Ella Dreyfus is currently completing her Doctorate in Fine Arts at the University of NSW, titled, *Shame and the Aesthetics of Intimacy: Three Contemporary Artworks*. Her most recent photographic exhibition *Under Twelve Under Twenty* was held at Stills Gallery in September 2012. She has exhibited professionally for over twenty years and her artworks can be viewed at www.elladreyfus.com. Dreyfus is a lecturer in Photography and Head of Public Programs at the National Art School, Sydney.
The exhibition *I forgive you every day* is an installation of hand-stitched felt letters and large format colour photographs, which reflect upon childhood perceptions of family trauma. Central to this work is language and the power of words to evoke strong emotions. The words spelt out by Dreyfus are the words of psychological trauma, words of abuse or the impact of abuse.


The photographs in the exhibition reveal the words placed within the landscape of an anonymous suburban housing estate, evoking a silent testimony witnessed only by the artist through the camera lens. Dreyfus is demonstrating her concern for our emotionally charged inner and outer worlds.

This complex work evokes a dialogue between childhood, materiality, feelings and language. At the centre sit powerful phrases which lay bare innermost thoughts. They visually and linguistically inscribe intimate aspects of identity that often remain shamefully and fearfully concealed ‘behind closed doors’.

Ella Dreyfus is an award winning artist whose photographs have been widely exhibited and published in Australia. She specialises in subject matter that unsettles the viewer, and can bring about affective emotional encounters with audiences. Her images reflect upon the frailty and physicality of the human condition and on subjects who are often rendered invisible and hidden from view.