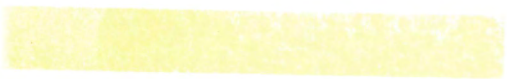


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University of Colorado at Boulder



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STRAWFIELDS

By

Gary Pahler

B.F.A., University of Colorado, 1974

A thesis submitted to the faculty of the Graduate
School of the University of Colorado in partial
fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of

Master of Fine Arts

Department of Fine Arts, Creative Art

1979

This Thesis for the Master of Fine Arts Degree by

Gary Pahler

has been approved for the

Department of

Fine Arts

by

Jerry Kunkel

Jeanie Weiffenbach

Frank Sampson

Jim Johnson

Louis Eades

Date _____

Rural farming areas are a familiar part of my heritage which, through a lifetime of visual indoctrination, emerge in my work. This investigation of a countryside agricultural environment, combined with an interest in patterns and shapes, culminates in my personal artistic experience. These ideas are explored within my drawings through the repetition of shapes and diagonal lines, using a landscape motif which recurs in each drawing. The function of agriculture provides a compositional device to explore a gestural mark making process, enabling an element of personal signature. The formal variation which occurs constitutes a kind of "vocabulary" of line which can also connote excitement and other states of emotional intensity. The direction and weight of the marks are incorporated into a layering process forming value changes within monochromatic graphite mark making. This layering method provides a developmental evaluation of the drawing process which is paralleled with an autobiographical investigation of the work and of gestural mark making, composed of elements of ancestral connections to the land. The lack of color and the overall dark value of the work allows an anonymity

of subject matter divorced from specific identifiable location, which allows an open and varied interpretation of the shapes and forms, enabling them to transcend predetermined expectations of content and meaning.

In partial fulfillment of the requirements
for the degree Master of Fine Arts

Gary Pahler

has submitted this written thesis
as a supplement to the creative thesis
one drawing

19" x 24" Strawfields

and 19 slides

which are in the permanent possession of the
University of Colorado and recorded with the
Department of Fine Arts

Approved by _____
Chairman of the Committee

Member of the Committee

Member of the Committee

Member of the Committee

Member of the Committee

Chairman, Department of Fine Arts

Number of Slides and Medium

Nineteen graphite drawings 19"x 24" entitled Strawfields

