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2017

Elements

Stephen Anthony Geffre
Minnesota State University, Mankato

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Elements

By

Stephen Geffre

A Thesis Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the

Requirements for the Degree of

Master of Art

In

Master of Art in Sculpture

Minnesota State University, Mankato

Mankato, Minnesota

October 2017

10/16/2017

Elements

Stephen Geffre

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

Amy Toscani
Advisor

Todd Shanafelt
Committee Member

Brandon Cooke
Committee Member

Abstract

This thesis consists of a gallery exhibition titled “Elements” featuring sculpture created by Stephen Geffre for his Master of Arts in Sculpture from University of Minnesota-Mankato, located in Mankato, Minnesota. The exhibition ran from October 16, 2017 to October 31, 2017. The artwork explored sacredness---sacredness rooted in the natural, sacredness rooted within the minds of human kind, sacredness in the form of the classical elements Earth, Air, Fire and Water.

All the work was created in part with material that was going to be thrown away or sold at a fraction of its cost because of its imperfection.

Artist Statement

I explore sacredness--sacredness rooted in the natural, sacredness rooted within the minds of human kind, sacredness in the form of the classical elements Earth, Air, Fire and Water. These four elements make us feel safe. They bring us comfort. They make us feel at home. They ground us to our place within the world and are used to bring hope and to bless. They are rooted in our humanity because we are part of them and they are part of us.

This work explores my own path to comfort in a hectic and materialistic world. The four elements are part of my grounding force. I retreat to them when I am overwhelmed and look for peace within their forms. As humans, we are drawn to this power. This is why major spiritual practices use earth, air, fire, and water in their sacred traditions. We are called to their presence not because nature is perfect and serene but because our very core is connected to the natural world. Nature is perfect because it is imperfect, and in my work the imperfect is held as perfection.

This work has perfect imperfection at its core. It was created in part with material that was going to be thrown away or sold at a fraction of its cost because of its imperfection.

Titles

- 1 Double Pocket
- 2 Summit
- 3 Butcher's Knife
- 4 Breach
- 5 Tear
- 6 Untitled
- 7 Bent Reeds – Fire
- 8 Fountain
- 9 Bent Reed – Fork
- 10 Bent Reed – Crossing
- 11 Split
- 12 Bent Reed – Emergence
- 13 Twist
- 14 Perched Wing
- 15 Bank Art



CONKLING GALLERY

DEPARTMENT OF ART



MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY MANKATO

Elements

By Stephen Geffre
Master of Arts in Sculpture

Stephen Geffre's work is a combination of stone, steel, water, and wood examining the crossroads of humanity and the natural world.

October 16-31 in the Conkling Gallery
Opening reception October 16, 2017 7-8pm

ART ENRICHMENT

DEPARTMENT OF ART

Department of Art
136 Nelson Hall
Minnesota State University, Mankato
Mankato MN 56001



MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY MANKATO

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Slide List

Geffre, Stephen 01

Details- Double pocket in foreground with slate candle series in background

Geffre, Stephen 02

Details- Summit in foreground with slate candle series in background

Geffre, Stephen 03

Details- (left to right) Summit, Butcher's Knife, Breach, Tear

Geffre, Stephen 04

Details- Summit

Geffre, Stephen 05

Details- Butcher's Knife

Geffre, Stephen 06

Details- Breach

Geffre, Stephen 07

Details- Tear

Geffre, Stephen 08

Details- Bent Reed – Emergence

Geffre, Stephen 09

Details- Split

Geffre, Stephen 10

Details- Bent Reeds –Crossing

Geffre, Stephen 11

Details- Gallery Overview

Geffre, Stephen 12

Details- Gallery Overview

Geffre, Stephen 13

Details- Perched Wing in Foreground and Untitled

Geffre, Stephen 14

Details-Bank Art

Geffre, Stephen 15

Details- Bank Art Detail with Perched Wing framed

Slide List-continue

Geffre, Stephen 16
Details- Untitled

Geffre, Stephen 17
Details- Perched with slate candle series

Geffre, Stephen 18
Details- Perched Wind, Bank Art and Untitled

Geffre, Stephen 19
Details- Bent Reeds-Fire

Geffre, Stephen 20
Details- Bent Reeds- Fire, Fountain and Bent Reeds-Fork

Geffre, Stephen 21
Details-Bent Reeds-Fork

Geffre, Stephen 22
Details- Fountain Detail

Geffre, Stephen 23
Details- Bent Reeds –Fire Foreground

Geffre, Stephen 24
Details- Bank Art, Perched Wing and slate candle series

Geffre, Stephen 25
Details- (left to right) Bent Reeds-Crossing, Split and Bent Reeds- Emergence

Geffre, Stephen 26
Details- Split

Geffre, Stephen 27
Details- Detail of Double Pocket

Detailed List of Art Work

1) Double Pocket
48x18x5
Reclaimed Slate, Scrap Cedar and Red Candle

2) Summit
10x15x4
Reclaimed Slate, Scrap Cedar and Red Candle

3) Butcher's Knife
12x15x4
Reclaimed Slate, Scrap Cedar and Red Candle

4) Breach
12x15x4
Reclaimed Slate, Scrap Cedar and Red Candle

5) Tear
10x15x4
Reclaimed Slate, Scrap Cedar and Red Candle

6) Untitled
87x36x3
Stainless Steel

7) Bent Reeds-Fire
54x48x19
Stainless Steel, Sandstone and Cedar Shim

8) Fountain
48x53x20
Granite, Cedar, Copper, Water and Field Stone

9) Bent Reeds- Fork
36x36x18
Stainless Steel, Sandstone and Cedar Shim

10) Bent Reeds-Crossing
21x15x10
Stainless Steel and Scrap pine

11) Split
24x20x3
Stainless Steel and Found wood

Detailed List of Art Work continued

12) Bent Reeds- Emergence

21x20x10

Stainless Steel and Scrap pine

Detailed List of Art Work continued

13) Twist

89x51x42

Stainless Steel and Cedar

14) Perched Wing

53x33x10

Stainless Steel and found wood

15) Bank Art

48x32x6

Stainless Steel, Pine and Marble