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The Center for Eating Disorders Hosts Art Show at Columbia

[Body of Work: The Art of Eating Disorder Recovery](#)

March 16, 2011 - April 13, 2011

A sculptural representation of recovery from *anorexia nervosa*, Judith Shaw's *Body of Work* exposes the complex issues of this deadly disorder. Assembled from cardboard boxes, eating utensils, found objects, and an array of ordinary materials, these powerful images reveal the passions, obsessions and rituals of life with anorexia.

The Eating Disorders Center at Columbia Psychiatry is proud to sponsor this groundbreaking exhibit. "We are delighted to provide a space where art and medicine come together," said Dr. Evelyn Attia, director of the center and nationally renowned eating disorders expert. "This extraordinary collection affords our medical students, doctors, patients and the public a moving and insightful view into the world of eating disorders and recovery."

Predominantly a disorder of teenage girls, eating disorders are found among men and women of all ages. Shaw's struggle with the illness began in her late thirties and continued for 15 years until she finally sought help at the age of 53. Asked to produce a timeline of events that may have contributed to her eating disorder, Shaw resisted the assignment, but eventually found a way to grapple with her illness by creating sculpture.

As Shaw's recovery progressed, "the pieces became a valuable communication tool, at times providing a clearer understanding of my feelings and perceptions. More precise than words, the sculptures have become a way to record my progress and keep me engaged in recovery... It has been powerfully healing."

Body of Work: The Art of Eating Disorder Recovery opens on March 16, 2011 and continues through April 13 at Columbia University Medical Center. The show is located on the first floor Atrium in the Herbert Pardes Building of New York State Psychiatric Institute, 1051 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10032.

Opening reception will be from 3:00- 4:30 PM on March 16th, followed by a talk on Eating Disorders and Recovery in the Hellman Auditorium by the artist, Judith Shaw and Dr. Evelyn Attia, director of the integrated Eating Disorders Center established by The Departments of Psychiatry at Columbia University and Weill Cornell Medical College, New York State Psychiatric Institute and NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital.