

HAIR NECK LACE  
2002, human hair and thread - 18" x 7"



HAIR WREATH  
2002, human hair and wire - 15" x 15"



PEARLS OF WISDOM (FOR THE THROAT AND WRIST)  
2005, human hair - 18" long and 8" long



LONG HAIR  
2005, photograph on paper, 24" x 360"  
as shown: 24" x 96" x 144"







**Ode to Nappyness** — Fibers of mind, synapses of brain, roots of being and branches that extend....Even after we pass from this world to the next, hair marks us and makes us. Others judge us by it...good hair, bad hair, kinky hair, straight hair, pressed, treated, dyed while alive, and textured to titillate – the crowning achievement of our selfhood – praise be to the wonderful sculptural qualities of hair and the sensual creations of Sonya Clark. — Dr. Henry John Drewal, 2005

*Drewal is Evjue-Bascom Professor of African and African Diaspora Arts at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He developed the theory of "sensiotics" which explores understanding the arts through the senses. His latest project is a publication and traveling exhibition, "Mami Wata: Arts for Water Spirits in Africa and the African Atlantic World".*



hair series | sonya clark



ROOTS AND BRANCHES  
2002, copper and human hair – each 12" x 6" x 2"



Short, cropped, and natural. That was my hairstyle for many years. When I started allowing it to grow, hair, which had long been a subject in my work also became my medium. **HAIR IS POWER.** Note the Samson myth, Rastafarian dreadlocks, and Angela Davis's Afro of the 1960s. It grows approximately 5 inches a year and measures our lives like Lachesis of the Three Fates in Greek mythology. As carrier of DNA, **HAIR IS THE ESSENCE OF IDENTITY.** Deep within each strand, the vestiges of our roots resound. In this work hair is formed into markers of chronology, wisdom, and adornment.

*Sonya Clark*