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2013

## Mythology of Control

Allison Ann Roberts  
*Minnesota State University - Mankato*

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Mythology of Control

By

Allison Roberts

A Thesis Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the

Requirements for the Degree of

Master of Arts

In

Art

Minnesota State University, Mankato

Mankato, Minnesota

May 2013

*Mythology of Control*

Allison Roberts

This thesis has been examined and approved by the following members of the thesis committee.

Liz Miller, Advisor

Jonathan McFadden

Russell Palma

By

Allison Roberts

*Mythology of Control* is a personal, visual account of reacting to the turmoil of life and relationships, recognizing the inherent fragility often disguised by a façade of strength. Layering and obscuring imagery creates a metaphor for coping- constantly redefining perceptions, plans, and expectations. The printed imagery evokes a vague recognition or familiarity, alluding to unassembled schematics that are fictional but suggest credibility, rather than specific, identifiable forms.

Cloth, in the form of blankets or quilts handed down within families, absorbs history and memory, becoming a material archive. My link between personal history and impermanent states is supported by senses of memory, frustration, and a subtle optimism.

The layering in the works on paper builds repeated silkscreened images in a manner that shows the hand of the artist, creating layers that are similar, yet changed- a direct reference to human responses and actions which are constantly changing yet rooted in individual personalities. The gestural lines, smudges, and squeegee marks create a surface of imagery that reflects memory, past history, and the emotional scars that form the basis for each new response. There are no pristine surfaces, no forgetting, no complete erasures.

The work shows an ultimately flawed and misguided attempt to control expectations, control others' actions, control responses, and try to make something permanent in a world of change.

## EDUCATION

- 2013** Master of Arts- Visual Arts  
*Minnesota State University, Mankato, Minnesota*
- 1992** Teaching Certification, Art K-12  
*University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin*
- 1988** B.A. – Fine Arts and Journalism (High Distinction)  
*Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana*

## GRANTS and AWARDS

- 2012** Merit Award, Prairie Lake Regional Arts Council Juried Show
- 2010** Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council/McKnight Emerging Artist Grant
- 2009** Jerome Fiber Artists Project Grant
- 2008** Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council/McKnight Emerging Artist Grant

## SOLO, TWO, and THREE PERSON EXHIBITIONS

- 2013**  
*Mythology of Control - M.A. Thesis Exhibition (solo)*  
Conkling Gallery, MSU Mankato, Minnesota
- 2011**  
*Material Marks (solo)*  
Emy Frenz Arts Guild Mankato, Minnesota
- Featured Artist- Healing Arts Program*  
The Phipps Center for the Arts Hudson, Wisconsin
- 2010**  
*Mind at Hand- Jerome Fiber Artists Project Grant Exhibition*  
Joan Mondale Gallery, Textile Center Minneapolis, Minnesota
- Stitched Abstraction (solo)*  
Waseca Art Center Waseca, Minnesota
- Stitched Together: Three Fiber Artists*  
Carnegie Art Center Mankato, Minnesota
- 2009**  
*A Varying Tale (solo)*  
School of Art Gallery Mankato, Minnesota
- 2006**  
*Eclectic Stitches*  
Bollington Arts Centre Bollington, UK

## SELECTED GROUP AND JURIED SHOWS

- 2013**  
*2nd Student International Small Print Show*, El Minia University, Egypt  
*Pressing Business*, the 410 Project, Mankato, MN  
*Bloom*, Student Art League Juried Show, CSU Gallery, Mankato, MN
- 2012**  
*PLRAC Juried Exhibition*, Carnegie Art Center, Mankato, MN  
*For We Are Where We Are Not*, The 410 Project, Mankato, MN  
*Scopophilia: The Love of Looking*, Conkling Gallery, Mankato, MN
- 2011**  
*www.Exhibition*, Northfield Arts Guild, Northfield, MN  
*Merge and Flow*, Surface Design Association show, Nash Gallery, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN  
*PLRAC/McKnight Artist Grantee Exhibition*, Arts Center of St Peter, MN
- 2010**  
*PLRAC Juried Exhibition*, Carnegie Art Center, Mankato, MN
- 2009**  
*Art and Poetry Collaboration*, Emy Frenz Arts Guild, Mankato, MN  
*Surface Matters*, SDA show, Belger Art Center, Kansas City, KS  
*Fabrications Six*, Crossings Gallery, Zumbrota, MN
- 2008**  
*Purpose, Process, Progress-Mentor/Protégé Exhibit*, Joan Mondale Gallery, Textile Center of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN  
*National Small Art Quilt Exhibition*, Main Street Gallery, Groton, NY  
*Fabrics of Legacies, International Art Quilt Exhibition*, Lincoln Arts Center, Fort Collins, Colorado  
*Women's Vision: Expressing Life Through Art*, Arts Center of St. Peter

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to express my gratitude to all those who supported and encouraged me to develop my work throughout my course of study. I would especially like to thank Professors Liz Miller, Jonathan McFadden, and Brian Frink for their discussions, feedback, and encouragement. I would like to extend my thanks to the Art Department faculty and staff, I have enjoyed working and interacting with each of you.

I would love to thank my husband, Andrew, and my sons, Mitch and Jake, for encouraging me to pursue my Masters degree and for their unconditional support.

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# MYTHOLOGY OF

# CONTROL



# ALLISON ROBERTS

A thesis submitted to the Graduate School in partial fulfillment of the requirements for a Master of Arts,  
Minnesota State University, Mankato

May 2013

## ARTIST STATEMENT

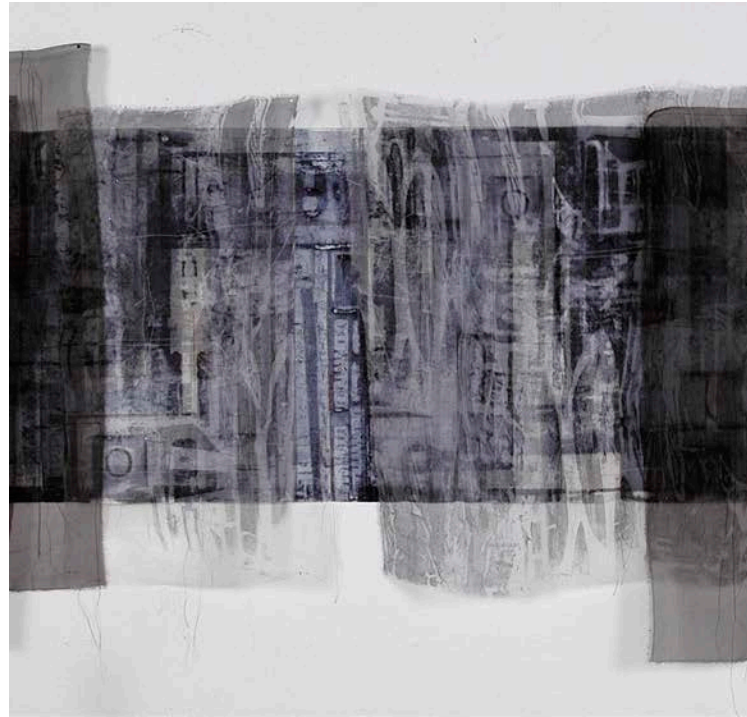
*Mythology of Control* is a personal, visual account of reacting to the turmoil of life and relationships, recognizing the inherent fragility often disguised by a façade of strength. Layering and obscuring imagery creates a metaphor for coping- constantly redefining perceptions, plans, and expectations. The printed imagery evokes a vague recognition or familiarity, alluding to unassembled schematics that are fictional but suggest credibility, rather than specific, identifiable forms.

Cloth, in the form of blankets or quilts handed down within families, absorbs history and memory, becoming a material archive. My link between personal history and impermanent states is supported by senses of memory, frustration, and a subtle optimism.

The layering in the works on paper builds repeated silkscreened images in a manner that shows the hand of the artist, creating layers that are similar, yet changed- a direct reference to human responses and actions which are constantly changing yet rooted in individual personalities. The gestural lines, smudges, and squeegee marks create a surface of imagery that reflects memory, past history, and the emotional scars that form the basis for each new response. There are no pristine surfaces, no forgetting, no complete erasures.

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Allison Roberts



## EXHIBITION CATALOGUE

<i>In Medias Res</i> Silkscreen monotype	22" x 30"
<i>The Plan in Hindsight</i> Silkscreen monotype	22" x 30"
<i>Thin Layers of Understanding</i> Dye and discharge monotype on cloth	74" x 66"
<i>Reflecting the Intangible</i> Silkscreen monotype	26" x 40"
<i>The Plot Thickens</i> Silkscreen monotype	22" x 30"
<i>Scratching the Surface</i> Silkscreen monotype	26" x 40"
<i>Obliterating</i> Silkscreen monotype, chalk	22" x 30"

<i>Notes to Myself</i> Discharge and dye monotype on cloth, pins	77" x 84"
<i>Myth of Strength</i> Silkscreen monotype	24" x 40"
<i>Haze</i> Silkscreen monotype	30" x 22"
<i>Through the Glass Darkly</i> Silkscreen monotype	22" x 30"
<i>Looking Back, or Through</i> Dye monotype on cloth	64" x 46" x
<i>To Founder</i> Dye monotype on cloth	56" x 71"
<i>Again, Who Do You Expect Me to Be?</i> Silkscreen monotype, onion skin paper, chalk	40" x 26"
<i>Changing Terrain</i> Silkscreen monotype	26" x 40"
<i>Rebuilding</i> Silkscreen monotype	26" x 40"
<i>Myth of Healing</i> Silkscreen monotype, onion skin paper	30" x 22"
<i>Emerging Shield</i> Silkscreen monotype, chalk	22" x 30"
<i>Myth of Structure</i> Silkscreen monotype, chalk	26" x 20"
<i>Remnant</i> Dye and discharge monotype on cloth	44" x 23"
<i>Light Trails</i> Silkscreen monotype	26" x 40"
<i>Length of a Moment</i> Dye monotype on cloth, stitched silk	28" x 76"
<i>Length of Days or Hours</i> Dye monotype on pieced cloth, ripped lining	16" x 23'





# MYTHOLOGY OF CONTROL

Master of Arts Exhibition

Allison Roberts

May 1-8

Conkling Gallery, Nelson Hall

Reception- May 1, 7-9 p.m.



# MYTHOLOGY OF CONTROL

Master of Arts Exhibition

Allison Roberts



# MYTHOLOGY OF CONTROL

MASTER OF ARTS EXHIBITION BY

**ALLISON ROBERTS**

MAY 1-8

RECEPTION: MAY 1, 7-9 P.M.

CONKLING GALLERY, 139 NELSON HALL

MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY,

MANKATO



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