



Gifts/Commemoratives
by Dorothy Ann Newton

A thesis submitted in fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of MASTER OF APPLIED ART in
ART

Montana State University

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Abstract:

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Signature Dorothy Newton

Date June 6, 1975

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DOROTHY NEWTON

A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment
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Approved:



Chairman, Examining Committee



Head, Major Department



Graduate Dean

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY
Bozeman, Montana

August, 1975

IN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I wish to express my gratitude
to my committee for their honest and direct appraisal
of my work and program.
to Kim Smith, Silvie Granatelli and Larry Shelby for
helping me to get beyond a surface value and meaning
in my work
to Pat Gilbert for handling all the red tape and paper
work involved in the educational process
to Bill Semplé for listening to me.

ARTIST'S STATEMENT

My thesis show is a sharing of selected personal experiences expressed in fragile temporary assemblages, multi-sensory in character. It is my hope that while taking part in this presentation, the participant will feel invited to enter beyond the surface level of his own life experience and also realize that without the initial intent (i.e., the experience and people upon which this show is centered) the individual pieces of this show are lifeless shells.

The materials used for these commemoratives are materials I had on hand; some relate to the persons or circumstances, some don't. There was no formal choice made in this regard; nor in the way the structures were put together. All the care and sensitivity that I put into this show is because of the people and events I revere and want to celebrate and share. Thus, I would hope that my show would be experienced in that context rather than within a more traditional formal framework.

SLIDES

1. #1
2. #2
3. #3
4. #4
5. #5
6. #6
7. #7
8. #8
9. #9
10. #10
11. #11
12. #12

1 MADE IN U.S.A.



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3 MADE IN U.S.A.



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My thesis is a sharing of selected personal experiences expressed in fragile temporary assemblages, multi-sensory in character. It is my hope, that while taking part in this presentation, the participant will feel invited to enter beyond the surface level of his own life experience and also realize that without the initial intent (i.e., the events and people on which the show is centered) the individual pieces here are lifeless shells.

The materials used for these commemoratives are scraps I had or found or made; some relate to the person or event, some don't, but all have a common quality of temporality. There were no formal choices made in regard to material or construction. If I have brought care, sensitivity, beauty, and vitality to these works, it is because I regard the people and circumstances of which they speak, with that same kind of preciousness. Thus, I hope that my presentation will be experienced in that context.

To my graduate committee: Kevin Smith, Gunaro Staggins,
and Michael Reed,

in commemoration of my artist-life
here at M. S. U., I give you each a
memento from a significant event
in my life and a personal note
relevant to that gift.

This grave covering is a celebration of one full life and one beautiful person - Little Grandma - my great grandmother. It is also a gift. My way of thanking her for passing on some of her life to me; her creative mind, her nimble fingers.

The letters here, the fruit sauce, and tape recording are for your further knowledge and enjoyment of Little Grandma's spirit.

In our last conversation before her death, my sister Diane and I reminisced about our childhood. In the midst of many happy rememberings, Diane reminded me of one small unhappy state of affairs in her childhood: she never had a doll of her own. Always a hand me down or someone's reject. The idea of this doll was conceived during that last conversation.

The Polish people have a great devotion to St. Joseph, together with many legends and superstitions regarding his whereabouts and wonders. Some say he still walks the earth, white bearded, his ^{real} identity concealed by an old hat. He appears here and there - wherever a helping hand or a dollar is needed. Many Poles keep his image in their gardens, laundries, and fishing boats, turned in the direction of good weather and sunshine.

My father, who is Irish, lives in a predominantly Polish community. His neighbors always give him a hard time about how his garden would grow better the Polish way.

This St. Joseph - Serecrow is for my father and his garden.

Bill Semple and
I were married
April 5th, 1975.

This nuptial bed,
the fresh flowers
and homemade

bread, are an extension and commemoration
of that day's celebration. We both invite
you to add flowers to the bed's
decor and share in the bread; a small
way of "remembering" that day with us.

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