



4th Annual Riverfest today

Fuseideas keeps cutting edge marketing in Somerville

'Sewn Identity' at the Washington Street Art Center

On September 17, 2011, in Latest News, by The News Staff

By Tiffani M. Morale

Small town girl Danielle Festa, of Melrose, is making a name for herself in Somerville. The UMASS Amherst graduate revealed her *Sewn Identity* art collection on September 9 at the Washington Street Art Center. It was not her first show but it was her largest attended show to date and she could not be happier about the support that she has been receiving.

Her newest collection is an eclectic mix of oil painted portraits with fabric worked throughout in different ways. She is a traditional artist in many of her methods but her use of fabric makes these portraits fresh and unique.

She hopes that her audience asks, "What does fabric really mean to people?" One portrait, named *School Uniform*, has captured the attitude of the average high school girl wearing Uggs and blue jeans. Festa points out that, "The girl in the painting *School Uniform* is someone almost anyone can relate to seeing. There have always been social pressures around attire in schools, the haves and the have-nots, but lately there has been a more obvious distinction. You either have a Northface and Uggs or you do not. In this instance dress is used to conform and to feel accepted by peers." She also says, "I try to capture a variety of different dress, not just the extremes, so I can call attention to the way clothing decides our character before we even speak."

Festa is inspired by the works of Cindy Sherman and can identify with her creative process. Some portraits can take months to complete and do not always make it into her collection. Her favorites do, however, such as the portrait of her grandmother, titled *Nana*, that reveals her skill with weaved ribbon, creating the stunning hat that is the focal point of this piece.

These portraits, as well as the rest of her collection, can be seen during gallery hours on Saturdays in September from 12-4 p.m. On Sunday, September 25 from 4-6 p.m., Festa will be hosting the closing ceremony, which will feature live music from the Steve GutenBand.



Danielle Festa weaves visual magic with her mixed media creations.

READER COMMENTS

Robber caught with his pants down (1)

Joseph Keller: ...But why were his pants down? ...

It's 'What the Fluff?' time again in Somerville (3)

Joseph Keller: "Sommerville" is a nice town, no doubt.

The business of liquor licensing (6)

Joseph Keller: Lady J, obviously you have no idea what "manic" means! But that's OK, being ignorant...

Lady J: The Mayor has implemented so many fee's that it has made it difficult for businesses to do thrive in...

The Blueback Herring River Route (7)

Wig Zamore: It would also be nice to have a pedestrian gate on the McGrath side of Foss Park with a signalled cross...

BEST OF SOMERVILLE



FEATURES AT A GLANCE

- 'Villens on the Town
- Beacon Hill Roll Call
- Cable Connection
- Fine Local Dining

If this article was of interest please consider sharing it.



Ms. Cam's Olio

SCAT TV Log

2 Responses to "'Sewn Identity' at the Washington Street Art Center"

Joseph Keller says:

September 18, 2011 at 3:53 am

Aha! It's a hat! For some reason, I kept thinking it was a gigantic red phagocyte. 😊

Rick Festa says:

September 18, 2011 at 5:31 pm

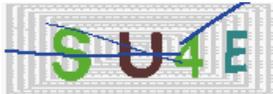
Absolutely amazing work! Incredible detail and truly unique.

✍ Leave a Reply

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Mail (will not be published) (required)

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CAPTCHA Code *

TODAY'S POLL

Do you feel the casino bill will hurt Massachusetts in more ways than it will help it?

Yes

No

[View Results](#)

LOCAL WEATHER

Saturday, Sep 24

Cloudy

Currently: 79° F

Feels Like: 82° F

Hi: 78°, Lo: 67°

Wind: 9, Gust: N/A MPH

Wind Direction: WSW (250)



Tonight: 67°

Sunset: 6:39 PM

Moon Phase: Waning Crescent



weather feed courtesy of [weather.com](#) - thanks!

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