

# bettina hubby

AARON ROSE TEXT/IMAGE

## Tell me a little about your background.

Army brat. Settled in Savannah, GA for the bulk of childhood/young adulthood. Mom: Radiography with a chemistry, biology and physics background. Dad: Doctor specializing in AIDS. Sister: Now an Immunologist. Puzzles me too. I began the creativity thing in high school and was encouraged to do so. College was where I thought about pursuing art as a career. The two professors I studied under at the College of Charleston convinced my parents I wasn't crazy and that it was art that I was doing and should be doing. They inspired me by their humorous banter and energy in their work. They strongly suggested I apply to graduate school in New York, and I did, and was accepted at the School of Visual Arts. It was a culture shock to say the least—all of a sudden I was surrounded by the people I had been reading about in art magazines. I was bombarded by stimuli and was hungry for it, having shows, curating, working all the art jobs I could get myself into and having a rich experience.

## What first inspired you to make clothing?

In the South I did sculptures using burlap and loads of knotted ropes and wires (very spooky in retrospect) that kind of resembled tar babies, hence the parental worry. In Grad School these things became more and more joyous and colorful, less obsessive and more installation oriented, using forms, compositions and color to adorn architecture and space. In Los Angeles I've opened up further and migrated off of the wall to adorn the body. Through making things for myself to wear and receiving such enthusiastic encouragement and feedback, I shifted my energies into the making of wearable works.

## What do you like most about living in Los Angeles?

I love the endless possibilities for discovery. Also, I am more challenged here to work towards being a more well-rounded gal. In New York the distractions were endless which forced an outward focus, not inward. Most importantly though, the mood of living anywhere is enhanced by the people in my life, and now that I am beginning to form a strong community, my love for LA is growing. I feel lucky to be meeting and collaborating with people who are excited and passionate about what they do.

## What do you like least?

The city can be lonely and hard to penetrate socially.

## Could you ever see LA becoming a center for fashion?

LA has been a potent fashion-inspired landscape for me, so in that personal way I consider it a center. As far as a world view, LA is not in the top few rungs, but as it is one of the most desirable big cities to live I think it will always have a strong fashion-minded population and be a competitive center.

## What inspires you right now?

Other inspired people.



## What are you currently working on?

Ponchos, scarves (always), dresses with ripped up flower adornments, patches, messing with pinstripes and improving.

## Do you think there is a difference between art and fashion?

Yes, for me there is a difference but there are crossovers and intersections. My work crosses back and forth over and between the lines. There are art moments in my fashion work but it is merged with the wearability of the pieces or the insinuation of wearability. At the moment I am driven to make work people can wear and enliven. Photographers I've been looking at like Mark Borthwick, Terry Richardson, Mario Sorrenti and Wolfgang Tillmans, have given me fresh sight into how fashion can be visually and artfully invigorated.

## Where do you see yourself in five years?

Making a living doing what it is I love to do with good people in my life. I

BETTINA CAN BE CONTACTED AT BETTINAHUBBY@HOTMAIL.COM