

## Seven

The population of the world is seven billion and yet one seventh of the world population goes hungry every day. Yet we are suffering the consequences of an unhealthy, affluent and wasteful diet. Our children are inundated by media to consume very bad food. And for the first time in history, the next generation will have a shorter lifespan than ours.

Food is central to our lives. Through a piece of textile art, I want to address food, nutrition and hunger. As part of a PACE residency, I will invite Summerside area youth to hand write the word for their favorite food item on an 8.5x11" piece of paper. These words will be transferred to a similar sized piece of sheer silk. The words will be cut and will form part of the middle layer (batting) for a three-layer silk quilted textile. **Seven** will be part of the *Inner Strength* series of new work by Schurman's Point textile artist, Nan Cole. **Seven** will be a semi-transparent, silk panel, 45" wide and as long as it takes.

**Seven** will be constructed of three layers; sheer organza for the two outside layers and de-gummed, dyed, stretched and brushed silk cocoons with embedded handwritten food words for the batting (middle). Hunger will be addressed this way; there will be seven silk cocoons halves, dyed bright red, representing an empty belly. Each of the letters for "I HUNGRY" will be individually set into each split cocoon. There will be no brushed cocoons in this area leaving it to appear transparent. The cursive element is important for this project as it will involve area youth who may not be inclined to draw but would happily write. I also believe cursive writing is incredibly indicative of personality and that it will soon become an obsolete form of communication and it will encourage them to have a vested interest in the finished piece. The colour of the cursive text will be the same as the food, light brown for fries, darker brown for burgers, orange for mac and cheese. Since this will be essentially a codex for the piece, I don't know exactly how the overall piece will look. I am fascinated by this process of developing a piece without knowing how it will turn out. How does healthy food choices compare in colour to unhealthy? I can guarantee the final piece will be a quality piece of textile art. Another subtle, but important, element to this piece will be the hand quilting, binding all the layers together. This element alone will be the catalyst of conversation and crosses **Seven** over from visual art to craft. Quilting is the most time demanding part of the process but allows for participation from the public. And it is at this point that I would encourage anyone to participate. I'll thread all the needles and demonstrate how lovely it is to quilt silks. Because this work will be so nontraditional, skill levels won't matter. The quilting will be done to outline the food words adding another dimension. I would love this piece to end up being as long as the front room studio at the residency.