ELENA FAJT
‘HAIRLINES’
New Exhibit Opens October 4th in Rosemont College’s Lawrence Gallery

Rosemont, PA- An ongoing project by international artist Elena Fajt titled ‘Hairlines’ opens at Rosemont College’s Lawrence Gallery on October 4, 2007. Fajt’s exhibit runs October 4-26, 2007. An opening reception will be held from 4:00-7:00 p.m. on October 4 with an artist’s talk at 4:30 p.m. This event is free and open to the public.

Living and working Ljubljana, Slovenia, Fajt first came to America in 2004 as an artist-in-residence at Rosemont College. This is her first exhibit in Lawrence Gallery since that time. Fajt received her BA from the University of Ljubljana and has done advanced studies at the Institut für Kostümkunda in Austria and the Designskolen Kolding in Denmark.

‘Hairlines’ is a project Fajt has been working on for the last seven years. The project includes a series of installations, site specific installations, sculptures, 2-D and 3-D objects, and public projects. “I am exploring aesthetic, symbolic, and cultural meanings of hair, and how cultural norms, values, and prejudices are reflected through such a common and everyday material as is hair,” said Fajt. “In my work I am expanding the primary importance and place of hair from decoration and protection of the head to the art language; and from its basic biological function to the field of aesthetic and artistic expressivity.”

Recently Fajt has had solo exhibitions at the Gallery Media Nox (Slovenia), the Gallery MC (New York), Levy Gallery (Philadelphia), and the Korortan Gallery (Austria). Fajt’s work has been shown in numerous group exhibitions in Philadelphia, New York, Lithuania, Germany, the Netherlands, Slovenia, Italy, Denmark, France, and the Czech Republic. Additionally Fajt has had more than 30 costume designs in Slovenia and abroad.

The show at Rosemont will feature three types of works. The first, *Vertical Hairing*, is an installation made of vertical hair lines: hair fixed on two-sided tape, strained from the floor to the ceiling, thus functioning like a hair forest. The second, *Hair Paper*, features a series of sheets made of paper and hair in plexiglass frames. The final presentation is

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“The convincing quality of Elena Fajt's works is constituted along a hair thin edge between the feeling of the aesthetic pleasure and its distortion calling to mind the morbid and abject aspect of dislocated hair as a sign of some disrupted function,” said Slovenian art critic Nadja Gnamus. “But her subtle work clearly states that she favors life. Her sensitivity to the biological, the softness of artistic approach and her great respect for the material that indeed is detached and stopped in its growth but also revived through the artistic process; reflect the acceptance of the natural cycle. In fact, her ritual post-creation unveils itself as an animistic revival.”

“Elena Fajt's works introduce and address complex, fundamental ideas, but the immediacy and the utter specificity of her practice is the key to the power and the subtlety of those works,” wrote Brian Wallace, curator of Samuel Dorsky Museum of Art in New York. “Fajt knows her materials well, in large part because by the time she begins a project or a series, she is already engaged in a kind of extended, meditative research that enables her to establish an entwined intellectual/emotional intimacy with all of the physical elements of the work.”

In 2007, Fajt was the recipient of an award for special achievement in the field of art from the University of Ljubljana. Prior to that, she was an artist-in-residence at the Ministry of Culture of Republic of Slovenia (New York), the chashama (New York), and the Galleries at Moore at Moore College of Art and Design (Philadelphia).

Hairsense at Lawrence Gallery has been made possible with a grant from Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Slovenia, Department of Culture at City of Ljubljana.

Lawrence Gallery is located in Lawrence Hall on the Rosemont College's campus at 1400 Montgomery Avenue in Rosemont, PA. Lawrence Gallery hours are Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. and on weekends by appointment. For more information, call Alexis M. Kropp, College Relations Coordinator, at 610-526-2967.