



Paintings and Drawings [slide]
by Eva Isaksen

A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Fine Arts
Montana State University
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Abstract:
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Eva Isaksen

A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment
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of

Master of Fine Arts

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY
Bozeman, Montana

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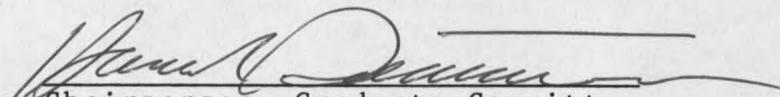
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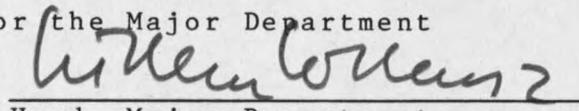
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Chairperson, Graduate Committee

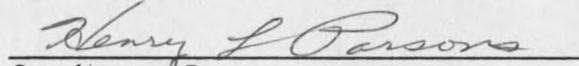
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ARTIST'S STATEMENT

I grew up in an environment where the winters are without daylight and the summers are without darkness. My paintings reflect the contrast between light and dark, which I still associate with the changing of the seasons in Northern Norway. My color choices are influenced by this change and its effect on my state of mind. The darker colors, which I use more frequently during winter, have a heaviness relieved by bright hues, while paintings utilizing overall higher values, balance playfull darker tones.

The world I am painting is one based on an imaginative interpretation of nature being transformed into a world caught between dreams and reality. I collect information about nature by painting outdoors. This information shares significance with memories of real and dreamed landscapes. Nature acts as a source on two levels; providing direct images described in the paintings and providing influence from natural phenomena like seasonal changes and cycles of death and rebirth. The paintings become a personal expression of my experiences of these pehnomena. Ultimately the work is not about nature in a literal or descriptive sense, but a metaphorical or spiritual way. Nature images described as themselves can be seen in a literal way. Yet because they have been used historically, they also are a

universal symbolic language. This allows for the possibility of a visual statement which transcends the obvious literal meaning. The leaves, plants, stars, moon and sun which make up the iconography of my work are important to me, because of their everlasting cycle of death and rebirth, and because of their importance through the history of symbols. In Chinese symbolism, for example, a single leaf is an allegory of happiness, while several leaves appearing together represent people, and plants are an image of life and spirituality. Although I am aware of the symbolic language of the iconography I use, I choose these images because of their personal importance to me.

I further want to express an ambiguity of relationships through formal means; through the use of color, space and surface. I develop the painting by building up the paint and letting the underlayers shine through the surface texture. The texture is thin in areas, while in others the paint is thickly layered, giving it a richer and more alive quality. I often create space by placing lines or shapes pointing to or out of the corners to suggest that the painting exists not only on the rectangle of the canvas, but also beyond it, giving it a greater sense of space.

Each work I finish, gives me the idea for the next, and in the process of painting, the visual theme goes through many changes. The finished product always seems to contain

more than the initial idea. After a work is done, I have usually gained more knowledge about painting and about myself, and I start again from there. It is important that my work has a mystery of its own, but much of its strength lies in the fact that I do not fully understand its meaning. The inexplicable aspect of it inspires me to keep painting.

LIST OF SLIDES

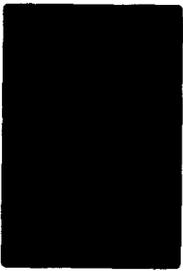
1. "The Leaf"
Charcoal 1986
42" x 30"
2. "In Bloom"
Charcoal 1986
42" x 30"
3. "In Bloom"
Charcoal 1986
42" x 30"
4. "In Bloom"
Charcoal 1986
42" x 30"
5. "Swallowed By the Sea"
Oil 1985
72" x 54"
6. "Going To Get Close To You"
Oil 1985
72" x 54"
7. "Space Scape"
Oil 1985
72" x 54"
8. "Day Break"
Oil 1985
48" x 40"
9. "Opposites"
Oil 1985
48" x 40"
10. "The Rose"
Oil 1986
48" x 40"
11. "Light As A Feather"
Oil 1986
48" x 50"
12. "Through My Window"
Oil 1986
48" x 40"

13. Installation slide from left to right:
 - "Sacred Feathers"
 - Oil 1986
 - "Opposites"
 - Oil 1985
 - "Through My Window"
 - Oil 1986
 - All 48" x 40"

14. Installation slide from left to right:
 - "In Bloom"
 - Oil 1986
 - "The Ghost"
 - Oil 1986
 - "The Rose"
 - Oil 1986
 - "In Bloom"
 - Oil 1986
 - All 48" x 40"

15. Installation slide from left to right:
 - "Light As A Feather"
 - Oil 1986
 - "A Quiet Place"
 - Oil 1986
 - "Between the Leaves"
 - Oil 1986
 - All 48" x 40"

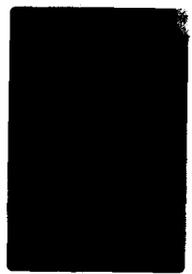
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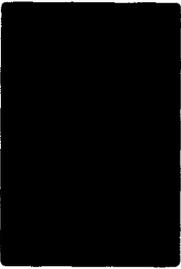
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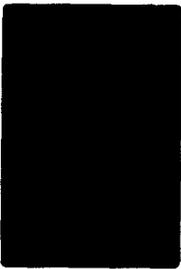
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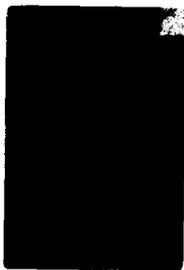
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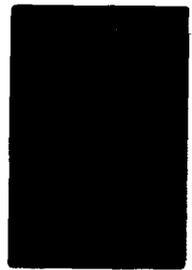
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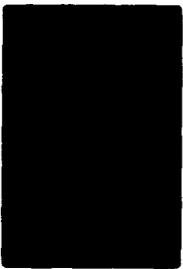
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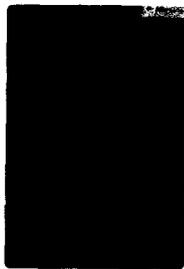
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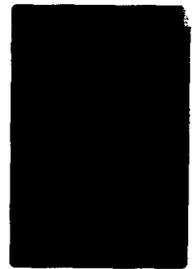
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