

Town Council names Greensboro artist "Artist-in- Residence"

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"Leftovers" by Jody Servon is a site-specific work created from latex paint that was previously used for home improvement projects by students, faculty and staff at Cleveland State Community College. Twenty-three different colors covering the walls of this public thoroughfare on campus originated from private residential spaces such as bedrooms, kitchens, bathrooms, home offices, living rooms and more. Servon is Clayton's first Artist-in-Residence

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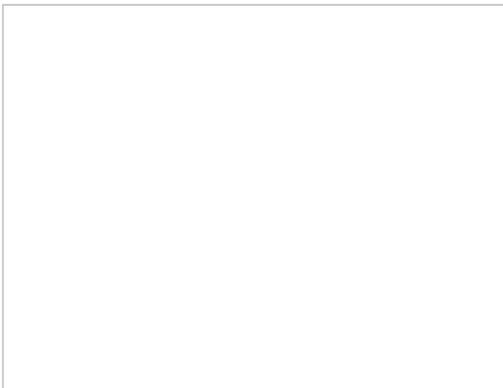
BY HOLLY LOCK - CORRESPONDENT

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CLAYTON -- Clayton's Town Council has named Greensboro artist Jody Servon as its first "Artist-in- Residence." The position begins in mid-January and will end with a final proposal for increasing art in public spaces in Clayton in mid-April.

Servon is an associate professor at Appalachian State University and the curator of the Catherine J. Smith Gallery. She is taking a sabbatical to focus on the Clayton position.

The Public Art Advisory Board (PAAB) envisions the residency as twofold in its goals, said Suzette Rodriguez, Chairperson of the Board.



The position is designed as a way to educate town leaders on how to incorporate public art into different areas of the town like public parks, buildings and streetscapes. In that vein, "Servon will also put processes into place that can be used by different town leaders as they recognize arts opportunities," Rodriguez said.

Secondly, Servon, "is charged with engaging with the community to learn what is important in Clayton and to Clayton residents," Rodriguez continued. She will take the information and devise a site specific plan of action which will be presented to the Town Council for approval.

"I see the position as having a strong research focus," Servon said. "I'm interested in tapping into community members' ideas and desires to form a workable plan for a thriving arts program."

The idea for the residency came out of a joint work session between members of the Town Council and the PAAB in January of 2010. The council appropriated \$15,000 for the residency in this year's budget.

The PAAB put out a request for qualifications to the North Carolina Arts Council. They had four respondents. Three of the four met the minimum requirement for the position which was having a public art experience background.

The three were interviewed in December. "While we liked many of the things we saw in the candidates, Jody had all the things we were looking for: artistic merit, a proven track record and a sense of how to guide us in setting a foundation for our program," Rodriguez said. "Jody has worked with the public before and likes community participation."

Servon has more than 20 years experience as an artist. Her personal projects include installations, drawings, photographs, sculptures, and video. Her work has appeared in exhibitions, screenings and as public projects in the US, Canada and China. Servon has a master's degree in fine art from the University of Arizona and a bachelor's degree in visual art from Rutgers University in New Jersey.

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