Proposed Project by Maria Morabito
**Plurality of Voices**
*Industrial felt*

Proposed Location
96 Orange St.

Mockup of proposed installation

**Installation Description:**
My vision for this storefront is to activate the space with a set of floating shapes folded to create suspended abstract forms as a metaphor for fluidity of gender and identity, diversity and plurality, ability to change. These abstract forms can be interpreted in several creative ways and inspire the viewers in unexpected ways, creating a conversation with the installation.

The rendition above illustrates how the hand-cut felt sculptures will be hung. Due to the malleability of the medium, after few months, the shapes can be hung in different conformations, creating a more dynamic and time sensitive installation. The installation will engage the entire storefront window and will make the most of the space. In addition, due to the abstract nature of the forms, the display can be read from across the street and/or from the car, as well as by pedestrians walking nearby.

For this project, I plan to combine some of my existing sculptures (see photos attached) with new ones, to fill in the available storefront space. The sculptures are made of industrial felt 70” H that will be suspended from the ceiling (or the wall) with transparent monofilament and metal clips. The industrial felt 2mm is commercially available at $63.85/yard (36”). Four more yards will be needed to cover the 200” width of the window The total budget will be within $350 for materials and installation.
I have a strong bond of friendship with the New Haven community and I am very interested in projects devoted to improve and create a more vibrant urban downtown to benefit the community and create a safer and more enjoyable environment. I will be honored to contribute to this important community initiative.

**Artist contact info:**
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**Artist statement:**
Abstraction is my way to see and understand the world. In my sculptures and paintings I explore memories and mental associations inspired by natural forms and cultural landscapes. My works reflect my interests in the interconnections between humans and the biological environment, and in human creations and alterations of the landscape.

My sculptures are driven by my interest in the expressive potentials of materials, the interplay of volumes and shapes, and the free assembly of elements to create new forms. Starting from an idea, I use materials as varied as industrial felt, metal, wood, papier-mâché, and polymer clay. The final form is the result of a continuous dialog with the piece, giving it the opportunity to develop into something with its own individuality.

The series entitled New Idea originated from the interest in investigating the potential of shapes in creating a number of volumes and combination of shapes. The sculptures were cut by hand to form organic shapes that can be hung in various conformations. I see the fluidity of their shapes as a metaphor for the possibilities implicit in change: fluidity of gender and identity, diversity and plurality, ability to reinvent humanity.
Artist Bio:

Maria Morabito was born in Italy and grew up in Rome where she developed her love for abstraction in painting and sculpture, and for organic forms, biological systems, nature, architecture, and history. She lived in New Haven and has been part of its artistic community many years, coming back yearly for the City Wide Open Studios in Erector Square. Now Maria lives and works in Manhattan, New York.

She works with different materials and techniques predominantly in sculpture, oil painting and mixed media. She studied at the University of Cincinnati in Cincinnati, OH, the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, in Boston, MA, and Creative Art Workshop in New Haven.

Maria was awarded Honorable Mention by Robert Storr, Dean of the Yale School of Art. She has shown in NYC and nationally and is represented in several public collections in the US and private collections in the US and Europe.

Images of past work:
See attached jpg files