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MURRAY, ELLEN ROSANNE. An Exhibition of Watercolor Paintings and Wire Sculpture. (1971)  
Directed by: Mr. Peter Agostini. pp. 3.

The thesis consisting of a series of watercolors of still life and four abstract sculptural works executed in wire mesh was exhibited at the Weatherspoon Art Gallery of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro from May 2 to 9, 1971.

A 35mm slide of each thesis work is on file at the University of North Carolina Library in Greensboro.

AN EXHIBITION OF WATERCOLOR PAINTINGS  
AND WIRE SCULPTURE

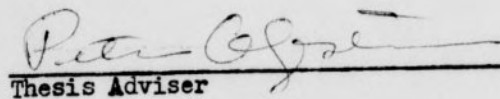
by

Ellen Rosanne Murray

A Thesis Submitted to  
the Faculty of the Graduate School at  
The University of North Carolina at Greensboro  
in Partial Fulfillment  
of the Requirements for the Degree  
Master of Fine Arts

Greensboro  
April, 1971

Approved by

  
Thesis Adviser

APPROVAL PAGE

This thesis has been approved by the following committee of the Faculty of the Graduate School of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

Thesis  
Adviser

Peter C. Agoston

Oral Examination  
Committee Members

Peter C. Agoston

Gilbert K. Carpenter

Robert Ross

Andrew Martin

May 4 '71

Date of Examination

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I would like to thank Mr. Peter Agostini, my thesis director, and the other members of my thesis committee, Mr. Gilbert Carpenter, Mr. Andrew Martin, and Dr. Robert Rosthal, for their aid and encouragement in the preparation of this thesis.

## CATALOGUE

TITLE	MEDIUM	DIMENSIONS IN INCHES
1. Two Oranges and a Cup (series of three)	watercolor	2 X 3 1/2
	watercolor	2 X 3 1/2
	watercolor	2 X 3 1/2
2. Two Oranges and a Cup (series of three)	watercolor	2 X 3 3/4
	watercolor	2 X 3 3/4
	watercolor	2 X 3 3/4
3. Two Oranges and a Cup (series of three)	watercolor	2 3/4 X 4 1/2
	watercolor	2 3/8 X 4 1/2
	watercolor	2 X 4 1/2
4. Two Oranges and a Cup (series of three)	watercolor	2 1/2 X 4 1/4
	watercolor	2 1/2 X 4 1/4
	watercolor	2 1/2 X 4 1/4
5. Still Life (series of two)	watercolor and pencil	3 1/4 X 4 5/8
	pencil	3 3/8 X 4 5/8
6. Still Life (series of two)	watercolor pencil	2 1/2 X 4 1/8
	watercolor	2 1/2 X 4 1/8
7. Two Oranges and a Cup (series of two)	watercolor	2 1/2 X 4 1/2
	watercolor	2 1/2 X 3 1/2

- |   |   |                        |
|---|---|------------------------|
| 8. Two Oranges and a Cup<br>(series of two) | watercolor<br>watercolor                | 3 1/4 X 4<br>3 1/2 X 4 |
| 9. Untitled                                 | enamel, day-glo, and<br>acrylic on wire | 36 X 22 1/2            |
| 10. Yellow Core                             | acrylic on wire                         | 36 X 27                |
| 11. Yellow-Orange Line                      | acrylic on wire                         | 36 X 37                |
| 12. Untitled                                | acrylic on wire                         | 48 X 120               |



Watercolor studies of still life and four abstract sculptural works comprise the thesis exhibition. The thesis works represent a sampling of my exploration of the inexhaustible range of possibilities suggested by juxtaposition of forms and color associations as they relate to spatial placement when translucent media (i.e., watercolor and wire mesh) are used.

A still life was chosen as a beginning point of reference for my exploration. A sheet of aluminum was used as a base and backdrop for some of the still life setups. Other bases for the still life included a white drape, white table, and colored papers.

Many of the still lifes on exhibition are composed of three objects, two oranges and a styrofoam cup. The elements in the still life are most important to me for the color associations with which they deal and the ambiguous spatial placement which is suggested. Subject matter is irrelevant to my work.

The watercolors on exhibition were painted in series of two or three to a page with each watercolor approximately two inches in height by four inches in width. For the thesis presentation, the watercolors have been placed in a grouped installation on a white wall.

In painting the watercolors a range of exciting possibilities for exploration was opened by first working with the space surrounding the still life elements. I discovered that by painting the space surrounding an object first, an illusion of volume could be created before the object's surface had been touched. Ambiguous spatial placement of objects, atmospheric space, and the interaction of color were areas



of concentration as my work developed.

Fence wire of three and four foot heights with rectangular grids of two inches by two and one-half inches is the medium for the sculpture on exhibition. Some of the fence wire when purchased was coated with white plastic. Portions of the wire have been painted with a combination of enamel, day-glo, and acrylics. Three of the works are shaped in coils with no edges touching except the exterior connecting points. The fourth piece is a free-flowing work created from a partially unwound white coil of fence wire. All of the sculpture has been installed for the exhibition in an environment of white walls and floor.

In the sculpture I was especially concerned with color associations and their relationship to ambiguous spatial placement. I was particularly intrigued by the possibility of an object not bounded by definite edges; an object that extended into and merged with its environment. The appearance of the sculpture in the thesis presentation is governed by a random juxtaposition of shifting grids of color as the viewer moves around and looks down into each piece. In the sculpture, the observation of juxtaposed colors in space creates a number of visual effects such as a fluctuation of colors, and illusion of volume, an illusion of ambiguous spatial placement of portions of the wire, as well as the illusion of the white grids merging into the surrounding environment.

I recognize the fact that other artists have dealt with possibilities similar to those with which I am most concerned. From my observation of the works of such artists as Pierre Bonnard, Claude Monet,

Georges Seurat, Victor Vasarely, Morris Louis, and Anthony Caro,  
I have gained valuable information which has aided me in my own  
explorati on.