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## EVERYBODY'S BIZ

*The buzz on business — compiled by Patty Tascarella*

### WOMEN AND CLOTHES

... "Trappings," a project of **Two Girls Working**, a collaboration between two artists — Strip District-based **Renee Piechocki** and Jersey City-based **Tiffany Ludwig** — is seeking Pittsburgh participants this spring.

The project deals with power, clothing and its relationship to personal identity and involves videotaping women's responses to questions. The interviews are conducted at sessions that Ms. Piechocki likened to a Mary Kay or Tupperware party.

"We come into an office, bring a meal, and instead of buying lipstick, you're getting in front of a camera and talking about women and power," she said.

Thus far, they've interviewed 180 women through 21 interview sessions across the United States. The field includes executives at architectural firms and in the fashion industry, and representatives of professional organizations. Two Girls Working expects to complete 500 interviews this year, including Pittsburgh subjects.

The artists met in 2001 at a conference in Brooklyn and launched their project soon afterward.

"The project evolved as a way to explore contemporary issues women are dealing with," said Ms. Piechocki, whose day job is public art consulting. "Everyone gets dressed. So let's think about how clothing and power go together."

Ms. Piechocki wound up in Pittsburgh because her husband, **Robert Owen**, is an associate at Downtown law firm **Reed Smith LLP**.

"One thing that surprised us is how common a lot of women's concerns are," she said. "The need to be comfortable and attractive and have a very functional outfit to get the job done properly. Also, many women connected with family or personal history through clothing, like wearing a grandmother's ring."

"Trappings" will be unveiled at the Jersey City Museum, Jersey City, N.J. in September, then travel to the Yonaphawpha Arts Council, Oxford, Mississippi, March 25.

Ms. Piechocki said she's looking for a space to exhibit the work in Pittsburgh. Meanwhile, interested parties and potential participants can learn more about "Trappings" at [www.two-girlsworking.com](http://www.two-girlsworking.com).

"We thought it would be a fun way for offices to celebrate women's history month," Ms. Piechocki said. "We haven't fulfilled that dream yet."

— by Patty Tascarella

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