



**The Shore Institute of the Contemporary Arts**

*is proud to present*

## ***of the cloth***

**JULY 18 – AUGUST 22, 2008**

Reception: Sunday, July 20, 3-6pm

An exhibition about clothing may at first blush seem to have little to do with SICA's locale. However, it is not a remote association to connect SICA in Long Branch with the clothing industry. Long Branch, NJ has been involved since the early 20<sup>th</sup> century with the garment industry and was the location of Local 9 of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union (ILGWU). Many of the rooms above the shops in the commercial district were once where workers toiled away at sewing machines day and night. In fact, until recently, the entire second floor of SICA was just such a place.

But this exhibition is not about connecting current artistic media choices with the history of the Jersey Shore. The intent of this exhibition is to explore and illustrate the use of clothing as a principal art media. It also will attempt to investigate why so many artists today are using clothing as a principal artistic material. Is it the domestic inference? Maybe it's a reference to basic human needs? Or perhaps, it investigates the social status or other hierarchical associations that many clothing convey? We hope this show and the artists participating might illuminate this and provide answers to these questions.

For this exhibition we have sought artists whose work deals primarily with clothing or utilize clothing as a major component. In some cases this "cloth" component is real and actual. In other cases it may be a depiction, a concept, or a metaphor. Those artists being asked to participate are Doreen Brown, Nick Cave, Guerra de la Paz, Carmen Hay Kolodzey, Michelle Loughlin, Michael Mahalchick, Derick Melander, Suzanne Rader, Sarah Wayland-Smith, and Jennifer Watson.

**Douglas Ferrari, Curator**