

Journal of the Motherhood Initiative

# **Social Work, Motherhood, and Mothering: Critical Feminist Perspectives**

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**Hee-Jeong Yoo, Laura Lewis, Deepy Sur, Dawn Thurman,  
Erin Kuri, Janis Favel, Christine Walsh, and many more**

## About the Cover Art and Artist

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As an art therapist and social work doctoral candidate I tend to observe layers and connections between materials and imagery that symbolize how I make meaning of the worlds around me. As a mother and a clinician who has worked with mothers, I consider the juxtaposition between the hard concrete and the soft curves that shape the abstract form of the mother and child within a fluidly woven environment that values both negative and positive space, like the objective experiences we see, and the in-between spaces we feel, but may not yet have words for.

The weathered appearance of the sculpture can be understood in connection with mothering herstories, as well as ways in which motherhood has been traditionally shaped, socially sculpted, and how legacies have been set in stone. I consider how such legacies shape social messages mothers receive today and expectations caregivers are held to. I believe that if we approach mothering and motherhood with an attitude of openness and curiosity, wondering who this faceless mother may be, or what she might have to share with us, as social service providers we open ourselves to knowledge and appreciation of the positionalities of the mothers who came before us, the mothers we work with, and the mothers that we are always becoming.

Erin Kuri is a doctoral candidate at McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. Correspondence concerning this artwork should be addressed to the artist at [kurie@mcmaster.ca](mailto:kurie@mcmaster.ca)

