

Artist's Statement - Sharon Kilfoy  
2005 Group Show Overture Center  
*"Layered Intentions"*

I work in many different media - painting, fabric, collage, and assemblage - always in layers. Here are some of the layers I've intended in the work you see here. This is the dialogue happening within me and maybe with you:

- On the deepest level, I want to evoke a human presence. When you see these gloves, these slippers, and the other articles of clothing, do you think about the people who used them? I believe that articles of clothing have an essence of the person, almost like a scent, that lingers. Maybe that's why used or "vintage" clothing is so comforting.
- The next level involves the personal significance of items. Do you wonder if my children and I used most of these items? I can assure you, I save everything. It might come in handy. Does it bother you that I have combined eras? That I mix modern stuff with old stuff? I'm OK with it.
- There is a political layer here. These are items generally made by women, often in sweat shops. Sewn stuff is "women's work" but IS IT ART? Do these items deserve to be hung on the wall, framed?
- Then comes COLOR. I can't escape it. It's how I see the world - so I just accept my own formality. Lately I was called "a great colorist"- that makes me feel redeemed.
- The next layer, of course, is TEXTURE. Now we're talking fun. My greatest pleasure is in this layer. Does it show?
- The final layer is composition. Does this work on a whole? Is there a sense of rhythm? Is there too much symmetry, enough movement, what kind of balance, any degree of freedom? Is it interesting? Only to me?
- Does it matter? OOPS! We've returned to the first layer. Does the work say anything about the human condition?

Thanks for your attention and for exploring these layers with me.