



There is thinking in the blue sky [slide]
by Travis Keyoshi Hough

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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Travis Keyoshi Hough

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

of

Master of Fine Arts

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY
Bozeman, Montana

March 2001

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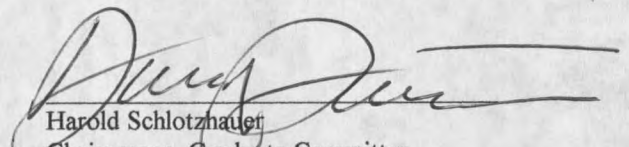
APPROVAL

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Travis Keyoshi Hough

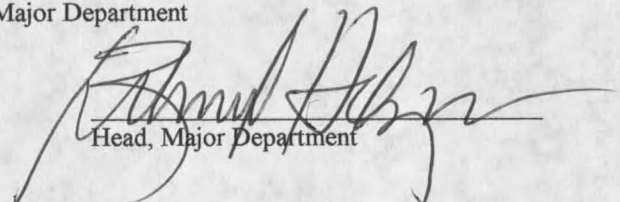
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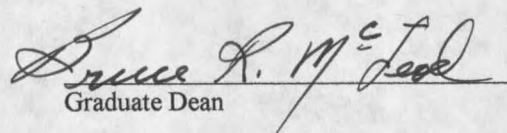
Approved for the Major Department

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Head, Major Department

Approved for the College of Graduate Studies

4-6-01
Date

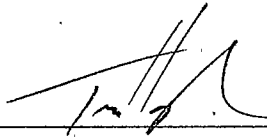

Graduate Dean

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"When you look at the sky, if you look deeply you don't see the blue sky as something separate from you, as something inanimate. You perceive the sky as your consciousness. It is the collective consciousness as well."

-- Tich Nhat Hanh

Through painting I attempt to create a space for viewers to reflect upon their spirituality -- a space to observe and obtain grace through self effort. My paintings are read like the sky. They are not separate from the viewer; rather, one perceives my paintings as reflections of one's own consciousness and the collective consciousness, as nothing less than the spirit itself.

While painting I rely on an intuition that dictates my creative process. I listen to the materials and place them exactly, responding to an aesthetic derived from my interest in spiritual objects and space such as the Zen tea bowls, altars, mosques, and tea rooms. Through surface, color, space and materials I create painting with the same emotional qualities as those objects and spaces. Within my paintings I used found, painted, and fabricated elements. My formal concerns are finding correct proportions within the composition and a balance among the colors and materials, thus creating a harmonious relationship. This results in paintings with both natural and handcrafted elements that are simultaneously immaculate and authentic.

Within my compositions are allusions to mosque and tea room architecture as well as altar pieces. Patterns and niches lead to the dematerialization of the canvas, hinting at the infinite. Colors and splashes of paint are connections to nature, recalling the sky and falling snow. The found and fabricated materials allude to architecture and sculpture,

recalling beams, pillars and pedestals while the painted areas seem to be open space.

The works as a hole can be experienced as walls, sliding doors, and altars, yet also dissolve into a space, which moves material into the realm of the intrinsic, ascribing a moment of empathy.

The goal of my work is to offer an opportunity for people to discover a sense of the inner meaning that can be found in materials and spaces in a way that is similarly to how this essential knowledge can be discovered in nature and spaces of personal mediation. I envision works or art that are quiet and contemplative, that lead to observation and reflection, and that ultimately bring us to spiritual awakening and peace of mind.

LIST OF SLIDES

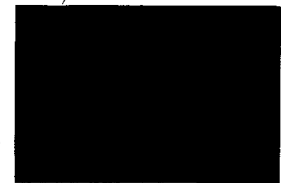
1. "There is Thinking in the Blue Sky" - acrylic on canvas- metal
w. 231" X h. 116"
2. Yukimi Shoji (Snow Viewing-Sliding Doors) - acrylic on canvas- wood
w. 240" X h. 111"
3. Quibla Wall - acrylic on canvas with silk screen- concrete
w. 300" X h. 94"
4. Pillars- acrylic on canvas w. 112" X h. 84"
5. Scroll- acrylic on cloth- redwood w. 40" X h. 72"
6. Inhale Blue- acrylic on canvas- metal w. 48" X h. 74"
7. Exhale Pink- acrylic on canvas- wood w. 167" X h. 79"

"There is thinking
in the Blue Sky"
Acrylic on Canvas & Metal



1. 19'3" X 9'8"
● MARCH 21, 2001
33" X 116"

"Yukimi Shoji"
(snow viewing - sliding doors)
Acrylic on Canvas & wood



2. 20' X 9'3"
● MARCH 21, 2001
240" X 111"

"Quebla wall"
acrylic on Canvas / ScreenPrint
& Cement



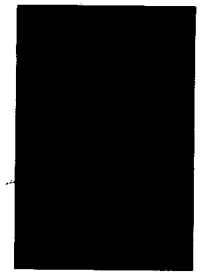
3. 25' X 7'10"
● MARCH 21, 2001
300" X 99"

"Pillars"
Acrylic on Canvas



4. 112" X 84"
● MARCH 21, 2001

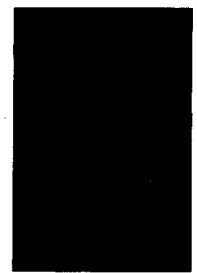
"Scroll" 40" X 72"



acrylic on Canvas
& red wood

MARCH 21, 2001 32

"Inhale Blue" 48" X 74"



acrylic on Canvas
& metal screen

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"Exhale Pink"
acrylic on Canvas & wood



7. 167" X 79"
● MARCH 21, 2001













