

The dressed body and its aesthetic consequences: Creation of Meaning and Coherence

Kajsa Eriksson

PhD student at the Swedish School of Textiles, University College of Borås in collaboration with the Faculty of Applied and Fine Arts doctoral program at Göteborg University.
e-mail: kajsa.eriksson@hb.se

As an artist, I use clothes, or rather *the dressed body* as my medium. The term “the dressed body” is utilized to illustrate that I view the clothes in relation to the body. I also use the word *fashion* to describe that which is in constant motion and based on change. Fashion is momentary and therefore in a state of flux, suitable for transcendence and transformation. This PhD-project is *practice-based* and deals with fashion and the dressed body conceived as aesthetic “in action”.

Focus is put on the dressed body as non-verbal communication and its aesthetic consequences.

The point of departure has been to study the experience of *dress in practice*, how we dress, the relation between the body and dress. Aesthetically, how can we better understand why we choose particular clothes over others? Or rather what kind of needs, aesthetically and experience wise, do clothing satisfy? I view these choices as a complex negotiation, a construction merging the inside with the outside, and as a creative act. In the act of getting dressed, there is a blurring of image and body experience. Is it possible to describe this experience, specifically regarding the perception of clothing in its close connection to the body?

Secondly, questions are raised as to how the dressed body is connected to creation of meaning and context. The dressed body's and fashion's importance in transformation, and in our vision of the future, are scrutinized. This exploration will be done by staging the dressed body in common places. Pilot studies have been done in projects as the “**T-poncho**” (collaboration with Karin Landahl) at ArtGenda in Hamburg, 2002 and the collection “**into**” for Artist Clothing, 2003.

“Into” is a collection of garments addressing notions of being into, being surrounded and being inside. Into is a fundamental condition for wearing clothes and with this collection it becomes the central point of investigation and expression. The images shown are from the collection. Artist Clothing is a project run by Ulrika Gunnarsdotter.

Kajsa Eriksson is an artist based in Gothenburg. She has a Master of Fine Arts from Valand school of Fine Art, Gothenburg University, 1995-2000, and a degree in Fashion Design from the Swedish School of Textiles, 1988-1990. Situated in both fields of art and design, she has been a part of the recent developments in crossing boundaries between fashion and art.



Photo: Artist Clothing, Photographer: Jonas Jömeberg

