

Knock Off Enterprises

an *At the Edge: Innovative Art in Chicago* project

May 5-May 22, 2008

KO Enterprises:
A private label garment production and retail facility.

KO Enterprises makes manifest the human cost in the mass production and consumption of the apparel industry by presenting the labor of pattern making, cutting, and sewing garments. Chicago once had a thriving garment industry, now lost. In 1925, during its heyday, it was located principally in three concentrations. The main garment district was on South Market Street (the site of South Wacker Drive) between Monroe and Van Buren Streets. Secondary concentrations were found on the Near West Side, both southwest of downtown and around Milwaukee Avenue between Chicago and North Avenues. Frau Fiber, activist and textile worker, will mimic the physical expenditure of apparel production, reconstructing in two of Chicago's former garment manufacturing neighborhoods a present day white shirt and business suit originally produced offshore.

KO Enterprises is a multi-national organization for the efforts to stop shopping and start sewing! Micro projects include: Sewing Rebellion, KO Manufacturing and the Synchronized Sewing Squad. Frau Fiber CEO.

Location 1: white shirt disassembly manufacturing

UE Western Regional Council

37 South Ashland Avenue

Wednesday, May 7

Monday, May 12

Wednesday, May 14

Hours: 10:30 am – 6:00 pm

Location 2: suit pants & jacket disassembly manufacturing

1315 North Western Avenue

Monday, May 5 – Tuesday, May 6

Friday, May 9 – Saturday, May 10

Tuesday, May 13

Friday, May 16 – Saturday, May 17

Monday, May 19 – Thursday, May 22

Hours: 8 am – 8 pm

Manufacturers Sample Sale

Thursday, May 22, 7 - 9 pm

Hours: 7 – 9 pm

The white-collar uniforms will be for sale priced on a geographical sliding scale (hours worked to make the reconstructed garment multiplied by the wage scale in the original garment's country of manufacture—China, Guatemala, Taiwan—equals cost of the uniform).

Gallery 400's *At the Edge: Innovative Art in Chicago* series annually commissions four new projects from Chicago area artists, designers and architects. *At the Edge* aims to support experimental projects that might not find support elsewhere.

KO Enterprises, as part of Gallery 400's programming, is supported by The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, the College of Architecture and the Arts, University of Illinois at Chicago and a grant from the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency.

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