



Untitled

by Kurt Frederick Wagner

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:

"The same things are done by us, over and over, with terrible predictability. One may be forgiven, in view of this, for wishing at least to associate with beauty." (Humboldt's Gift by Saul Bellow) My wish is to attempt to rub elbows with my perception of beauty.

The work that you see before you is an example of how I perceive the things of this world. Beauty lies within our perception. It is something that we bring to this world.

Since I began graduate school I have tried to set up sculptural situations within an enclosed format. These situations were designed to stimulate our senses in a general way. During my thesis work I discovered that through the drawing of these situations I was able to be more specific about how I see them. This made the perception of what I made an important part of the work.

Observation is the threshold of perception. It is through observation that perception is revealed. This is not observation with perfection of duplication as the final solution. It is the "mistakes" or ' rather how we deviate from the reality of observation which releases the personality of our perception. In a sense I am drawing things that are not physically there. This is where the beauty lies.

The work you see before you in this show is four separate pieces. Each piece consists of three parts; the viewfinder, the still life,

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of

Master of Fine Arts

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY
Bozeman, Montana

June 1983

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APPROVAL

of a thesis submitted by

Kurt Frederick Wagner

This thesis has been read by each member of the thesis committee and has been found to be satisfactory regarding content, English usage, format, citations, bibliographic style, and consistency, and is ready for submission to the College of Graduate Studies.

May 25/83
Date

[Signature]
Chairperson, Graduate Committee

Approved for the Major Department

MAY 25/83
Date

[Signature]
Head, Major Department

Approved for the College of Graduate Studies

27 May 1983
Date

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Signature *Paul A. Leggett*
Date *May 26, 1983*

ARTIST'S STATEMENT

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The work you see before you in this show is four separate pieces. Each piece consists of three parts; the viewfinder, the still life,

and the drawing of the still life through use of the viewfinder as a window for my perception. I see each part as being dependent on the other parts in order for the piece to be complete. It would be impossible to grasp the full intention of these pieces without all parts being present.

I believe that sculpture has the potential to encompass whatever it takes to bring an idea to life. What I am doing is to combine two dimensional, three dimensional, and perceptual levels in order to reach this potential. Over and over, I orchestrate these differing levels in an attempt to at least rub elbows with beauty.

LIST OF SLIDES

- 1 Thesis Burn (Hellfire and Damnation)
10'x20'x25'
- 2 Oh Foolish Me
10'x20'x25'
- 3 Oh Foolish Me
10'x20'x25'
- 4 Private Hell
7'x20'x25'
- 5 Private Hell (detail)
7'x20'x25'
- 6 Lucky Guy
9'x10'x10'
- 7 Lucky Guy
9'x10'x10'
- 8 Oh Foolish Me (detail)
9'x10'x10'
- 9 Installation view, Thesis Exhibition
Fine Arts Gallery, Haynes Hall

KURT WAGNER #1



KURT WAGNER #2



KURT WAGNER #3



KURT WAGNER



KURT WAGNER #5



KURT WAGNER #6



KURT WAGNER #7



KURT WAGNER



KURT WAGNER





















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