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Drug Addicted Criminal Parents Inspire Healing Through Art

Photographer and storyteller Candace Doyal will be appearing at Chatwin Books booth (#2351) on Saturday, Jan. 26, from 12:30–1:30 p.m. *This Thing is About to End: Photographs and Stories from Life* (Chatwin Books, 2016) is Doyal's powerful photography collection chronicling family substance abuse and addiction, and personal recovery.

Melding documentary, fine art photography, and visual and written commentary, Doyal painstakingly recreates scenes from her family's searing history of addiction and incarceration, often using her own body as a stand-in for her mother in scenes simultaneously remembered and re-imagined.

Doyal's images and texts are supplemented by actual letters sent from prison by her mother, which include incisive and poignant writing about the impact of addiction-fueled criminal behavior and incarceration on the parent-child relationship.

This Thing is About to End is a work of anger and loss, heartbreak and sorrow, survival and endurance, and ultimately, renewal. The creation of this work was integral to the artist's own escape from the cycle that defined her youth.

With echoes of Nan Goldin and Duane Michals, Doyal's eerie and beautiful tableaux offers a haunting, and unflinching, look into the heart of addiction and the need for prison reform in the United States. Her photographic sensibility has been compared to Mary Ellen Mark.

Doyal has worn a camera around her neck since age 17, creating photography that is a combination of staged scenes and portraiture. To learn more about Doyal's work, visit Chatwin Books booth (#2351) on Saturday, Jan. 26, from 12:30–1:30 p.m.