



BARBARA SULLIVAN

Chifforobe

July 1 - July 31st, 2022
Opening Reception First Friday
July 1, 5-7 PM

CALDBECK GALLERY

12 Elm Street Rockland Maine 04841 207 594 5935
new email: info@caldbeck.com • www.caldbeck.com

CHIFFOROBE 2022
shaped fresco 47 x 31 1/2 x 4 inches



SUNRISE COAT 2022
shaped fresco 33 x 21 x 3 inches

CHIFFOROBE

The title came about from my re-reading *To Kill a Mockingbird* during the pandemic. In the book, the word chifforobe kept coming up - it is used well over ten times! Growing up in Maine, we had a chifforobe in my brother's room in our farmhouse, a holdover from earlier times, when houses had no closets. People hung their clothes in a wardrobe, or a chifforobe. The fresco work in this show refers to clothing which could be stored in a chifforobe. I love the sound of the word, as it carries the memory of my mother's voice saying, "Chifforobe".

The seeds of this body of work began in 2018, when I did a three-week residency in Ireland at The Tyrone Guthrie Center in County Monaghan. There, I made a series of tiny, shaped fresco shirts, whose texture reflected the tradition of Irish linens, assimilating me into the lush Irish culture known for that iconic cloth. I continued to investigate this work. In 2021, during my residency at the Ellis Beaugard Foundation in Rockland, Maine, I began creating what soon became a group of over 100 tiny fresco shirts. Last year, these were exhibited at the Ticonic Gallery, in Waterville, ME. (a space that had formerly been the C.F. Hathaway Shirt Factory). The work further evolved into life sized clothing, while I was a fellow at the The Surf Point Foundation in York, Maine, in February 2022. The Chifforobe piece seemed inevitable, as I had an entire wardrobe of clothing that needed a conceptual place to live.

Making frescoes about objects that are usually put together and sewn by the human hand has made me realize how much sewing has informed my artwork. The complicated sequential steps and techniques, that are part of garment making, have taught me more about building bas-relief sculptural work than just about anything else. Constructing clothing from flat cloth into something that fits over the three-dimensional body becomes the perfect teacher of spatial relationships. As always, our approach to art making comes from what we already know.

Barbara Sullivan
June 2022



MIXED FOREST JACKET 2022
shaped fresco 35 x 19 1/2 x 3 inches



IRISH PLAID 2022
shaped fresco 27 x 24 x 3 inches



GINGKO 2022
shaped fresco 26 1/2 x 25 x 3 inches



MILDRED 2021
shaped fresco
5 1/4 x 4 1/4 x 1 inches

DOTS 2021
shaped fresco
4 3/4 x 5 1/4 x 3/4 inches

TURQUOISE AND YELLOW 2021
shaped fresco
5 1/2 x 5 x 1 inches

CANDY STRIPES 2021
shaped fresco
4 x 4 1/2 x 3/4 inches



GRASSY COAT 2022
fresco 35 x 19 1/2 x 3 inches