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Art This Week: Mourning Braiding and Cyber Warfare

JANUARY 8, 2018

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Nene Humphrey (image courtesy of Lesley Heller Workspace)

Transmission

Opening Wednesday, January 10 at [Lesley Heller Workspace](#), 6 pm to 8 pm. On view through February 18.

In the Victorian age, those who lost a loved one would enact an odd and intimate ritual known as mourning braiding. This practice consisted of braiding the actual hair of the deceased into a piece of jewelry. Artist Nene Humphrey is [no stranger](#) to incorporating mourning-centric behaviors into her work, and come Wednesday she will open a new exhibition at Lesley Heller Workspace on Orchard Street that combines the brain's reaction to grief with this old-school hair ritual. The installation and "ritualized site of production" includes braiding stations featuring wire instead of hair and walls covered with weaved strands. Instead of actual people doing the braiding, the stations sit empty and projected videos show the plaits being constructed alongside similar-looking images of the brain.