The poetic quality of metaphor
by Kenneth John Braun

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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APPROVAL

of a thesis submitted by

Kenneth John Braun

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.

Date: 5-25-83
Chairperson, Graduate Committee

Approved for the Major Department

Date: May 25, 83
Head, Major Department

Approved for the College of Graduate Studies

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ARTIST'S STATEMENT

The poetic quality of metaphor is important in my work. The most attractive aspect of metaphor is in the ability of images to make inferences, that are seemingly unrelated to their own physical characteristics. The images then become a vehicle for a shadowed sense or mood that is more poetic than prosaic in feel. I enjoy enhancing this poetic nature by inventing situations or contexts that have a dramatic flavor. I find that the image then projects its own curious reality, separate from mere literal depiction. In some instances, I employ an almost iconicographic presentation to my imagery, while in others using a more narrative approach. Both have advantages that allow me to play upon the dramatic element I am fond of exhibiting. The source for my work is more a result of seeking a mood or sense complimentary to my own sensibilities, sometimes alluding to self, other times reflecting a relationship between myself and my immediate environment. The source of my imagery is generally drawn from the world of objects that surround me. It is their common everyday qualities that provide me with a great many possibilities of combination. The character of their combination in my work is exciting to me, in that it frees me from the past experience of forcing a preeminent sense of meaning upon image. The combinations reflected become more a poetic response on my part, to an intuited relationship, oftentimes originating from allowing contrasting or unrelated images to combine. I also feel that the poetic
quality of metaphor in my work induces an observer response, confronting his own sensibilities.
LIST OF SLIDES

1 House of Cards
   3"x4"

2 Worm Salesman
   3"x4"

3 Feeding the Lion
   3"x4"

4 Hardboiled Eggs
   3"x4"

5 Off the Rack
   3"x4"

6 Ring Game
   3"x4"

7 Arson
   4"x5"

8 Small Islands
   4"x5"

9 Scarecrow
   4"x5"

10 Forest
    4"x5"

11 Through the Hoop
    8 1/2"x10"

12 Shallow Grave
    6 1/2"x4 1/2"

13 Barroon Muse
    13 1/2"x12"

14 Crown Scene
    12 1/2"x8"

15 Graven Image
    24"x36"
16 Spontaneous Combustion
24"x36"