

ABSTRACT

Now You See Me....

Part 2 "A Mannequin Is Converted"

Presenter:

Brett Angell, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Boston, Massachusetts, USA

This talk will discuss the extensive mannequin modifications that were made last year for the Ndebele exhibition at the MFA-Boston. I will briefly walk through the process for two distinct examples of mannequin modifications as well as the included custom made accessories.

One modification process I would like to discuss involves the techniques and tools used to alter the stock mannequin form to complement the specific textile garments. The second modification process involved devising a solution to display brass anklets (which I also fabricated) on the mannequin form. The end result being an adjustable movement of the leg of the mannequin form.

As is the case with most institutions time and money are of the utmost importance. So these designs were constructed so that pieces can be mixed and matched as well as be fully adjustable for future use in a different capacity. Also common is the relationship and planning of the design in very close conjunction with the textile conservator making sure all the garment's needs are being met.



BIO



Brett Angell, Senior Exhibitions Preparator for Objects at the MFA-Boston has previously worked at the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis and the Madison Museum of Contemporary Art in Wisconsin. He is also a practicing artist whose artwork is represented locally by Gallery Kayafas and is in the collections of the Chazen Museum of Art, Springfield Art Museum and the Sioux City Art Center.

Brett learned metal work and mount making while on the job at the MFA. A position was created as an assistant mount maker and after a few years Brett moved into the lead mount maker role for small objects.

The MFA travels many exhibitions throughout the world and Brett often travels both as a courier and as an installer. He has traveled extensively in the US as well as the Netherlands, Paris, and Japan. Brett has been to Japan approximately 23 times now for various traveling exhibitions.