Artist Statement

These works are an ongoing exploration of the dualistic nature of clothing and materiality as a form of symbolic communication about the body and emotional states of being. Inspired by the cultural context of fashion, as well as the natural world, this series examines psychological notions of entrapment and oppression through ornamentation and material. References to weight abound, both physical and emotional.

The relationship between structure, form, surface and process further convey concepts of duality. Materials are selected for their aesthetic quality and formal properties, as well as their communicative power. An undertone of trepidation is often expressed through the materials and process. I frequently use recycled metal and wire to make my forms. Structurally, metal and wire have the ability to hold form, yet remain malleable. Conceptually, these materials relate to armor and opulence, and have a memory that defines a mass that once occupied the form. Laborious fiber techniques such as stitching, wrapping, felting, and weaving allow the work to slowly evolve, creating an intimate and meaningful relationship. As I surrender myself to the meditative power of repetitive process, artist and object coexist in a liminal state that greatly informs the content of the work.

These literal and abstracted representations of ethereal garments examine how dress and adornment define social structure, ritual, and identity. Removal of the body calls attention to the artifice of clothing and demands that we also examine what is not physically represented. Absence and presence are equally significant.

Cathryn Mallory is currently a Professor and Director of the Gallery of Visual Arts for the School of Art at the University of Montana-Missoula. Originally from the Chicago area, she received her BFA in fiber from Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, and MFA in sculpture from the University of Oklahoma in Norman. She has served as a juror for numerous exhibitions for various museums and universities including Boise State University, Boise, ID; Yellowstone Art Museum, Billings, MT; Montana State University, Bozeman and Billings, MT; University of Montana, Dillon, MT; Nicolaysen Art Museum, Casper, WY; and Ball State University, Muncie, IN.

Her work has been exhibited in numerous exhibitions on a regional and national level, and is featured in the permanent collections of several major museums in Montana. Solo exhibitions of Mallory’s work have recently been featured at the Missoula Art Museum, Missoula, MT; Holter Museum of Art, Helena, MT; and the Dahl Arts Center and Apex Gallery, Rapid City, SD.
Hoist
2007, woven copper wire, wood pulley chain,
(height measurement is to top of pulley)
$5000.00

Deep Sleep
2004, aluminum screen mesh, copper wire, lead
weights, fishing net, rocks, rope,
$4500.00

Ascend
2011, hand felted wool, nickel plated copper
wire, wood block, chain
$5000.00

Rectitude with Ruff
2005, pleated sheet copper, screws woven copper
and crocheted aluminum wire
$2500.00

Collar Series: Tier
2005, crocheted copper wire, lead weights, patina
$2200.00

Collar Series: Cedar
2007-10, crocheted and wrapped copper wire
with patina
$2200.00

Collar Series: Burden
2007, wrapped and woven copper wire
$1200.00

Collar Series: Cellular Coil
2006, woven copper wire and found bed springs
$1000.00

Collar Series: Little One
2006, dog hair and copper wire
NFS

Collar Series: Analemma
2007, found braided brass wire and woven
copper wire
$1500.00

Collar Series: Oval
2006, crocheted copper wire
$400.00

Collar Series: Rival Sister
2010, steel wool, screen mesh, lead weights, woven
copper wire
$1500.00

Tendril
2009-2011, woven copper and annealed black wire
$2500.00

Embrace
2011, industrial knit copper gauze and hand woven
copper wire
$350/ each piece

Swell of Sorrow
2011, bird netting, cable, copper wire, thread
$3000.00

Shield for Artemis
2013, hand felted wool and woven copper wire
$3800.00

Cascade
2015, braided and woven silk, rayon, and polyester
blend fabric, found objects
$4000.00