

**Sunday, May 3, 2009, 4-6pm**

***“The Challenge of Working with Artists Using Environmental Materials, with special reference to Mendieta.”***

This presentation by leading New York gallery dealer Mary Sabbatino, Vice President: Galerie Lelong, New York, is being done within the context of the exhibition "Origins: Artists Working With Environmental Materials as Ash, Clay, Wood, Aluminum and Fiber."

Ms. Sabbatino is one of the extraordinary Gallery dealers whose passion for the arts translates into an empathic and supportive relationship with the artists as well as true sympathy with their works. Her esthetic has embraced such artists as Alfredo Jaar and Andy Goldworthy, as well as other artists whose works are not easily translatable into commercial profitability, but who are so important in terms of highlighting the role that art plays in our everyday lives and how we, through the arts, can impact and imprint on our surroundings. Such is the case with her relationship to the works from the estate of Ana Mendieta.

**Ana Mendieta** was a Cuban-American artist famous for her "earth-body" performance, sculptural, photographic, and video work. Mendieta was born in Havana, Cuba but moved to the United States at a young age. In 1961, at the age of 13, she and her older sister Raquelin were exiled from Cuba because her family opposed the revolutionary government. Mendieta traveled around the world imprinting her silhouette on the places she visited through her performances, her engravings and her documentations. She died tragically in 1985 in New York, at the age of 36. Ms. Sabbatino was a contributor to the seminal book about Mendieta, published in 2001.

Works from Mendieta's "Silueta" series are on view at the HVCCA, as part of the exhibition *Origins*.

Free with Museum admission: \$5, members free, senior and student rates \$4.