

# CONNER CONTEMPORARY ART

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MARY COBLE

*Note to Self*

performance: September 2, 2005

September 9 - October 22, 2005.

Conner Contemporary Art is pleased to present *Note to Self*, an endurance performance by Mary Coble, an exceptional young artist who received her MFA from The George Washington University last year. For her solo debut, Coble will stage a live performance in which over one hundred names of murdered GLBT (gay, lesbian, bisexual, and trans-gendered) hate-crime victims will be continuously inscribed all over her body, using a tattooing needle without ink. The action will continue for an estimated period of eight hours, beginning at 6pm on Friday, September 2nd. The gallery will be open to public viewers until 8pm that evening. The entire event will be webcast live. Throughout the performance contact blood prints will be made on paper after the tattooing of each name. An exhibition of the prints and performance documentation will then be on view from September 9 – October 22, 2005 (gallery 2).

This performance represents the culmination of over a year of primary research by the artist, who sums up challenges she faced compiling the information for this project as follows:

I mistakenly started this search thinking that the easy part would be finding...information on GLBT individuals who were murdered. After searching through organizations, both governmental and non-profit, I found that this information is not out there. There is no one group who watches and keeps track of this kind of crime.

During the project's discovery phase Coble experienced a disturbing revelation that informed the methodology of her performance. She explains:

In hate crimes against the GLBT community words carved into the victim's body was somewhat of a common occurrence in comparison with hate crimes committed against other groups of people. Words like "faggot" and "dyke" were left in the individual's skin as a nauseating marker of why these individuals were killed. I have made the choice to amass the names of these victims and have them etched into my skin as a parallel to this gruesome tactic.

The integrity of Coble's conceptualization of the problem she so boldly addressed, the authority of her careful documentation, and the valid urgency of the social critique she structured imbue this project with tremendous artistic power.

For more information: [www.connercontemporary.com](http://www.connercontemporary.com)

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