

MEREDITH HERALD

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Educating Women To Excel

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Meredith's Weekly Weather

WEDNESDAY
Partly Cloudy
High 61/ Low 33

THURSDAY
Mostly Sunny
High 49/ Low 26

FRIDAY
Partly Cloudy
High 38/ Low 26

SATURDAY
Mostly Cloudy
High 46/ Low 38

SUNDAY
Showers
High 49/ Low 41

MONDAY
Partly Cloudy
High 60/ Low 40

TUESDAY
Showers
High 60/ Low 36

Art exhibit in Johnson explores "What Haunts" visitors

LACEY MADDREY
Staff Writer

Mixed media artist and Meredith Alumna Cathy McLaurin introduced her installation exhibit entitled "What Haunts..." on Sunday, January 23 in the Rotunda Gallery of Johnson Hall. "What Haunts..." is an ongoing piece comprised of over 2000 yellowed 4x5 pieces of paper, each containing a hand written secret; tacked atop one another. Also included in the exhibit is a wooden booth complete with a curtain for privacy, paper, pencils and a locked depository box for anyone who wishes to contribute a secret and become a part of McLaurin's art.

Inspired by adulthood reflections of her very own life-long secrets, McLaurin set out to gather the secrets of others and piece them into an installation art project. "Secrets are a part of our human existence," McLaurin said. The project began when McLaurin sent out 300 letters to various people including family members asking them to anonymously contribute

Paper dress created from to-do lists, part of the exhibit "What Haunts" on display in Johnson.

photo courtesy www.meredith.edu

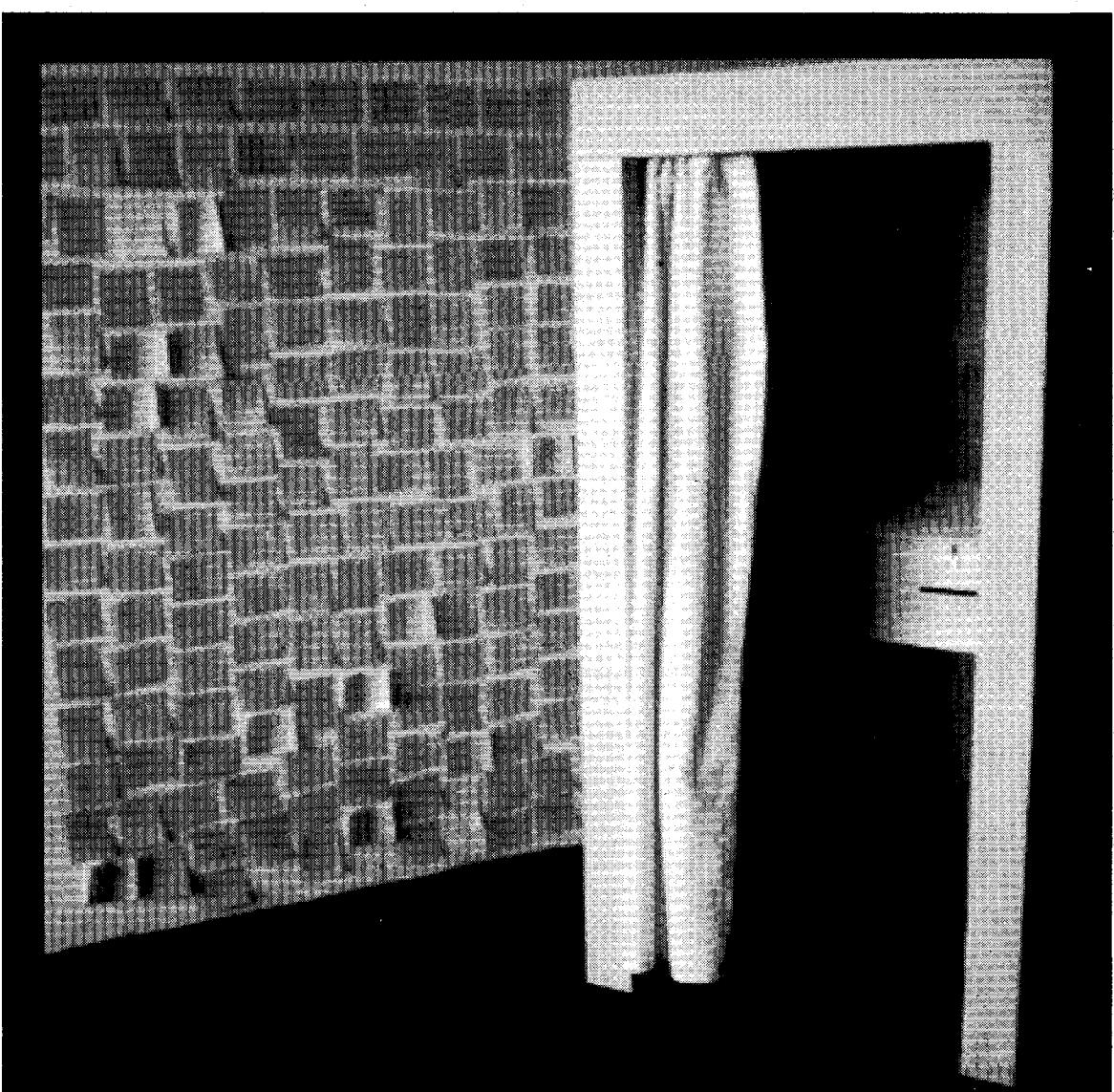
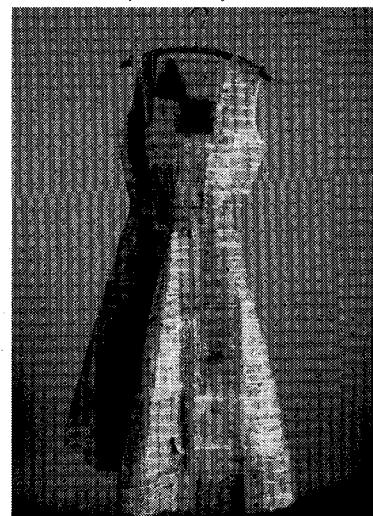


photo courtesy of www.meredith.edu

Part of McLaurin's "What Haunts" exhibit, a wooden booth stands beside a wall of secrets gathered from locations across the country.

a handwritten secret. Upon receiving 150 secrets at her home address, McLaurin knew she could push forward with the project. Aptly titled after the Nicolas Abraham quotation: "What haunts are not the dead, but the gaps left within us by the secrets of others;" the "What Haunts..." exhibit has traveled far and wide. The project has been displayed in 15 different venues from Mass. to Ore. including an Episcopal church during Lent, a library, and a bar. In each place, the public had the opportunity to privately add a secret to the work, which McLaurin believes are unique to the places they were gathered. With over 2000 collected secrets, McLaurin has not yet decided to put an end to her project and has no set number of secrets she expects to achieve before the installation is completed. The completion of the project is merely instinctual.

In addition to the "What Haunts..." project, other pieces of McLaurin's work can be seen on display in the Rotunda. Other mixed media pieces by McLaurin include a dress compiled of to-do lists, a wall of sock monkey portraits, and a row of beeswax bunnies with a surprise twist. In bringing her work

to Meredith, McLaurin remarked she is greatly benefited because she not only gets to share her experiences, but receives the opportunity to learn of the experiences of others as well.

McLaurin is a North Carolina native and '88 graduate of Meredith College. She currently resides in Amesbury, Massachusetts and works as a Special Projects Director at the Essex Art Center in Lawrence, Mass. "What Haunts..." will be on display in the Rotunda Gallery until February 20.