

INVITATION to participate in a public art project....

FRIENDSHIP IN HARD TIMES is a contemporary art installation project by Maine artist, **Asherah Cinnamon**, BFA (MECA'08), MSW (BU'79) It is scheduled to open in June at the University of New England's Art Gallery on Stevens Ave., and will be on display at its Annual Sculpture Garden Show through September.

The project explores the concept of friendship in contemporary times. Using strips cut from hundreds of brightly colored recycled plastic bags, the installation was inspired in part by the friendship bracelets* used in many communities today.

The installation celebrates the traditional female practices of braiding, and of collaborating to develop a work of art larger than any one person might create. The project encourages creative recycling and invites groups of people to work together, exploring the role of friendship in contemporary life through handwork, discussion, and writing.

YOU ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE in any or all of these ways:

- 1) Collect brightly colored or printed, clean plastic bags of any thickness or size.
- 2) Gather a group for a demonstration and work session of cutting and simple braiding for the installation. All participants who wish to be named will be acknowledged in the literature of the project.
- 3) Write (a story, poem, song) about a time when someone was a friend to you in hard times, and or a time when you were a friend during their hard times.
- 4) Donate a copy of your writing to the project, and/or take turns sharing what you wrote with each other in a group. Collected writings will be on view at the exhibition in June, and eventually in a project blog.
- 5) Sign up to help install the final work during the second week of June.
- 6) Become a sponsor. Sponsors will be acknowledged in all project literature and events.

For more information, to help, or to set up a group demonstration and work session contact the artist at **acinnamon@meca.edu**

Earlier works by the artist may be seen at **www.asherahcinnamon.com** Thank you

Below: A sample of plastic strips, which have been braided for the installation.



* The traditional bracelets seem to have originated with Central American Indigenous cultures and simultaneously in several Asian societies, and have widely influenced recent popular youth culture in many locations, making friendship both tangible and visible as a strong value.