



For My Mother



Figure 1. **Catherine Gauché**, *Portrait in Pieces*, Page 5. 2008.
Mixed Media on Paper. 14,35 x 19,3 cm.



Figure 2. **Catherine Gauché**, *Portrait in Pieces*, Page 27 Detail. 2008.
Mixed Media on Paper. 14,35 x 19,3 cm.



Figure 3. **Catherine Gauché**, *Portrait in Pieces*, Page 36. 2007.
Mixed Media on Paper. 14,35 x 19,3 cm.



Figure 4. Pages from My Mother's Photo Album. 2008.
Original Photo Album. 28 x 50 cm.



Figure 5. **Catherine Gauché**, *Portrait in Pieces*, Page 7 Detail. 2008.
Mixed Media on Paper. 14,35 x 19,3 cm.

THIS IS ME IN MY FIRST YEAR OF GRADE 2. I SAY FIRST YEAR BECAUSE I SPENT 2 YEARS THERE. WHAT MAKES THE SITUATION EVEN BETTER IS THAT I SPENT THESE YEARS IN A 'SPECIAL' CLASS FOR CHILDREN WITH 'SPECIAL' NEEDS. IT WAS KNOWN AS THE AID CLASS AND I HAPPENED TO BE THE ONLY 'SPECIAL' GIRL THERE.



Catherine, Grade 2. Pretoria

I used to be quite diligent about a lot of things that I didn't understand when I was in Primary School. After that my diligence and family photos were stored in a supermarket packet. I've been meaning to sort them out for the past 12 years now ...

Figure 6. **Catherine Gauché**, *Portrait in Pieces*, Page 5. 2008. Mixed Media on Paper. 14,35 x 19,3 cm.

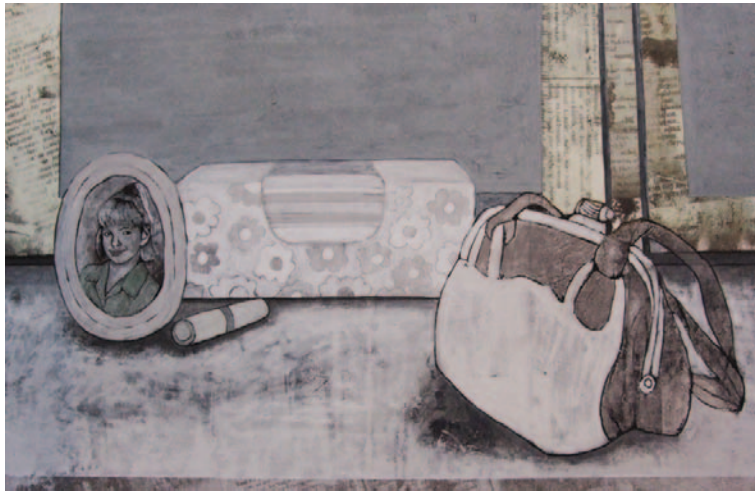


Figure 7. **Catherine Gauché**, *Portrait in Pieces*, Page 18-19. 2007.
Mixed Media on Paper. 28,7 x 19,3 cm.

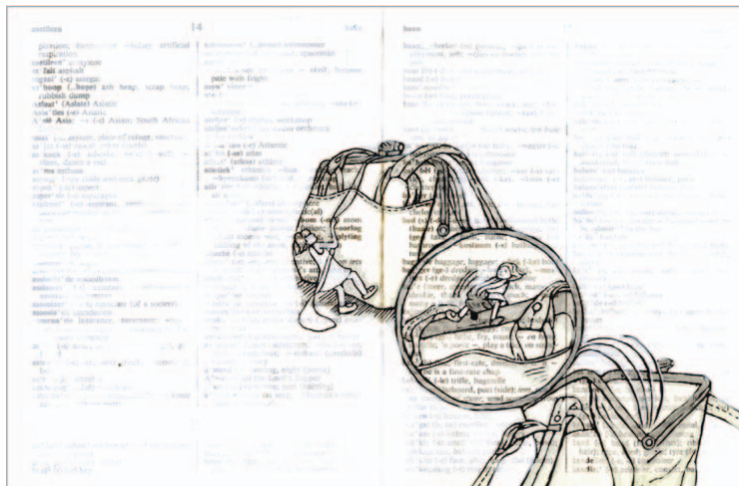


Figure 8. **Catherine Gauché**, *Portrait in Pieces*, Page 22-23. 2008.
Mixed Media on Paper. 28,7 x 19,3 cm.

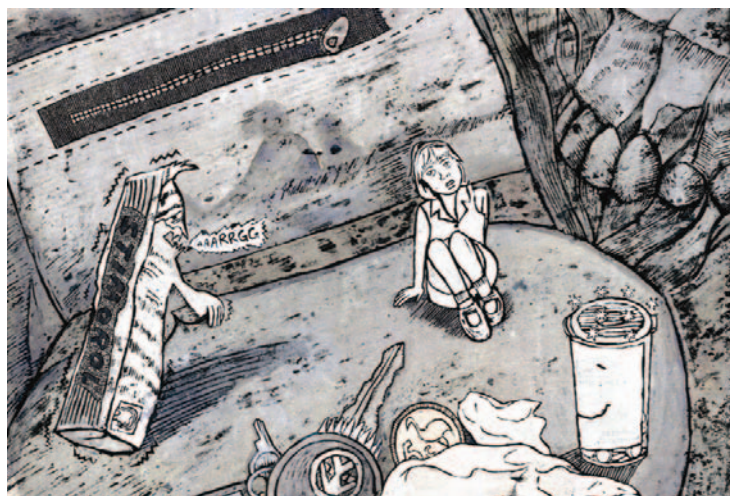


Figure 9. **Catherine Gauché**, *Portrait in Pieces*, Page 28-29. 2008.
Mixed Media on Paper. 28,7 x 19,3 cm.



Figure 10. Catherine Gauché, *Portrait in Pieces*, Page 39. 2007. Mixed Media on Paper. 14,35 x 19,3 cm.

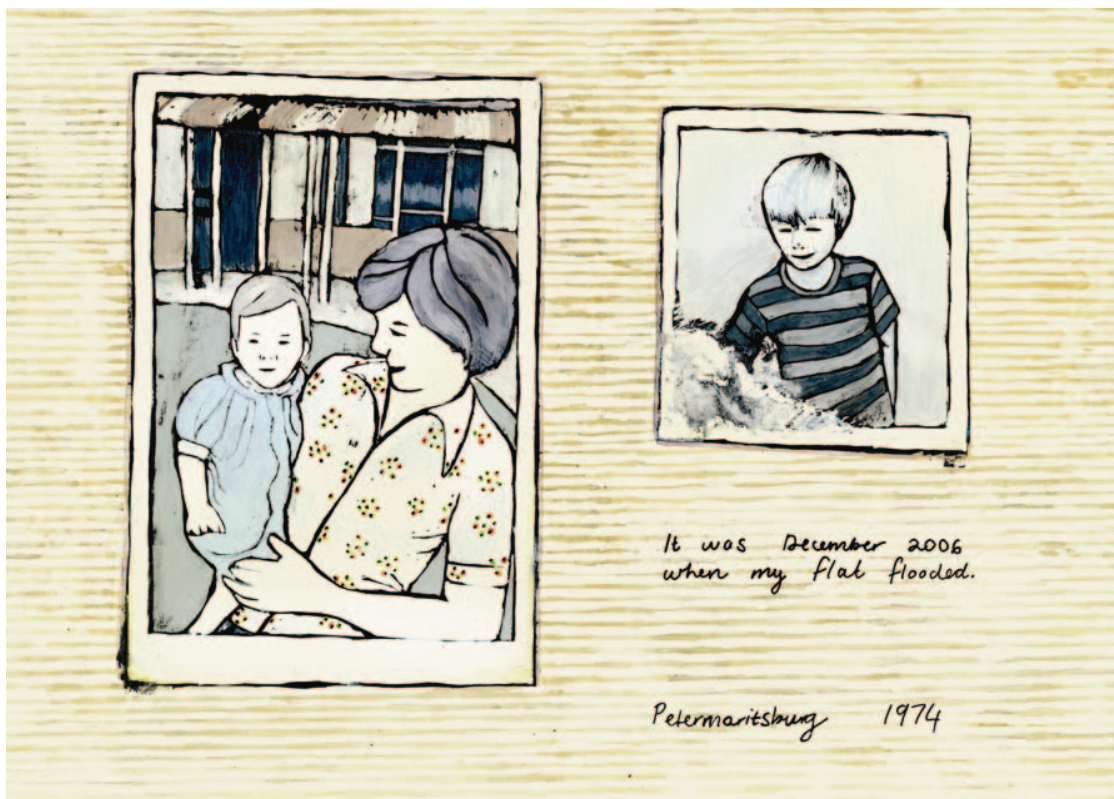


Figure 11. **Catherine Gauché**, *Portrait in Pieces*, Page 9 Detail. 2007.
Mixed Media on Paper. 14,35 x 19,3 cm.



Figure 12. Catherine Gauché, *Portrait in Pieces*, Page 11. 2008. Mixed Media on Paper. 14,35 x 19,3 cm.



Figure 13



Figure 14

Figure 13. **Catherine Gauché**, *Portrait in Pieces*, Page 12 Detail. 2008.
Mixed Media on Paper. 14,35 x 19,3 cm.

Figure 14. Photographer Unknown. *Tannie Anna*. 1895. Sepia Photograph. 5 x 9 cm.

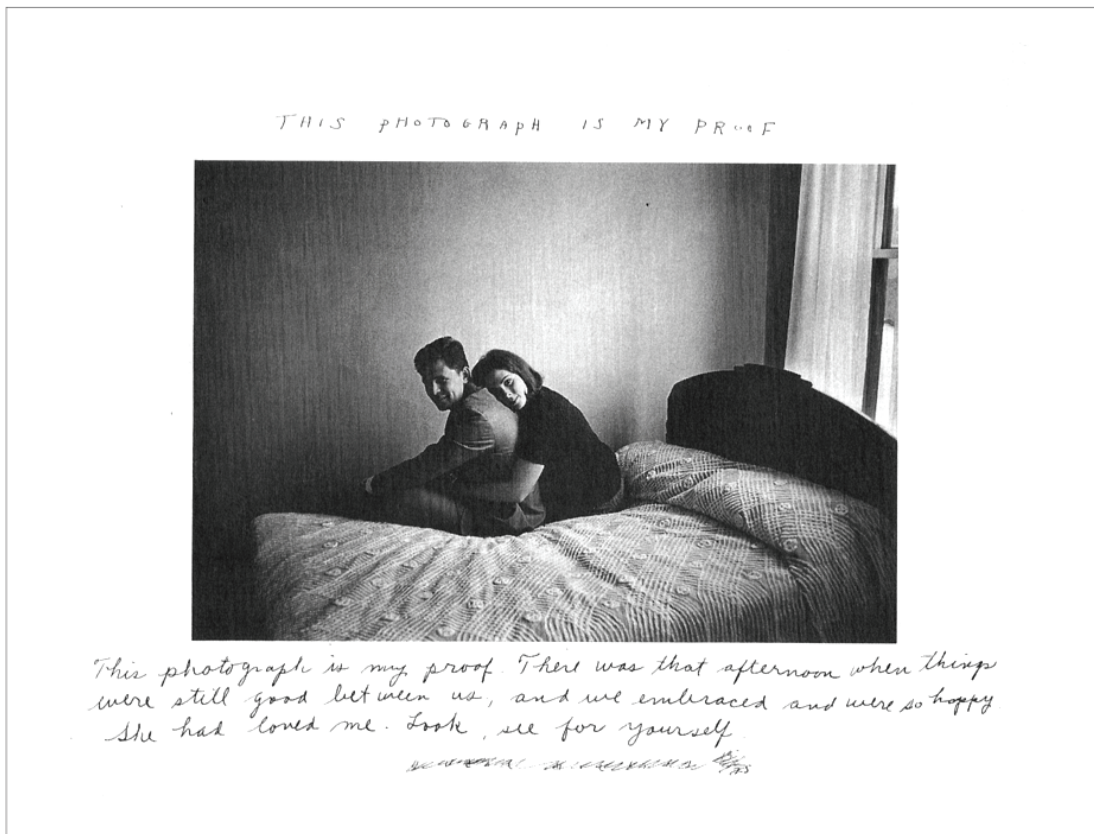


Figure 15. **Michals, D.** *This Page is My Proof*. 1976 and 1974. Silver Print. 8 x 10 in. Courtesy Sidney Janis Gallery, New York. (Sayre, 1989:60).



Figure 16. **Catherine Gauché**, *Portrait in Pieces Page 6 Detail*. 2008.
Mixed Media on Paper. 14,35 x 19,3 cm.

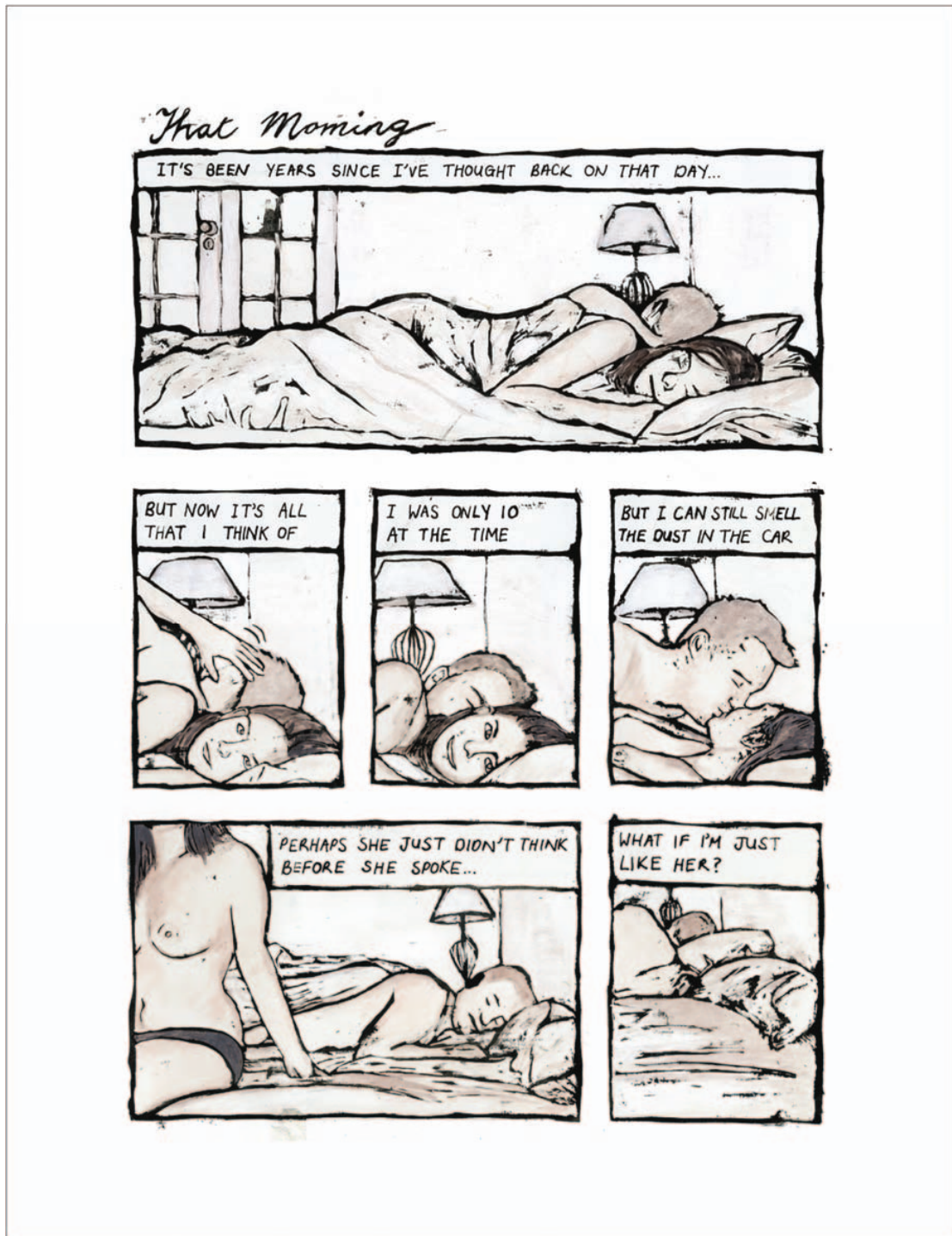


Figure 17. Catherine Gauché, *Portrait in Pieces*, Page 36. 2007. Mixed Media on Paper. 14,35 x 19,3 cm.



Figure 18. **Catherine Gauché**, *Portrait in Pieces*, Page 35. 2007.
Mixed Media on Paper. 14,35 x 19,3 cm.

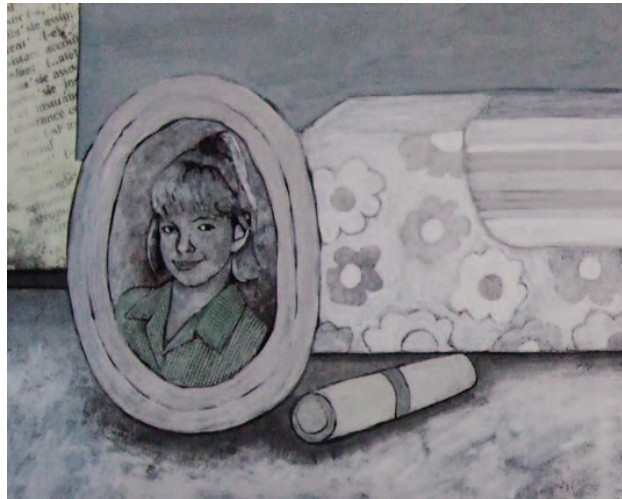


Figure 19. **Catherine Gauché**, *Portrait in Pieces*, Page 18 Detail. 2008.
Mixed Media on Paper. 28,7 x 19,3 cm.

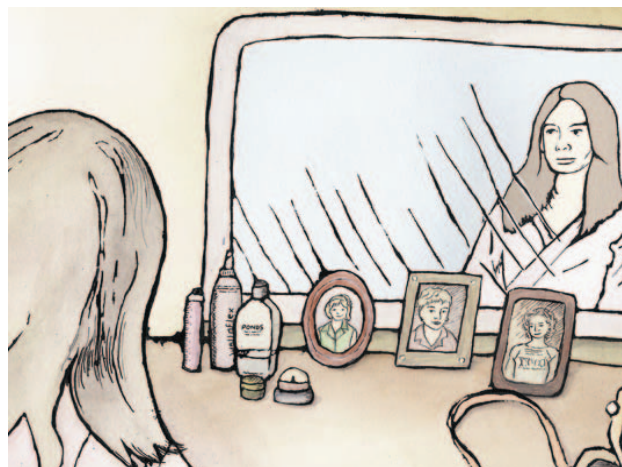


Figure 20. **Catherine Gauché**, *Portrait in Pieces*, Page 31 Detail. 2006.
Mixed Media on Paper. 28,7 x 19,3 cm.



Figure 21. **Catherine Gauché**, *Portrait in Pieces*, Page 11 Detail. 2008.
Mixed Media on Paper. 14,35 x 19,3 cm.

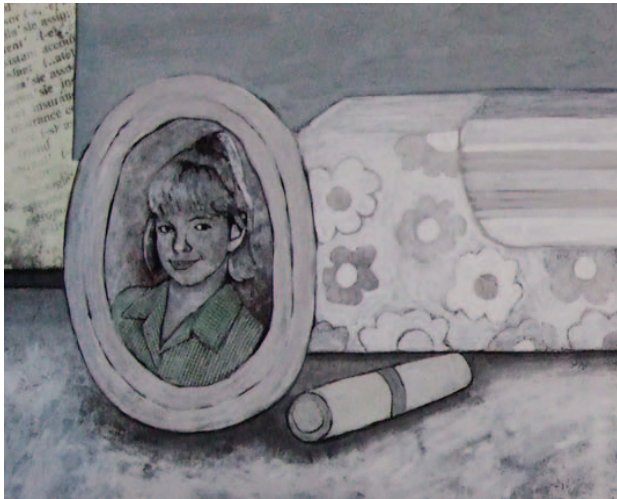


Figure 22. **Catherine Gauché**, *Portrait in Pieces*, Page 18 Detail. 2007.
Mixed Media on Paper. 28,7 x 19,3 cm.



Figure 23. **Catherine Gauché**, *Portrait in Pieces*, Page 31 Detail. 2006.
Mixed Media on Paper. 28,7 x 19,3 cm.



Figure 24. **Catherine Gauché**, *Portrait in Pieces*, Page 8 Detail. 2007.
Mixed Media on Paper. 14,35 x 19,3 cm.



Figure 25. **Catherine Gauché**, *Portrait in Pieces*, Page 28 Detail. 2008.
Mixed Media on Paper. 28,7 x 19,3 cm.



Figure 26. **Catherine Gauché**, *Portrait in Pieces*, Page 37 Detail. 2008.
Mixed Media on Paper. 14,35 x 19,3 cm.



Figure 27. **Catherine Gauché**, *Portrait in Pieces*, Page 14-15 Detail. 2008.
Mixed Media on Paper. 28,7 x 19,3 cm.



Figure 28. Catherine Gauché, *Portrait in Pieces*, Page 35. 2008. Mixed Media on Paper. 14,35 x 19,3 cm.



Figure 29. Catherine Gauché, *Portrait in Pieces*, Page 41. 2008. Mixed Media on Paper. 14,35 x 19,3 cm.

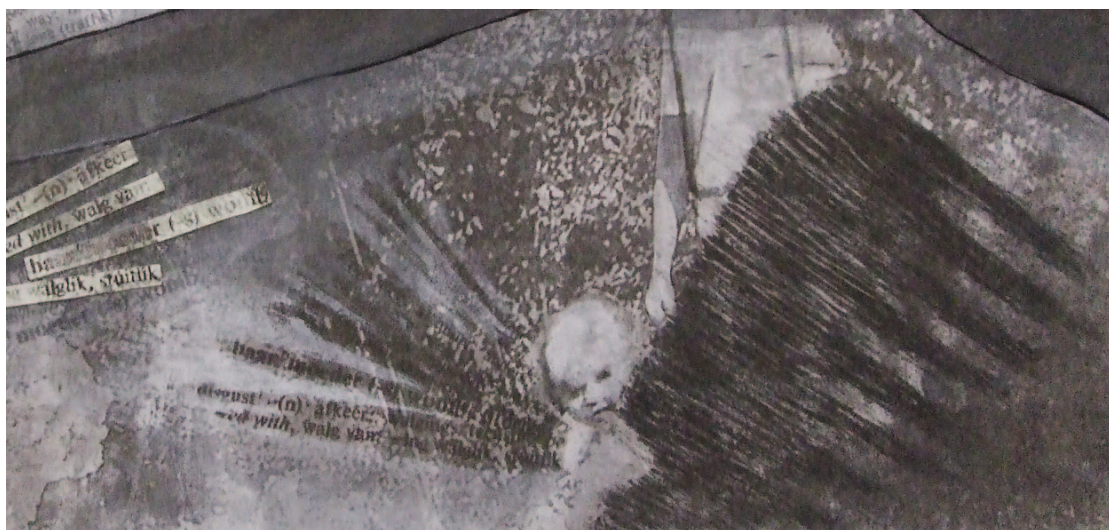


Figure 30. **Catherine Gauché**, *Portrait in Pieces*, Page 29 Detail. 2008.
Mixed Media on Paper. 14,35 x 19,3 cm.

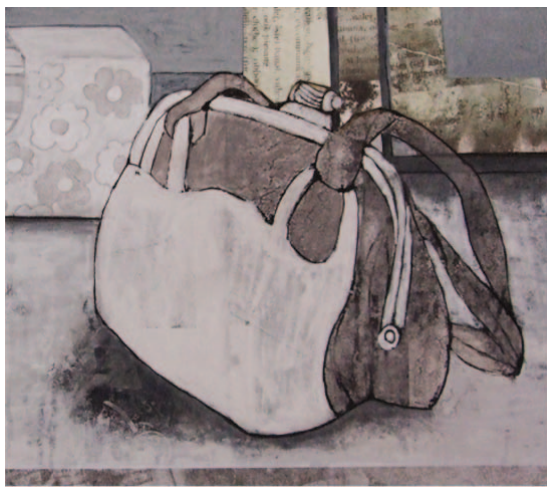


Figure 31



Figure 32

Figure 31. **Catherine Gauché**, *Portrait in Pieces*, Page 19 Detail. 2007.
Mixed Media on Paper. 14,35 x 19,3 cm.

Figure 32. **Catherine Gauché**, *Portrait in Pieces*, Page 3. 2008.
Mixed Media on Paper. 14,35 x 19,3 cm.

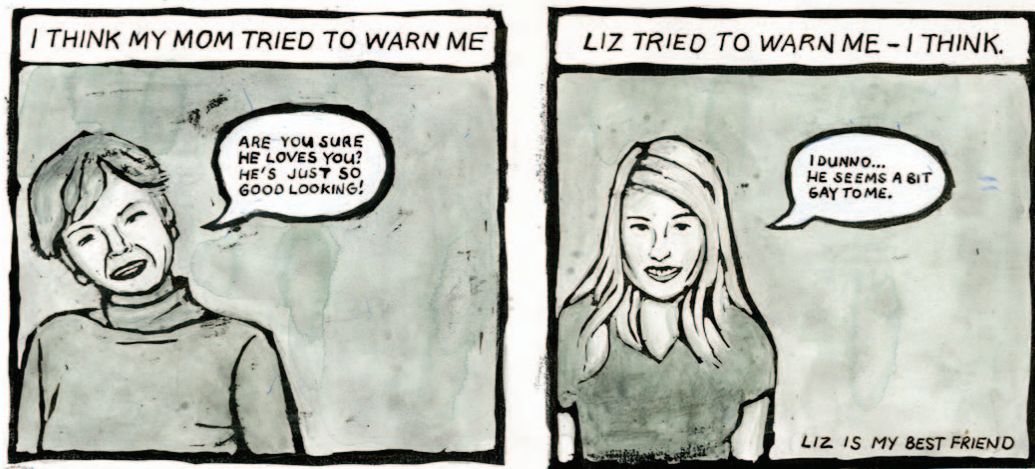


Figure 33. Catherine Gauché, *Portrait in Pieces*, Page 39 Detail. 2007. Mixed Media on Paper. 14,35 x 19,3 cm.



Figure 34. Catherine Gauché, *Portrait in Pieces*, Page 37 Detail. 2008. Mixed Media on Paper. 14,35 x 19,3 cm.



Figure 35. **Catherine Gauché**, *Portrait in Pieces*, Page 8. 2008.
Mixed Media on Paper. 14,35 x 19,3 cm.

This book is my confession. It is my confession of things that I've been carrying around for many years. It was never, never my intention to write a book in my family, I really not my intention. If I have done so, or if this book is ever to be so, I can thank myself.

First of all, I need to confess that I have told my mother that she is a narcissist and am not sure if I ever told her that. She will never, never forgive me if she reads it and I cannot let that happen. One can't be absolutely honest I didn't think about the consequences when I began writing this. It first was just a couple of experimental illustrations that I hadn't thought of in a book format. Now it has become something which has concerned my life. It's all I think of and it gives me nightmares. I feel incredibly guilty about 'Portrait in Pieces'. I often wonder if it has all been worth it. Is it worth the points for my Master's degree? (What is if my marks are decent) And what about my mother's reaction to publishing? Could I ever publish this? What if I shame my family? What if my father finds out? Could I maybe publish it in Romania and use the same name? But can I live with such a secret? Then I can't even show the book off. It will kind of be like acting in a film movie - it's of part of you that you're sold but you don't want people who you respect to know about it. I can't say that because of those predicaments I can't wait to get it all over with so that I can move on and get on with my life. As I said so that it's clear from the start, I love and admire my mother very much but we have a complex and tough relationship for a part of my life. Now that I'm older and have a little more of a perspective, well, many of

the same mistakes. The book has helped me realise just how easy it is to mess things up. I put myself in the position with this book to be self-reflective. It's given me the chance to see things in a new perspective, especially a special girl for a young adult struggling with potential problems and unresolved anger. And just to clear things up a little for those of you who may be wondering I am not a 'retarded or mentally challenged' or anything like that. I'm not a 'nerd' either. I had a learning difficulty when I was 6 years old. I think that - you didn't exactly write get the whole school concept there, it was a bit of a mess - and as for the drinking issue - I'm still trying to figure that one out. I want to be in control of my life the way it did my mother.

Getting back to confessions... I have admitted that there is one person in this book whom I did originally have a rather thought about but then I realised he is an old ex-boyfriend. The guy from 'When you're in love' really hurt me years ago and in a way I was hoping to somehow deal with that conflict. But that has changed as I've found myself lucky enough to have a man in my life who has given me a reminder love or palm trees. No, could anything be better than that. He's also prepared to deal with my 'special' child or mother issues that I may have. To be honest I feel bad that I haven't included him in more of this book. He is after all the leading actor of my life. Thinking of which my father will be so my father, where I will be presenting this book. I sincerely hope that my public display of things from our family won't offend him. I don't want to cause him to be disappointed in me. He and my mother are divorced but he may still think I'm being disrespectful. I don't want any of my family members will think of my book... but I hope they will understand that I wasn't looking for sympathy or attention but rather looking for answers. These answers that I've been looking for. These answers that I've been looking for. I am I absolutely capable of being in control of my own life.

Figure 36. Catherine Gauché, Portrait in Pieces, End Pages. 2008. Mixed Media on Paper. 28,7 x 19,3 cm.