

# THE COLUMBUS MUSEUM

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## ***Dawn Black Conceal Project Exhibition Open***



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**Columbus, GA-** The *Dawn Black Conceal Project* exhibition will be on display through February 24, 2013 in the Yarbrough Gallery. Dawn Black's *Conceal Project* examines the practice of masquerade especially in relation to identity. Who are we really? There are roles we choose to play in our lives and others that are imposed on us. Our true identities are often concealed behind a mask or costume. Three hundred postcard sized works on paper painted in watercolor, ink, and gouache present portraits of individuals altering their identity through masks, uniforms, fashion, and other seemingly random forms of concealment.

Stories about a princess and her glass slipper, a little girl in a red hood, and a wolf in sheep's clothing sparked Black's curiosity as a child and led her to wonder who was innocent, who was wicked, and if their roles can interchange. The mystery and decadence of New Orleans, where she lived for a time in her 20s, reinforced her interest in issues of identity and power. Several years ago Black spent the summer exploring Venice and discovered that Venetians tradition of masked carnivals allowed members of different social classes to interact freely without consequence. This study of fairy tales and mask traditions led Black to the idea that one can only come to self-realization by experimenting with different roles and trying on different masks. Black hopes that in exploring the concealment practiced by people in order to be their real selves, we are able to reevaluate our own biases about unfamiliar norms and cultures.

As an American art and regional history museum, and the second largest general museum in Georgia, the Columbus Museum offers a diverse collection to the public. The Museum houses over 14,000 artifacts and objects that tell the story of the Chattahoochee River Valley's development, an American fine art collection from a host of renowned American artists, a hands-on gallery for children, the finest traveling exhibitions from across the U.S., and the historic Bradley Olmsted Garden.

For more information about the Columbus Museum or the *Conceal Project* exhibition, please visit [www.columbusmuseum.com](http://www.columbusmuseum.com).

\* *Conceal Project*, 2012, watercolor, ink & gouache, Dawn Black