



Cutting the Ties that Bind (Heroes)

Date

1987

Primary Maker

Duffy, Mary

Medium

Photograph

Description

"I created these images because I wanted to celebrate being my own hero. I wanted to acknowledge that I have created my own life. That I have taken many brave steps towards my own liberation, as a woman and as a woman with a disability. It has not always been easy. Being a teenager, articulate, interested, alive, creative and curious, I found it difficult to survive in an educational system that expected little of me except the ability to learn by rote. So, I shut down, knocked myself out into a state of anaesthesia. My life seemed mapped out, destined and boring. I would live with my parents, be washed and dressed by them, paint pictures on Sundays, be a terrible office worker on Mondays and would holiday abroad. Then when I was seventeen, my whole life changed. I learned how to dress myself. I learned that it was possible, simply by changing my thought. Great clouds lifted, all things seemed possible I could leave home and go to College. I had created barriers towards my own liberation, to protect me from the uncomfortable knowledge that I create my own destiny. It is comfortable and easy to live with the belief that there is always someone or something to blame. When I chose to take 100% responsibility for my own life, I took a giant leap forward and I continue to make that choice every day. I would like to acknowledge Kathy, Rose, Jole, Jan Carlos and Denis whose support, love, encouragement and humour made this piece and all things possible." Mary Duffy

Dimensions

Object: 51 x 71 cm