University Art Gallery.

*Body Stories* presents a selection of large digital prints from Koo's extended *Markings* series. *Markings 2007* is created from an imprint of the artist's body on bubble wrap and fabric soaked in developer laid over sheets of photographic paper. The resulting cameraless photographs are scanned, digitally reassembled, colored, enlarged, and printed on mulberry paper. Images from *Markings 2009* and the new *Markings 2011* recombine imprints of the artist's head and a surrogate head through ongoing variations of her improvisational processes.

#### Supporting Events:

**Saturday, April 28** at 3pm: **Doug Rice** and **Stephanie Sauer** discuss their collaboration, *Dream Memoirs of a Fabulist* (Copilot Press, 2011). Surrounded by Koo Kyung Sook and Sandra Davis' *Body Stories*, author Doug Rice and book artist Stephanie Sauer speak to the creation of *Dream Memoirs*, exposing the processes of forming sentences and words and photographs, unstitching genders, and designing a book to be read in myriad ways, including touch. Discussion will include adult themes and content and is recommended for adult audiences.

**Thursday, May 3** at 7pm: Lecture by **Koo Kyung Sook**

**Saturday, May 5** at 6pm: Lecture by **Sandra Davis**