

# Don't just hang it, adorn yourself in beautiful art

By Ben Bulmer

If the beautiful painting hanging on your wall only gets admired when you have visitors, Galerie Old Chelsea has an event that will encourage you to show off your artistic purchases on a day-to-day basis.

The Fashion Show of Wearable Art is, as the name suggests, an event showcasing Chelsea artists' work, all of which can adorn your person.

"This event illustrates the belief that art is not just something that you hang on the wall," said gallery associate Sylvie Grenier, "but can be enjoyed all the time in many ways."



Above: Jewellery from Chelsea artist Nancy Sutton and wearable art from Diane Lemire (right) are all part of Galerie Old Chelsea's Fashion Show of Wearable Art being held May 1 at 2 p.m. The event is part of several special events celebrating the gallery's 25th year.

Photos courtesy Sylvie Grenier



The event is just one of Galerie Old Chelsea's quarter-century celebrations – several special events are being held throughout the year in honour of the gallery's 25 years in business.

The fashion show features work by four Chelsea artists: Donna Troop, Diane Lemire, Jean-Pierre Doyon, and Nancy Sutton. Fashions are created in

everything from silk to wool to felt, transformed into contemporary, wearable art in the form of jackets, skirts, and tunics to wraps, scarves, and hats. These wearables will be enhanced by leather shoes and bags created by veteran craftsman Jean-Pierre Doyon, and Nancy Sutton's jewellery, which highlights semi-precious stones.

Grenier says Donna Troop's work with silk, wool, and felt often involves combining the fabrics with recycled clothing and integrating objects such as glass and bone into the creations. She

hopes the show will be a platform to display locally made work that is a far cry from mass-produced fashion. Grenier says there's something special about owning unique pieces. "I bought a scarf from [Diane Lemire] and everybody stops me every time I wear it," she said.

"Most shops are all the same," said Grenier. "Often the clothes are made in some place with cheap labour [but] in this case the [pieces] are made here."

Grenier says while some of the designs will be pretty "wild," everything on offer is designed to be worn.

An exceptional piece can be made noticeable by pairing it with something simple. "It really shows off the art that you're wearing," said Grenier. "If you have an incredible scarf... [it] makes the whole outfit."

Grenier says both men and women who are interested in fashion want articles of clothing or jewellery that stand out and are noticed; the work by the four artists does just that.

"You know if you go to some place you're not going to meet someone who's wearing the same thing."

The Galerie Old Chelsea Fashion Show of Wearable Art is being held on May 1 at 2 p.m. The gallery is located above Les Fougères restaurant, 783 Hwy 105, Chelsea. For more information: [www.galerieoldchelsea.ca](http://www.galerieoldchelsea.ca).