



Cake-o-rama
by Wendy Adair Woloson

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 sculptures and prints presented in "Cake-o-Rama" reflect ideas and images I have developed after a long period of searching, exploring, and observing. The main influence for my work has been the contradictory by-products of American popular culture - the incessant drone of mediocrity compared to an idealized quest for individuality. The combination of these attitudes serves as a starting point for both the conceptual and visual directions in my work.

Using cakes as subject matter is a continuation of the food imagery I have drawn from in the past. Party cakes, especially, represent an excessive consumption at luxurious, festive gatherings. In a larger context, the cakes allude to a delirious atmosphere paralleling the vacant mentality promoted by the mass media in our culture.

I direct this criticism through my work by creating the cakes with "flavors" - specific popular belief systems that "decorate" the cakes with satirical commentary. Thus, the super-saturated tiered cake with candle-crown and banner embodies the superficial idealization of a pageant queen. Because their hats are alike, the Pope and a Klansman share a cake in an uncomfortable stasis of competing ideologies. The decorative dome atop the Capitol transforms into a hovering U.F.O., suggesting a recent or imminent invasion.

The humor in my work serves as an important vehicle for conveying more serious ideas. I question peoples' blind reliance on established beliefs and obsolescent attitudes. My scope ranges from ancient religious adoration to the deification of certain contemporary institutions.

I have chosen to work with both prints and sculptures due to my eclectic technical background. Originally, I drew upon my knowledge of silkscreen. printmaking to create images that could be cut out and assembled into three-dimensional forms. Eventually, durable and versatile aluminum sheeting replaced paper as my main sculpture medium. This change of material led to a complete separation of the two approaches. Sculptures then emerged directly from metal, while the prints became autonomous two-dimensional images on paper. For "Cake-o-Rama," I decided to utilize the very traditional printmaking process of intaglio to enhance the contrasts and harmonies found among the subtle prints and conspicuous sculpture.

By uniting the structural and conceptual framework of party cakes with recognizable iconographic schemes, I have created my own images contrary to those generated by our present society. My icons are meant to address the complex issue of cultural complacency created by a dependence on misguided ideals. The pieces in this show symbolize a culture driven by this myopic faith.

I use the image of the cake to propel my ideas into the very context I intend to criticize. The cakes themselves become elevated and justified because they are presented in a public viewing arena - the art gallery. Because the more serious themes are merely "icing" on the cakes, they become trivialized. The result is pop imagery about pop culture: the worthwhile is camouflaged under layers of sugar-coated embellishment, yielding a very unpalatable product.

"CAKE - O - RAMA"

by

Wendy Adair Woloson

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

of

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MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY
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March, 1990

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APPROVAL

of a thesis submitted by

Wendy Adair Woloson

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.

MARCH 12, 1990

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3-14-90

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April 4, 1990

Date

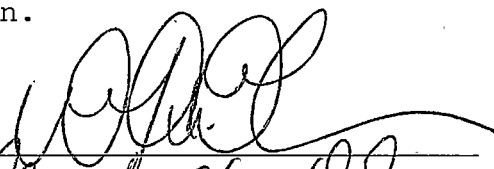
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ARTIST'S STATEMENT

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LIST OF SLIDES

1. Here She Is
Aluminum
24"x26"x26"
1989
2. Here She Is
Aluminum
Detail
3. Here She Is
Etching, Soft Ground
6"x8" (image area)
1989
4. U.F.O. Capitol Cake
Aluminum
36"x30"x30"
1898
5. U.F.O. Capitol Cake
Aluminum
Detail
6. U.F.O. Capitol Cake
Mezzotint (image area)
4"x6" (image area)
1989
7. Ziggurat Sheet Cake
Aluminum
24"x62"x64"
1989
8. Ziggurat Sheet Cake
Etching, Soft Ground, Aquatint
12"x24" (image area)
1989
9. Katho-Klan Kake
Aluminum
40"x36"x36"
1990
10. Katho-Klan Kake
Aluminum
Detail

LIST OF SLIDES (Continued)

11. Katho-Klan Kake
Etching, Soft Ground, Aquatint
5½"x9" (each image area)
1990
12. Garden of Eden Apple Strudel
Aluminum
6"x18"x24"
1990
13. Garden of Eden Apple Strudel
Etching, Soft Ground, Aquatint
7½"x15" (image area)
1990
14. Edvard Munch Angel Food
Aluminum
24"x20"x24"
1990
15. Edvard Munch Angel Food
Mezzotint
7½"x7½" (image area)

Aluminum; 1989
24"x26"x26"



Wendy Woloson
Here She Is

Aluminum
Detail



Wendy Woloson
Here She Is

Etching, Soft
Ground; 1989



Here She Is

U.F.O. Capitol
Cake; 1989



Wendy Woloson

U.F.O. Capitol
Cake; 1989



Wendy Woloson

U.F.O. Capitol
Cake; 1989



Wendy Woloson

Wendy Woloson



Ziggurat Sheet
Cake; 1989

Wendy Woloson



Ziggurat Sheet
Cake; 1989

Aluminum; 1990
40"x36"x36"



Katho-Klan Kake

Wendy Woloson
Katho-Klan Kake



Aluminum
Detail

Wendy Woloson
Katho-Klan Kake



Etching, Soft
Ground, Aquatint

Wendy Woloson



Garden of Eden
Apple Strudel

Wendy Woloson



Garden of Eden
Apple Strudel

Edward Munch
Angel Food



Wendy Woloson

Wendy Woloson



Edward Munch
Angel Food







One like this AD. 10/15/1911







U.S.O. Capitol Cake AP. 1953





Wedding Cake







Small, ornate, tiered object, possibly a miniature pagoda or stupa, displayed inside a dark, pointed, arched frame.



Similar small, ornate, tiered object, possibly a miniature pagoda or stupa, displayed inside a dark, pointed, arched frame.

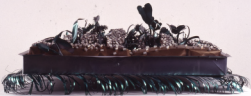
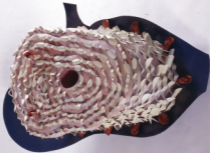
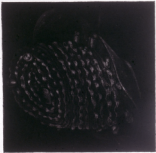




Photo of Cedar Apple Sprouts - N.P. - 1945 - 112







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