CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, NORTHRIDGE

PIECES OF PAPER

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

Art

by

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ABSTRACT

PIECES OF PAPER

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Katharine Melissa Barry

Master of Arts in Art

This series of drawings represents one step in the search for a means of creating an art object which expresses delicacy and vulnerability.

My previous concerns have been with exploring the expressive possibilities of composition in paint with pattern and figure. And later, non-figurative pieces with emphasis on use of materials such as resin, mylar and plexiglass.

Next came paintings of floral patterns on plexiglass, and my present work, drawings on paper tablecloths, evolved out of the plexiglass pieces.

Paper tablecloths are used because the material sug-
gests good esthetic possibilities. They are large in scale, offer a challenge as non-art material, are fragile and delicate, and they offer compatibility with the floral patterns previously used on plexiglass. They have a casual air which suggests to me the manner in which they can be handled.

As I began working with this material, I found that it lent itself to creative manipulation in various ways including embossing, tearing the edges, ironing, etc., to create patterns and folds which function as part of the esthetic. Pencil is used to create both markings and varying degrees of buckling in the paper, and is of a similar tone and intensity (under most lighting conditions) as the shadows cast by embossments and creases, thus bringing the shadows into play as part of the esthetic, and as an essential facet of a delicate overall tonality that lends the work, in my view, its basic character. Relationships exist between accidental occurrences, conscious manipulation of the paper's intrinsic properties, and the rendered images. The pieces are mounted unframed to reassert their fragility and informality.

This series evolved rapidly once the decision was made to use this type of paper, and to take advantage of its inherent qualities.
I am, as a result of these experiences, more aware of non-art materials, of their intrinsic properties and expressive means.
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