



## NARRATIVE THREAD

**Chuck Stolarek** 02 FD was living in England and working as a womenswear developer when his sense of the absurd took his art in a new direction. He began sketching and stitching embroidered “paintings”: quirky combinations of commonplace objects, which read like the setup for a great joke.

Working on fabric with a combination of hand and machine embroidery stitches (plus the occasional sequin), Stolarek brings mundane objects together like characters in an illogical story. The pieces provoke smiles and head-scratching in equal measure,

paired as they are with titles such as *Ants on a couch in a canoe on sawhorses with radio reception* or for this piece, *Hose gushing water above a clock on a table*. This year he’ll share the series at a solo show-within-a-show at the San Jose [CA] Museum of Quilts and Textiles (February 28–April 15).

Stolarek brings an offbeat sensibility to his womenswear, too. He just launched *In House Label*, a line of “softly tailored, uniform silhouettes, smothered and covered in just-odd-enough combinations” of over-dyed prints. [saatchiart.com](http://saatchiart.com) // [inhouselabel.com](http://inhouselabel.com)