

## ARTIST STATEMENT

In my studio I am motivated by attraction to materials and the pleasure I take in handling them. I make objects that confront my body and the body of my viewer with sensuous humor and some provocation. I am interested in the unrecognizable, the repressed. What is beyond our immediate reality? What is the mystery of our associative, psychological state in regards to our perception of what is underneath our skin? Often there are details of clothing in my work, zippers, piping, button holes, referring to the fashion we cover ourselves with, our facade. My work is an exaggerated reference to the body. It reflects the paradox of intelligence opposing bestiality, the body couture. Our facade is an obsession. The materiality, sensuality, and labor invested in my work are expressions of the body.

## BIO

I have spent the last twenty- nine years in the Berkshires of Massachusetts, as an artist participating in local and regional exhibitions. I practice my avocation congruent with a sewing business. The use of sewing techniques in my business and in my studio practice has brought an integration of the real and the surreal into my everyday life.

I graduated with my B.F.A. in Painting and Printmaking from the University of Kansas in 1975. In 1997 I was awarded a N.E.F.A. Sculpture Fellowship. I graduated with my M.F.A. in Visual Arts/Sculpture from Vermont College of Fine Arts in 1999. The process of returning to school in mid-life was challenging and rewarding.

Since graduating I have had opportunities to teach. I have been involved with "The Body Project", a project for women of all ages addressing body image and adornment. This class was sponsored by The Railroad St. Youth Project of Gt. Barrington, Ma. and IS 183 School for the Arts in Interlaken, Ma. I have also had the opportunity to work with Community Access For The Arts in Gt. Barrington, Ma., an organization that promotes working with developmentally disabled adults through the arts.

In the spring of 2005 I had the opportunity to travel to Brittany, France for a Klot's Residency, a month long artist's residency. This experience confirmed my continued involvement with "the fantastic", a surrealist way of looking at the world ; one of the roots of my studio practice. In June 2013, I was an artist/curator/performer in Rites of Passage, a production by [rogueangeltheatre.com](http://rogueangeltheatre.com) - <http://www.ritesofpassageproject.org/>. In September of 2012 I was an artist in Residence with Beck Balken at IS 183 Art School in the Berkshires, where we produced the exhibition "With A grain of Salt".

I am an artist/teacher for graduate students enrolled in the Vermont College of Fine Art, Montpelier, Vt. and at NHIA in Manchester, NH. I consider teaching to be a privilege and a direct link to my own continuing development as an artist.