



# Working with People Real and Fabricated



**Complexities and Solutions**

*for*

**Mounted Accessories on Mannequins**

*in the*

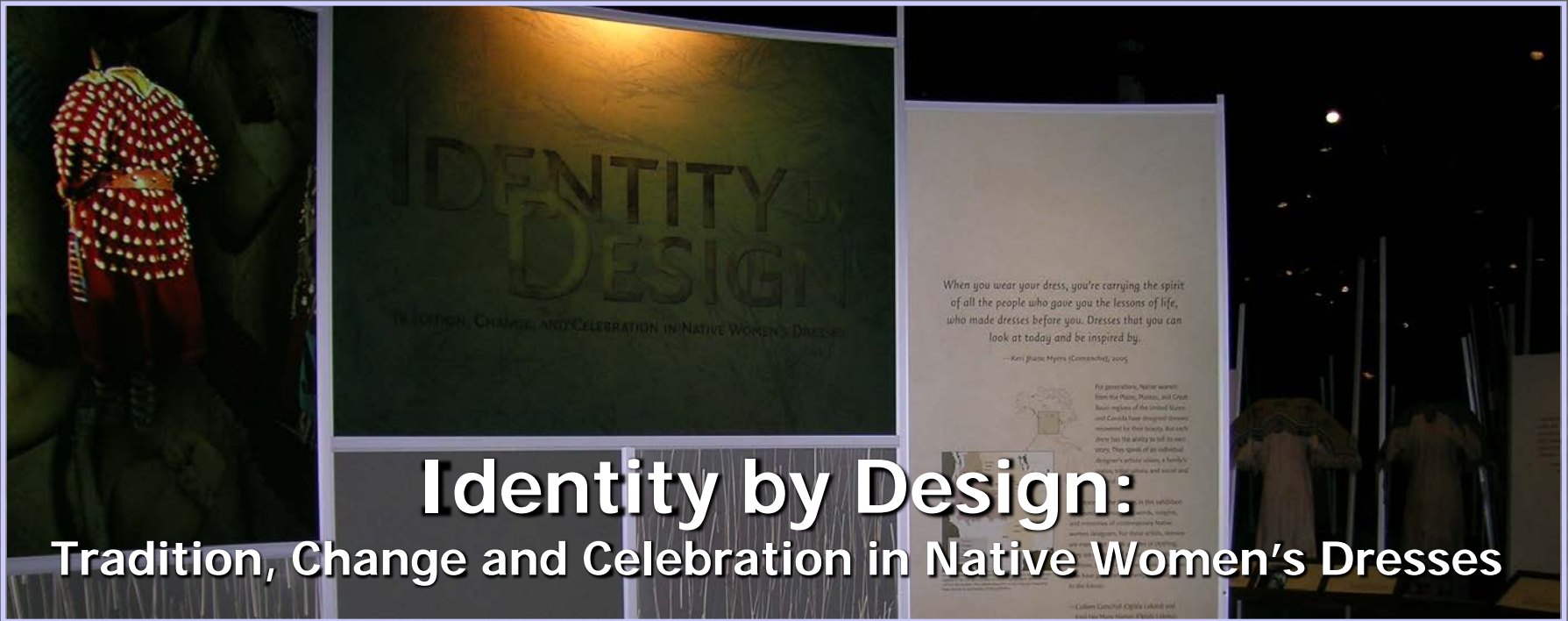
**Identity by Design exhibit**

*at the*

**National Museum of the American Indian**

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

Shelly Uhlir, March 28, 2008  
Mountmaking Forum, The Getty Villa



# Identity by Design:

## Tradition, Change and Celebration in Native Women's Dresses

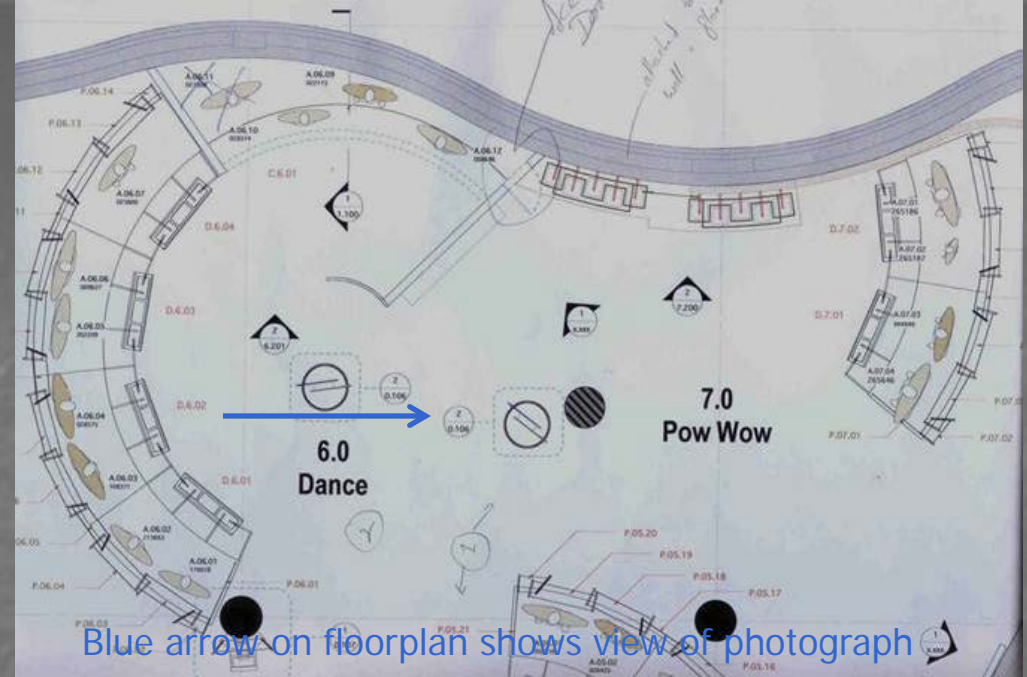


- 53 Mannequin Forms
- 96 Mounts on Forms:
  - 18 objects on "heads"
  - 10 objects in "hands"
  - 20 belts
  - 24 pairs of legs (48)



## *extra challenges:*

- Open platforms
  - Deterrent approach
  - All sides visible
- Travel
- Fabrication time



Blue arrow on floorplan shows view of photograph





History



Identity

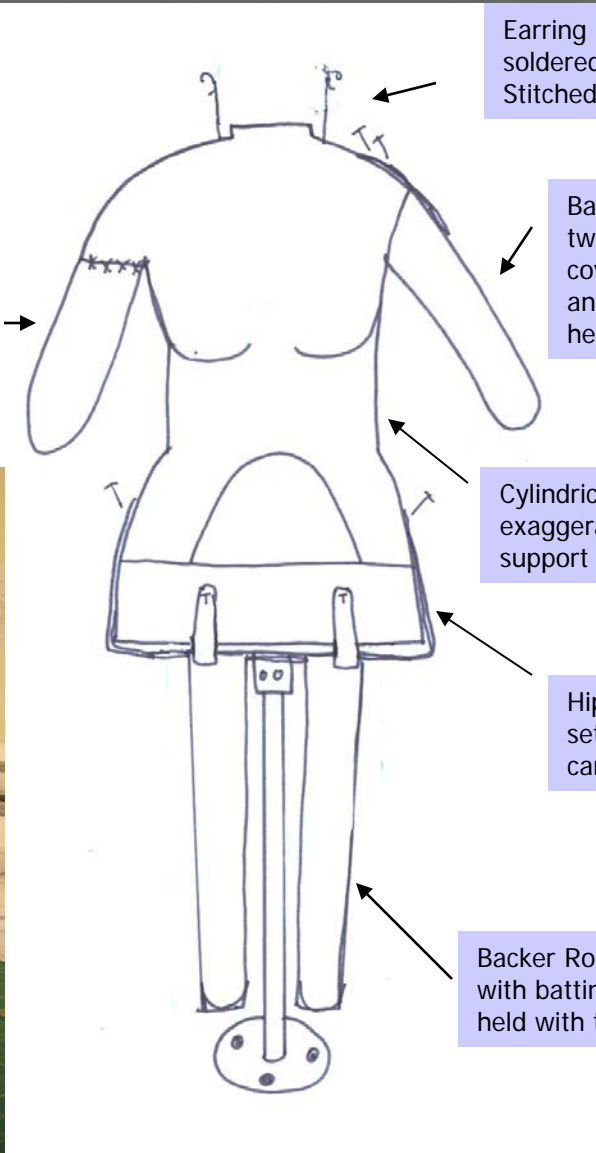


Life



Dance

# The Ethafoam Form



Earring Mounts – silver-soldered brass  
Stitched to earrings

Backer Rod and twill tape Arm covered in batting and stockinette. held with T-pins

Cylindrical waist and exaggerated hips to better support the belt

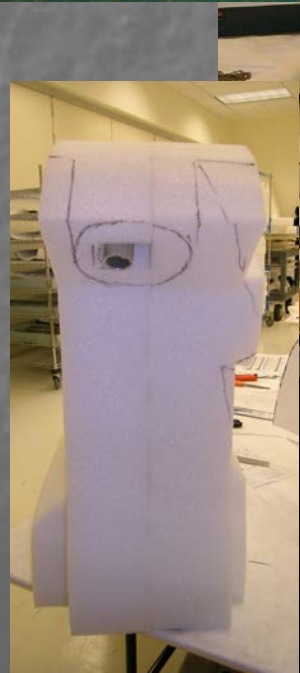
Hip disc ring to set exact size to carve to

Backer Rod Legs covered with batting and stockinette held with twill and T-pins

Soft Stockinette Arm stitched to torso

**Block before carving:**  
Two pcs 4" ethafoam at center  
1" ethafoam in front and back  
4" hip ring at bottom

# Ethafoam Torsos



# Finishing



Carved form is covered with a layer of needlepunch felt or 1/8" batting



Stockinette covers the entire ensemble and is inserted into grooves cut into the ethafoam

# LEG SYSTEM



# Rebecca's Moccasins and Leggings



# Legs step by step



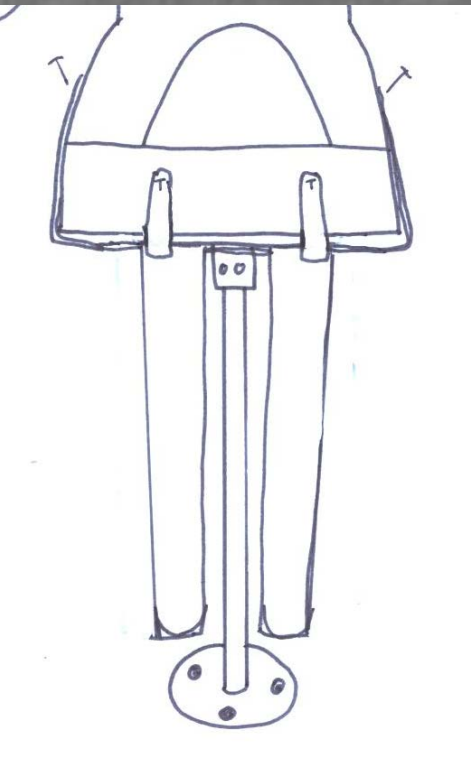
Tyvek and Felt Moccasin Insert

½ lb Weight Bag

Toe Pillow

Twill Tape Legging support

Backer Rod legs with Twill Tape Connections





- Can be dressed ahead
- Easy last minute adjustments
- Saves time at reinstall
- Useful as storage mounts

# BELT SYSTEM

# Belts



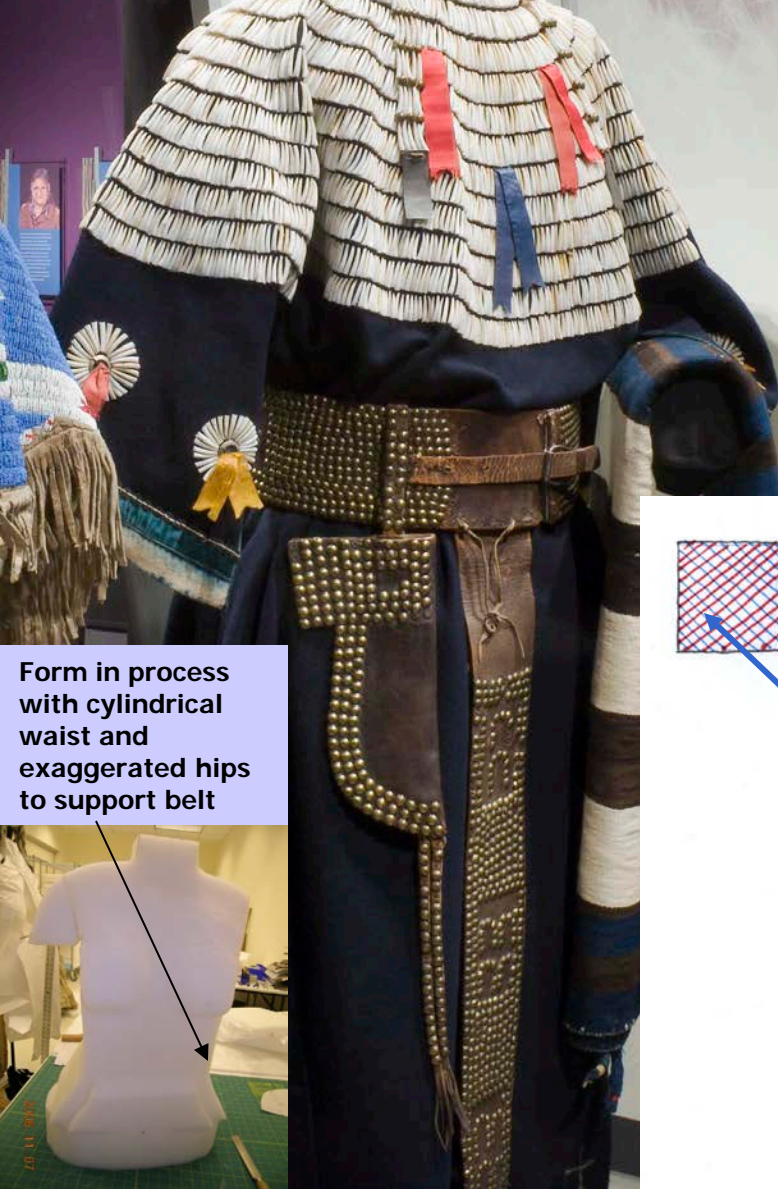
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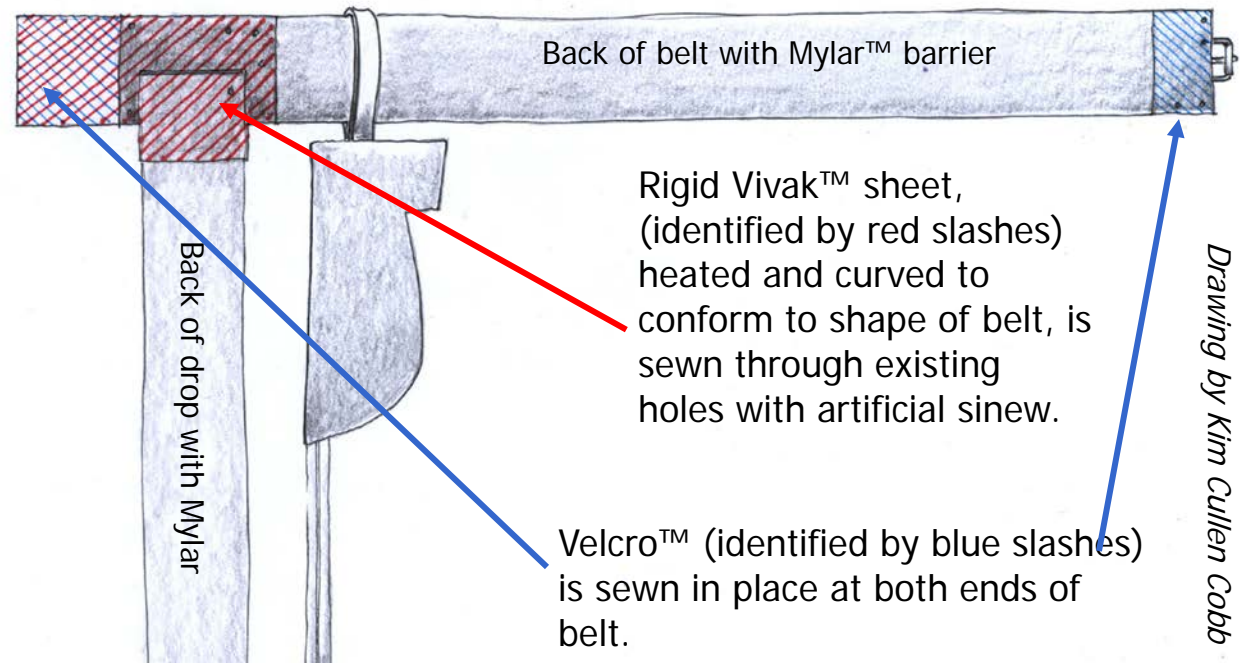
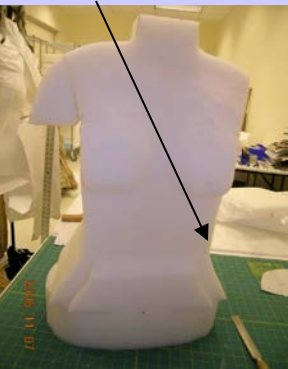


Twill tape under belt



Tyvek loops

Form in process with cylindrical waist and exaggerated hips to support belt



Drawing by Kim Cullen Cobb

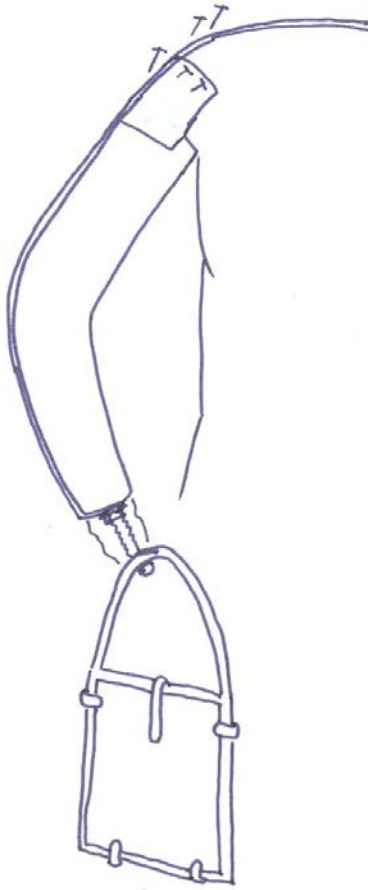
# ARM SYSTEM



Purses in "Hands"

# Growing Thunder Purse

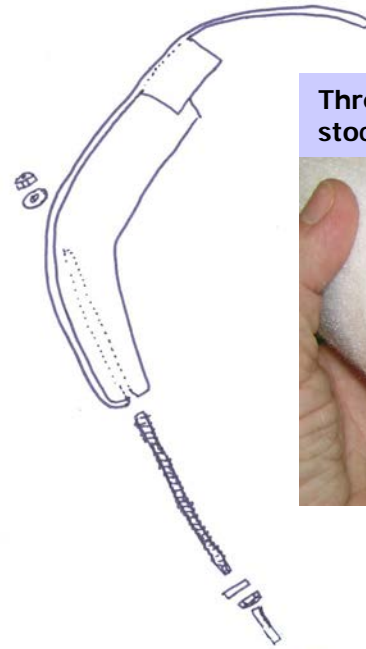
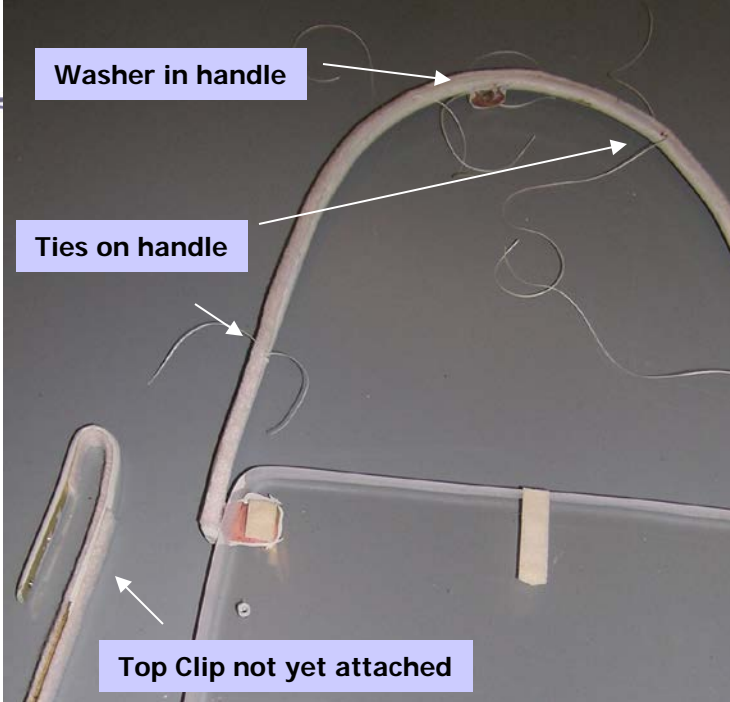




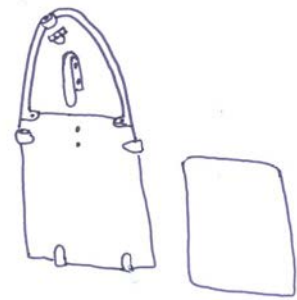
Washer in handle

Ties on handle

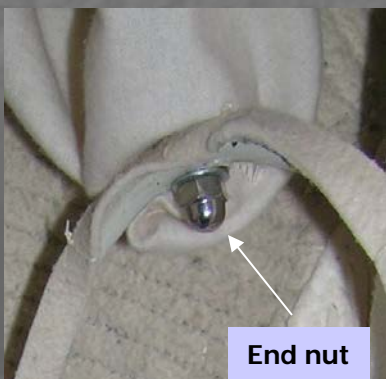
Top Clip not yet attached



Threaded rod going through stockinette opening



Padded Dibond insert covered with stockinette



End nut



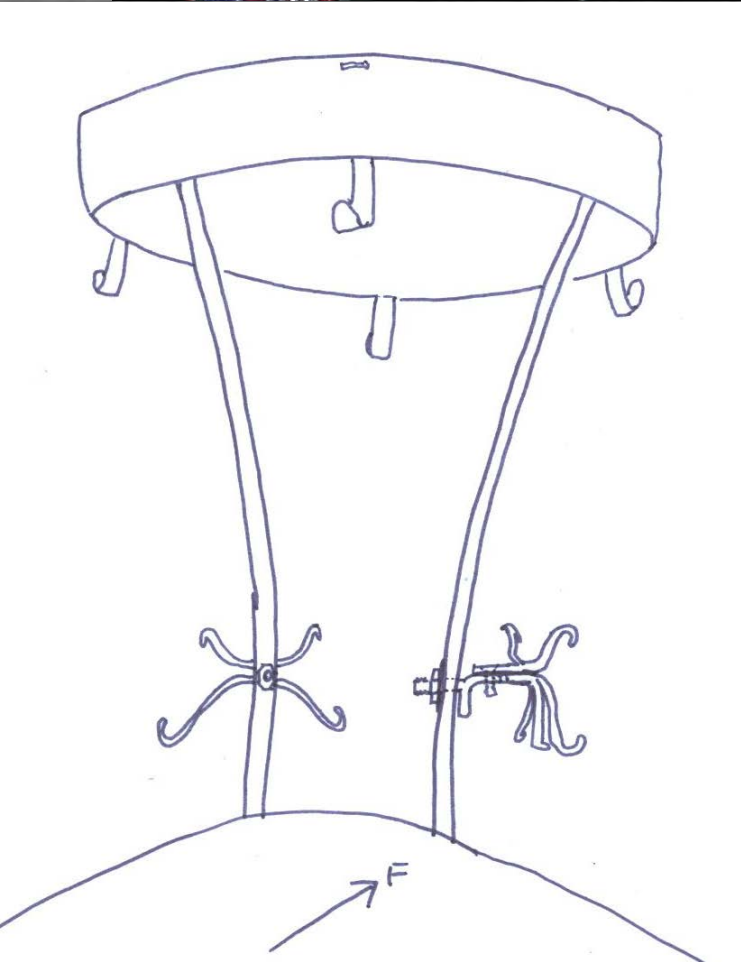
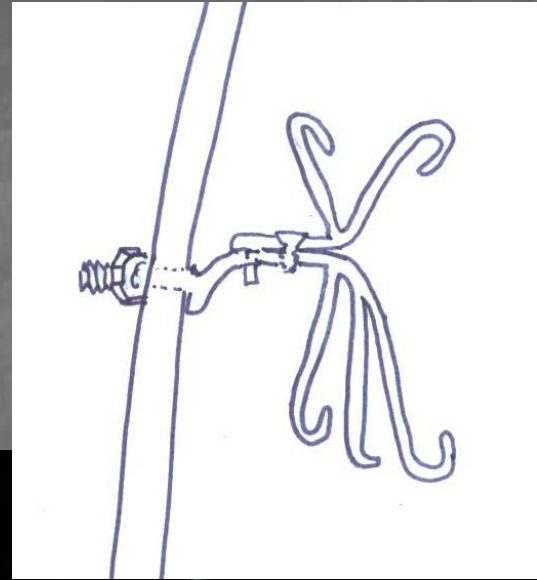
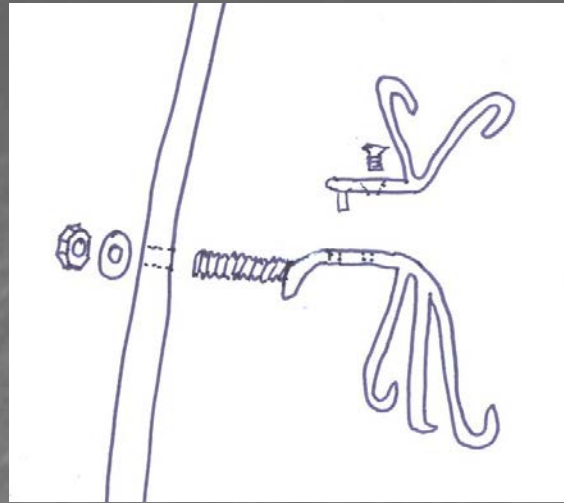
# HEAD SYSTEM



Crowns and Earrings

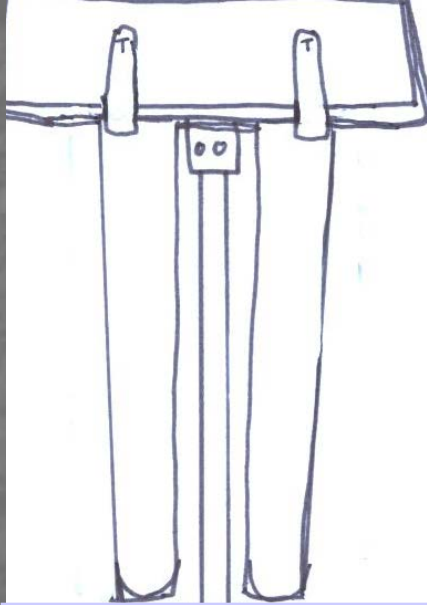
# Jhane's Crown & Earrings



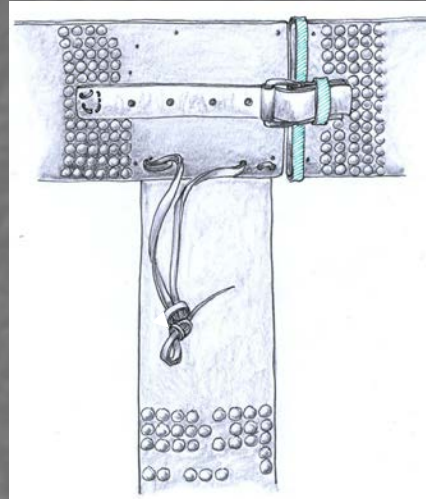


# Identity by Design Mountmaking Systems

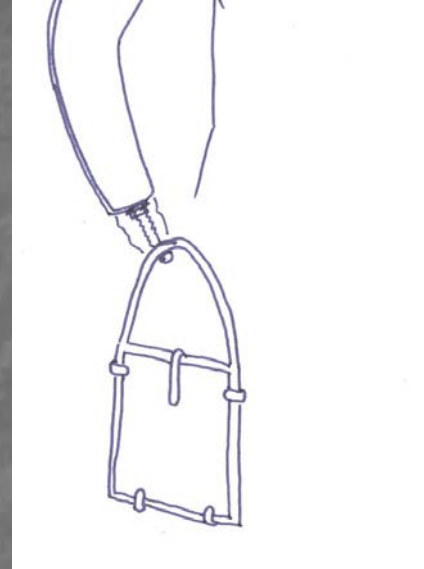
Legs



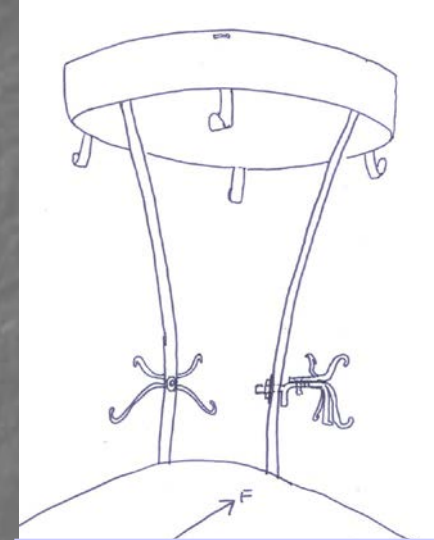
Belts



Arms



Heads



# Thanks Everyone!



Maia and Melissa - Collections



Robert - Exhibits



Anna - Conservation



All the Community Curators



Tom - Collections



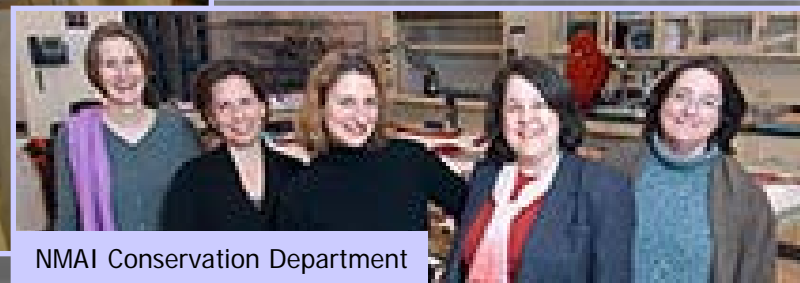
Emil - Curatorial



Saint Lisa of Organdie



Kim - Conservation



NMAI Conservation Department

THE END