



Pelham Art Center

January 2012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Pelham Art Center 155 Fifth Avenue, Pelham, NY 10803

Separation Anxiety

February 3 – March 31, 2012



Haley Hasler, *Portrait of a Lady Bearing Snacks*, 2010, oil on linen

Fourteen artists uniquely explore modern notions of parenthood through an unexpected range of media, from photography and oils to clocks and macramé in this special exhibition at Pelham Art Center. *Separation Anxiety*, Pelham Art Center's first exhibition of 2012, is on view from February 3 through March 31. It is curated by Denise Johnson of Chaffey College, California, and Rebecca Trawick of the Wignall Museum of Contemporary Art.

The **opening reception** will take place on Friday, February 3, 6:30-8:00 p.m. The reception is free and open to the public. During the opening, visitors of all ages may participate in a **free collage art workshop** that will explore the themes of love and attachment, and will be held in the studios.

About the Exhibition

As significant numbers of women have entered the work force since the 1970s in response to shifting economic needs and the influence of the Feminist movement, Jean-Jacques Rousseau's long honored notion of the "Good Mother" and the demand that she blithely sacrifice all for the good of her children and family has been challenged and reevaluated. But as women have taken a place within the domestic AND public realms, conservative groups have predictably lamented the decline of "family values." Within that cry, the child has

often been portrayed as endangered and lost while mothers seeking to redefine their roles and obligations are seen as frantic and on the verge of unraveling. While far from being resolved, such debates are symptomatic of a cultural anxiety over the state of popular ideals of familyhood and a realization that these idealistic, largely unattainable notions of the family should continue to be frankly reconsidered in the 21st century.

Drawing from the curators' own efforts to balance the demands of motherhood with creative and professional endeavors, Denise Johnson and Rebecca Trawick consider how contemporary artists have explored modern parenthood under the pressures of changing economies and evolving definitions of familyhood. Artists in the exhibition explore the often unacknowledged worry and unease that all parents, traditional or not, must navigate. First shown in 2010 at the Wignall Museum of Contemporary Art, Chaffey College, *Separation Anxiety* investigates these cultural anxieties, and debates over the definition of family, parenthood, and childhood are explored in surprising and interesting ways.

Denise Johnson is an Adjunct Instructor in Art History at Chaffey College. Johnson has curated *Separation Anxiety* (2010) and *Girly Show* (2007), which explored third-wave feminism's strategic use of zines and the pin-up. Rebecca Trawick is the Director/Curator of the Wignall Museum of Contemporary Art. Selected exhibitions include *Dirty Laundry* (2000), *Tall Stories* (2004), *Radiant Space/Private Domains* (2006), *Mammygraphs: Mark Steven Greenfield* (2008), *Trick Baby* (2008), *Separation Anxiety* (2010), and *Food for Thought: A Question of Consumption* (2012).

Separation Anxiety will feature the work of: Claudia Alvarez, Monica Bock, Erika DeVries, Leslie Dick, Elizabeth Douglas, Haley Hasler, Connie Hatch, Ellina Kevorkian, Kate Kretz, Marcos Rosales, Karen Schwenkmeyer, Mark Stockton, Abbey Williams, and Jennifer Wroblewski.

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Pelham Art Center, 155 Fifth Avenue, Pelham, NY 10803 914-738-2525 info@pelhamartcenter.org

Hours: Tuesday- Friday, 10-5pm Saturday, 10-4pm

Directions: Located five blocks from the Hutchinson Parkway exit 12 and two blocks from the Metro-North Pelham station

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