

Obituaries

Hannah Wilke, 52, New York artist whose work addressed issues of sexual politics and human mortality with humor, innovative materials, and an evocative lyricism, died of cancer on Jan. 28 in Houston. Her conceptually oriented works of the early 1970s included performances and photo-works using her own nude body. She is perhaps best



Hannah Wilke.

known for petal-like sculptures made of latex, laundry lint, chewing gum or ceramic, suggestive of female genitalia, arrayed singly or in groups on the floor, the wall or on her own body. In the 1980s she began documenting the battle with cancer of her mother, Selma Butter, through photographs that captured a sense of vitality in the face of disease. In 1987 she was diagnosed with cancer herself and began making a series of evocative watercolor self-portraits. She taught at the School of Visual Arts since 1974 and exhibited at Ronald Feldman since 1972.