

THESIS

UNSETTLED TERRITORY

Submitted by

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Art Department

In partial fulfillment of the requirements

for the Degree of Master of Fine Arts

Colorado State University

Fort Collins, Colorado

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BY Tara L. Parr

ENTITLED Unsettled Territory

BE ACCEPTED AS FULFILLING IN PART REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF

Master of Fine Arts

Committee on Graduate Work

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Advisor

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ABSTRACT

UNSETTLED TERRITORY

In a surreal manner, my work tests the burgeoning notion of art as life and life as art. Artistic effort to be more real than reality has a long tradition, but it is beginning with Marcel Duchamp that the particular turn of mind which fascinates me becomes evident in art. The overwhelming doubt in regard to the finality of a proposition is the motivation for my representation of experience. In my work there is a focus on seemingly commonplace events, objects, and forms whose significance has been enhanced in an ambiguous statement. In a new context specific objects and materials function in relationships foreign to their identity. A certain credibility in this new identity makes them psychologically provocative. My use of objects reflects the influence of Jasper Johns, Robert Rauschenberg, and Rene Magritte. They used objects in an overtly confrontational manner. In my work there is a reserved atmosphere where the confrontation is denied. The impermanent, unprecious nature of the materials is a part of the fast changing, disposable attitude in my modern society. The imposing presence of the work contradicts impermanence, and this creates a paradox by presenting miscellaneous objects in a precious manner. Feelings of static confinement are tempered by unresolved spontaneity. These opposing qualities are subtle and achieve a form of coexistence. In content the use of human manipulation

echos man's mimicry of natural order. Levels of order reflect my personal beliefs about their psychological functioning. I propose an ordered atmosphere of reserved human normalcy where tensions and contradictions arise, build, and expire.

Tara L. Parr
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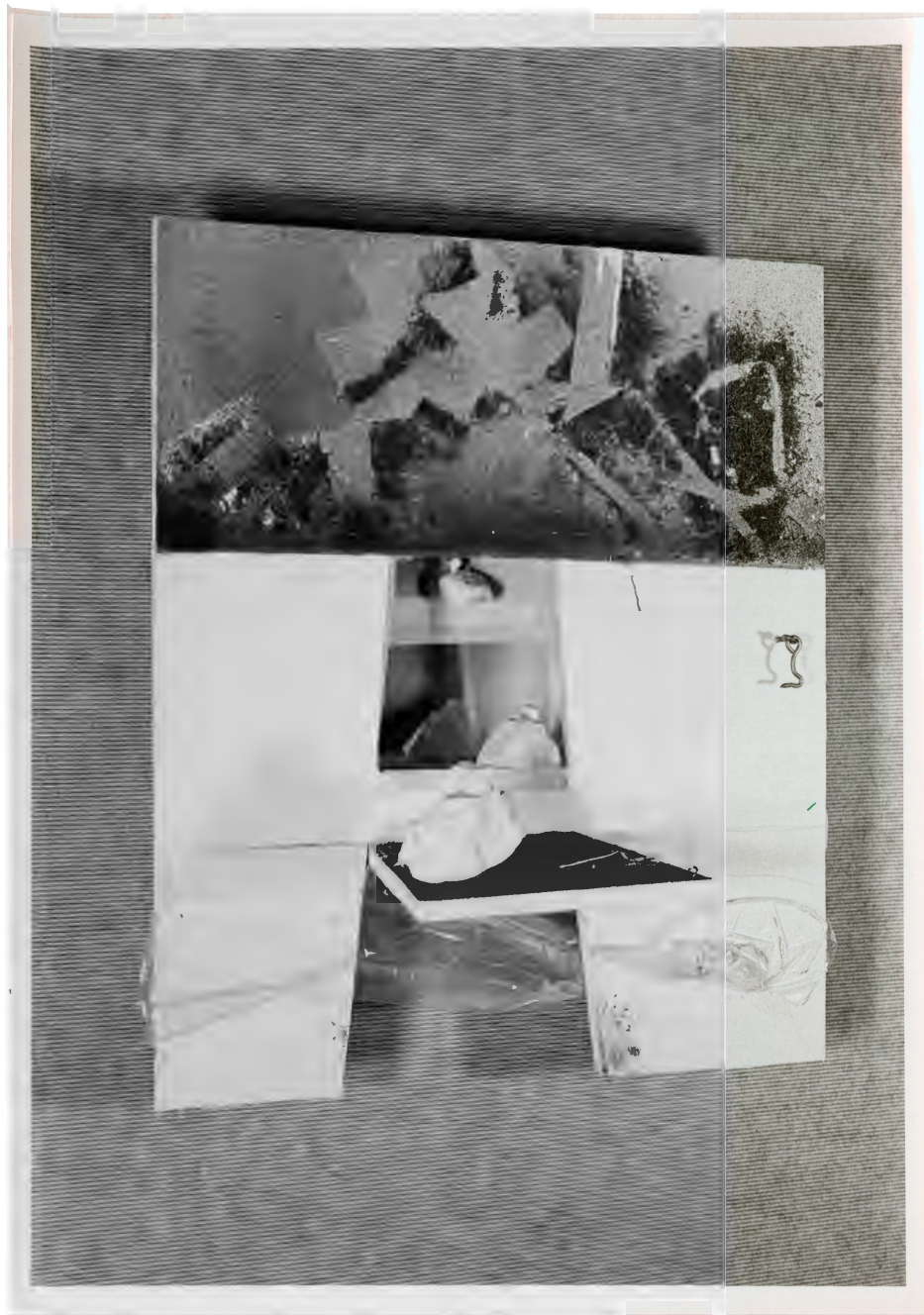
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Appendix



"And Again, Please"



"At Ease"

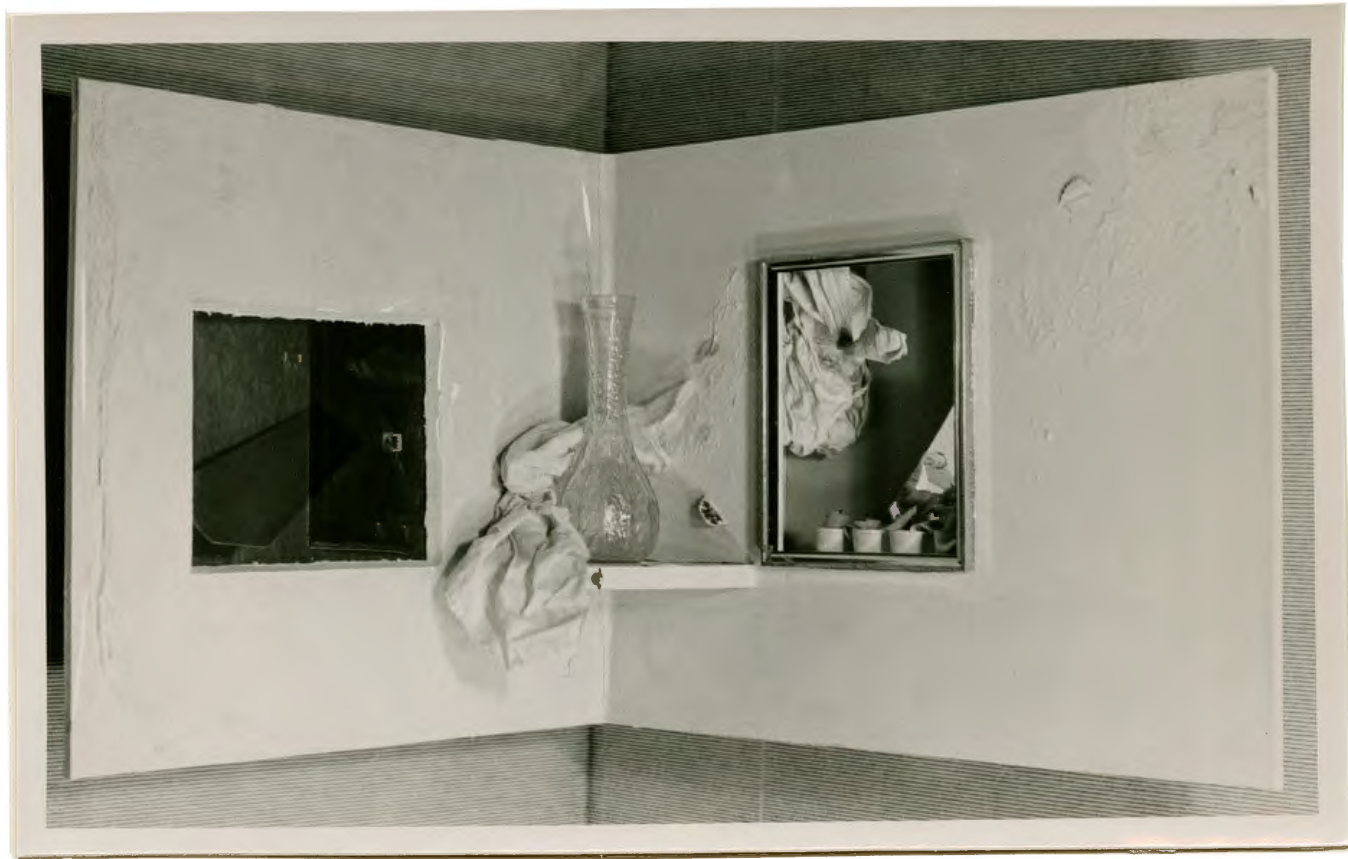


"The Trap Is Set"



"Maybe Next Year"

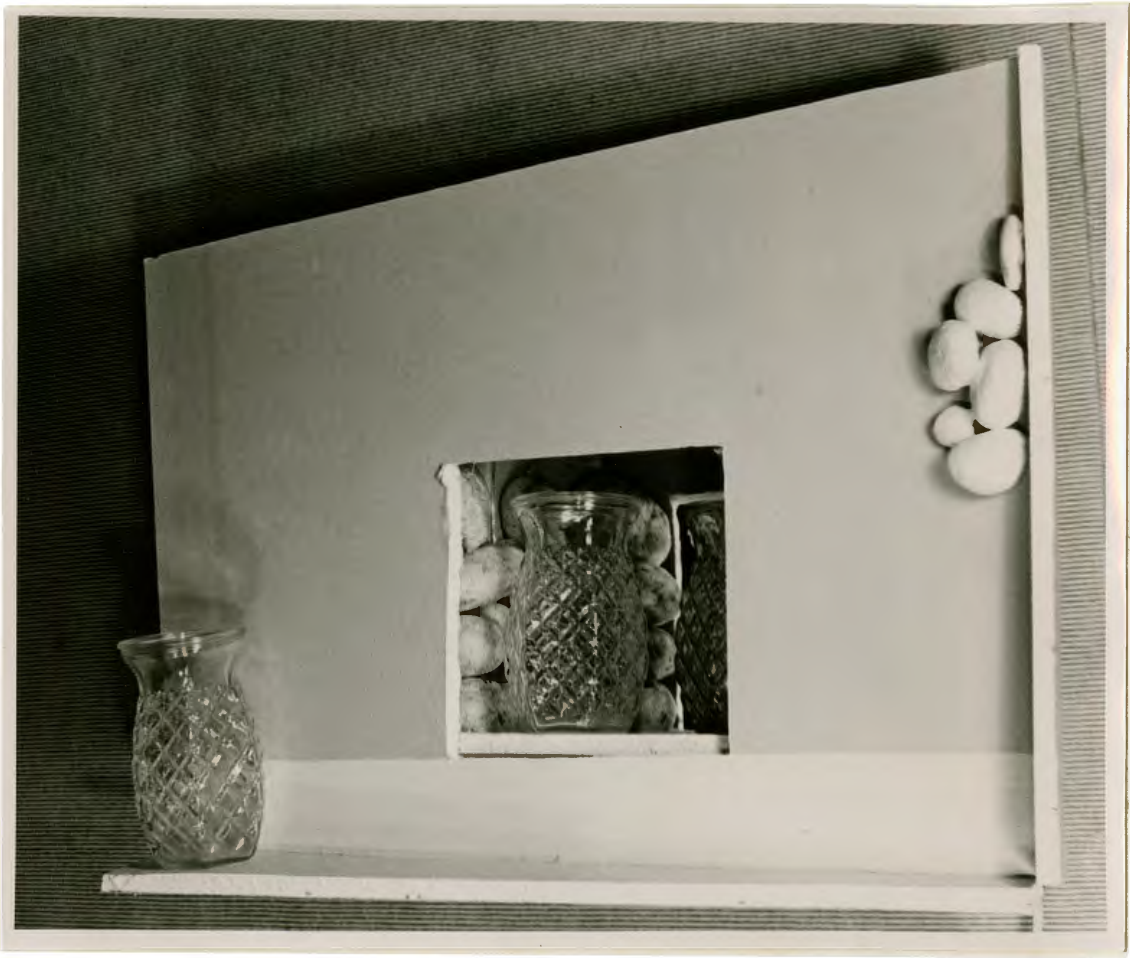
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"Parlor Games"



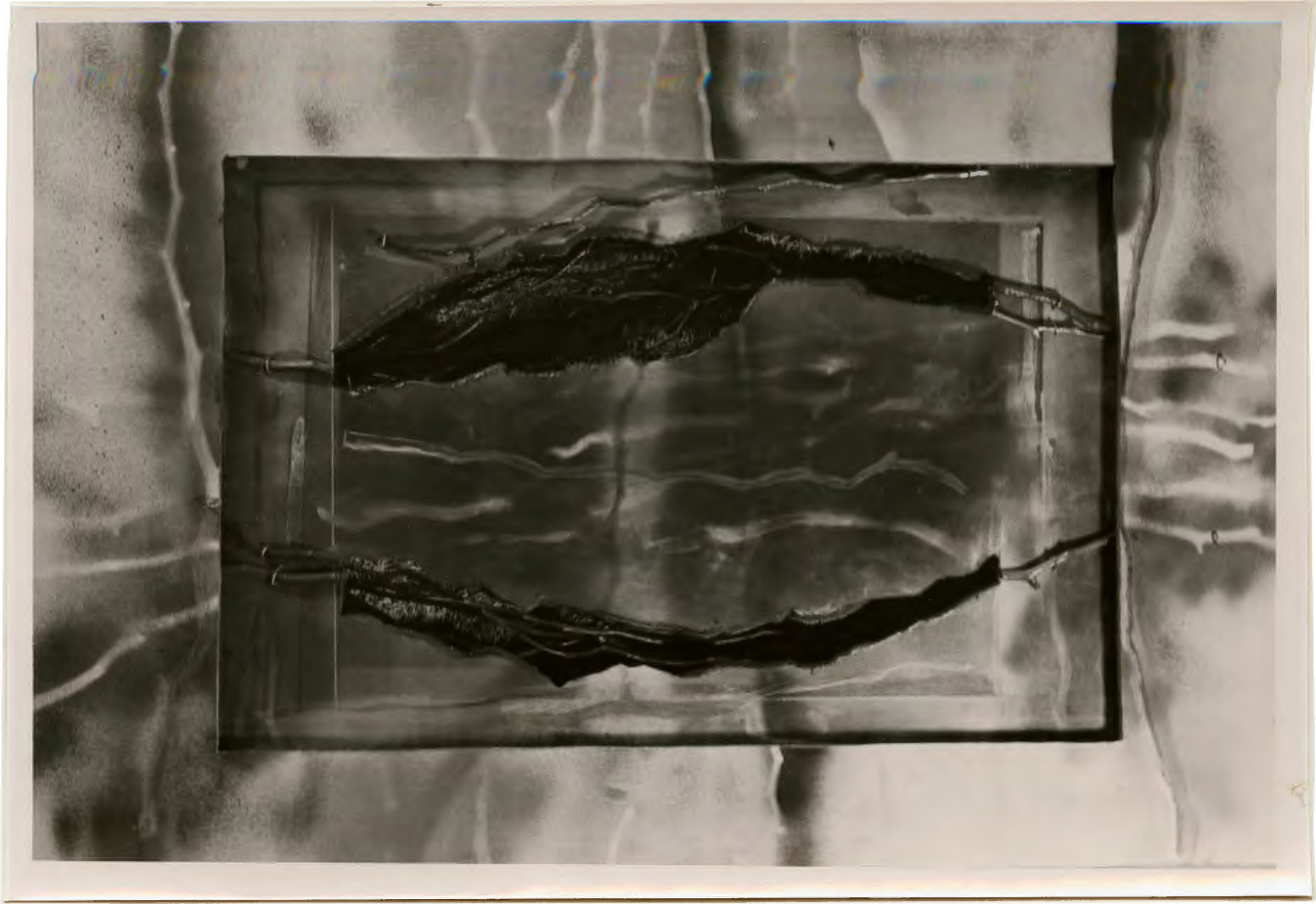
"More Toys"



"Can't You See; I'm Busy"



"Russian Roulette"



"Rabbit Run"



"My Pleasure"



"The Misunderstanding"

Description of Illustrations

- "And Again, Please" page 1
Mixed Media (wallboard, spray paint, newspaper,
latex house paint, grasshoppers, real plastic
snow, foil gum wrapper)
Collage 26" wide X 28" high X 4" deep
- "At Ease" page 2
Mixed Media (wallboard, dirt, spray paint, latex
house paint, rocks, clear plastic, hook, mirror)
Collage 20" wide X 24" high X 11" deep
- "The Trap Is Set" page 3
Mixed Media (wallboard, wood slats, tennis shoes,
leaves, locust branch, thrasher, spray paint,
latex house paint, mirror, night light)
Collage 31½" wide X 36" high X 4" deep
- "Maybe Next Year" page 4
Mixed Media (wallboard, spray paint, apricot
branches, rocks, metal ring, grasshoppers, glass)
Collage 40" wide X 24" high X 24" deep
- "Parlor Games" page 5
Mixed Media (wallboard, glass vase, handkerchiefs,
plastic leaves, lace, broken mirror, picture frame,
picture backing, wooden shelf, coffee creamer
cups, candles, hook, latex house paint, mylar)
Collage 40" wide X 20" high X 8" deep
- "More Toys" page 6
Mixed Media (wallboard, latex paint, rock, eraser,
rubber band, pair of white gloves, plastic con-
tainer, rib bones, buttons, bark, tooth, mirror)
Collage 24" wide X 28" high X 21" deep
- "Can't You See; I'm Busy" page 7
Mixed Media (wallboard, latex paint, rocks, glass
vases, night light, mirror)
Collage 24" wide X 24" high X 8" deep
- "Russian Roulette" page 8
Mixed Media (wallboard, spray paint, grasshoppers,
rocks, tooth, plexiglass, acrylic paint)
Collage 18" wide X 21½" high X 2½" deep

"Rabbit Run" page 9

Mixed Media (wallboard, spray paint, locust
branches, metal staples, mylar, dry sod)

Collage 48" wide X 31" high X 5" deep

"My Pleasure" page 10

Mixed Media (wallboard, Mexican penny bank, china
plates, latex house paint, mirror)

Collage 45" wide X 24" high X 11" deep

"The Misunderstanding" page 11

Mixed Media (wallboard, apricot tree branch, grass-
hoppers, spray paint, mirror)

Collage 24" wide X 22½" high X 6½" deep