

# THE WOMEN of VISUAL AIDS

Women with HIV Making A Difference

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Joyce McDONALD



Moma's Prayers,  
2000;  
terra cotta,  
cloth & paint  
7" x 6" x 6"

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As is the case with most of these women, there is far too much to say about Joyce McDonald to possibly fit it all here. So we won't: In Joyce's case, The Body [sat down and talked with her](#) about the amazing path through life she's taken and the seemingly infinitely deep pits out of which she has been able to climb, before she began to create her art. After spending a happy childhood in a housing project in Brooklyn, N.Y. with her four brothers, two sisters and two loving parents, Joyce ran away at the age of 17. That choice marked the beginning of Joyce's rapid and tumultuous descent into a life haunted by abuse, prostitution and deep drug addiction.

For almost 40 years Joyce remained lost, drifting through life even as her two daughters were born (both came into the world addicted to drugs), her father died and her family prayed in vain for her recovery. Then, at a street corner one Sunday in 1993, everything suddenly changed. And that's

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only the beginning of Joyce's [remarkable story](#).

*Joyce McDonald can be reached via e-mail at [joycemac@mymailstation.com](mailto:joycemac@mymailstation.com).*

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