



MATERIALBYPRODUCT
(Susan Dimasi and Chantal McDonald)
Soft Hard Harder Dress Curtain 2007
silk, polyester, plastic, cotton
Creative direction: 3 Deep Design
Photography: Susan Grdnac

Courtesy the artists

How You Make It

A Craft Victoria & NETS Victoria touring exhibition

NETS Victoria is proud to partner with Craft Victoria to present *How You Make It*, an interactive and engaging touring exhibition that takes the making process itself as a conceptual starting point. Specifically, it looks at the approach of the designer towards garment construction as an idea while investigating the evolution of artisan fashion design practices – revealing how traditional highly-crafted tailoring techniques continue to form contemporary clothing in often radically new ways.

Curated by **Kate Rhodes**, *How You Make It* features around 25 newly-created and existing works by **Anthea van Kopplen**, **Ess. Laboratory** (Hoshika Oshimi and Tatsuyoshi Kawabata), **FORMALLYKNOWNAS** (Toby Whittington), **MATERIALBYPRODUCT** (Susan Dimasi and Chantal McDonald), **Paula Dunlop**, **Project** (Kara Baker and Shelley Lasica), **Simon Cooper**, and **SIX** (Denise Sprynskyj and Peter Boyd).

This exhibition explores eight practices from Victoria, New South Wales, Western Australia and Queensland and marks the first time that all have been brought together. Many of the designers in *How You Make It* are at the forefront of Australian fashion design, regularly competing on the global market for sales and recognition as well as maintaining an exhibition practice.

Play and experimentation are critical to each practice. Here, design signifies both a product as well as a creative process and a structured plan. *How You Make It* examines practice-based research where cutting, marking, joining, and sizing – the cornerstones of garment production – are used to create a language from which design philosophies grow. Here we encounter unique materials, tools, techniques and templates for making. In the finished garments we see the tangible results of considered choices about where, when and how to cut fabric. Often existing garments have been deconstructed, reconfigured and reworked using fine tailoring techniques and self-established design schemes. These systems are used to explore and create new garment forms and new ways of wearing clothes.

As Ms Rhodes explains, "These professional and highly-regarded conceptual Australian fashion designers and artists open a dialogue between craft and design that places the focus back on how and why objects are made."

How You Make It is an interactive touring exhibition where visitors to each host gallery will be able to try on **MATERIALBYPRODUCT's** *Soft Hard Harder Dress Curtain*, the renowned garment worn by Björk during the promotion of her recent album launch and tour. Visitors will also be able to interact and engage with **Anthea van Kopplen's** *The Envelope*, a single pattern with multiple functions that generates a top, skirt, dress and coat.

Media enquiries:

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continued overleaf...

How You Make It is a Craft Victoria and NETS Victoria touring exhibition that will span 13 months and travel almost 9,800 kilometres to be presented in galleries in New South Wales, Western Australia and regional Victoria.

National Exhibitions Touring Support (NETS) Victoria is the peak body for visual arts touring in the state of Victoria and provides opportunities for regional Victorians to access and engage with the best contemporary art, craft and design.

The development of this exhibition was assisted through NETS Victoria's Exhibition Development Fund (EDF), supported by the Victorian Government through Arts Victoria and the Community Support Fund. *How You Make It* is presented collaboratively by Craft Victoria and Object: Australian Centre for Craft and Design, and is supported by Object's National Exhibitions Strategy, a program funded by the Australia Council. The Victorian leg of the tour of *How You Make It* is supported by the Victorian Government through Arts Victoria and the Community Support Fund.

Destinations

> Host venues:

Object Gallery

21 June – 24 August 2008

Latrobe Regional Gallery

4 October – 16 November 2008

Fremantle Arts Centre

3 December 2008 – 25 January 2009

Wangaratta Exhibitions Gallery

28 February – 29 March 2009

Ararat Regional Art Gallery

9 April – 17 May 2009

Mildura Arts Centre

11 June – 15 July 2009

Web site

> www.netsvictoria.org/howyoumakeit

The *How You Make It* tour web site includes the complete itinerary, designer biographies, exhibition catalogue, and Anthea van Kopplen's interactive pattern for online visitors to download and make their own garment.

Media enquiries

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TOURING PARTNERS



Craft Victoria is supported by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body, the Victorian Government through Arts Victoria, through the Visual Arts and Craft Strategy, an initiative of the Australian, State and Territory Government and the City of Melbourne.

National Exhibitions Touring Support (NETS) Victoria is supported by the Victorian Government through Arts Victoria and the Community Support Fund, by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body, and through the Visual Arts and Craft Strategy, an initiative of the Australian, State and Territory Government. NETS Victoria also receives significant in-kind support from the National Gallery of Victoria.

EXHIBITION PARTNERS



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