

For Immediate Release: April 16, 2009

Gallery 1  
Vadis Turner - *Dowry*

- **Opening Reception: Friday, April 24th, 6-9PM**
- Exhibition Dates: April 24th – May 25th, 2009
- Gallery Hours: Tues. - Sat. 11-7, Sun. 12-6.
- Gallery Address: 175 Seventh Ave (NE corner W.20th St.)
- Nearest Subway: C, E to 23rd St., or 1, 9 to 23rd St.

Lyons Wier Gallery is pleased to announce “Dowry” by Vadis Turner.

As handmade objects are passed down through time, they become increasingly precious and culturally relevant. Turner’s work engages in the transformative legacy of object to heirloom to historical artifact. Ultimately, the work functions as a portrait of the artist, her origins and her time(s).

Re-imagining traditional handicrafts made by women, Turner has synthesized gender roles and rites of passage to create a series of contemporary heirlooms that illustrate the values of her generation. This body of work comprises her ‘dowry’, a material and cultural measure of her worth as a woman and as an artist.

Turner’s “Dowry” includes a site-specific installation, “Reception”, that lavishly celebrates and politely ignores the conventions of marriage, specifically consummation.

Other heirlooms comprising her “Dowry” are in the form of Fabergé-like eggs wrapped with human hair, bodily organs constructed with discarded jewelry and sex swings made with antique quilts and a wedding dress.

Traditionally exchanged for marital advancement, Turner’s “Dowry” will be traded for currency and/or professional gain.

“Reception” was first presented by Lyons Wier Gallery at Pulse NY 2009 and achieved much media attention.

Vadis Turner earned her MFA and BFA from Boston University. She currently lives and works in New York.



Vadis Turner, *Reception*, 2009 (detail) dimensions variable