

Not for wearing: Fashion as Sculpture.

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By making its envelopes/disguises/clothes into matters of artistic exploration, the body - in a strange way - is reintroduced into the world of art. Interest in this thematics has constantly grown over the last years - thanks both to body-discourse and to the fascination with envelopes/disguises/clothes. Both aspects coincide in the problem of "Fashion", and in the transformation of fashion into art and vice versa.

Barbara Graf. "Anatomical Clothes": To distinguish between the abstract covering of the body and its concrete clothes means to confer upon the solemn, dignified garment a mediating position between the two. "Anatomical Clothes" by Barbara Graf participates in both discourses: they claim our attention as autonomous objects which can be displayed fully spread out and hung on a wall, but they can also be folded and tied up as transportable packages. "Anatomical Clothes", in their material structuring and ordering, refers explicitly to the inner layering of the living body. But the way they are made also reveals the living body turned into a remote and distant object. It is this double conception of the body as 'living' and as object which creates the possibility for viewing "Anatomical Clothes" as autonomous and sui generis. They are not "fashion as sculpture"; rather they are part of the system of art. It is as art objects that they are able to generate experiences, perceptions, intuitions of psychic realities - which may be terrifying or solemn - and thus to open a view on other worlds associated with the body, for instance that of "Fashion".