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**ARTIST MARILYN STEVENS FUSES GENERATIONS OF WOMEN AND THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH FASHION IN HER LATEST WORK “IF WHAT YOU WEAR SAYS WHAT YOU CAN’T”.**

Minneapolis, MN September 5, 2008 – Mixed media artist, [Marilyn Stevens](#) found inspiration for her current work “[If What You Wear Says What You Can’t](#)” at a Manhattan dress shop displaying folded men’s dress shirts. Currently on display at Gunkelman Flesher Interior Design in New York, Stevens’s new work reflects dressmaker craftsmanship and artistry while exploring the complex relationship we have with clothes and fashion. In collaboration with poet Zac Stafford, the two seamlessly merge their creative medium to engage discussion, pose questions and surprise the viewer through a multitude of layers, stories and life reflections.

Steven’s work has been described as elegant, intelligent and thought provoking. Using traditional handwork techniques, Stevens combines imagery, text, handmade paper and textiles in unconventional ways. At first glance, one sees re-appropriation and re-use of pattern paper and dress forms. But further exploration reveals complexity, hidden messages and a space for the viewer to draw their own conclusions. The stitch, often used in many of Stevens’s pieces is a connection to previous generations. Rather than a pragmatic practice, the stitch is an intentional mark, a means of expression.

A resident of Minneapolis, Stevens balances her life between art and a career in the home furnishings industry. Stevens art ambition started later in life after feeling a creative void for authenticity and personal expression. Stevens has spent many years nurturing her craft to become an accomplished artist with recent exhibitions at the Phipps in Hudson, Wisconsin and the Museum of American Art in St Paul, Minnesota. Commission work includes Gunkelman Flesher in New York and Minneapolis and Forum Communications in Fargo, North Dakota.

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