



Use of the personal symbol  
by Mary Ann Kelly

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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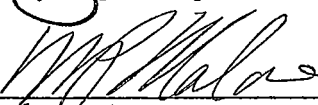
of

Master of Fine Arts

Approved:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson, Graduate Committee

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Head, Major Department

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Graduate Dean

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY  
Bozeman, Montana

June, 1980

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Signature Mary Ann Kelly

Date May 16, 1980

## ARTIST'S STATEMENT

My work is an ongoing dialogue concerning my searchings and discoveries. The process combines the concept and object into a visual language. Direct and intimate contact with materials records the activity and thought. Although I think technical ability may facilitate expression, I believe it is equally important to have an openness in responding to materials. Formal concerns gain significance when they operate on a personal symbolic level that is integrated with the visual. A personal symbol in visual form has a multilevel of functions. It triggers a recall of relationships and meanings. The personal symbol is often an esoteric metaphor. The individual must encounter the symbol and allow for an open response to it just as the artist allowed when searching for it. It is not important that all people always agree on the meanings, rather that the encounter with it is evocative.

The work reflects my life in terms that are concealed within the forms, so that marks, colors and images are symbols and signs that speak on an internal level. Through use of intuition, knowledge is transformed in vision. My intuition includes a subconscious order of responses, ideas, sensibilities and instincts acting collectively in a conscious movement. Searching for and clarifying my sense of order is a concern that has repeatedly surfaced in my work. The marks, structural elements and colors often refer to counting. For example certain pieces involve aspects of repetition and the process refers to the

number system that has been established to express a specific concern.

Working and the work connect me with order and visual language.

TITLES

1. Seduction (side one)
2. Seduction (side two)
3. Seduction (detail)
4. Journey
5. Red River of Tears
6. Red River of Tears (detail)
7. Catching Forbidden Wishes
8. Not Just Now . . . .
9. Count me in, Count me out, Clickity Clack
10. Count me in (detail)
11. Count me in (detail)
12. Blind Fan
13. Broken Mirror
14. Code: Enchantment and Deception
15. Secret Fragments Found in a Dream
16. Secret Fragments Found in a Dream

KELLY, MARY ANN TOP  
"SEDUCTION"



MIXED MEDIA

MADE IN U.S.A.

1 wood, paint, clay  
9' x 16'  
MADE IN U.S.A. 1977

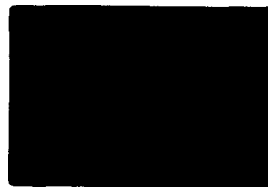
KELLY, MARY ANN TOP



"SEDUCTION"  
MIXED MEDIA

2 REVERSE SIDE  
9' x 16' 1977

KELLY, MARY ANN TOP  
"SEDUCTION" DETAIL



3 Detail - wood, paint, clay  
9' x 16'  
MADE IN U.S.A. 1977

KELLY, MARY ANN TOP



MADE IN U.S.A.  
1977

4 "JOURNEY"  
OIL  
28' x 22'

KELLY, MARY ANN TOP



MIXED MEDIA  
1980

MADE IN U.S.A.

5 "RED RIVER OF TEARS"  
6' x 2' x 3'

KELLY, MARY ANN TOP



6' x 2' x 3'  
1980

6 "RED RIVER OF TEARS"  
DETAIL

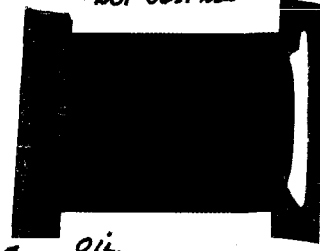
KELLY, MARY ANN TOP



8' x 5' x 20"  
MIXED MEDIA  
1980

7 "CATCHING Forbidden WISHES"

MADE IN U.S.A. TOP  
KELLY, MARY ANN  
"NOT JUST NOW..."



8 OIL  
51" x 45.5"

KELLY, MARY ANN TOP



MIXED MEDIA  
6 1/2' x 7' x 6'  
MADE IN U.S.A.  
1980

9 "COUNT ME IN, COUNT ME OUT, BLACK BY BLACK"

KELLY, MARY ANN TOP



MIXED MEDIA  
1980  
6 1/2' x 7' x 6'

10 "COUNT ME IN, COUNT ME OUT"  
DETAIL

KELLY, MARY ANN TOP



MADE IN U.S.A.

1980  
MIXED MEDIA  
6 1/2' x 7' x 6'

11 "COUNT ME IN, COUNT ME OUT..." DETAIL

KELLY, MARY ANN TOP



MIXED MEDIA  
1980

12 "BLIND FOX"  
6' x 6' x 1'

KELLY, MARY ANN TOP

"BROKEN MIRROR"



13 WATERCOLOR  
29" x 41" 1979  
MADE IN U.S.A.

KELLY, MARY ANN TOP

"CODE: ENCHANTMENT & DECEPTION"



14 WATERCOLOR  
29" x 41" 1979

KELLY, MARY ANN TOP

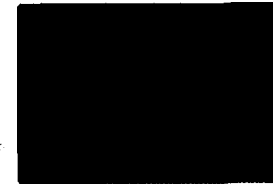
"Secret fragments found in a dream"



15 Neon + mixed media  
16' x 15' x 2'  
1980

KELLY, MARY ANN TOP

"Secret fragments found in a dream"

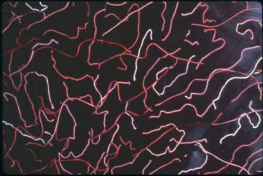


16 neon + mixed media  
16' x 15' x 2'  
1980





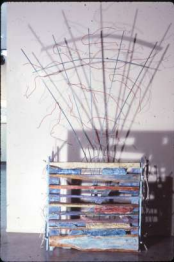












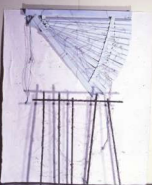














For more information  
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