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In Mild Defiance of Rectangular Stability

Robert A. Matz

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IN MILD DEFIANCE OF RECTANGULAR STABILITY

by

Robert A. Matz

Bachelor of Science in Education, University of North Dakota, 1976

Artist's Statement

Submitted to the Graduate Faculty

of the

University of North Dakota

in partial fulfillment of the requirements

for the degree of

Master of Fine Arts

Grand Forks, North Dakota

August
1978

TT978
M438

This Artist Statement submitted by Robert A. Matz in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Master of Fine Arts from the University of North Dakota is hereby approved by the Faculty Advisory Committee.

ROMANUSCHAEFER

(Chairman)

Paul F. Furlingland

Brian O. Fankew

William Johnson
(Dean of the Graduate School)

PERMISSION

TITLE In Mild Defiance of Rectangular Stability

DEPARTMENT Visual Arts Department

DEGREE Master of Fine Arts

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Robert A. Matz
Signature

7-14-78
Date

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I would like to thank the faculty and students of the University of North Dakota Visual Arts Department for providing a learning environment necessary for my development as an artist. A special thanks to Ronald Schaefer, Brian Paulsen and Paul Fundingsland, who served on my Graduate Committee, for providing me with their constructive criticism and assistance in the pursuit of my ideas and goals.

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

	Slide Number
The Great American Ringworm	
Epidemic of 1956; or the Fourth	
Grade Rectangular Imprintation.....	Drawing.....1
Defiance.....	Drawing.....2
Structured Learning.....	Drawing.....3
Shooting the Breeze.....	Watercolor.....4
Portrait of Margaret	
Looking Baconese.....	Watercolor.....5
Multiple Mes.....	Drawing.....6
Intermediate Phase 1,2,3;	
Self Portraits with Burning Desire.....	Oil.....7
Rectangular X Scape.....	Oil.....8
Fading Rectangular Grid X Scape.....	Oil.....9
Rich Brown Horizontal Flow.....	Oil.....10
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Horizontal Dash Scape.....	Oil.....12
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ABSTRACT

This Artist's Statement is concerned with the awareness of one's environment, and the pursuit and evolution of an idea based on this awareness.

IN MILD DEFIANCE OF RECTANGULAR STABILITY

My work the past four years has been concerned with an idea or theme based on an awareness of our manmade rectangular world. The theme of these recent paintings and drawings is a reaction to certain relationships and qualities in our visually stable rectangular environment. The eventual evolution of the idea deals with an essence of movement meant to defy or oppose rectangular stability.

Early approaches to the idea deal with visual comparisons meant to symbolize a literal interpretation of the idea. These works are always representational and contain people placed or staged in extremely rectangular situations.

The Great American Ringworm Epidemic of 1956; or The Fourth Grade Rectangular Imprintation is an early example of this staged situation. A class of forty fourth graders is seated in front of an exaggerated brick wall that totally engulfs the background. That pattern, caused by repetition of faces, does create a necessary movement to defy this extreme rectangular situation.

The later more recent work, in the form of paintings, is less concerned with a literal translation of the concept. These paintings are concerned more with reflecting a certain abstract quality of one's rectangular environment. The abstract quality is the essence of movement that defys the rectangular environment.

Animated motifs combined with a very stable grid structure create a feeling of movement. The animation or sense of movement is caused by irregular spacing of dashlike or rectangular elements. At times the motifs

appear to float, flow or fall over, against or beneath a stable rectangular grid structured composition. Symmetrical compositions add a feeling of stability.

A certain in-out movement is caused by shallow spacial fluxuations. These spacial relationships are produced by alternating values, color temperatures and gradual value gradations. This, at times, rhythmic movement, aids in the defiance of the rectangular stability of the grid structure.

During my development as an artist I have increasingly felt a need to find an idea that reflects a portion of my environment. The need has arisen from my desire to find a more personally meaningful and self-satisfying subject matter. In other words, to find a subject matter based on an idea, my personal vehicle of expression.

Finding one's own motivating idea produces a more intrinsic kind of reward.

I feel that one's ideas should be flexible enough for allowance of growth and evolution. As an artist one should keep challenging his ideas and not become too confined by them.

In the past two years my painting and drawing has evolved from a literal to an abstract interpretation of an idea. The flexibility of my interpretation of the concept of rectangular awareness has allowed much room for experimentation.

I look at my graduate work as a foundation for continuing pursuit and evolution of this idea in the future.

Matz, R.A. 1976 /
Great Amer. Ring-
Worm Epidemic 1956



for the 4th grade
Rectangular Imprint
Drawing 35"x26"

Matz, R.A. F. 1976 2
Defiance
Drawing 15"x20"



Matz, R.A. 1976 3
Structured Learning
Drawing 18"x70"



Matz, R.A. 1977 4
Shooting the Breeze
Watercolor/c. pencil



15"x 21 1/2

Matz, R.A. 1978 5
Portrait Margaret
Looking Baconese



Watercolor 18"x22"

Matz, R.A. 1976 6
Multiple Mes
Drawing 19"x23"



Matz, R.A. 1978 7
Intermed. Phase 1, 2, 3
Self Port. with burn-

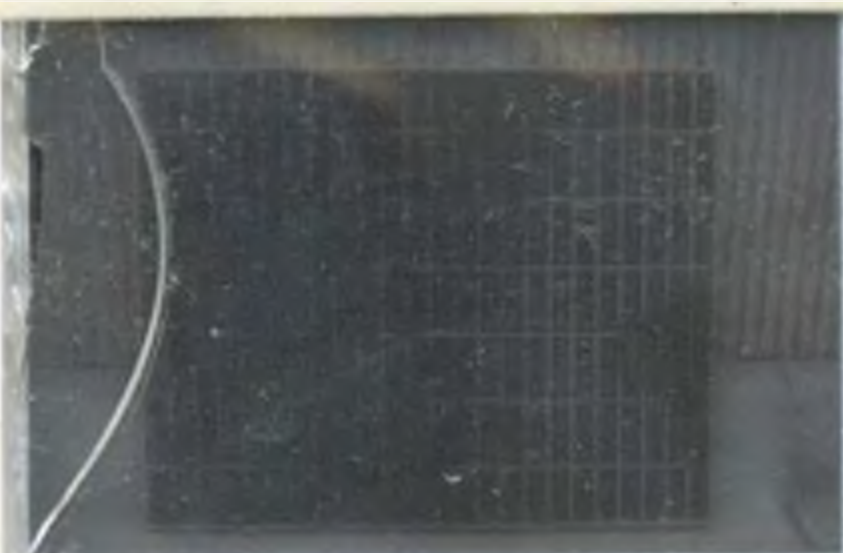


ing desire
Oil
52"x72"

Matz, R.A. 1977 8
Rectangular X Scape
Oil 53 1/2"x 43"



Matz, R.A. Sum 1977
Fading Rect. Grid 9,
Scape Oil 53 1/2"x43"



Matz, R.A. F 1977 10
Rich Brown Horiz.
Flow Oil 53 1/2"x43"



Matz, R.A. Sum 1978
The Great Pink up-
rising Oil
53 1/2"x 43"



Matz, R.A. Sum 1978
Horizontal Dash 12
Scape Oil



43 1/2"x 50"

Matz, R.A. Sum 1978
Vertical Springtime
Shift Oil 13



43 1/2"x50"

Matz, R.A. 1978
Winter Horizontal
Shift Oil 12'x4' 14



Matz, R.A. 1977
Rect. Grid X Scape
Oil 72"x72"



Matz, R.A. Jan 1978
Untitled #26 16
Oil/colored pencils
66"x 90"



Matz, R.A. 1977
29 In-A-Row
Oil 160"x47 1/2" 17



Matz, R.A. Aug. 1977
Earthen X Scape 18
Oil 66"x66"



Matz, R.A. Sept 1977
WY's Garden Breeze
Oil 28"x32"



Matz, R.A. 1976 20
Magic Rectangular
Window Oil 47"x67"

