# Katherine Soucie showcases her art exhibition Cast ON, Cast OFF



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More from Mark Abbott

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Katherine Soucie in her textile installation.

Katherine Soucie is an award-winning textile designer who s
zero-waste eco-fashion. She's also a visionary, artist and crea
Soucie's art exhibition, **Cast ON, Cast OFF** was officially la
March 31 at the offices of HCMA Architecture + Design, an a
agency on the cutting edge of creativity, after a three-month
residency. The residency is part of HCMA's TILT Curiosity L
on this later). Cast ON, Cast OFF is on view at the HCMA off
and is open to the public Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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Soucie's Cas an installatic hosiery.

Cast ON, Cast OFF is a two-piece sculpture/installation consisting of a 6.5ft high x 4ft wide hand-dyed knit waste hosiery (the hosiery was originally white and Soucie dyed each piece a different colour by hand). The 75-pound structure contains approximately 15,000 inches of hosiery, mostly using the waistband due to its durability and flexibility. An armature supports the sculpture; it was made to resemble the circular knitting machines Soucie used during the creation process. Staff at HCMA helped construct a web of energy-efficient LED lights that crowns the artwork, giving off a celestial glow. The second portion consists of "seating devices" stuffed with natural latex foam bedding. Th made of 10,000 inches of hand-dyed and hand-printed wast which Soucie says is left over from her garment-making proc



Soucie poses inside her art installation, Cast ON Cast OFF.

So why waste hosiery? "My resea 2002 has focused on transformin hosiery (women's castoff pantyhc functional usable textiles," Soucie "Hosiery is a unique textile forma product designed to perform as a skin." Soucie wants us to experie like to be inside the garment that garment, which she believes can l rumination: "It is a journey that c immense amount of self-reflectio

Part of Soucie's journey was refle wall-sized chalkboard, on which s out her thought process in a stream-of-consciousness.

Soucie's time spent at HCMA felt comfortable, like a second wouldn't at first marry an eco-fashion designer with an archi its fifth decade, and yet according to Soucie, it was the perfe

me, “Architecture has always informed my work as a textile d
This residency enabled Soucie to undertake textile research a
development that she felt she would not have had the opport
time to produce in her own studio, saying, “It gave me the ti
and place to create and experiment.”

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The wall-sized chalkboard where captured her thought process d residency.

I found this particular artist residency interesting because I expect artists to take up a residency in an academic setting, or some kind of institution, not a functioning architect firm. I had the opportunity to speak with the director of TILT Curiosity Labs, Mark Busse. After 50 years in the business, HCMA recently expanded into interdisciplinary practice. “With that comes a commitment to community and Busse says. “Part of that process and evolution resulted in th TILT Curiosity Labs, and along with TILT, an artist-in-reside program,” he continued. Architects, after all, are artists in a touches on something here – evolution. It’s eerily similar to vision of how she wants the garment industry to emerge out current fast fashion and excessive waste rut, becoming a mo sustainable production. Soucie, and programs like TILT, are way.

*Mark Abbott is a journalist, writer and editor covering arts culture. He lives in Vancouver.*

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