

For Immediate Release

STANDING UP – A WOMAN SPEAKS OUT

MY GRANDMOTHER'S HAIR, BY ANN ELIZABETH CARSON, opens with the deeply life-changing story of Ann's grandmother:

*My grandfather made my grandmother
cut off her long chestnut hair
and throw it in the garbage. Because ...*

Her grandmother's grieving cry came down through the generations to shape Ann's own struggle against the marginalization of women and the repression of the physical body as the basis of memory. Ann Elizabeth Carson beautifully renders in narrative, poetry, sculpture and painting the saga of a woman struggling to surmount illness and defeat through the restorative power of her own poetry and work in clay. **"An autobiography told with alarming authenticity – alarming because it divulges the delights and devastations of being the third generation daughter of a family rooted in small town Ontario." Marion Woodman, the noted Jungian analyst and author, continues: " ... In *My Grandmother's Hair* Ann Elizabeth Carson "superbly outlines her healing process **through the creative and connecting power of myth and of her own painting, poetry and sculpture.****

"In *My Grandmother's Hair* Carson uncovers the profoundly poignant **story of how power relationships are revealed through memory held in the body** as she paints an intimate picture and graphic depiction of how our character is molded by our family and social contexts, no matter what they may be. She describes how she moved through successive stages of experience and self-doubt to reach a broader understanding of herself and the context in which all women must struggle to overcome the damage caused in a patriarchal culture.

More than an autobiography, Carson's ability to dance between subjective reflection and objective witnessing in her own work is rare and sets her apart as author and artist. With this skill, and her command of several mediums, she builds a general framework from her personal experience, **allowing us to see how we can continue to make sense of our lives** in the midst of the chaos that confronts us, so that "*My Grandmother's Hair* reads more like a love song to woman's unquenchable spirit than a treatise to her survival. By welcoming and affirming aging Carson creates a legitimate place for elders in our society." (Jane Champagne, amazon.com)

Drawings, paintings and sculptures deepen and enrich the rhythms of narrative and poetry in a language open to all readers, resonating with our own experiences as Carson moves towards a sense of balance, of peace of mind and body, and, ultimately, of hope, offering **"a view of women's life cycles in epic survey and in the detail of a moment."** (Toronto Women's Book Store)

Ann Carson's **readings are a multimedia presentation**-the spoken word accompanied by projected images of her drawings, paintings and sculptures.

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