



STUDIO
HOURS

KATE DAUDY *artist*

This isn't dressing-up, this is how I dress every day," laughs artist Kate Daudy, as she sits sewing her art on to the back of a bright pink jacket in her west London studio. Today she is wearing a deep blue wool ankle-length skirt, a copy of a Segovian dancing skirt on which she has embroidered words of poetry. Her black velvet jacket was found in Arles and designed to be worn by bullfighters. "I'm dressed as the wind," she smiles. "Just listen to the noise I make when I move!"

Daudy could write a thesis on why she wears the clothes she wears; like her art, dressing is a way of expressing her emotions. Her elaborate artworks use words – lyrics from popular ballads cut out in felt and pressed on to large fabric canvases or pieces of clothing. Likewise her own clothes are embroidered with emotions – she likes to sew in a concealed whistle so that when she feels the need she can just blow! Many of her clothes are vintage dresses rooted out in Portobello Market – a Seventies YSL blue and silver dress found for £14 is just one of

the designer pieces she has picked up for a song. "I spend more on dry-cleaning my clothes than I do buying them," she admits.

There is no work/life difference for Daudy. Has she ever worn "normal" clothes? "I don't know what you mean," she replies, "this is normal." She embodies her work, whether it's hanging in a gallery or written on her body. "My work is based on the Chinese philosophy of looking at artwork and then immersing yourself in it totally. Finally you write on that artwork how it makes you feel." Mission accomplished. ■



GALLERY VISIT

KATE WEARS HER OWN DESIGNS

Opposite: Kate Daudy in her studio. She embodies her work, whether it hangs in a gallery or on her own body. *This page:* at White Cube Bermondsey with the gallery's director Sara Kay, *on left*, wearing an embroidered coatdress by Kate. Hair: Diana Moar. Make-up: Carolyn Gallyer