

# North Dakota Museum of Art

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## **Museum Unveils Video Art Cecelia Condit: 1981 - Present**

Currently at the North Dakota Museum of Art is an exhibition by one of the art world's leading female video artists, Cecelia Condit. She makes art about female subjects seldom talked about or visited by other artists. An American video artist, Condit's work focuses on the contrast between the everyday world and fairy tales, with topics ranging from female aging, to the imaginary world of children, to suburban cannibalism. The exhibition "Cecelia Condit: 1981 – Present" continues through April 11, 2010.

According to the artist, "I consider myself a storyteller whose work swings between beauty and the grotesque, humor and the macabre, innocence and cruelty. My videos explore the dark side of female subjectivity and address the fear, aggression and displacement that exist between our selves and society, our selves and the natural world."

Condit's exhibition was organized by the North Dakota Museum of Art and scheduled for earlier in the season. When the Writers Conference organizers approached the Museum staff about collaborating, the exhibition dates were shifted to coincide with "Mind the Gap: Print, New Media, Art," this year's conference topic. Condit's art demonstrates how the introduction of filmmaking and video has expanded the role of narrative, or story telling, in contemporary art. Even the stories are no longer conventional.

In the last decades of the twentieth century, the path of art radically shifted from such traditional media as paintings and sculpture to encompass the theatricality of happenings, performance and installation art, digitally manipulated photography, and virtual reality. Subsequently, artists have plunged into social, scientific, political, and technological ideas, often to the discomfort of their audiences.

Condit is presenting five video works in the exhibition. They include *Annie Lloyd* (2008), an unflinching valentine to Condit's mother in her last years. *Little Spirits* (2005), a tale of two girls who go for a picnic in the woods, only to have things take a more serious turn. *Why Not a Sparrow*, an Eco-Fable about a girl—a rare bird—experiences the pleasures and perils of another animal kingdom. *Not a Jealous Bone*, in which an old woman goes looking for her young mother hoping to share a magic bone that promises eternal youth. *Possibly in Michigan*, a masked man pursues two girls through a shopping mall only to have the victims become the aggressors.

Condit's video *All About a Girl* is currently touring North Dakota and northwest Minnesota as part of the exhibition *Animals: Them and Us*. There will also be a screening of several more Condit videos.

The artist will speak about her work at the North Dakota Museum of Art on Wednesday, March 24, 2010 at 8 pm. A reception will follow. At 2 pm earlier that afternoon, Condit's videos *Oh Rapunzel* (1996-2008), *All About a Girl* (2004), and *Suburbs of Eden* (1996) will be shown in the Student Union as part of the Writers Conference.

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The exhibition is sponsored by the North Dakota Council on the Arts, the Minnesota State Arts Board, and the North Valley Arts Council.

The North Dakota Museum of Art, the State's official art gallery, is located at 261 Centennial Drive in Grand Forks. Museum hours are weekdays from 9 am to 5 pm and weekends from 1 pm to 5 pm. The Museum shop is open during Museum hours and the café is open from 10 am to 4 pm, with lunch served from 11 am to 2 pm. Admission free; suggested donation \$5 from adults and Change From Children.

For additional information on the news that is the subject of this release, contact the North Dakota Museum of Art or visit [www.ndmoa.com](http://www.ndmoa.com)

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## **Video works by Cecelia Condit**

Annie Lloyd – 2008. An unflinching valentine to Condit's mother in her last years.

Music: Christopher Burns

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FQIAjmdTIP4>

Little Spirits - 2005. A Tale of two girls who go for a picnic in the woods, only to have things take a more serious turn.

Music: Stephen Vogel

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MsS-urnzHxs&feature=related>

Why Not a Sparrow – 2002-2005. An Eco-Fable about a girl, a rare bird, who experiences the pleasures and perils of another animal kingdom.

Music: Paul Amitai

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5sTvUlcOg20&feature=related>

Not A Jealous Bone - 1987. An old woman goes looking for her young mother hoping to share a magic bone that promises eternal youth.

Music: Stephen Vogel

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R3wbcHxg-0A&feature=related>

Possibly in Michigan - 1983. A masked man pursues two girls through a shopping mall. In the end, the victims become the aggressors.

Music: Karen Skladany

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lt8rfsm2mUE&feature=related>

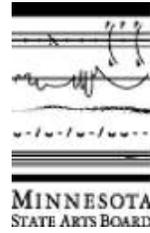
Beneath the Skin – 1981. Horror and humor merge in Condit's incredulous, wide-eyed narration of a bizarre and lurid tale, which unfolds as a subterranean nightmare of male/female relationships.

First Dream After Mother Died, new 3-channel installation, 2010. In a cluttered and dilapidated basement, a disoriented woman embraces a path of self-discovery that can sustain her in her final years. Music by Stephen Vogel.

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Exhibition Sponsors:



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