

***Fast Fashion/Slow Art* Presents Contemporary Artists Exploring Sustainability, Labor, & the Environment in the Fashion World**

Brunswick, ME—January 29, 2020—This month, the Bowdoin College Museum of Art will present *Fast Fashion/Slow Art*, an exhibition exploring critically important—but often invisible or overlooked— aspects of the garment and fashion industries, from waste of materials, to energy usage, to exploitation of labor, as well as the general trend towards a consumer culture of disposability. *Fast Fashion/Slow Art* includes films, videos, installations, and performances by a diverse group of emerging and established contemporary artists and filmmakers whose works and practice encourage scrutiny of today’s garment industry. The exhibition will be supported by a range of different programs, including presentations and workshops by participating artists as well as by curators and scholars. *Fast Fashion/Slow Art* opens January 30 and runs through August 2, 2020.

The exhibition features artists and filmmakers from China, Denmark, Germany, Norway and the U.S., including Julia Brown, Carole Frances Lung (Frau Fiber’s archivist and biographer), Cat Mazza, Senga Nengudi, Martha Rosler, Martin de Thurah, Rosemarie Trockel and Wang Bing. Also presented as part of the exhibition are two news programs that explore issues of clothing production: “Planet Money Makes a T-Shirt,” created by National Public Radio, and “Sweatshop—Deadly Fashion,” commissioned by Aftenposten in Norway. *Fast Fashion* is co-curated by Bibiana Obler, associate professor of art history at George Washington University, and Phyllis Rosenzweig, curator emerita at the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Smithsonian Institution.

“Sustainability, both in terms of labor and the environment, has become a pressing issue with regard to fashion, and we hope this exhibition encourages audiences to think about the clothing they wear and the complexities involved in producing it for them,” said Obler. “This exhibition cannot solve the myriad problems plaguing the textile and clothing industry. But any solutions will come only when there is greater consumer awareness of the issues, and a demand for creativity and imagination in resolving these challenges,” added Rosenzweig.

Among the programs that will take place throughout the run of the exhibition are: an artist talk with Frau Fiber, whose work is included in the show, followed by an afternoon workshop with her; a conversation and Q&A with curators Bibiana Obler and Phyllis Rosenzweig; a talk by Otto von Busch, associate professor of integrated design at Parsons School of Design, about the paradoxes of fashion and the roles of allure and labor in the fashion industry; and an artist workshop with Cat Mazza, supported by members of the *Lattice20* collective, which includes students at the University of Massachusetts, Boston, where she is an associate professor of art. All programs are free and open to the public, but tickets may be required. Visit [the Museum’s Event Site](#) for additional information.

“While the arts have always played a role in both defining fashion and questioning it, rarely has the need to ask tough questions been so clear,” said Anne Collins Goodyear, co-director of the Bowdoin College Museum of Art, which organized the exhibition. “*Fast Fashion/Slow Art* is a necessary concentration of works by artists who shine a light on important questions about labor, sustainability, and handcraft. We

are pleased to have the opportunity to present this exhibition, especially in a part of the country once that once relied so heavily on textile manufacturing, and where generations of families have been affected by changes in this industry.”

The exhibition is accompanied by a fully illustrated catalog, published by Scala Arts Publishers, Inc., with an introduction by the curators and guest essays by scholars Pietra Rivoli, Kirsty Robertson and Thuy Linh Nguyen Tu. *Fast Fashion/Slow Art* premiered in August 2019 at the George Washington University’s Corcoran School of the Arts and Design in Washington, DC.

Bowdoin College Museum of Art

The Bowdoin College Museum of Art is the cornerstone of the arts and culture at Bowdoin. One of the earliest collegiate art collections in the nation, it came into being through the 1811 bequest of James Bowdoin III of 79 European paintings and a portfolio of 140 master drawings. The collection has been expanded through the generosity of the Bowdoin family, alumni and friends, and now numbers more than 20,000 objects, including paintings, sculpture, works on paper, decorative arts and artifacts from prehistory to the present from civilizations around the world. www.bowdoin.edu

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