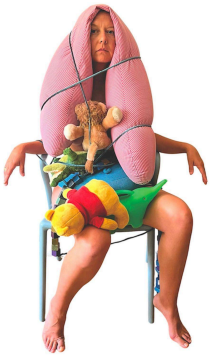
Contact: mothercreatrixcollective@gmail.com
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MOTHER CREATRIX COLLECTIVE PRESENTS:

And I am aware of my heart: it opens and closes

Stand4 Gallery, 414 78th St, Brooklyn, NY 11209
Exhibition dates: October 24-December 5, 2026
Opening Reception: Saturday, October 24, 2-5pm
Curators' Hours 1-2 pm
Performance by Kim Hopson 4:30-5 pm
Events: https://www.mothercreatrixcollective.com/events

Nobody watched me before, now I am watched.
The tulips turn to me…

- Excerpt from *Tulips* by Sylvia Plath

Brooklyn, NY: *And I am aware of my heart: it opens and closes*, opening at Stand4 Gallery on October 24, features artists exploring transformation, grief, and empathy in motherhood through diverse artistic approaches. At a time when these topics have become increasingly taboo, this exhibition makes space for dialogue and healing, also incorporating talks, performances, screenings and workshops aimed at bringing together caregivers in community. At the October 24 reception, Kim Hopson's *Sideshow Mama* performance, video and guided meditation will link together community-submitted caregiving experiences with her own.

"This exhibition, inspired by Sylvia Plath's *Tulips*, explores how we as mothers, like tulips, die off and regrow each year, tending to the tulips that will extend beyond us," says curator Caroline McAuliffe. "The moment we become parents, we are no longer alone as individuals. We become attuned to the ever present needs of our children. Unknowingly this identity shift to *mother* connects us to every mother and every child."

Exhibiting artists explore this inextricable link between their personal identities and their children's, or of other parents–approaches range from incorporating their children in their work to drawing inspiration from their parental experiences for community-based art and activism, considering caregiving as social practice. Some touch upon personal and collective caregiving experiences related to race, disability, and global events like climate crises and the Covid-19 pandemic. The exhibition also includes artistic collaborations inspired by childbirth and parenting. Like Plath in *Tulips,* these artists incorporate specific symbols and materials from the natural or domestic world, with many embracing costume, props, and traditional or invented rituals to process different transitions, find solitude or repose, or connect with others.

In 2024, the former Surgeon General, Dr. Vivek H. Murthy, emphasized the need for a shift in society to help combat parental isolation. Cultural stigmas surrounding pregnancy loss, infertility, reproductive choice, family structure, postpartum depression and anxiety and other realities of parenting often silence honest conversation.This exhibition acts as a response, with a space for parents and non-parents to engage in the layered realities of caregiving through themes of matrescence, grief and renewal to spark open dialogue about how we value care in our society.

Participating Artists: **Shweta Bist**, Alexandra Carter, Courtney Dudley, Tamar Ettun, **Kim Hopson**, Caroline Holder, Las Hermanas Iglesias, Jess Levey, **Caroline McAuliffe**, Coralina Rodriguez Meyer, Rose Nestler, **Jocelyn Russell**, **Nina Wood. (MCC Members)**

Curated by Mother Creatrix Collective Members Caroline McAuliffe, Katherine Gressel and Shweta Bist

And I am aware of my heart: it opens and closes *is sponsored, in part, by the Greater New York Arts Development Fund of the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, administered by Brooklyn Arts Council.* Image credit: Caroline McAuliffe.