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 Frentz 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
   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

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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Website: www.mnartists.org/allison_roberts

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.

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Allison Roberts

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**EXHIBITION CATALOGUE**

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<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Medium</th>
<th>Dimensions</th>
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<td>22&quot; x 30&quot;</td>
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<td>The Plan in Hindsight</td>
<td>Silkscreen monotype</td>
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<td>Thin Layers of Understanding</td>
<td>Dye and discharge monotype on cloth</td>
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<tr>
<td>Obliterating</td>
<td>Silkscreen monotype, chalk</td>
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Notes to Myself
Discharge and dye monotype on cloth, pins
77" x 84"

Myth of Strength
Silkscreen monotype
24" x 40"

Haze
Silkscreen monotype
30" x 22"

Through the Glass Darkly
Silkscreen monotype
22" x 30"

Looking Back, or Through
Dye monotype on cloth
64" x 46" x

To Founder
Dye monotype on cloth
56" x 71"

Again, Who Do You Expect Me to Be?
Silkscreen monotype, onion skin paper, chalk
40" x 26"

Changing Terrain
Silkscreen monotype
26" x 40"

Rebuilding
Silkscreen monotype
26" x 40"

Myth of Healing
Silkscreen monotype, onion skin paper
30" x 22"

Emerging Shield
Silkscreen monotype, chalk
22" x 30"

Myth of Structure
Silkscreen monotype, chalk
26" x 20"

Remnant
Dye and discharge monotype on cloth
44" x 23"

Light Trails
Silkscreen monotype
26" x 40"

Length of a Moment
Dye monotype on cloth, stitched silk
26" x 20"

Length of Days or Hours
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 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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