

In The Frame

Polish artist's peckish pieces



June, 2013 Cucumber, celery, fennel, rainbow chard, kale, collard greens, beet greens, dandelion greens, turnip greens, spinach, parsley, ginger, lime juice, and lemon juice on thirty 6 x 6 in paper napkins

The phrase "You are what you eat" takes on new—and slightly nauseating—meaning in the artist Martynka Wawrzyniak's latest body of work. Every night for one year, the Polish artist used an identical white cloth napkin to wipe her mouth at dinner and then meticulously catalogued the ingredients of each meal. The fruits of this compulsive exercise, which she describes as a self-portrait, are on show at envoy enterprises in New York ("Feed", until 12 October). Wawrzyniak sewed together the 365 soiled napkins in chronological order to create an interlocking, 100-foot-tall walk-in structure that hangs from the gallery ceiling. She also created a limited edition cookbook that pairs a photograph of each napkin with a corresponding list of ingredients for the evening's meal. "I felt like I was sharing my meals with the public every day and made a conscious effort to be creative in my choice of ingredients," Wawrzyniak says. "It was like having a daily dinner party."

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