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SEEKING LACTATING MOTHERS FOR ART PROJECT – DEC 6th 2011

For more information, please email : info@studio303.ca

***Désolé, ces infos ne sont pas encore disponible en français, par manque de temps*

Hello!

I am a Toronto based performance artist and will be presenting a performance called ***The Lactation Station Breast Milk Bar*** in Montreal in May 2012, produced by Studio 303. The performance invites audiences to sample small quantities of pasteurized breast milk donated by new mothers. I am seeking breast milk donors who would like to participate in the project.

The performance premiered in 2006 in Toronto, presented at the OCAD University Professional Gallery, with the support of OCAD University, The Canada Council for the Arts, and FADO Performance Art Centre. The project came out of my own experience as a new mother. While my daughter was still an infant, I spent six months researching and planning the performance, investigating cultural representations of breastfeeding and motherhood, as well as related health, safety, and legal issues. I consulted microbiologists, lawyers, lactation specialists and public health officials. I wanted to make my story – and those of other new mothers – public. I wanted to engage audiences in considering these complex human experiences – particularly those of women – that are difficult to articulate and systemically disregarded and undervalued.

As a donor, we would meet in person and I would interview you about your experience of childbirth, breastfeeding and parenthood. When I presented the performance in Toronto, I videotaped all of the donors except for one, who wished to remain anonymous. I recognize that this is a big request – and that this part of the project involves a great deal of trust -- I'm most aware of the trust and generosity in the process and in me. I carry this consciousness that the project is not possible without the contributions of the donors, and I feel a deep sense of responsibility to the donors through the process.

I will be in Montreal in early December and again in the New Year to meet with and interview donors. Feel free to get in touch with questions or for more information. We can discuss it further to see if you might be interested in participating. You can also find some documentation and articles about the Toronto performance on my website:

<http://www.jessdobkin.com/works/8>

<http://www.jessdobkin.com/index.html/8-press/pages/10-publications>

Thanks for your consideration,

Jess