

Martha Gelarden

Installation and Paper **Separated at Birth: A Secret Conversation**



Abstract:

Martha Gelarden, artist, birth mother and Adam Lazar, artist, adoptee share their adoption experience through the solo artworks created on *Parallel Tracks* (1996-2000) when they lived and worked, literally walking in one another's footsteps, searching and waiting. Both artists use remarkably similar sensibilities to produce image and soundworks, works that while developed separately have a silent conversation. They were strangers that instinctively knew one another.

Legacy in Limbo, 2010 is part of the fantastic voyage they have shared in one short calendar year. This installation and soundwork, is their story and the story of the 4 million U.S. children surrendered in the Baby Scoop years (1940-1973) before Roe vs. Wade (court decision that granted women the right to choose abortion). It is a legacy generated by secrecy, shame, identity, and the unknown. What does every hidden Mother and Child want to know? Old school vinyl LPs serve as stand-ins for the censored Birth Records. *Legacy in Limbo* stores secrets real and imagined, questions sealed and stored, a never ending lament. Apparently there is no one answer, only questions longing to be heard, locked without a key to identity.

Topic: Installation

Authors:

Martha Gelarden
Moore College of Art and Design, 3D Fine Art,
Philadelphia
USA

References:

- [1] Gelarden, Martha
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Stedman Gallery
/Rutgers University
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- [2]
www.generativeart.com



Legacy in Limbo, 2010 (Installation Detail)

Contact:

mgelarden@moore.edu

Keywords:

installation, identity, adoption, art