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## **Maritime Garage Gallery Winter Exhibit Features Fashion**

Norwalk, CT (January x, 2015) - - Art as fashion will be on display at the City of Norwalk Parking Authority's Maritime Garage Gallery in its new winter exhibit, "Line" running from January 14<sup>th</sup> through April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016. The exhibit will begin with an opening reception on Thursday, January 14 from 5:30-7:00pm at the Gallery, located at 11 North Water Street in South Norwalk, CT.

"LINE" features the works of New England Fashion & Design Association students who have created pieces of art expressed in the form of a fashion collection. The nine students, ages 13-17, were asked to take inspiration from the 2008 African Collection by John Galliano for Christian Dior. The young designers researched African art and attire and experimented with different media to express their feelings in their designs.

New England Fashion & Design Association Founder Irina Simeonova says it's fitting these collections are being shown as art as there has always been a connection between art and fashion. "We are drawn to certain pieces of art, much as we are drawn to certain styles

of clothing. Art and fashion both communicate a non-verbal message to those around us. When we look at a piece of art we see the literal appearance of it, but underneath lies a deeper message left for the viewer to discern. When we dress, we are basically piecing together a work of art through our outfits thus creating an individual style with our own unique message.”

The New England Fashion & Design Association (NEF+DA) offers hands-on industry experience for adults and youth alike through labs and workshops, after school programs, and a summer camp. For those interested in pursuing fashion design as a career, the Association also runs a junior academy to help young designers build a portfolio for their future endeavors. The NEF+DA's is located in South Norwalk at 24B Monroe Street. For more information visit [www.sonofashiondesign.com](http://www.sonofashiondesign.com), or call (203) 345-0030.

The Maritime Garage Gallery is part of the Parking Authority's "Art in Parking Places" initiative, an effort to support art in public spaces making Norwalk a more vibrant destination. The gallery is located at 11 North Water Street in South Norwalk. It is free and open to the public from 9:00am -5:00pm Monday through Friday. For more information, call 203- 831-9063, or visit [www.norwalkpark.org/public-art](http://www.norwalkpark.org/public-art).

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