

**THESIS**

**RECENT WORK**

**Submitted by**

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**Department of Art**

**In partial fulfillment of the requirements**

**of the Degree of Master of Fine Art**

**Colorado State University**

**Fort Collins, Colorado**

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WE HEREBY RECOMMEND THAT THE THESIS PREPARED UNDER OUR  
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MASTER OF FINE ART.

Committee on Graduate Work

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Adviser

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Department Head/Director

## ABSTRACT OF THESIS

## RECENT WORK

My art work is a means of exploring feeling. It is an involvement in a process which leads to personal expression and discovery of the unknown and hidden. My concern is about content and my search is for honesty and essence. My desire is that the work be authentic, personal and spiritual.

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Fall 1997

I wish to express sincere gratitude to my teachers who showed me great  
insight, support and patience.

Thank You

Jim Dormer

Jack Orman

Steve Simons

and

Dave Dietemann

This work is dedicated to Charles Kohlhardt for continuous help and support

and

my sincere thanks to

Genevieve

Stephanie

and

Annessa

for understanding.

This task of explaining my art is difficult because the words I find to describe it are words that lend themselves to describing a sensibility rather than something concise or tangible. The creation of my art is a task that involves the heart, mind, soul, spirit and body. It is a search for something that becomes sensuous. Robert Motherwell stated this in a similar fashion when he wrote "...that the content of art is feeling; it is the creation of an object for sensing that is the artist's task; and it is the qualities of this object that constitute its felt content."<sup>1</sup>

In my search my concern is more about content than formal issues although I use the formal to reach my desired content. My process begins with an exploration of shapes and their positioning on the chosen format. This is a formal intellectual exploration that I proceed through until I find a set of visual relationships which takes me to an experience within me that I wish to explore. I respond intuitively to what I see by playing with the elements that make up the work. This is a very personal interaction with the image and the medium.

My work is a process of discovering the hidden and unknown. Some of the elements that are essential to this discovery are light, space, position in space, position on the picture plane, volume and intensity. As I work I do not predict what the end product will be nor do I analyze the progression of the images. This search for the unknown and

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<sup>1</sup> Terenzio, Stephanie, The Collected Writings of Robert Motherwell . New York: Oxford University Press, 1992

hidden gives my images authenticity and they become personal and spiritual. I discover more about myself and the world around me every time I print or paint.

My work is in constant evolution. Each piece begins with a particular place or shapes and then moves on its own path. It is a search for the nature of the subjects or relationships. I am looking for an essence and honesty even if the nature of the work is something not easily experienced. I seek natural order without imposed order and natural humanness with as little imposition of culture as possible.

In working with both painting and lithography I use each one to aid the other. I take the discoveries I make in lithography to my painting and the same from painting to lithography. Painting allows me the freedom to explore using a great variety of tools and the use of color is an additional vehicle for discovery. The lithography printmaking process allows me the use of luscious rich blacks and shows me new ways of looking at my work that I might not see otherwise. In the processing of a drawn image to a print, changes take place. The image may become richer and more intense. The lights and darks may become exaggerated. The space can shift, the light can change and sometimes simplification occurs.

While in the midst of either process, I most often do not know the meaning of my work or what in life I am expressing. I do know that it is about something real and is expressing something inside of myself. I find it necessary to allow time to pass after each work is completed in order to gain a feeling of detachment and then get a sense of what is expressed.

In my work I have many places to explore. Each piece I create, whether it is just an attempt at art making or becomes a completed work, moves me along a path. I do not know where this work will lead me but I am thrilled about experiencing the continuing discovery and exploration.

"The position of the artist is humble. [She]He is essentially a channel"<sup>2</sup>

Piet Mondrian

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<sup>2</sup> Cameron, Julia, The Artists Way . New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1992



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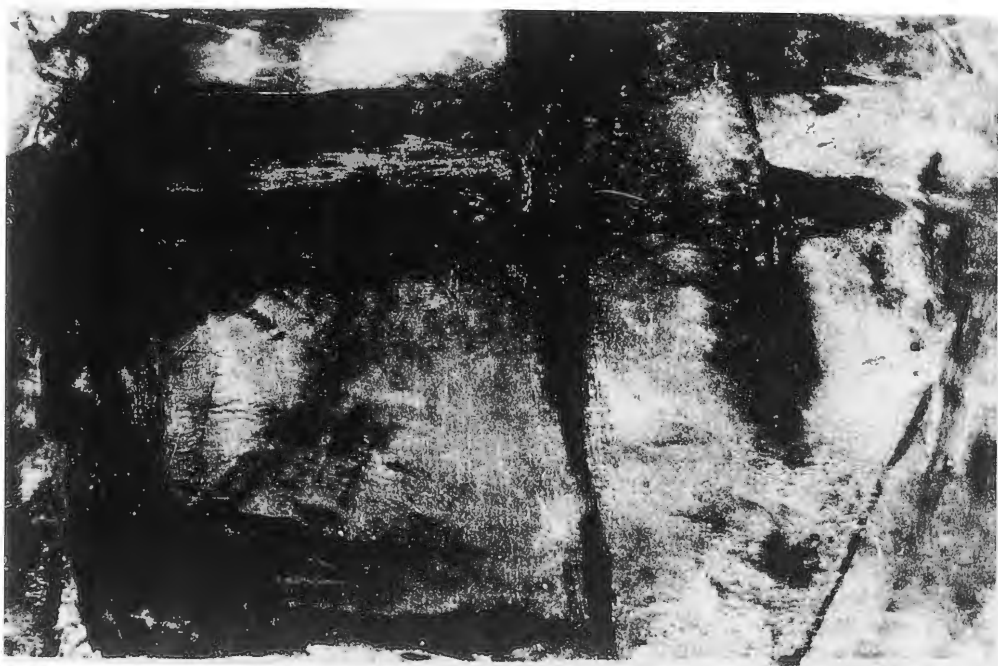


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Figure 7. Unyielding , 11 1/2w x 15"h, Lithograph with Chine Colle, 1997



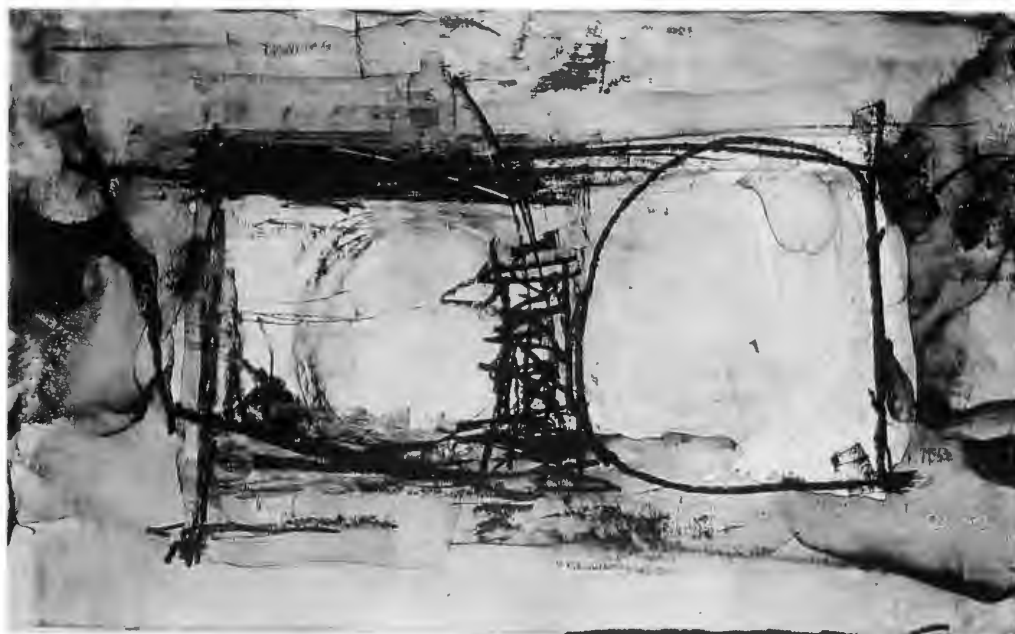


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