ONE BLINDING FLASH;
Sculpture Exhibit.

An abstract submitted in partial satisfaction of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts in Art

by

Roger Jeffrey Dillon

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The abstract of Roger Jeffrey Dillon is approved:

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ABSTRACT

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My concern as a sculptor is to present stimulating objects which will cause viewer participation. The intent of these sculptures is to affect the viewer in a way that will cause him to interact with the work. The reaction of the viewer may even be of an avoidance nature.

These sculptures are meant to tell an obvious story, to make an obvious statement, or to hint at a joke. Most of all, each piece is meant to be something stimulating to the intellect of its audience.

Each sculpture serves as a starting point for a chain of thought which goes beyond the work itself. The form and craftsmanship of each piece is intended to function as a firm foundation for the thought process which continues where the sculpture leaves off. The ideas which lead off from the work, much as spokes lead off from the hub of a wheel, can be carried beyond the piece itself and applied to modern technology and other aspects of our society.
Some of the pieces deal strictly with man's fascination for motion, heat, light, and danger. Some play on man's destructive tendencies and in "One Blinding Flash" a person can vent those tendencies for a commitment of twenty-five cents while simultaneously gaining an aesthetic experience.

This "vending machine" presents a common flash bulb elevated by an elegant plastic column which is equipped with a coin slot and graphics. The comment behind this one-shot, disposable technology is directed at the vending machine industry and its "get little for your money" policy.

"The Hammer and the Egg" relies on the gestalt relationship between an egg which rests atop an anvil-like pedestal and a sledge hammer. While the sculpture triggers the destructive urges of the viewer, social restraint keeps him from smashing the egg.

"Free Popcorn" plays on man's fascination for precise motion and the phenomena of popping corn. This kinetic sculpture is a complex machine housed within a plastic cowling which elevates and pops one kernel of popcorn at a time and then discards the popped corn. Suspense and sometimes fear (when the kernel pops suddenly) are displayed by the viewer as the sculpture goes through its seventy second cycle.

"Shock You" is a stimulus of danger. This inconspicuous piece catches the viewer's eye or brushes his clothing as he moves
about the gallery. Most viewers turn in disbelief and question the liveness of the wires but hesitate to test them. Even when assured of the lack of electric current they approach the wires with great hesitation and anxiety.

"Hot Lines" is a nichrome wire sculpture that is presented in a dark room. As the viewer's eyes become accustomed to the dark, he sees two twenty foot lines which hang in space before him. The red lines resembling twisted and bent laser beams glow on and off intermittently. As they heat and cool they expand and contract which adds motion to the lines. After the viewer watches for a few moments, he becomes aware of the heat properties of the lines through his associations with common electric heaters. The properties of motion, light, heat, and lines in space all make this electric phenomena a fascinating point of departure for the viewer's imagination.
"ONE BLINDING FLASH"
one blinding flash 25¢
"THE HAMMER AND THE EGG"
"FREE POPCORN"
"SHOCK YOU"
"HOT LINES"