

## ***Feather Dress, Linen, with Cal Pockets.***

### **Artist Statement: Alexis Eynon**

When I was very young my mother taught me how to use a sewing machine. I learned on her old Singer machine, and eventually got a secondhand machine of my own. As a true creative free spirit, though, I had an acute aversion to THE PATTERN. I always wanted to make my own design for whatever the project was, oftentimes figuring it out with lots of wasted thread and ripped seams, but I loved the process of creation anyway, no matter how frustrating.

My background as an artist is in ceramics. I have very early, fond memories of playing with clay at the Wayne Art Center in Pennsylvania. I later went on to study ceramics and wheel throwing in college, and then printmaking and bookbinding post-secondary education. It is no surprise to me then that my interest in three dimensional artforms continues to be a throughline in my creative endeavors. This past fall I was able to delve deeper into the realm of fiber arts and construction when I took a sewing workshop at Harrisville Designs in Harrisville, NH. There under the instruction of Cal Patch I was able to create my own pattern from my own body to make clothing. As my kindergarteners learn to do, my fine motor skills were put to the test folding, turning, pinning, adjusting fabric. Just as we do when learning how to draw, I was able to learn how to use reference points on my own body to measure and draft a pattern. From there, I've altered and combined various parts of patterns that I've come up with to make the piece in this exhibit.

Making *Feather Dress* incorporated creating a pattern of the silhouette of a beloved dress of mine, then deconstructing the design to figure out how to add horizontal bust darts (something I had not learned in the workshop) and vertical darts in the back. Once the pattern was drafted I made a muslin mock-up to make sure the proportions worked. Finally I added the signature pockets my instructor designed to the front of the garment using contrasting fabric. I love these pockets because they allow for a lot of creative expression while adding a

functional element to the garment. This process of creative problem solving, for me, is the ultimate product of my labor; the garment, really, is secondary.