

## **Coming Forth by Day**

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The project *Coming Forth by Day* uses the form of the dress as a metaphor to explore somatic memory and the experience of reconstructing a psychologically separated body/mind.

The choice of garment, a dress is important as it references for me the feminine aspect of human nature and my own once thwarted feminine side. The physical act of hand stitching small pieces of waxed rice paper together into a dress was both a mediation of embodiment and a deeply felt healing process of re-remembering my body, having experienced many surgeries for a childhood illness this action of stitching was a sympathetic one.

The title *Coming Forth by Day*, was taken from a chapter in the Egyptian Book of the Dead and reflects my interest in the mythology of the underworld or passage from death to renewal. Each body of dress; black, red and white pertain to an alchemical process of transformation- Nigredo, Rubedo and Albedo along the way to what would be considered wholeness or dissolving of dualism in the sacred marriage.

The impetus for *Coming Forth by Day* began during a residency at the Banff Center in 2007, when I began the process of disassembling my actual wedding dress and created a "moth dress". Important to this dress is the transparent silk front in to which I sewed pockets and placed a polished river rock in each. An image on paper of a moth is sewn into the sternum of the dress. The dress brought to mind Virginia Woolf's final act of filling her pockets with river rocks then walking into the current. The theme of death has been prevalent in my work for many years. *The Maternal Body* exhibited in 2005 looked closely at the dark aspect of the feminine in her death bearing-capacity. Embedded in the paradox of death is the ability of nature to continually renew itself. This renewal is brought to the forefront in the work of *Coming forth by day*, where the body is reassembled through the act of stitching.