



3 Walls
by Miranda Howe

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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Miranda Howe

A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment
of the requirements for the degree

of

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APPROVAL

of a thesis submitted by

Miranda Howe

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.

4/22/02
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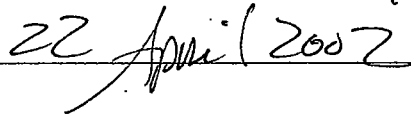
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Pattern, amazing. Surfaces, totally intriguing. Recent time spent in Italy has made me a witness to the evidence of a builder's concern for embellishing a surface and has brought with it a more meaningful connection to ancient architecture. My interest in architectural elements, combines with a long time love for geology and organic and invented patterning have been the impetus for creating this body of tile work.

Many things have affected my work - the color and texture of Italian walls, the intricacy of Early Christian mosaic, as well as all the niches employed in the adobe houses of the Southwest. But I found my thoughts focusing on the wall itself. I use it as an autonomous element, removed from its original structural context. In elevating its importance, the surface and space are recreated into a powerful, elegant line, transforming the idea of traditional wall. I am interested in space and surfaces that hold qualities uniquely different and varied, similar to that of a geode with its distinct interior.

Designs and patterns are elemental components in my work. They are not only visual end results, but are very important aspects in my own creative process. In making thousands upon thousands of tiles, stacking, arranging, and grouping them in different stages all around me, I become immersed in the process. The repetition of doing one things over and over again until it becomes a navigational memory for the muscles, allows freedom for the mind to traverse different terrain. Like portions of frescoes crumbling, or paint peeling to reveal what is underneath, I only give fragments of information before one surface stops and another begins. Compelled to cut my tiles into smaller and smaller units, I weave together a tighter, more complex networks of layered information. Organic and invented pattern coincide. Burnt earth, quilting fabric, dried

riverbeds, brick streets, ancient ruins, fissures and intrusions are all used to celebrate pattern.

I thrive in detail. Although my pieces are large, I find a delightful intimacy in working on a small scale and then combining these elements to orchestrate a larger whole. The scale obliterates other views and invites a closer look. Standing within the curved structure of each wall, one is surrounded and totally immersed in a vast mixture of visual and tactile qualities. As the light hits the reflective surface of one tile, one moves to touch it, only to be caught by the vibrant color hidden in another or the swirl that triggers a childhood memory. In the same way one might walk on the beach looking for precious pebbles or move through fallen leaves on a forest floor, so do I want people to move along my pieces continually finding new, subtle and captivating changes, as if each tile carried a message of its own.

SLIDE LIST

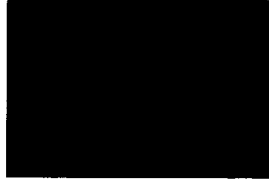
1. "3 Walls" - Thesis Exhibition, View 1
2. "3 Walls" - Thesis Exhibition, View 2
3. "Creation - Day 4 - Morning", 2002
porcelain slips, wood
7'8" x 10'6" x 4'
4. "Creation - Day 4 - Morning", detail
5. "Creation - Day 4 - Evening", 2002
sodafired porcelain, colored slips, wood
7'8" x 16' x 6'
6. "Creation - Day 4 - Evening", 2002
7. "Patterns of Prayer", 2002
terracota, wood
7'8" x 11' x 5'6"
8. "Patterns of Prayer" - detail

1. Miranda Howe
"3 WALLS"
Thesis Exhibition



ceramic 2002

2. Miranda Howe
"3 WALLS"
Thesis Exhibition



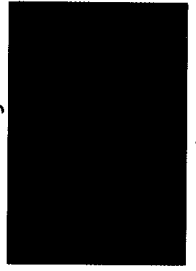
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3. Miranda Howe
"Creation - Day 4 - Morning"

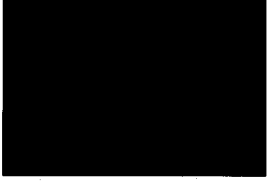


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4.
Miranda Howe
(detail)
"Creation - Day 4 - Morning"



5. Miranda Howe
"Creation - Day 4 - Evening"



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6.
Miranda Howe
(detail)
"Creation - Day 4 - Evening"

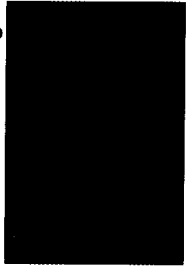


7. Miranda Howe
"Patterns of Prayer"

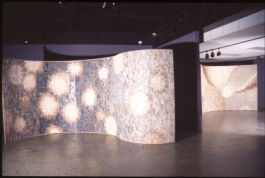


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8.
Miranda Howe
(detail)
"Patterns of Prayer"

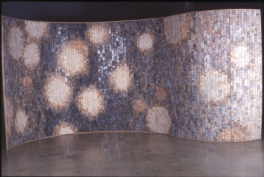


















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