

Judith Shaw's thought-provoking exhibit at WU Med School



Judith Shaw (left) has a light-filled art studio in a loft building in the Central West End where she works with an array of ordinary materials--including cardboard boxes--to create her art. Last Friday she installed "Body of Work: The Art of Eating Disorder Recovery," in the Farrell Learning and Teaching Center on the WU Medical School campus, which opened to the public on Monday afternoon.

A native New Yorker, Judith came to St. Louis to participate in the eating disorder program at McCallum Place in Webster Groves. Upon completing the program she realized she had many reasons to stay in St. Louis and decided to put down roots here, despite never having imagined she would one day say she is a Midwesterner. "Body of

Work" grew out of her experiences during the recovery process.

The exhibit is one of many activities taking place around the country linked to National Eating Disorders Awareness Week. The show runs through March 12 and, during this period, there will be a panel presentation with eating disorder professionals for medical students, faculty and staff to foster greater understanding of these diseases among those who treat them.

Judith never considered herself an artist, but began sculpting as a way to express the emotional and mental bondage of her illness, which she finally acknowledged at age 53. The cut-out cardboard figures above are titled, from left to right: "next to nothing, meltdown, puzzled, missing piece, and slim to none." It's obvious from these titles that Judith is amazingly candid about the subject, and hopes her experience



will encourage others to seek treatment, and will assist the medical community to more fully understand what their patients are going through.

Be sure and stop by this powerful exhibit...it's a tough subject to be sure, but definitely worth learning more about.

Body of Work: The Art of Eating Disorder Recovery, Farrell Learning & Teaching Center Atrium, WU School of Medicine, 520 S. Euclid, til March 12. Open to the public, Mon. to Fri. 9-5, judith@judithshaw.com.

