



Heads or tails  
by John William Pollock

A thesis submitted to the Graduate Faculty in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of  
MASTER OF APPLIED ART  
Montana State University  
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**Abstract:**

The prints of this thesis presentation reflect and were influenced by the recent birth of a son to the artist and his wife\* In these works self-portraits and portraits of the artist's son are employed, but these are used only as actors of a play. The real plot of these works comes from a theory by John Locke, who was an English philosopher and educator. This theory he called "Tabula Rasa". The theory in essence states that "the mind of an infant is a blank state and all of his actions and ideas come from experiences\*" Previous to the works of this thesis presentation, the artist completed a series of works involving vending machines\* These works were concerned with making a selection of an experience at the cost of one nickel. The thesis prints are thus related to these works in that the actual experiences of the thesis prints are represented by nickels.

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Signature John W. Calhoun

Date August 9, 1973

HEADS OR TAILS

by

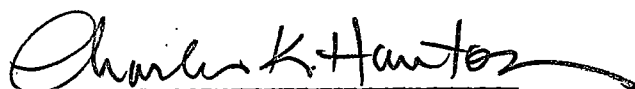
John William Pollock

A thesis submitted to the Graduate Faculty in partial  
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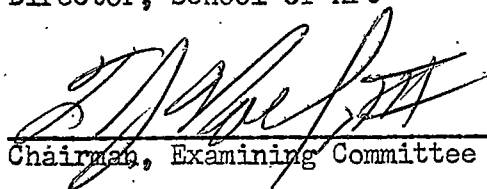
of

MASTER OF APPLIED ART

Approved:



Director, School of Art



Chairman, Examining Committee



Graduate Dean

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY  
Bozeman, Montana

August, 1973

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John William Pollock was born of Andrew Jess Pollock and Elsie May Brickman Pollock on December 10, 1946 in the town of Red Lodge, Montana. His education came, however, primarily in Billings, Montana, and he graduated from Billings West High School in June of 1965. From the years 1965 through 1969 he attended Eastern Montana College from where he graduated in June of 1969 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Education. After spending two years in the Armed Forces, he began attending Montana State University during the fall of 1971.

The prints of this thesis presentation reflect and were influenced by the recent birth of a son to the artist and his wife. In these works self-portraits and portraits of the artist's son are employed, but these are used only as actors of a play. The real plot of these works comes from a theory by John Locke, who was an English philosopher and educator. This theory he called "Tabula Rasa". The theory in essence states that "the mind of an infant is a blank state and all of his actions and ideas come from experiences."

Previous to the works of this thesis presentation, the artist completed a series of works involving vending machines. These works were concerned with making a selection of an experience at the cost of one nickel. The thesis prints are thus related to these works in that the actual experiences of the thesis prints are represented by nickels.

TITLES OF WORKS

SIZES

- |  |             |
|--|-------------|
| 1. <u>What Proud Papa Needs Is a Good Nickel Cigar</u>       | 19"-26"     |
| 2. <u>Proud Papa Has No More Nickels</u>                     | 20"-26"     |
| 3. <u>Proud Papa Searches Out Stray and Missing Nickels</u>  | 20"-26"     |
| 4. <u>Proud Papa Programs an Experience of "Tabula Rasa"</u> | 20"-26"     |
| 5. <u>Son of Proud Papa Reacts to "Tabula Rasa"</u>          | 20"-26"     |
| 6. <u>Son of Proud Papa Gets a Taste of His First Nickel</u> | 20"-26"     |
| 7. <u>Admiration of The Nickel Experience Collection</u>     | 20"-26"     |
| 8. <u>Proud Papa Recalls His Early Experiences</u>           | 20"-26"     |
| 9. <u>Nickel Experience Collection</u>                       | 20"-26"     |
| 10. <u>Nickel Experience Dispenser</u>                       | 10"-10"-18" |

1  
MADE IN U.S.A.  
19x26  
John Pollock

6  
MADE IN U.S.A.  
20x26  
John Pollock

16" High  
Ceramic  
MADE IN U.S.A.  
John Pollock  
Dec 72  
Nickel Machine #3

MADE IN U.S.A.  
John Pollock  
Dec 72  
Ceramic  
26" High  
Nickel Machines #1, 2, 3  
PRE-THESIS

2  
MADE IN U.S.A.  
20x26  
John Pollock

7  
MADE IN U.S.A.  
20x26  
John Pollock

John Pollock  
Dec 72  
Ceramic  
26" High  
Nickel Machine #4  
MADE IN U.S.A.

26" High  
Ceramic  
MADE IN U.S.A.  
John Pollock  
Dec 72  
Nickel Machines #1, 2, 3  
PRE-THESIS

3  
MADE IN U.S.A.  
20x26  
John Pollock

8  
MADE IN U.S.A.  
20x26  
John Pollock

22" High  
Ceramic  
MADE IN U.S.A.  
John Pollock  
Dec 72  
Nickel Machine #2  
PRE-THESIS

John Pollock  
Dec 1972  
Photo Metal Plate Litho 14"-19"  
One For a Nickel, Three For a Dime  
PRE-THESIS

4  
MADE IN U.S.A.  
20x26  
John Pollock

9  
MADE IN U.S.A.  
20x26  
John Pollock

16" High  
Ceramic  
MADE IN U.S.A.  
John Pollock  
Dec 72  
Nickel Machine #3  
PRE-THESIS

Etching-Photo 4"-5"  
MADE IN U.S.A.  
John Pollock  
Nov 1972  
8 Times Daily  
PRE-THESIS

5  
MADE IN U.S.A.  
20x26  
John Pollock

10  
MADE IN U.S.A.  
10x10x8  
John Pollock

26" High  
Ceramic  
MADE IN U.S.A.  
John Pollock  
Dec 72  
Nickel Machine #4  
PRE-THESIS

Metal Plate Litho 14"-19"  
MADE IN U.S.A.  
John Pollock  
Nov 1972  
Then They'd Ask  
PRE-THESIS

What Proud Papa Needs  
Is A Good Nickel  
Cigar

Son of Proud Papa  
Gets a Taste of His  
First Nickel

Proud Papa Has No  
More Nickels

Admiration of The  
Nickel Experience  
Collection

Out Stray and  
Missing Nickels

Proud Papa Recalls  
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From my  
Experience of  
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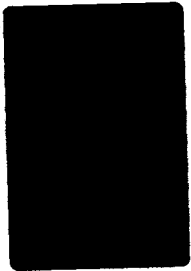
Nickel Experience  
Collection

Papa  
Reacts to "Tabula  
Rasa"

Nickel Experience  
Dispenser

Ceramic

26" High



PRE THESIS IN U.S.A.  
John Pollock  
Dec 72

Nickel Machine #1

John Pollock  
Nov 1972

Patent Pending



17th 15"-20"

PRE-THESIS

14







MISS MARY ANN WILSON, 1910













































