

MEDIA RELEASE

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Miriam Medrez
Inverted Dresses
Curated by Mariana Valdez Debes

April 1 – April 23, 2017

Opening Reception: Saturday, April 1st , 5:30 to 7:30 pm

Artist Talk: Sunday, April 2nd, 11:00 am

Deborah Colton Gallery is pleased to present *Inverted Dresses*, an exhibition featuring sculptural work from Mexican artist Miriam Medrez. The exhibition opens Saturday, April 1, with a reception for the artist from 5:30 to 7:30 pm and is accompanied by an artist talk on Sunday, April 2, beginning at 11:00 am.

Inverted Dresses invites the viewers to rediscover the female body and delve into its unexplored spaces, but above all, to identify common places taking the inner self as point of departure. The series consists of eighteen dresses which combines artisanal techniques such as embroidery and knitting with modern techniques such as the digitalization of images and numerical printing build over metal structures that provide a vertebral appearance to the pieces.

For Medrez, *Inverted Dresses* deals with the notion of domestic space as a “microcosms” and a place of *épanouissement*. Under this premise, she creates the *House Dress*, a piece that articulates domestic spaces, feminine figures and small mirrors. About the purpose, the artist shares: “I invite you to get a glimpse of that intimacy, to reflect yourself in the small mirrors, to inhabit those spaces that are common to all women.”

The artworks of the series combine hard structures with soft materials, inviting the viewers to question the notion of fragility in the representation of the feminine. This can be observed in the *Bridal Dress* where the metal structure provides contrast with the soft fabric that covers the spools of thread. This dialogue of materials brings a poetic tone to the piece and is a resource frequently used by artists such as Safaa Erruas, whose mobile *Nuage* has a special relationship to the *Strainer Dress*.

In the *Inverted Dresses* series the female figure stands out as the “caretaker” an attribute traditionally associated with women in the domestic environment, which the artist accentuates with soft hollow spaces, knitted or embroidered receptacles and structures that open and close.

Through this series Medrez offers three significant contributions to the global aesthetic discourse on gender. First, she shows a verification of the feminine perception of her surroundings in a specific cultural context. Second, she refreshes questions concerning the construction of gender. What does being human mean? What does being a woman mean? Are the challenges that we as women confront today imposed or self-imposed? Are we the victims of our own mental structure? Finally, the series awards visibility to the contemporary feminine praxis starting with a specific aesthetic discourse.

Within contemporary Mexican art, Miriam Medrez is an established artist whose interdisciplinary practice has taken place over three decades. Medrez was born in Mexico City in 1958 and studied Plastic Arts at

the UNAM (National Autonomous University of Mexico), and Concordia Univeristy (Montreal, Canada). She lives and works in Monterrey (N.L, Mexico). A renowned sculptor, she received the “Artistic Creator” award in 2010 from the National Systems of Art Creators in Mexico. That triennial stimulus coincides with the repositioning of her sculpture activity, which causes her to explore and later move her aesthetic discourse from clay to cloth.

Public collections include UDPLAP collection (Puebla, Mexico) , Modern Art Museum (Mexico City), MARCO Museum (Monterrey, N.L), Amparo Museum (Puebla, Mexico), Monterrey Museum (Monterrey, N.L), Casa Candina (Puerto Rico), Keramik Museum Grimeerhaus (Denmark), FEMSA collection (Monterrey N.L), Jingdezhen Ceramic Cultural Center (Jiangxi Province, China), Reyes Meza Museum (Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas).

Deborah Colton Gallery is founded on being an innovative showcase for ongoing presentation and promotion of strong historical and visionary contemporary artists world-wide, whose diverse practices include painting, works on paper, sculpture, video, photography, performance and conceptual future media installations. The gallery aspires to provide a forum through connecting Texas, national and international artists to make positive change.

