

Clothing Inside : Addressing American Prisons

EXHIBITION OPENING, SEPTEMBER 1, 2022



CLOTHING INSIDE

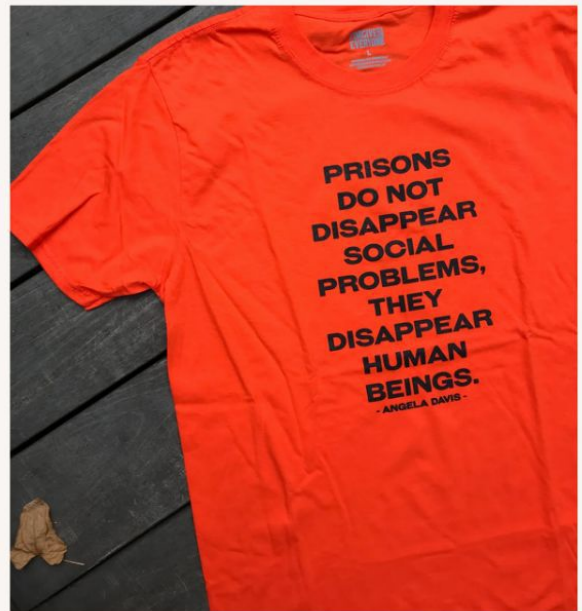
clothinginside.substack.com

about the exhibit

Clothing Inside: Addressing American Prisons will be available to view September 1st, 2022 - October 1st, 2022 at the Arnold and Sheila Aronson Gallery within Parsons, the New School. The exhibit centralizes the human experience behind bars by expressing the material conditions of incarceration. It serves as a critique to the ways that fashion functions as an oppressive force within carceral landscapes, while also highlighting fashion's unique and ongoing impressive engagement with work that opposes carceral regimes. This show is the culmination of research by Parsons MA Fashion Studies graduates Tzuni Lopez and Rashida Ricketts as well as Bard Prison Initiative graduate, Jonathan Alvarez.

our mission

In a concerted effort to showcase a hidden dimension of American life, we've staged a show that makes accessible a range of clothing objects used within carceral structures: items mandated by the state with which one adorns the body, clothing items that offer opportunity for self-expression, and finally, items used by those who use dress to protest conditions of confinement.



For Everyone Collective - Free Angela Tee. Displaying in the gallery this September.

the vision

The exhibition is designed to force the viewer to reconsider their body in relation to these objects, to catapult a newfound engagement with one's sense of self while moving through a space of limitation and hyper-surveillance. We believe that clothing is a connective tissue — a means by which one can empathetically understand another's lived experience — and we hope that this exhibition will challenge a viewer's preconceptions about incarceration. Our hope is that viewers not only put themselves in the shoes of those living on the inside, but that the stories within *Clothing Inside: Addressing American Prisons* influences the viewer to become part of envisioning a new world — beyond prisons.

meet the team



JONATHAN ALVAREZ

Curator, Co-Founder and CEO of
914United

A dedicated change agent, Alvarez is a Youth Development and Juvenile Justice Reform Advocate in Westchester County, NY. After serving a 13-year prison term, he returned home in 2018 motivated to help the same community he once negatively impacted. Driven to deter criminally-involved adolescents from a destructive path, in 2020 he co-founded a program-based mentorship non-for-profit organization called 914United Inc. He was also appointed to the Youth Offender Program at the Westchester County Department of Corrections. Alvarez has been invited as a panelist in Portland, Oregon on behalf of his work and continues to be a voice for criminal justice reform - speaking from lived experiences and as a practitioner in the field.



TZUNI LOPEZ

Curator and Lecturer at
Parsons School of Design

Tzuni Lopez is a fashion researcher, lecturer, and independent curator currently living in Brooklyn, New York. Her work centers on the methods whereby fashion engages with everyday performance, and the manner in which that engagement affects conceptions of "normative" bodies and identities. She is one of the curators behind *Clothing Inside: Addressing American Prisons* and one of the editors of the newsletter *Clothing Inside*. Tzuni received her BA in Rhetorical Studies from Chapman University in 2016, and received her MA in Fashion Studies from Parsons, the New School, in 2021. When she's not curating, she can be found teaching classes in the history and theory of fashion and visual cultures at Parsons, the New School.



RASHIDA RICKETTS

Curator & Podcast Host and Producer of
Graves to Gardens Podcast

With years of being part of the fashion industry as both a researcher and a communications professional, Rashida has since merged fashion with her call to activism with the start of her podcast. She uses her platform to celebrate and share the stories of those that are engaging art - with a greater emphasis on fashion - to address incarceration and other related issues. Her passion for this work began with volunteering as a tutor in a prison for 3 years. From being connected first-hand, she immediately began figuring out ways to marry her interests in film/media and fashion to the issues plaguing people behind bars. Along with her podcast, she is one of the curators for *Clothing Inside: Addressing American Prison* as well as one of the editors for the newsletter *Clothing Inside*.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT US AT:

REFASHIONINGCARCERALITY@GMAIL.COM