

On Dec 2 2012 , 3pm to 5pm Forbes Hall Thetis Island we are having an exhibition and reception at which we will be showing Thetis Kora: an art action collaborative project created by women on Thetis Island.

Last May a group of 13 women on Thetis Island gathered together after receiving an invitation from me to participate in an art action collaborative project the aim of which was to create a piece of art which would embody a message to our Prime Minister. This message would remind our government of the beauty of this earth, our responsibility towards protecting it and our obligation to future generations to leave a healthy and thriving planet.

I asked each woman to think of their uterus (womb) as a metaphor for their voice. The womb or uterus has been used since the earliest of times and in cultures all over the world as the symbol of the giving and replenishing of life; a source of knowledge and an image of life's journey towards wisdom Each woman was to construct their womb out of whatever material they found resonated with their "self". They were to pass their constructed womb on to me along with two other elements: 1. a big idea which had shifted their perception of the world in a profound way and 2. a photo from the natural world which would harmonize with their voice and big idea.

With enthusiasm these thirteen women agreed .Over the summer they knit, crocheted, beaded, sculpted, felted and collaged their metaphoric uteri. In September they delivered their big idea, nature photograph and uterus to me. I then created an image text piece of art for each woman and bound them into a concertina book (a Codex). The result is Codex Thetis Kora plus a beautiful array of constructed uteri, the metaphoric voices of these women. The finished codex is over 21 feet long.

I am a visual artist (B.F.A. Alberta College of Art and Design) and as an artist it is in response to the world around me that works of art are made. I have felt an increasing concern over the erosion of environmental and social policies in recent times as a result of the direction our present government has taken. In discussions with family, friends and community it was generally agreed that most of us feel at a loss about where to go and what to do given the rapidity with which things are changing environmentally, culturally and economically. It is my belief that it is in connecting with others and sharing our passion for the planet, in sharing our fear and our hope that empowerment can be fostered and making a difference can become a reality

Suzanne Sarioglu