

# GEORGE ADAMS GALLERY

525 W 26<sup>th</sup> St New York 10001 t 212-564-8480 f 212-564-8485  
info@georgeadamsgallery.com www.georgeadamsgallery.com

Art | Reviews

## Lesley Dill

★★★★★

**George Adams Gallery**, through Sat 18 (see Chelsea)

Lesley Dill's medium may be figurative sculpture, but her main concern is the power of language to reveal and conceal in the manner of clothing. One case in point is found just inside the entrance, where two diminutive figures made of cast fabric—one is black, one white—hang like papery effigies, burdened by the Gothic letters that extend from their backs like angel wings. The figures face opposite directions and the letters form illegible words that contain the work's title, a line from Emily Dickinson: "A single screw of flesh is all that pins the soul."

If it isn't quite subtle, the piece has a stark pathos that works in its favor. Dill is less persuasive when she lets herself get heavy-handed, as happens in *Dress of War and Sorrow*, a freestanding silvery gown worn by a headless figure stationed in the center of the room. From a distance it looks quite glamorous; close up, it becomes clear that what appear to be filigreed petals of lace are actually *Tibetan Book of the Dead* skeletons, piled one on the other like corpses at a mass execution.



*A Single Screw of  
Flesh Is All That  
Pins The Soul*

Like Kiki Smith, Dill is an intuitive artist who articulates the unspeakable, or the unspoken, through activities that emphasize the domestic, like sewing or weaving. In this way, she exposes the sinister side of extravagance and other dualities of human endeavor, but Dill seems on firmer ground when keeping her poetics ahead of her politics.—*Linda Yablonsky*

88 Time Out New York November 16–22, 2006