

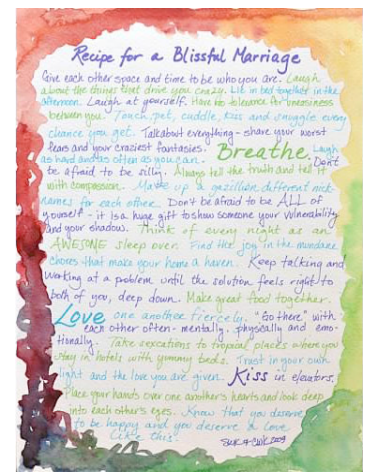


Stacey & Carrie Ward Kelly
Artist Statement

As queer women we have felt free to define our marriage and our family relationships to serve our highest selves and for five years we felt happy and secure in our marriage. We worked hard to keep it honest, real, joyful and connected. And then we became parents. Suddenly our marriage became a contested space. The needs of an infant are all-consuming and in the two years that have ensued we have unsuccessfully tried to balance the needs and identities of three individuals with the needs and identities of a marriage, two separate mother-child relationships, and a co-parenting relationship all while coping with a severe lack of resources, namely time, sleep, energy, and community support.

<http://goo.gl/oBddU>

Our work is about examining the dynamics of these complex relationships. Through dialogue between ourselves and our community, creating together and doing spiritual work we seek to illuminate the issues and bring consciousness and mindfulness to our interactions, thus creating a space for transformation to occur. One aspect of this work has been to focus on nourishing our bodies and minds through food and sharing our journey with a website and blog called “Good Food for the Family”. The site is featured in this exhibit and accessed via a large black and white poster with our QR code and shortened URL address on the door of the Mac lab. It is also repeated with 2x2 inch QR code “stickers” found as “interruptions” throughout the exhibit space. Each can be scanned / read via smart phones which take the viewer to the website. While the code provides access to the work for some, it is not easily accessible to all and forces some to “work” for it by copying down the URL and taking it to an internet access point. This “work” mirrors the challenges we face in the contested space of our marriage—although our relationship is here and ever present, parenting is a constant interruption. This collaboration is a demonstration of the many ways we have renewed our commitment to “work” on our marriage and create a more integrated family life.



In addition to the web / blog site we designed a couples workshop called “Recipe for a Blissful Marriage” based on a work of art by the same name that we created prior to parenthood. Although cancelled at the last minute this workshop was approved to take place as part of the Hayward Gallerys “Wide Open School” with the artist Fritz Haeg as part of the offerings during his “Sundown Schoolhouse of Queer Home Economics”.