

The New York Times

New Jersey

Sunday, September 19, 2004

Wear and Tell

What kind of clothes makes someone feel powerful? Wing tips, ties or a blazer might, if you are a man. What about women? Tiffany Ludwig, a Jersey City artist, and her collaborator, Renee Piechocki of Pittsburgh, posed that question to 260 women around the country, most recently in Jersey City, and videotaped them. The women wore their choices, which have included pants suits, kente cloth, negligees and boxing gear. The videotapes, along with some photos, will go on view at the Jersey City Museum Sept. 30 in an exhibit called "Trappings." The artists are taking reservations now for anyone else who wants to share their wardrobe war stories at the museum.

Among the Jersey City women who have already taken part are some members of the Grace Church Van Vorst senior program who took up belly dancing and who gave interviews in their harem attire. High school students from the Academy of St. Aloysius chose to wear anything but their school uniforms. Ms. Ludwig says the project is about "getting engaged with art" rather than fashion or power. Women who want to participate are invited to contact the artists through their Web site: www.two-girlsworking.com. The show continues through Jan. 9. (201) 413-0303.