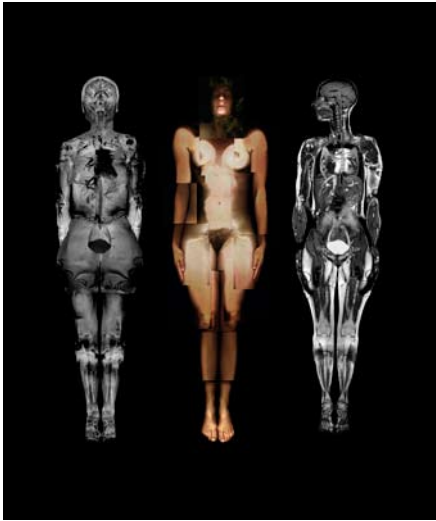


WATERSHED

SEPT 19 - NOV 3 2008

ARTIST'S STATEMENT

CHANTAL GERVAIS



Mortality and the body as the site of lived experience are central to the work of Chantal Gervais. Her large colour photographs and photographic and video installations teeter on the edge of seduction and revel in the body's corporeality, its vulnerability and strength. Inherently theatrical, yet sensitive, her works explore the affects on the body of aging, accident, disease and life itself and how our perception and understanding of the body is influenced and altered by popular culture, art, science and medicine.

In her most recent project *Les maux non dits*, Gervais sets out to discover what she can learn about herself from the observational and representational tools used by science, art and society at large to know and understand the body. Interested in both historical and current technologies for mapping, imaging and interpreting the human body and mind, she is working with medical images and scans of her own body to see what they reveal about herself and to question their usage and the affect they have on our understanding of the body, bodily experience and concepts of self and other.

Chantal Gervais gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the Ontario Arts Council, the City of Ottawa and the Council for the Arts in Ottawa through Corel Endowment Funds for the Arts.

BIOGRAPHY

Chantal Gervais has an artistic practice in photography and video frequently presented as installation. She obtained a BFA in photography from the University of Ottawa and an MA in Art and Media Practice from the University of Westminster in London, U.K. In 2002 she was awarded the Duke and Duchess of York Prize in Photography. In 1999 and 2004, she was nominated for the Ontario Art Council's K.M. Hunter Artists Award and in 2005 for the City of Ottawa's Karsh Award. Her work has been featured in solo exhibitions at Harcourt House Gallery in Edmonton; McClure Gallery and Vidéographe in Montreal; Galerie Séquence in Chicoutimi, Quebec; Centre d'exposition Art-Image in Gatineau, Québec, and Carleton University Art Gallery and Gallery 101 in Ottawa. Her artistic production has been supported by the Canada Council for the Arts, the Ontario Arts Council and the City of Ottawa. Since 2007, she has been on the Board of Directors of Daimon, a centre of production in Gatineau in Quebec. She is a part-time professor at the University of Ottawa where she teaches courses in photography and intermedia.