CONFRONTATIONS
A PERSONAL EXPRESSION IN SCULPTURE

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

Art

by

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ABSTRACT

CONFRONTATIONS

A PERSONAL EXPRESSION IN SCULPTURE

by

Diane Elaine Dubin

Master of Arts in Art

The sculpture that comprises the group "confrontations" is really a highly personal statement related to my identity. This body of work comes primarily from the emotional part of me and is a result of personal experiences and related feelings I have had in the last several years. "Confrontations" is all encompassing. It is expressed through the nature of the materials I use confronting each other. It also has to do with confronting myself and therefore is a confrontation in all senses of the word.

This work is the result of a new direction after a lengthy re-evaluation of my art. This new body of work in mixed media consists primarily of glass, metal, cotton,
rubber, and acrylic sheet. I was familiar with these materials having had a strong background in bronze and resin casting, stone carving and glass blowing. It was the process of putting these materials together in a new spontaneous way that freed me from some of the limitations of scale and time that traditional materials and methods often impose. I began to use the actual materials to create the effects I wanted instead of trying to create the illusion of these effects in bronze. This opened up a whole new exciting area of expression for me.

The issues I am dealing with involve contrasts between hard and soft materials, and how one directly affects the other. The duelism that is present in each sculpture results in a theme of symbiotic relationships. I work to create visual tensions by the compression and opposition of different forms and materials. The forms I most often use are characteristically rounded, sensual, and often sexually suggestive. I simply respond to the nature of the materials and create forms pleasing to me. Their meaning is often unclear to me, buried in my subconscious, sometimes brought to my conscious awareness later through the responses of those who view them.

The glass is strong and yet fragile as well as transparent. The cotton and rubber are soft and flexible like soft feminine aspects of myself. These things beckon to be touched because they are sensual in appearance.
A glass shard pierces a soft, white, cloudlike form but it is not destroyed. It remains intact.

A thick, broken piece of glass is surrounded, enveloped and protected by soft mounds of cotton, only its silvery edge visible but its presence strongly felt.

Folded rubber spills out of a slice in a metal disc in an attempt to free itself.

Another large metal disc holds captive in its center voluptuous folds of foam rubber.

Two large, broken pieces of sharp edged black glass are tenderly bound together by thick, soft, white rope, their union suggesting a female form.

White cotton is pressed between two long, slender smoke panels. The soft whiteness protrudes through a narrow opening, a sliver of glass pierces its purity.

I believe that the materials I have chosen to work with and the way that I use them relate to my experiences and are symbolic expressions of my deepest emotions. The thread of symbiotic relationships consistently permeates all the work. The dualities that exist in each piece are important because they relate directly to my emotions and inner conflicts, the hard versus the soft, the strong versus the vulnerable. There is some pain from past experiences there. There is anger and frustration. There is also strength and boldness, humor, joy, warmth and sensitivity.

These pieces are to me the expression of very
personal feelings that could not be verbalized. It was necessary and very important for me to express them. I also see them as a celebration of new found strengths and new beginnings.
1. Compression - glass and neoprene

2. Impressions - glass and cotton
3. Bondage – glass and cotton
4. To the Point - acrylic sheet and cotton
5. Smoke Panel - acrylic sheet and cotton
6. Small Disc - aluminum and neoprene
7. Large Disc - aluminum and foam rubber
8. Intrusion - wax and glass

9. Enveloped - cotton and glass
10. Maquette #1 - cotton and glass

11. Maquette #2 - foam, fabric and glass
12. View of Maquettes

13. View of Exhibition #1
14. View of Exhibition #2

15. View of Exhibition #3