

# Seems-So-s:

## Sculpture by Larry Mantello

**Sponsored by Renaissance Investment  
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Ah, the seventies: when people wore "I'm with Stupid" t-shirts, and disco was cool. Now one of the galleries at the CAC is filled to the brim with commercial icons of days gone by. Taz, Bugs, Mickey, Garfield, Spiderman, the Stones, Michael Jackson, and even Barbie are part of the overblown, overstuffed, overflowing installation by New York artist Larry Mantello.

Mantello was born in 1964, the year Pop art hit the scene. He uses all the famous and infamous products of American consumerism. His "Denim Done'em," 1995, is a quilt-wanna-be, made of sewn-together old jeans, backpacks, patches, shoelaces, and t-shirts (with slogans like "The Best Man for the Job is a Woman" and "I Miss my Husband, but my Aim is Improving")

Mantello's work is about the affirmation of "stuff." It has the exuberance and joy of the Christmases of our past, before it was stolen by the Grinch. There are Pez, yo-yos, trinkets, shoes, air-fresheners, fake press-on nails, Elvis bubblegum cards, and more. In an age of terror bombings and institutionalized rudeness, Mantello veers away from mocking society and offers up all this exuberance with playfulness, pitching pure pleasure.

It's like  
walking into a party.

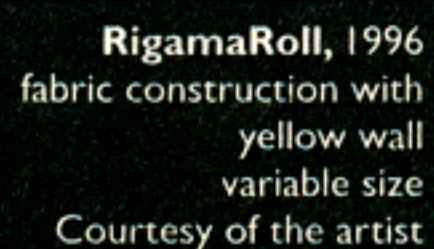
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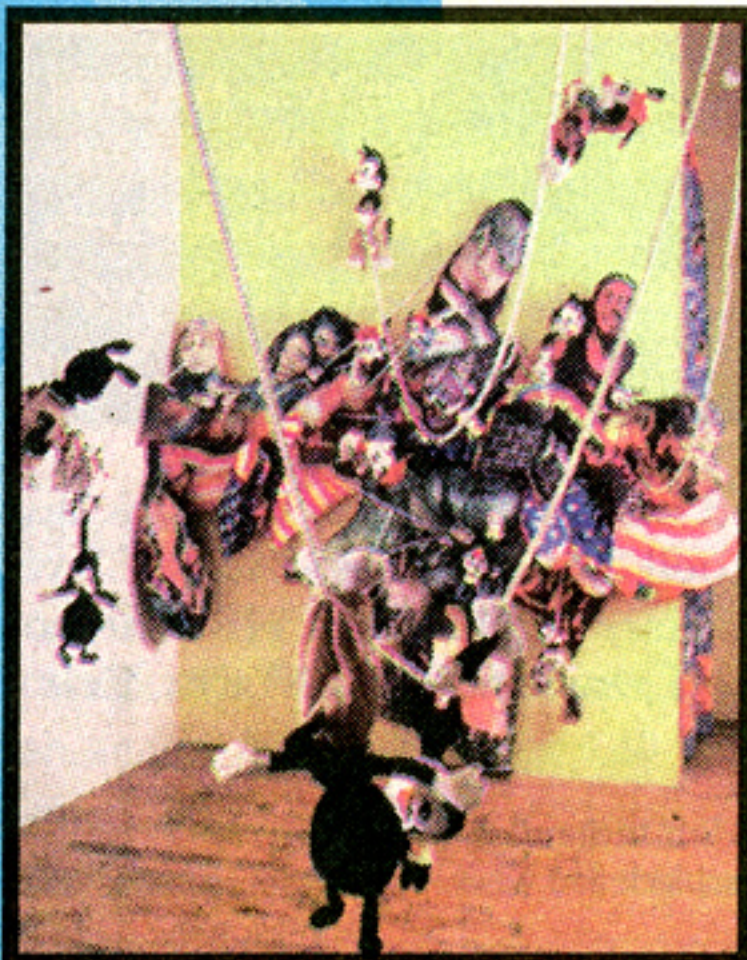
**Bee-Lines (detail), 1996**  
fabric construction  
18 x 18 x 7 in.  
Courtesy of the artist



**Auto-Retire, 1994**  
mixed media  
31 x 58 x 60 in.  
Courtesy of the artist



**RigamaRoll, 1996**  
fabric construction with  
yellow wall  
variable size  
Courtesy of the artist



**Music Haul, 1996**  
mixed media fabric construction  
32 x 42 x 8 in.  
Courtesy of the artist