

# FUNKY TOWN

Clever people are behind "**Funk-aesthetics**," beginning with its curators, Luis Jacob, a Toronto artist, and Pan Wendt, a Charlottetown-based academic. But it's two funk legends, Sun Ra and George Clinton, who give the spacey exhibition its real liftoff.

"Funk always entails ways of thinking and ways of communicating that are simultaneously sensual, embodied and performative," say the curators.

Sensuality is the show's strong suit. It ranges from the energized album art for Sun Ra's Arkestra, as well as for Clinton's bands (Parliament and Funkadelic), to the *Free Dance Lessons* (2004) video from Paige Gratland and Day Milman.

For parties you need costumes. Leigh Bowery's *The Demented*

*Snowflake* (1985) is a regal getup suggestive of *The Nutcracker* as danced by early *Star Wars* characters. Will Munro's *Leigh Bowery* (2005) is a fabulous handmade undergarment spread out on the



wall like some prize rare giant butterfly.

● Justina M. Barnicke Gallery, Hart House, University of Toronto, 7 Hart House Circle, until March 23  
Peter Goddard