

The New York Blade

THE ARTS | class

Butch paper clothing, an LGBT homeless shelter, deconstructed closets and much more.

By RAFAEL RISEMBERG

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With one noted exception, all of the artists whose exhibits are described below are gay or lesbian.

Phranc

Self-proclaimed “All American Jewish Lesbian Folksinger” Phranc doubles as a visual artist in this clever exhibit that was curated by actress Ann Magnuson. The gallery appears to be a clothing store, except that the merchandise is made mostly of craft paper, constructed using her grandmother’s Singer sewing machine. The artist subverts the functionality of dress, leaving behind only the clothing’s aesthetics, and in so doing provokes contemplation of gender identity. Particularly amusing and revealing are her black “leather” jacket, Scottish kilt, butch briefs and boxers, and her trademark “Bulldagger” tampons. Apparently you are what you wear. *Tues.–Sat., 10 a.m.–6 p.m., until Jan. 26, CUE Art Foundation: 511 W. 25th St., cueartfoundation.org, 212-206-3583.*