



Monotypes  
by Lynda Bourque Moss

A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Fine Arts  
Montana State University  
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MONOTYPES

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Lynda Bourque Moss

A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment  
of the requirements for the degree  
of  
Master of Fine Arts

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

Bozeman, Montana

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APPROVAL

of a thesis submitted by  
Lynda Bourque Moss

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 24, 1984                      Francis J. Noel, III  
Date                                      Chairperson, Graduate Committee

Approved for the Major Department

MAY 24, 1984                      Rudolf Helz  
Date                                      Head, Major Department

Approved for the College of Graduate Studies

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Date                                      Graduate Dean

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Date May 25, 1984

Monotypes

Space... vast, endless, personal or intimate, permeates my work. Oblique and haunting as well as curious and humorous, the monotypes are landscapes offering divergent elements. They hold images suggesting questions rather than answers.

The Western landscape, a big place with vague boundaries, is my source for these works. By visually wandering across a prairie, gazing at an expanse of water or observing the sky, I acknowledge a sense of spaciousness and immediacy. These sensations call for a focal reference. This may be something physical and tangible or it may be an internalization. Both provide a meditative response.

I believe a duality of vision allows an acceptance of experience in an individual way. Agnes Martin suggests a similar concern: "It is from our awareness of transcendent reality and our response to concrete reality that our mind commands us on our way - not really on a path or to a gate - but to a full response."<sup>(1)</sup> My perception of the landscape is similar to that of many artists, from the nineteenth century to the present. Walt Whitman wrote of the "strange mixture of delicacy" evident in the plains and mountains.<sup>(2)</sup> David Smith spoke of the rawness and harshness of the American landscape.<sup>(3)</sup>

The process of monotypes - a combination of painting and printmaking - and the consequent characteristics of the process suited my interests and visual language. The spontaneity and immediacy of painting transfer in a direct and sensitive manner. Luminosity, layering and compressed imagery are utilized. These works share complicity and economy.

In all the monotypes a paradox is present, an expanse is occupied by defined independent marks. Foggy ambiguous ground/atmosphere exists with strange awkward rudiments. Borrowing from Jack Burnham in The Great Western Salt Works, these may be referred to as very primitive "signifiers".

Each monotype presents a syntax for divergent qualities. Each represents time; time of thought and time of action. They are my record of seeing. Richard Hugo expressed a parallel attitude in "Open Country":

"...And you come back here  
where the land has ways of going on  
and the shadow of a cloud  
crawls like a freighter, no port in mind,  
no captain, and the charts dead wrong."<sup>(4)</sup>

## Notes

1. Arts Council of Great Britan 1977. Agnes Martin Paintings and Drawings, an exhibit catalog. Westerham Presss, England.
2. Barbara Novak. Nature and Culture: American Landscape and Painting 1825-1875. Oxford University Press. New York. 1980.
3. David Smith. "Questions to Students." 1953.
4. Richard Hugo. White Center. W. W. Norton and Company, Inc. New York. 1980.

## LIST OF SLIDES

All works are untitled.

1. Monotype  
29" x 40"
2. Monotype  
29" x 40"
3. Monotype  
29" x 40"
4. Monotype  
29" x 40"
5. Monotype  
40" x 29"
6. Monotype  
24" x 18"
7. Monotype  
24" x 18"
8. Monotype  
24" x 18"
9. Monotype  
24" x 18"
10. Monotype  
24" x 18"
11. Monotype  
24" x 18"
12. Monotype  
24" x 18"
13. Monotype  
24" x 18"
14. Monotype  
24" x 18"



15. Monotype  
24" x 18"

16. Monotype  
24" x 18"

1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



9



10



11



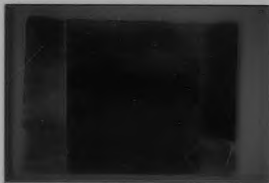
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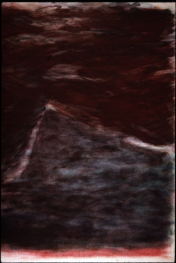


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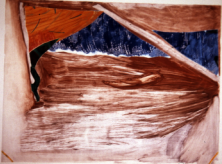






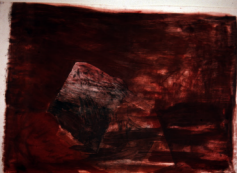
















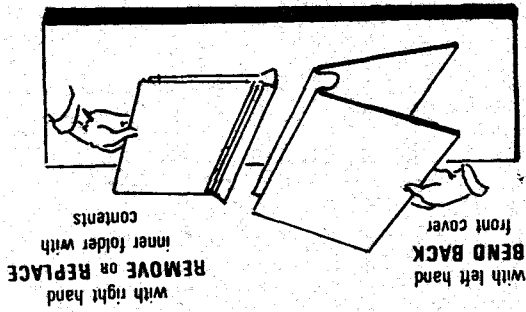




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