



An investigation of differentiated and undifferentiated modes of making
by Michael Joseph Burke

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

Montana State University

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Abstract:

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AN INVESTIGATION OF DIFFERENTIATED
AND UNDIFFERENTIATED MODES OF MAKING

by

MICHAEL JOSEPH BURKE, JR.

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

of

MASTER OF APPLIED ART

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Bozeman, Montana

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Signature

Michael J. Burkopf

Date

MAY 25, 1978

ARTIST'S STATEMENT

My work stands by itself. I will, however, address myself to certain considerations that went into the processes involved. The work presented has some common elements and delimiting factors. The choice of the tubular form was an intuitive decision; it simply appealed to me. The inherent strength of the form and the equal distribution of stress allowed me to deal with spatial qualities in a way that I had not previously explored. Because I had no ready-made familiar solutions to fall back on, I was, in a sense, forced to be spontaneous and rely on sensibilities that I did not normally call upon.

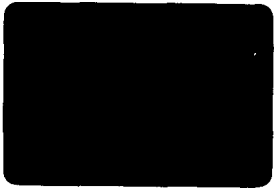
The source of many of the forms in the show are from early childhood memories. On the Jersey coast in the early 1920's, systems of nets were placed on the continental shelf to trap fish. This was the imagery for the seascape piece. With one of the boat forms, I was trying to capture the flowing precariousness of being afloat on such a mysterious and powerful element. Several of the pieces have reference to childhood art. Some are abstractions of abstractions; they just seemed to happen while working on pieces that had more concrete references and are part of a common continuum.

I think the common principle that ties the work together is controlled abandonment. Control being that I use every bit of technical and experiential knowledge that I have about the material I work with. The abandonment is the faith that if I approach my work with a deep emotional and intellectual commitment, it will be reflected therein.

LIST OF SLIDES

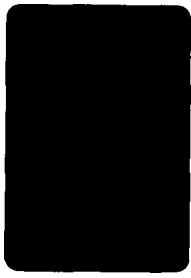
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2. Untitled
3. Peoples I
4. Peoples II
5. Early Memory
6. Untitled
7. Seascape
8. Gray Weather
9. Untitled
10. Untitled
11. Installation I

1



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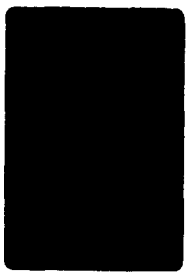
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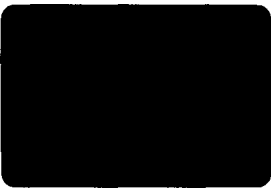
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