

IN THEIR OWN WORDS: 2 WOMEN TELL WHY THEY WENT TO MELANY WHITNEY**• A 45-year old New York homemaker:**

“A lot of doctors are so busy saving people’s lives that they don’t have time to focus on the nipple and areola. Many don’t offer that service, or they have the attitude ‘you’re lucky you’re alive, so why care if you have nipples or not.’”

“I had a mastectomy of one breast and wanted the nipple and areola to match my other breast. I met with 10 plastic surgeons. Some wanted their nurse-aesthetcian to do the work, but they were only going to put on a pigment or two. I needed someone who could create projections and details. The doctors—all men--dismissed my concern and kept telling me to be happy with what I could get.

So I checked out tattoo parlors, but those that did such work used palettes that were too strong. Finally a doctor referred me to Melany. I checked out her credentials in the micropigmentation field, looked at pictures of her work, and realized she is an artist who works on the body. I had the procedure a year ago.

Yes, I wanted to be alive. But what you look like is important, too. I feel so good now, and my breasts look so natural, that I kind of forget what happened.”

• A Miami, Fla. nurse:

“I was finished with the major part of my breast reconstruction, but I now had a new implant on one side and needed the nipple and areola. I decided I didn’t want to have more surgery because I didn’t want to take another day or two from work without pay, nor did I want to stay overnight in a hospital.

“ I found Melany through my work at the hospital. When I was considering having the nipple/areola tattooing, my very conservative plastic surgeon warned that the micropigmentation might puncture my implant.

But I realized I come first. And I’m happy I did. It didn’t take much time and was such a positive experience. It looks so much like a normal breast that you can hardly tell the difference. And my plastic surgeon was so surprised and pleased.”

Melany Whitney is available for interviews. For more information, contact Joan Freedman, the Center’s director, at 551-804-9245.