

INFLATABLE: ART, ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN

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INTRODUCTION

ANA REWAKOWICZ SLEEPINGBAGDRESS PROTOTYPE

SleepingBagDress prototype consists of a multipurpose kimono-dress that when inflated changes into a cylindrical container inhabitable by one or two people and was inspired by the legacy of Archigram, a British architectural group from the 1960's that investigated the relationship between cities and new technologies, regarding fun, play, and pleasure as their projects' rationale. Expanding on Archigram's concept of 'clothing for living in', my own project evolves around the idea of clothing as portable architecture in 'you never know WEAR?' situations. The SleepingBagDress prototype operates on a small computer fan powered by NiMH batteries that are charged by a solar panel incorporated into the dress itself and looks at the portability and self-sustainability of a wearable cell, comfortable as both, a dress and a temporary shelter. It was used in walking performances in Mexico City, Toulouse, Brussels and, as part of the 2004 International Symposium of Electronic Art (ISEA), in Tallinn. The video documentation from these performances is projected onto a large-scale inflatable replica, which viewers are able to enter.

Design: Ana Rewakowicz Photographs: Ana Rewakowicz, Eduardo Flores, Maja Kuzmanovic, Guy L'Heureux











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ANA REWAKOWICZ ONIBLOW OUTFITS

The Uniblow Outfits (2001) are made from double layer rubber latex and shoe-pumps (an adaptation of air foot pumps used for inflatable mattresses), in which people are invited to try on and walk around in order to inflate themselves. The more they inflate, the less they can walk as the interior layer of latex and air pressure stiffen their bodies inside. Displayed in a set-up resembling a boutique, the Uniblow and advertisement, namely desire and fantasy projections to analyze how they influence our understanding of the body and the ideas of comfort and discomfort.

Photographs: Guy l'Heureux, Ana Rewakowicz













ANA REWAKOWICZ COMBREATION BUBBLE

Canadian/Polish artist/designer and researcher Ana Rewakowicz explores questions of identity as expressed through clothing and habitation. In contrast to the stable mass of monumental sculpture and architecture, her costumes and structures are air-filled, mobile, and concerned with the places and people that activate them. The Conversation Bubble (2006-2008) is an inflatable structure for five people who breathe the same air in the common space of the bubble. While their heads are free to move, the rest of their bodies are squeezed between two layers of vinyl. No one is able to leave on his/ her own accord and the duration of the performance depends on the five people's agreement to end it. The piece refers to different, sometimes absurd ideas of "agreement" and how our desires for "sameness" can create intolerance.

Design: Ana Rewakowicz Photographs: Ra di Martino,

www.stiftelsen314.com, Ana Rewakowicz















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TRAUBLING WITH MY INFLATABLE ROOM

The Travelling with my inflatable room video (2005) is based on a performance the artist did over a period of one month, when she travelled in a van with an inflatable room (a latex imprint of a room from her Montreal apartment made in 2001) and camped in it at different urban and rural locations across Canada. The piece explores the ideas of 'home' and 'nomadism', and concludes that home, being portable, is available everywhere.

Design: Ana Rewakowicz **Photographs:** Ana Rewakowicz and Paul Litherland



















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