

e|Harmony



Jill and Doug
married: December 31, 2003

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Get intimate with this exhibit STAFF

Kathleen Wereszynski Murray

Brooklyn-based photographer **Sara Macel** asked each of her subjects to tell her a story about a kiss and then take her to where it happened.

Macel, 25, made portraits from the sites of those intimate encounters in her series, "Kiss + Tell," the inspiration for a new group exhibition at the Center for Photography at Woodstock.

The artist takes the viewer to a backyard hammock, a rooftop, a football field, a high school parking lot, even a natural history museum.

"I didn't want the photographs to be about the relationship between the two people," she said. "The setting is the main character in the story. It was a conscious effort on my part to have no people in the frame."

As **Macel** finished each print and pinned it to her wall, she was reminded of her bug collection for science class years before.

"The photographs started to become more of my version of the story," she said. "I'm turning other people's memories into my own."

Her series, which brings the personal realm into the public sphere, is part of "Kiss & Tell," an exhibition of the work of eight artists from the United States and abroad that

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explores intimacy through photography.

Besides **Macel**, curator Kate Menconeri chose Elinor Carucci, Todd Jordan and Kyung Duk Kim, who photograph personal moments between themselves and their lovers; Johnny Miller, who creates a homage to his parents via love letters sent during wartime; Bharti Parmar, who depicts delicate Victorian amulets; Karen Brett, who captures elderly couples; and Kelli Connell, who digitally constructs images of a couple in which she herself is the model for both characters.

Jordan, a graduate of Kingston High School, is a professional skateboarder as well as a fine artist.

"I had my first camera before I had my first skateboard," said the 26-year-old photographer, who lives in Manhattan.

Subject inspires

His five photographs in "Kiss & Tell" all feature his former girlfriend in everyday, yet intimate situations: at breakfast, looking out a window and asleep.

"My stuff with Myriam is a great example of my work," said Jordan, who graduated from the School of Visual Arts with a photography degree. "The experience of photographing Myriam influenced the way I photograph my fellow skaters, my comrades. It's a comfort with the camera between you and our subject."

Saturday's opening reception for "Kiss & Tell," which coincides with the opening of Lisa M. Robinson's solo exhibition, "Snowbound," will continue the theme of mixing the private with the public.

The chocolate and champagne affair will feature a photo booth space in which couples can make Polaroid portraits to become part of the exhibition as well as a raffle of a boudoir portrait session with Kingston-based photographer Charise Isis.

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