

NYU Health Sciences Libraries

- Journals, Databases, and Books
- Highlights by Specialty
- Classes and Tutorials
- Services
- Knowledge Center
- Special Collections
- Locations and Hours
- About Us
- Contact Us
- Follow Us

Body of Work: The Art of Eating Disorder Recovery

[Printer-friendly version](#) [Send by email](#)

From June 1 to July 29, 2011, the NYU Health Sciences Libraries will be hosting an exhibition entitled “Body of Work: The Art of Eating Disorder Recovery” in the MSB Gallery. This moving exhibition by artist Judith Shaw explores the physical and mental ravages of her battle with anorexia, bringing us on a journey through bleak years of deprivation, the liberation of recovery, and the enduring struggle with conceptions of Body and Self.



Through her sculptures, Shaw permits us to glimpse the mindset of someone unknowingly leading herself into a “slow suicide.” Her work brings us closer to the experience of the patient, shedding light on an often misunderstood disease. As she says, it is easy for the outward signs of eating disorders to go unnoticed for months and even years, since we praise thinness and the benefits of exercise. “Everyone marveled at my discipline and willpower, and I thrived on their admiration,” she writes. “The steady weight loss provided a sense of accomplishment.” It wasn’t until she suffered a series of broken bones due to malnutrition that she understood what was really happening: her body was failing, from the inside out. “Body of Work” reveals how she got to that point, and how she has since restored her health – and her life.

Shaw’s work is made from cardboard boxes, eating utensils, found objects and an array of ordinary materials that are fused using simple fabrication methods. The juxtaposition of unadorned materials with complex themes is intentional. The subdued visual context draws the emotional intensity to the surface.

We invite you to attend a panel discussion with the artist on **Thursday, June 2 at 3:30pm in the Smilow Seminar Room**. Also speaking will be two of NYULMC’s experts on the subject: Melissa A. Nishawala, M.D. - Clinical Director, Eating Disorders Service; and John Rotrosen, M.D. - Director, Center of Excellence on Addiction.