

SANDY SHREVE

Susan Dixon's Sampler: 1861 (*Norton, NB*)

An alphabet of thread hangs on my wall
its colour scheme maroon and celadron
embroidered by an adolescent's hand
More than a century back, as she began
to sew the space between the warp and weft
like mending gaps of time, did she suspect
a future when her youngest of six girls
would make her mother's work a lasting treasure

or that the green would bleach Her signature
and motto almost blend into the mesh
as if oblivion is fate My eye can
just make out the message and recall

an ancestry of women, my mother's mother's
mother's name
her stitched calligraphy a lineage I can ascertain

1993 (*Vancouver, BC*)

*Sandy Shreve is the Departmental Assistant for
Women's Studies at Simon Fraser University.
Her poetry collections are The Speed of the Wheel
Is Up to the Potter, Quarry Press (1990), and
Bewildered Rituals, Polestar Press (1992).*

LYN LIFSHIN

Mother Daughter Photographs

My mother and my sister
near an old black seventies
Chevy. My sister in a
nest between my mother's
arms. You can just see
certain parts of my mother,
like a branch in a back
drop. w'm in several with
her, standing in back, her
arms around me her prize
melon, a book just she
would write. I remember
the rabbi said enjoy
your wedding after that
it will be your husband
and your child. I've
noticed this in several
other photos of mothers
with their girls, the
daughter held up close in
front like someone with
a desperate sign, words
pointing west or saying
Hartford. The daughter
almost blots the mother
out. It's as if there
was some huge dark hole
only a camera would pick
up where something that
had got away had been

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Call for Papers on Women, Literacy, and Development *Convergence 1994*

Convergence is an international journal published by the International Council for Adult Education. The council is publishing a special issue on the theme of its 1994 Conference in the Arab Region—*Women, Literacy and Development*. Although we wish to highlight the educational challenges and actions of women of the Arab region, we welcome articles from all regions.

Convergence invites proposals for articles before accepting articles. Proposals should be submitted by January 31, 1994. The deadline for articles is March 30, 1994.

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