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
© Copyright by Mary Ann Kelly (1980)

Abstract:
no abstract found in this volume
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

Approved:

Chairperson, Graduate Committee

Head, Major Department

Graduate Dean

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY
Bozeman, Montana

June, 1980
STATEMENT OF PERMISSION TO COPY

In presenting this thesis in partial fulfillment of the requirements for an advanced degree at Montana State University, I agree that the Library shall make it freely available for inspection. I further agree that permission for extensive copying of this thesis for scholarly purposes may be granted by my major professor, or, in his absence, by the Director of Libraries. It is understood that any copying or publication of this thesis for financial gain shall not be allowed without my written permission.

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