

**Category of Submission: Art**

Title: *Corporate Climbers*

Dimensions: 24" w x 48" d x 144" h

Medium: Fabric, Wire

For the past few years I have been working on a series of life-sized sculptures focusing on tables, chairs, beds, dressers, and other furniture as a vehicle for expression. They are constructed with a wire structure which is braze welded using a gas torch and then painted. The fabric is stretched around the wire armature and then is cut and hand-stitched. The wire structure and translucent white fabric gives them a ghost-like presence and a purity that forces you to investigate the action the furniture is involved in. These anthropomorphic pieces of furniture are caught in the act of fighting, dancing, dining, love-making, and dreaming. The chairs allude to the human actions without the presence of the human figures. Within this idea is the relationship that takes place during meals, while in bed, or on the dance floor and what that says about us. For instance the ladder-back chairs in *Corporate Climbers* are placed back-to-back and if you imagine yourself seated in the chair symbolizes personal struggle. But if you imagine yourself climbing the ladder you would be facing the other person which symbolizes the race in an endless competition to the top. I imagine the climbers to be moving up the ladder but at the same time trying to cause the other climber to fall or trying to stab them in the back on the way up, slipping or dangling from the rungs in the process. As they get closer to the top the ladders sway back and forth making the climb more precarious.