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RAM debuts wearable art exhibit

Alyssa Mauk Sep 12, 2016



Jon Bolton

"Harding Oaks" by Tim Harding, 1988, dyed cotton.

RACINE —"RAM Collects: Contemporary Art to Wear" will be on display Sept. 22 through Jan. 1 at the Racine Art Museum, 441 Main St.

The exhibit showcases examples of jackets, vests, shawls, and other wearable pieces by well-known makers such as Jean Williams Caciedo, Deborah Cross, Randy Darwall, Tim Harding, Ana Lisa Hedstrom and Julia Hill.

"Art to wear" — wearable clothing that is produced in unique or limited editions — is primarily handmade and reflects a particular aesthetic style. The genesis of art to wear in the 1960s and 1970s, and its trajectory to the present day, reflects the dynamics of contemporary society and culture, personal choices of the makers (and patrons), complex notions regarding aesthetics, the production of works for wear and the body as form.

Artists associated with this type of work have come from a variety of backgrounds, including painting, sculpture, fiber and even chemistry. This reflects the diverse approaches the artists bring to making garments and accessories, including dyeing, painting, applique, embroidery, weaving and knitting. Many speak about a love for the materials they use, incorporating explorations of media and technique into their process.

Also on display is "Contemporary Art to Wear, Sensory Overload: Clothing and the Body," which features pieces that investigate the metaphorical capacity of clothing and adornment, while simultaneously addressing notions of wearability and the body as site. These artists create garments and large-scale accessories that tend to impede or extend the physicality of the body itself and make the body both an armature and integral part of the presentation of the piece.

Artists whose works are featured include Heejin Hwang (South Korea), Janice Jakielski (Massachusetts), Kelly Nye (Ohio), Rachel Timmins (Maryland), Kathleen Nowak Tucci (Alabama), and Yulie Urano (Missouri).

RAM is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. Admission is \$5 for adults, and \$3 for youth ages 12-18, full-time students and seniors 63 and older. There is no charge for ages 11 and younger.

Alyssa Mauk

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