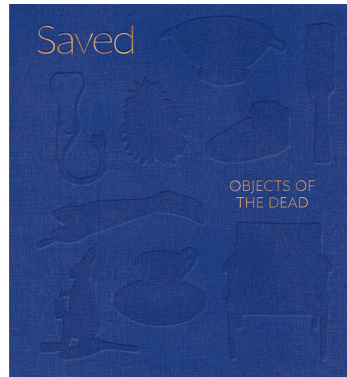


JOIN US FOR THE NEW YORK LAUNCH OF

SAVED: OBJECTS OF THE DEAD

**A Collaborative Book of Photography and Prose
by Jody Servon and Lorene Delany-Ullman**

Essay by Cora Fisher



NEW YORK EVENTS:

June 11th, 1:00-3:00 PM

Westbeth Community Room

Reading & and in Conversation

with contributors Cora Fisher and Swati Khurana

55 Bethune St, New York, NY 10014

No RSVP required.

June 18, 2:00-4:00 PM

Pennington Friends House

Reading & Workshop

215 E 15th St, New York, NY 10003

Presented in partnership with ARCH

Please RSVP to: outreach@Pennington.org

***"The objects that have been gathered in Saved are glimpses of life,
not only of mourning; of intimacy, not only isolation."*** – Cora Fisher

For over a decade, artist Jody Servon has documented objects people save when those they love die, and writer Lorene Delany-Ullman has written accompanying prose poems based on interviews and details the objects' owners shared. The resulting body of work gathered in *Saved: Objects of the Dead* (Artsuite, 2023) is a visual and poetic narrative of how grief manifests and how material possessions help harbor memories. Two New York public launch events for the book will be hosted by Westbeth Community Center and Pennington Friends House on June 11 and June 18, respectively.

In *Saved*, the color images of objects such as a hairbrush, a lighter, a star ornament, and a pocketbook, are presented on one side of each page spread, and details of the object's significance are on the facing page in prose poem form. This diptych quality reinforces the relationship between the words and the images and provides an intimate glimpse into a fragment of someone's personality and life. The words and photographs, like grief, are stories within stories, at once personal as well as universal.

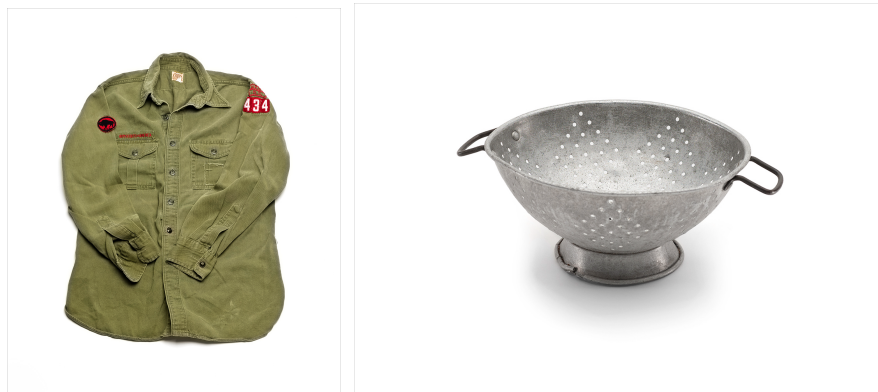
Curator and writer Cora Fisher contributed an essay for the book, and she also comments on the relationship between the images and writing, "The combination of photographs and prose creates a candor around mortality, one which has helped contributors process the juggernaut of grief after a loved one dies and, when the loss is not so immediate, has provided for a collective rumination on mortality. Taken together, the images and texts are a menagerie of life held within loss."

The book authors designed questions to ask each participant in this project that included their relationship to the deceased, and what made the object special. While the history and meanings behind each item are unique to each owner, the sharing of such personal details helps provide a platform for a collective experience. Loss is part of life, and western culture historically approaches grief as an isolated process. This book reminds the viewer that the sharing of memories is an integral and universal part of the human experience. Following are a few excerpts from the book:



Alan's Hairbrush (Excerpt from Prose Poem): “It was genetics—Alan had good hair. He never left the house without his hair brushed into place and sprayed. His wife, Grace, claims that Alan had this Avon hairbrush longer than her, more than twenty-five years.”

Uncle Ebby and Uncle Reese's Slot Machine (Excerpt from Prose Poem): “On their bar, beside the bourbon and vodka, the slots. And a crock of buffalo nickels. Uncle Ebby – he'd always tell you what he thought, good or bad. That's a decorator for you.”



Dad's Boy Scout Shirt (Excerpt from Prose Poem): “*A Scout is Clean*: When last washed, it lost a patch, began to fray. The more she wears and washes it, the more it falls apart.”

Toosa's Colander (Excerpt from Prose Poem): “This humble pitted colander, its diamond pattern of small holes—it's this everyday object her great-niece cherishes more than the strand of amethyst beads Toosa bought at the Chicago World's Fair.”

Sample Spread



To receive high resolution press images, please contact: Andrea Smith at andreamith202@gmail.com.
Mandatory book credit: *Saved: Objects of the Dead* is published by Artsuite.

Published by Artsuite (Wilson, North Carolina), the book also includes "Mattering," an essay by **Cora Fisher**, Curator of Visual Arts Programming at the Brooklyn Public Library, and micro-essays with photographs by five noted artists/authors: **Sonya Clark, Alex Espinoza, Erika Hayasaki, Swati Khurana, and Leslie Gray Streeter** who each share a memory of someone close to them who died. The pieces translate as narrative snapshots that work to expand empathy and further enhance the communal nature of grief. Works from *Saved: Objects of the Dead* have been shown in over twenty-five exhibitions, published in five literary journals, and featured in *The Los Angeles Times* and *The New York Times*.



Installation view from *Saved: Objects of the Dead* Exhibition, Bloomsburg University, PA. Photo by Studio D.

About the Artist and Author:

Jody Servon creates collaborative and socially engaged projects encouraging public interaction and personal exploration. Her projects have been included in exhibitions and public projects in North America, Europe, and Asia. Her collaborative work with Lorene Delany-Ullman has been published in *AGNI*, *Tupelo Quarterly*, *Palaver*, *Lunch Ticket*, and *Tarpaulin Sky*. Reviews and articles on her projects have been in *The New York Times*, *The Miami Herald*, *Arizona Daily Star*, *The Los Angeles Times*, and *Time* magazine's Money.com. Servon received an MFA in New Genre from The University of Arizona and a BFA in Visual Art from Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University. Currently, she is a professor and coordinator of the art management program at Appalachian State University in North Carolina.

Lorene Delany-Ullman's book of prose poems, *Camouflage for the Neighborhood*, won the 2011 Sentence Award and was published by Firewheel Editions (December 2012). Her poems have been included in the anthologies: *Orange County, A Literary Field Guide* (Heyday Books, 2017), *Bared* (Les Femmes Folles Books, 2017), *Beyond Forgetting: Poetry and Prose about Alzheimer's Disease* (Kent State University Press, 2009) and *Alternatives to Surrender* (Plain View Press, 2007). She recently published her poetry in *Citric Acid*, *Zócalo Public Square*, and *TAB: A Journal of Poetry & Poetics*. Delany-Ullman received an MFA in English (Poetry) from the University of California, Irvine. She is a Lecturer in UC Irvine's Department of English and teaches composition.

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To visit the project website go to:
<https://artsuite.com/collections/books-1/products/saved-objects-of-the-dead>