

Artist: Donna Sgro

Exhibition: Cut Fold Shape

### Information from Donna Sgro

*In this series of works, a method of transformational cutting is achieved through my interaction with the material properties of the textile. A garment is fashioned through cutting, with the outcome best understood as an evolution, or growth of form. Cutting works in combination with stitching; each cut creates a new possibility for stitching, which enables the form of the garment to evolve. This method therefore involves an element of chance to be incorporated into the garment making. Through play, a sense of curiosity and discovery, unfamiliar shapes can be developed to express a final unique and individual form.*

*Working to create dynamic movement in the garment making process, these selections enable a range of visual patterns which I cut in response to, to progress shape making in the garment. Through manipulating the fabric with my hands, I can playfully work with its material properties, how it feels, falls and stands, when working to create shapes.*

*At various times I manipulate the fabric construction on the mannequin stand, to assess how it looks, how it falls with gravity, and how shapes suggest different garment identifications. Is it a dress, or a skirt, or a top, I do not try to identify this too soon. I can turn it upside down, back to front, attach it to the shoulders or waist, or turn it inside out. This process of making garments takes time; time to reflect and time to assess how I feel about the volume, what it suggests to me it can become. It is still multiple and possible. In this way I encourage the garment to grow; not only in physical form, but with the assistance of my eyes and hands, it can grow in my mind.*



*Trans Cut*, mixed textile; hand-woven ikat, hand-stitched silk organza

### Studying

Locate your local fabric store. Make a visit to become familiar with the range of materials available. Gather samples and present your findings, listing the unique qualities of each textile.

### Making

You will need some lengths of different fabrics.

Manipulate different textiles by hand to see how they fall and stand. Experiment, using pins and clips, to create dynamic sculptural forms. Capture the outcomes with photographs or drawings.